

*African Diaspora constitutes Africa's greatest offshore asset because of the potential of their considerable human and financial capital. If this is creatively and purposefully tapped, it could make a difference of the situation on the continent.*¹

The African Diaspora Policy Centre is a leading think tank, research centre, capacity building trainer and network facilitator established in The Netherlands within the field of African Diaspora and development. In its new strategy for the next five years, the work of ADPC will be devoted to tangibly increase the capacity and influence of the African Diaspora so that they position themselves as indispensable change agents for the development of Africa

We aim to do this by:

- undertaking joint activities and expanding our work across sectors with umbrella Diaspora organisations active in the field of development.
- redoubling our efforts to advocate policy, practical change and research, encouraging the Diaspora's effective participation in the overall development of Africa.
- further increasing the profile and visibility of ADPC among the migration and development circles at different levels.
- Increasing our focus on knowledge development in the field from the under-documented perspective of the Diaspora, by capacity building and facilitation of knowledge networks.
- investing more time to increase the professionalization of the organisation. This in practice means strengthening the institutional, organisational and administrative management capacity of ADPC so that we remain relevant, innovative and viable.

Strategic niche of ADPC

The African Diaspora Policy Centre as a knowledge-orientated Diaspora think tank has been a successful concept filling an important gap within the field in Europe since 2006. We represent a Diaspora voice and perspective that is not sufficiently heard or documented. ADPC as a Diaspora platform is firmly rooted within the social setting of the Diaspora communities in Europe. This strategic positioning therefore gives ADPC a clear comparative advantage to act as a focal point and as a representative interlocutor with other stakeholders and players in the field of migration and development. More importantly, in contrast to other organisations that target on specific countries or regions in Africa, the focus of ADPC is on the whole African continent.

¹ The definition of the Africa Diaspora in this context is in line with that of the African Union (AU): 'The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.' The AU accorded Africans in the Diaspora to be 'the sixth region' of the African Union.

The work of ADPC covers wide evidence-based **policy-relevant research, capacity building and training**, organisation of **expert meetings** and conferences, **facilitation** of contacts and **networking** relations, dissemination of information through publications and consultancy & information services. ADPC focuses on a number of interlinked themes such as **peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction, Diaspora perspective knowledge** and networks and **better migration governance**. This combination makes ADPC a unique, innovative and timely organisation. In addition to these tasks ADPC has the mandate by the African Union Commission (AUC) to support AU member states to engage more effectively with their Diaspora population abroad for the development of the continent. Furthermore, ADPC established partnerships with key leaders of a significant number of Diaspora organisations in Europe, high-level and key policymakers in diverse African governments, regional as well as continental institutions

Strategic Objectives

In the strategic period 2014-2018 ADPC made a strategic choice that will largely focus on two main aspects;

- 1) continuing our work in the area of peace-building and capacity building for African government institutions and to invest in research concerning migration and development.
- 2) promoting the harnessing of a broad concept of development with which Diasporas interact vis-à-vis the domestic situations in the homelands. ADPC envisions development to encompass economic, social, and political transnational networks to which Diaspora are connected.

Objective 1

Strengthening the participation of Diaspora organisations in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in their countries of origin

Diaspora are one of the contemporary global forces shaping the directions and trends in this 21st century. This makes it important to partner and join forces with them in the promotion of peace and post-conflict reconstruction in their respective homelands.

The promotion of peace in Africa through the mobilisation of the Diaspora has been one of the core activities of ADPC since 2006. We have been providing peace building trainings and trust-building workshops to African Diaspora communities in the Netherlands with the objective of increasing their peace building skills so that they contribute more effectively to the peace-building processes in their countries of origin.

Outcomes by 2018

- Several African Diaspora members and organisations involved in peace and post-conflict reconstruction activities have become professional practitioners in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions
- Diaspora peace and post-conflict reconstruction activists are recognised as the ‘fourth’ external peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction actor.
- Diaspora peace-making and post-conflict reconstruction initiatives are mainstreamed into the policy proposals designed by government institutions and mainstream development agencies of the EU countries. Peace, security and political stability in Africa are promoted through these policies.

ADPC will achieve these outcomes through a number of **strategic initiatives, which include:**

- Peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction techniques training for the Diaspora members mentioned above.
- Undertaking innovative policy influencing and campaigning aimed at increasing the profile and visibility of Diaspora peace activists
- Showcasing inspiring peace-building initiatives and their positive outcomes for policies .
- Facilitating networking between Diaspora peace activists and established peace actors so that they can develop resourceful alliances for peace related activities both in the homelands and in the host countries.

- **Objective 2**
-
- **Supporting African governments to institutionalise the engagement of the Diaspora in the development of their countries of origin**
-

ADPC’s Capacity building training, developed since 2009, is tailored to the specific needs of African government officials tasked with Diaspora and development related matters. We initiated this innovative training as a response to capacity deficits affecting the performance of emerging Diaspora ministries and other institutions in the ACP region. Without significant policymaking capabilities, these new institutions will neither adequately manage the challenges of migration, nor sufficiently benefit from its opportunities and development potentials. Since we started the capacity building programme, we have been inundated with requests from many and diverse African governments to participate in the training. This reality justifies the choice of this topic as one of the key objectives in this strategy period. It is also a topic in which ADPC already has a comparative advantage in over others and therefore can make a difference over the next five years.

Outcomes by 2018

- 15 African governments have developed a Diaspora-orientated policy strategy which facilitates the integration of the Diaspora-driven development activities into the national development agenda
- Creation of formal channels of communication between the Diaspora and the African governments. The aim is to facilitate constructive dialogue and a direct input of the Diaspora into the formulation of sound Diaspora and development related policy

ADPC will achieve these outcomes through a number of **strategic initiatives which include:**

- Providing capacity building training and technical assistance support to a large number of African Diaspora and development government policymakers
- Promoting the development of a formal consultative platform in Africa, which facilitates networking and the exchange of good practices (policies and programmes) among African policymakers dealing with Diaspora and development related issues;
- Facilitating meetings and consultations between Diaspora , African government officials and civil society representatives that lay the ground for the development of viable partnerships and formal institutional cooperation for the development of the continent.

Objective 3

Branding ADPC as a leading knowledge institute on migration and development

In the past seven years, we have succeeded in branding ADPC as a unique African Diaspora think tank devoted to generate knowledge in the field from the perspective of the Diaspora. We have also contributed to informed policy dialogue and constructive debates between the Diaspora and other stakeholders in the field of Diaspora and development. ADPC is a knowledge producer from the development dimension of migration. We also want to orient ADPC more as a knowledge broker between universities and academic institutions in Europe, Africa and beyond.

Outcomes by 2018

- ADPC established strategic partnerships with two academic institutions: one in Europe and one in Africa
- Knowledge transfer and networks between five academic institutions on both sides realised .

ADPC will achieve these outcomes through a number of **strategic initiatives** which include:

- Expanding the work of the current 'Diaspora Academy Programme'
- Creation of an Africa Diaspora Chair on migration and development which will facilitate researchers of the Diaspora and in Africa to join forces in the production of knowledge
- Supporting the establishment of a 'Migration and Development Programme for Africa' which will contribute to strengthening the knowledge capacity of the continent, thereby increasing its contribution to the development of knowledge globally
- Developing a 'brain circulation scheme' that facilitates a systematic transfer of knowledge to the universities in Africa. This scheme should mitigate the adverse effects of the brain drain in Africa.