

Sustaining the
Carnegie African Diaspora
Fellowship Program (CADFP)

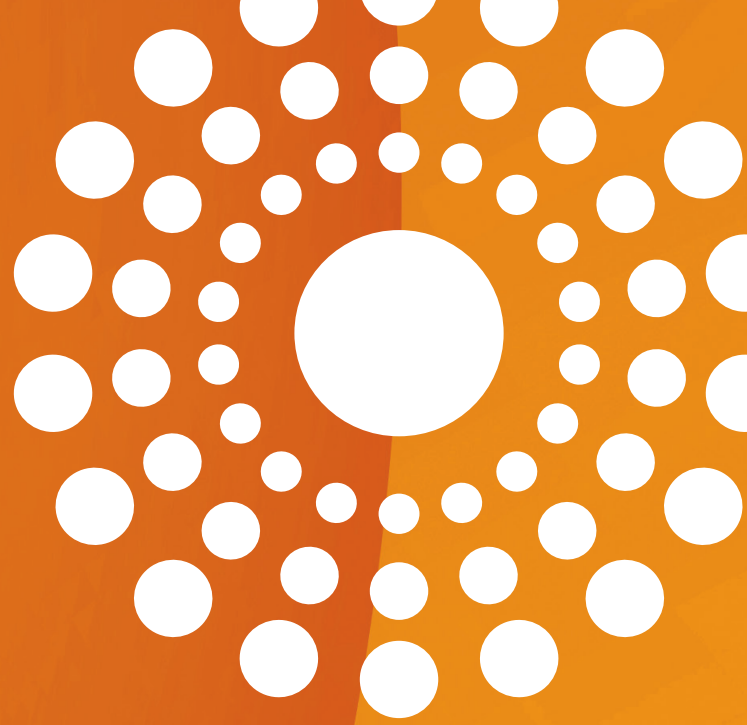
All-Alumni Virtual Convening

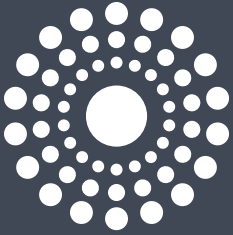
Summarized Report

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Virtual Meeting

JANUARY 23–25, 2024





Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

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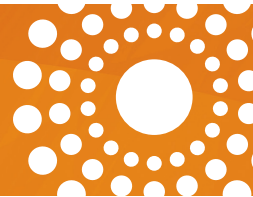
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DRAFT CONCEPT



The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP)—funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE)—connects the African, academic diaspora in the U.S. and Canada with higher education institutions in Africa. CADFP Diaspora Fellows visit host institutions in Africa, where they engage with Host Fellows in a range of educational activities in their field of specialization, including curriculum co-development/revision, collaborative research, and training/mentoring of graduate students and early-career faculty. Since its launch in 2013, CADFP has awarded more than 650 fellowships at over 180 universities across ten African countries. These fellowships have helped in not only achieving specific academic outcomes stipulated in the grant applications, but also enhancing capacities of host institutions and collaborating faculty and forming lasting partnerships and networks.

In October 2021, the CADFP hosted a Diaspora Fellow Alumni Convening in Washington, D.C. During the Convening, a recommendation was made to bring together all CADFP Host and Fellow Alumni for discussion on sustaining the work of the CADFP. A full summary report with conference papers can be found here. Based on this recommendation, the CADFP will host an All-Alumni Virtual Convening to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the program to reflect on CADFP experiences, draw transferable lessons, and chart possible future pathways for engagement and strengthening of African higher education. The Convening will take place from January 23-25, 2024. Based on findings from the previous Convening, the All-Virtual Alumni Convening has four core objectives:

- Share practices, learnings, challenges and opportunities related to engagement with higher education institutions around the world.
- Identify policy priorities and recommendations to inform existing policy frameworks.
- Advance collaborative projects to expand academic communities across Africa.
- Explore resource mobilization for African higher education.

The three-day Convening is organized under the following theme and subthemes:

Theme: Sustaining the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

Topic 1: Domestication of CADFP

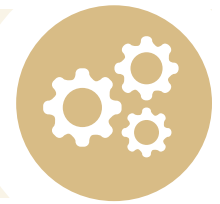
Topic 2: Building Successful Research Ecosystems

Topic 3: Sustaining Collaborations

Based on Convening discussions, the program will publish a summative report of the proceedings.

The Convener of the CADFP All-Alumni Virtual Convening is the Association of African Universities (AAU), which holds a partnership grant with the CADFP through the Institute of International Education. The CADFP is funded by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York.

DRAFT CONVENING OBJECTIVES



Theme: Sustaining the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) connects the African academic diaspora in the U.S. and Canada with higher education institutions in Africa. CADFP Diaspora Fellows visit host institutions in Africa, where they engage with Host Fellows in a range of educational activities in their field of specialization, including curriculum co-development/revision, collaborative research, and training/mentoring of graduate students and early-career faculty. Since its inception, the program has aimed to sustain these collaborations beyond the 14–90 day visit to the host institution by the Diaspora Fellow. Building upon conversations related to the sustaining CADFP engagements from the 2021 Alumni Convening in Washington, D.C., three topics will be discussed during the All-Alumni Virtual Convening: Domestication of the CADFP, Building Successful Research Ecosystems, and Sustaining Collaborations.

Topic 1: Domestication of CADFP

Diaspora Engagement has become increasingly important to African governments who seek to strengthen diaspora contributions beyond remittances and engage the knowledge and skills of the diaspora. This topic focuses on domesticating the diaspora scholar exchange model in African countries to enhance capacity at African higher education institutions.

Objective 1: Define domestication and “why it matters.”

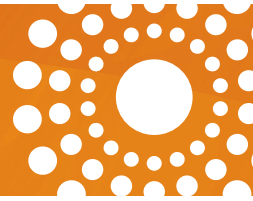
Objective 2: Outline best practices in domestication.

- Who leads these initiatives? (i.e., credentials/skillsets)
 - What should be the goals of domestication?
 - How do we get there?
-

Objective 3: Identify and showcase successful models of domestication.

- Highlight ongoing domestication efforts (in Africa and beyond)
 - How do we sustain domestication efforts?
-

Objective 4: Way forward and next steps for Domestication of CADFP.



CADFP Diaspora Fellows visit host institutions in Africa, where they engage with Host Fellows in a range of educational activities in their field of specialization, including curriculum co-development/revision, collaborative research, and training/mentoring of graduate students and early-career faculty.

Topic 2: Building Successful Research Ecosystems

Critical to sustaining engagements between African universities and scholars in the diaspora are grants to support research and other activities after the CADFP fellowship has ended. This topic allows funding bodies to share programs and current requests for proposals for funding and CADFP Fellows to share best practices for applying for funding.

Objective 1: How to fund research ecosystems through grants.

- Agenda setting
- Identifying the right skillset for building research ecosystems
- Identify funding agencies

Objective 2: Best practices for writing successful proposals.

Objective 3: How to sustain successful research ecosystems?

Objective 4: Way forward and next steps for Building Successful Research Ecosystems.

Topic 3: Sustaining Collaborations

Sustaining scholar-to-scholar collaborations is central to the creation of effective and successful research ecosystems. This topic focuses on sustaining these relationships in different resource environments.

Objective 1: Define sustaining collaborations and why they are important.

Objective 2: Outline best practices for sustaining and scaling collaborations.

- Who are the key contributors to collaborations?
- What are their qualifications and skillsets?
- What are the key ingredients (environment/institutions/resources) for successful collaborations?

Objective 3: Identify and showcase successful models for building sustainable collaborations.

Objective 4: Way forward and next steps for Sustaining Collaborations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) has emerged as a powerful force for collaboration in African higher education. Funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE), CADFP fosters research, graduate student training, and curriculum development between African scholars in North America and their counterparts based in Africa. In January 2024, the program held its All-Alumni Virtual Convening, attracting over 450 participants to discuss the program's long-term success under the theme of sustainability. The gathering explored three main topics critical for the future of CADFP: Domestication of CADFP, Building Successful Research Ecosystems, and Sustaining Collaborations.



The importance participants place on African ownership and leadership in the program's future is emphasized by the goal of Domestication of CADFP.



Domestication of CADFP

The importance participants place on African ownership and leadership in the program's future is emphasized by the goal of Domestication of CADFP. Their discussions

highlighted the need for a smooth transition beyond current funding. Participants proposed strategies like diversification of funding sources, creating awareness about the program's benefits, and establishing an African-led institution to facilitate a successful transition.



Building Successful Research Ecosystems

discussions explored funding opportunities for collaborative and Africa-focused research, and participants highlighted successful cases of grant applications by CADFP alumni.

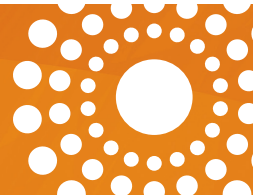
Key takeaways included crafting strong proposals that align with funders' goals, diversifying research strategies through interdisciplinary collaboration, and building

credibility for larger projects by starting with smaller ones. Alumni experiences showcased the program's role in fostering partnerships for securing funding and conducting impactful research.



Sustaining Collaborations focused on factors crucial for long-term partnerships. These included individual alumni engagement through use of their skills for teaching, mentoring, and resource mobilization.

Attendees raised increased participation from African organizations like the African Union and the African Development Bank as having strong potential for funding and support. They identified communicating effectively, building strong personal connections, fostering a conducive environment, and having shared goals as key ingredients for successful collaborations. And they also emphasized knowledge sharing and capacity building through platforms for sharing best practices and mentorship programs.



These discussions yielded actionable items for stakeholders like IIE, the CADFP Advisory Council, and Carnegie Corporation. These were:

- Diversifying funding sources through new partnerships, awareness campaigns, and alumni fundraising initiatives, where universities can also play a role by providing resources and integrating program goals into their strategies.
- Building stronger collaboration and knowledge sharing by fostering partnerships with governments, universities, and regional organizations, and developing a knowledge-sharing platform. This needs to be anchored with a strong Africa-based institution at the forefront.
- Stakeholder engagement and communication, including the development of a dedicated communication strategy and the facilitation of informed collaborations through diplomatic engagement.
- Tailoring the program to diverse contexts, extending Fellowship opportunities, and connecting Fellows for long-term collaboration. Offering training and support and promoting the CADFP model for wider adoption can further enhance program impact.

Through these actions, the CADFP can ensure its long-term sustainability and continue to empower African higher education through impactful collaborations.

INTRODUCTION



The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) is designed to support educational programs in African higher education institutions. In collaboration with universities across Africa, CADFP facilitates joint projects between scholars of African descent from the United States and Canada and their counterparts in Africa. The Fellowship allows African diaspora academics in North America to travel to African institutions and engage in various initiatives, thereby enhancing the capabilities of these institutions. Through a focus on collaborative research, graduate student training, mentorship, and curriculum development, the program endeavors to foster knowledge exchange and strengthen the capacities of engaged African scholars and institutions.

The program receives funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) and is managed by the Institute for International Education (IIE). The program is also supported by the Association of African Universities (AAU). Since its establishment in 2013, CADFP has granted 665 Fellowships to scholars, who have engaged with over 180 universities in 10 African countries.

In the fall of 2021, the CADFP organized a Diaspora Fellow Alumni Convening in Washington, D.C., during which a recommendation was made to bring together all CADFP Host and Fellow Alumni for discussions aimed at sustaining the CADFP. Following this recommendation, and building on subsequent conversations, the All-Alumni Virtual Convening was held January 23–25, 2024, on Zoom, and facilitated by the AAU. The Convening, which coincided with the 10th anniversary of the program and lasted for three hours each day, attracted more than 450 attendees. The convening ran with four core objectives:

- Share practices, learnings, challenges, and opportunities related to engagement with higher education institutions around the world.
- Identify policy priorities and recommendations to inform existing policy frameworks.
- Advance collaborative projects to expand academic communities across Africa.
- Explore resource mobilization for African higher education.

Based on an understanding that the program cannot perpetually rely on CCNY’s funding alone, the overarching goal of the convening was to solicit feedback from alumni and supporters on how to sustain the program. This has been further articulated into three main topics:

Topic 1: Domestication of CADFP

Diaspora engagement has gained significant importance for African governments, aiming to leverage diaspora contributions beyond remittances and tap into the knowledge and skills of diaspora communities. This emphasis highlights the endeavor to localize the diaspora-scholar-exchange model within African countries, thereby bolstering the capacity of higher education institutions across the continent.

Topic 2: Building Successful Research Ecosystems

The provision of grants to support research and other activities once the CADFP Fellowship concludes is crucial for maintaining ongoing engagements between African

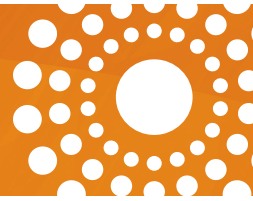
universities and scholars in the diaspora. This topic offered a platform for funding bodies to disseminate information about their programs and current requests for funding proposals, while also enabling CADFP Fellows to exchange best practices for applying for funding.

Topic 3: Sustaining Collaborations

The maintenance of scholar-to-scholar collaborations is pivotal for cultivating effective and robust research ecosystems. This discussion centered on strategies for sustaining these relationships across various resource environments, recognizing the diverse challenges and opportunities presented in different contexts.

The convening featured various mechanisms for sharing ideas, including opening remarks, keynote speeches from distinguished guests, panel discussions with funders and experienced alumni, plenary discussions, and breakout sessions where alumni and supporters shared their insights. All sessions had strong engagement from participants, complemented by the chat and question and answer (Q&A) functions of Zoom, which were continuously monitored by assigned individuals and integrated into the main discussions.

Designated rapporteurs carefully recorded all information and insights shared during the convening, including in the breakout sessions and chats. At the end of each day, the reports were forwarded to the Rapporteur General. Each day commenced with a concise overview provided by the Rapporteur General, outlining the main discussion points and key takeaways from the previous day. Subsequently, the reports from each session underwent analysis and synthesis to create this comprehensive summary report for the entire convening. This report is structured according to the previously identified topics, preceded by highlights from the opening ceremony. It emphasizes the pivotal discussions held during the convening and underscores the recommendations for actionable steps.



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the convening, facilitated by Prof. Kefa Otiso, commenced with a welcome message and opening remarks delivered by representatives of the involved organizations. Following this, there was an introduction of the CADFP Alumni Steering Committee and an overview of the program. Subsequently, a keynote address was delivered, which sparked an engaging discussion among the participants.

Opening Remarks

Prof. Kefa Otiso, a member of the CADFP Advisory Council and Alumni Steering Committee, commenced the introductory remarks for the second alumni meeting of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program with a warm welcome. He greeted the attendees, many of whom had participated in the initial meeting in Washington, D.C., in 2021. Professor Otiso outlined the meeting's objective, which was to reflect on the program's achievements since its inception in 2013 and to explore strategies for ensuring its long-term sustainability. He encouraged active participation from all attendees, including program supporters and alumni, in discussions on topics such as domesticating the program for long-term funding beyond the support of CCNY, strengthening research ecosystems, and maintaining the sustainability of connections forged through the program. Subsequently, he invited representatives from the funding and two partner organizations to deliver opening remarks.

Ms. Deana Arsenian, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Ms. Deana Arsenian, Vice President for the International Program at CCNY, enthusiastically addressed the audience, expressing her excitement for the event and highlighting her own diaspora background. She provided a comprehensive overview of the program's inception, tracing its origins to the visionary ideas of Vartan Gregorian, the late President of CCNY, around 12 years ago. Gregorian's keen interest in the African diaspora in the United States (U.S.) led to the creation of CADFP, reflecting the significance of engaging with this community. Ms. Arsenian emphasized Gregorian's commitment to understanding the potential of the Africans

in the diaspora, which ultimately led to the approval of a substantial grant by CCNY to IIE for program development and implementation. She highlighted IIE's selection based on its expertise in international education and its long-standing partnership with the Corporation.

Drawing from her own experience as a member of the Armenian diaspora, Ms. Arsenian underscored the value of collaboration between Diaspora Fellows and African institutions. She expressed gratitude to conference attendees, IIE, and the Corporation's leadership and trustees, affirming their ongoing commitment to the program's success. Ms. Arsenian revealed that CCNY has renewed support for CADFP for an additional two years, and urged the convening to deliberate on strategies for ensuring the program's long-term sustainability, firmly rooted in Africa. Overall, her speech illuminated the program's origins, motivations, and enduring support, highlighting the crucial role of diaspora engagement in African higher education and research and the need for a localized approach and sustained resourcing.

Mr. Jonah Kokodyniak, Institute of International Education

Mr. Jonah Kokodyniak, who serves as Senior Vice President of Program Development and Partner Services at IIE, began by acknowledging and appreciating Ms. Arsenian's earlier remarks. He expressed profound gratitude for the pivotal role played by Carnegie Corporation in landmark programs throughout IIE's history. Mr. Kokodyniak highlighted the extensive impact of initiatives such as CADFP, noting how institutions worldwide, beyond Sub-Saharan Africa, have integrated elements of the program into their sustainable engagement strategies for the diaspora.

Furthermore, Mr. Kokodyniak underscored the profound and far-reaching impact of the CADFP, extending beyond its immediate scope. He anticipated that the discussions and reports generated during the conference would further enhance the program's effectiveness. Mr. Kokodyniak conveyed his best wishes to all participants for success over the next two days and expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their contributions to the program's success.

Ms. Deana Arsenian's speech highlighted the crucial role of diaspora engagement in African higher education and research and the need for a localized approach and sustained resourcing.

Prof. Oyewole Bandele Olusola, Association of African Universities

Prof. Oyewole Bandele Olusola, Secretary General of AAU, welcomed everyone to the virtual event. (AAU was one of the convening partners.) He also thanked the keynote speakers, the CADFP Advisory Council, and the 10th Anniversary All-Annual Steering Committee for their participation and support. Professor Olusola commended the CADFP for its extraordinary commitment to furthering higher education in Africa over the previous decade. Professor Olusola thanked the program's founders and CCNY for their generous support, as well as IIE for their superb program administration.

Furthermore, Professor Olusola emphasized the importance of discussing ways to sustain and enhance the program's impact in the future. He assured strategic partners, CCNY and IIE, of the AAU's unwavering commitment to fostering collaborative research, curriculum development, and academic mentoring among African universities. Professor Olusola pledged that AAU stands ready to collaborate more closely with them and to welcome new partners to expand the program's reach and influence in Africa. He expressed anticipation for a fruitful and enjoyable academic exchange over the next three days.

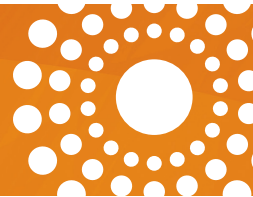
Recognition of the Steering Committee

Following the opening remarks, Mr. Jeremy Coats, who is the Lead of Foundation Programs at IIE, took the stage and warmly welcomed all the attendees to the online event, including the CADFP Host and Diaspora Fellows, and expressed appreciation for their crucial role in making the event possible. Mr. Coats then expressed gratitude toward AAU for their partnership in planning and hosting the online convening. He noted that due to logistical challenges and

to enhance inclusivity based on lessons learned during the COVID19 pandemic, the decision was made to adopt a virtual format for the 2nd alumni convening of CADFP. He then, introduced the Alumni Steering Committee members who would be facilitating the parallel and breakout sessions throughout the Convening.

The Committee members were as follows:

1. Dr. Simon Mariwah, Associate Professor of Health and Development Geography, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
2. Dr. Lindani Ncube, Senior Lecturer, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of South Africa, South Africa
3. Dr. Esther Obonyo, Associate Professor of Engineering Design and Architectural Engineering, Penn State University, Pennsylvania, USA
4. Prof. Philomina Okekelhejirika, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta, Canada
5. Dr. Michael Olabisi, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability and Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, Michigan, USA
6. Prof. Ankalo Shitandi, Professor and Coordinator of Education Leadership Program, Kisii University, Kenya
7. Prof. Kefa Otiso, Professor of Geography and Director of the Global Village Learning Community, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA



Mr. Coats concluded by providing some housekeeping messages, encouraging attendees to use the Zoom chat and Q&A function for contributions during larger plenary sessions.

Convening Overview

Prof. Kefa Otiso commenced the convening by introducing its objectives and focal points, providing a succinct overview of its primary aim to sustain CADFP. He underscored the critical importance of sustainability for ensuring the program's enduring impact and the opportunities it offers for future generations. In his address, he highlighted the burgeoning African diaspora in North America and the concerted efforts to fortify connections between North America and Africa. Professor Otiso emphasized that sustainability would serve as the over-arching theme throughout the

program and within the three main topics of discussion: Domestication of CADFP, Building Successful Research Ecosystems, and Sustaining Collaborations.

Moreover, Professor Otiso encouraged active participation, urging attendees to network and engage with Alumni Fellows alumni and speakers. He stressed the value of collaboration and knowledge sharing in charting a new path forward for the program. Additionally, he announced the setup of a WhatsApp group, inviting participants to join by scanning the provided QR code to foster further connection and engagement.

Transitioning to the agenda for Day 1, Professor Otiso introduced the day's theme: "Domesticating the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship," emphasizing the crucial need to secure domestic funding for the program's long-term sustainability.

Discussion Topic: Domestication of CADFP

The discussion on the leading topic of domestication began with a keynote address delivered by Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Ghana's former Education Minister, setting the stage for further exploration. Following the keynote address, a plenary Q&A session and breakout discussions ensued. These breakout sessions provided an opportunity for in-depth exploration and exchange of ideas.

Upon reconvening in the larger plenary session, facilitators from each breakout group shared summaries of the main points discussed and questions raised during their sessions. This allowed for a comprehensive overview of the diverse perspectives and insights gathered. Subsequently, a broader discussion unfolded, building upon the insights shared in the breakout sessions and furthering the dialogue on domestication and its implications for the sustainability of CADFP.

Breakout Sessions

Following Professor Opoku-Agyemang's insightful remarks, the session moderator encouraged participants to delve deeper into the issues raised, particularly during the breakout sessions. They outlined clear objectives for these discussions, with a focus on defining domestication, highlighting best practices, showcasing successful models, and identifying actionable next steps. She urged participants to actively engage, pose additional questions, and contribute to meaningful discussions aimed at advancing the domestication agenda and ensuring the sustainability of collaborative efforts within the CADFP framework. The different issues discussed within the breakout sessions can be seen under three categories: the essence and importance of domestication, diversification of resources and stakeholder engagement, and strategies for domesticating CADFP.

Keynote Address

Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on education and collaboration. She underscored the significance of linking the African diaspora in the U.S. and Canada with higher education institutions in Africa, particularly in areas such as curriculum development, training, and mentoring. She also stressed the critical imperative of sustaining these collaborations.

Drawing from her experience as a former Minister for Education and university president, Professor Opoku-Agyemang delineated key gaps in sustainability and emphasized the importance of involving governments from the outset of such programs. According to her, long-term planning and strategic engagement of stakeholders, especially governments, are crucial to ensure a seamless transition of funding and ownership of initiatives.

Furthermore, Professor Opoku-Agyemang elaborated on the necessity for government engagement in crafting takeover strategies for sustainable programs. She emphasized the importance of aligning program objectives with government priorities and ensuring clear ownership of research outcomes. Additionally, she highlighted the significance of stakeholder discussions in laying the groundwork for sustainability and underscored the need for governments to strategize takeover plans from the program's inception.



CADFP focuses on collaborative research, graduate student training, mentorship, and curriculum development, the program endeavors to foster knowledge exchange and strengthen the capacities of engaged African scholars and institutions.



Domesticating CADFP:

What Is It, Why Does It Matter?

During the discussions, it became evident that there was no unanimous consensus on the precise definition of "domestication" within the context of the CADFP. Participants offered diverse interpretations, each emphasizing different facets related to ownership, control, and management of the program. This variance in definitions underscored the complexity of the concept and the importance of considering multiple perspectives in understanding and implementing domestication strategies within the CADFP framework. The following are some of the definitions offered. Domestication:

"Is an assertion of control by African governments."

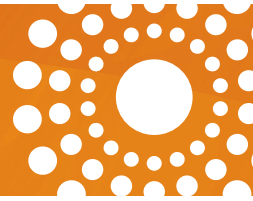
"Is to uphold the program's quality while ensuring ownership is more firmly rooted in the African context."

"Entails transforming the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) into one with distinct African characteristics."

"Is a strategy for sustaining the Fellowship initiative through funding support beyond Carnegie, aiming to tap into the scholarly expertise of African academics in the diaspora to contribute to transformative pedagogical advancements in Africa."

From the discussions and diverse definitions provided by participants, a common theme emerged: domestication of CADFP primarily entailed ownership and management of the program by Africa. Nevertheless, some participants expressed concerns about the term "domestication," perceiving it as carrying connotations of taming or subservience. As alternatives, terms such as "re-imagining," "contextualization," or "ownership" were proposed, though ultimately the group leaned toward domestication.

Various concerns were also raised regarding the implementation process and funding. Participants debated the appropriate type and level of domestication (national, regional, institutional) and how to engage



diverse stakeholders (governments, institutions, Diaspora Scholars). They also discussed the question of securing sustainable funding to replace Carnegie’s support.

After reaching a general consensus that domestication implied ownership and management of the program by Africa, with wide contribution of African governments and institutions, the convening identified several rationales for its importance. These included the need to ensure the program’s long-term survival, increase African ownership, adapt the program to better reflect the specific needs and contexts of African countries and institutions, and contribute to Africa’s development goals by leveraging the expertise of Diaspora Scholars.

Diversifying Funding Sources and Engaging Stakeholders

During the convening, there was a general consensus regarding the necessity to diversify funding sources and engage various stakeholders to domesticate and sustain CADFP. Participants acknowledged that reliance solely on CCNY was not sustainable in the long run. They expressed a desire to shift toward more diversified funding sources and African-centric approaches.

Suggestions from participants primarily focused on seeking internal African financial sources, including continental, regional, national, institutional, or individual funding mechanisms. While continental bodies such as the African Union (AU), and African Development Bank (AfDB), were to take the lead, participants identified nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), philanthropic organizations, wealthy Africans, the private sector, universities, and African governments as potential African sources for funding.

Nevertheless, there was some hesitation regarding the role of African governments in sustaining the program. Participants recognized governments as important stakeholders, but expressed skepticism about entrusting them with the program’s sustainability. One participant even likened government involvement to a “hot fire” that could potentially harm the program. Among the major concerns discussed by participants were:

- **Control and Exclusion:** Some participants expressed concerns about potential government control over the program, fearing it could lead to politically motivated exclusion in funding allocation.

- **Bureaucracy and Limited Funding:** Participants also discussed bureaucratic hurdles and limited government funding dedicated to such initiatives as potential challenges. This indicated their concerns about the efficiency and long-term commitment of government involvement.
- **Shifting Priorities:** Participants raised concerns about political agendas affecting diaspora engagement, fearing these could shift the program’s focus away from its intended objectives.

Overall, concerns regarding government involvement revolved around fears that regimes could pose threats to the program’s shared ownership, transparency, efficiency, and its long-term impact on the continent. According to some participants, government contributions are vital for the program’s long-term viability. The undisputed importance of governments as stakeholders in the program led to suggestions to treat governments as significant stakeholders in the program’s success, while ensuring they do not exert sole ownership over it.

Early engagement with the government fosters shared responsibility and aligns the program with national priorities. It was suggested that educating governments about the program’s value (creating awareness for high-ranking officials) and involving them in planning and budgeting are crucial strategies to reduce the financial and bureaucratic challenges (with securing visas for travel and import of essential materials, and the like).

Participants emphasized that universities have a greater responsibility to demonstrate commitment to the program by providing resources, facilitating successful Fellowship experiences, and integrating program goals with university strategic plans. It is expected that universities, more than any other stakeholder, should embrace and value the contributions of Diaspora Fellows. By prioritizing the program, universities may be able to encourage governments and other stakeholders to invest in it. Additionally, fostering collaboration among the Diaspora Fellowship, universities, and governments can contribute to reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

In addition to governments and universities, participants highlighted the role of regional organizations such as AU and AfDB in providing support, resources, and valuable insights.

AU was seen as capable of mobilizing continental funding and facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing among member states. Given AU's designation of the diaspora as the sixth region of Africa, participants viewed aligning with AU as a strategic opportunity. Some emphasized the importance of a continental approach through AU and other continental bodies instead of relying solely on localized funding sources. Participants favored this approach to prevent disadvantaged institutions from remaining disadvantaged due to localized funding constraints, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources across the continent. Similarly, AfDB was recognized for its potential to offer financial, technical, and other support.

Additionally, participants identified other continental organizations, such as AAU and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), as important stakeholders. They saw these organizations as crucial in bringing the diaspora together and representing their interests in the search for resources, as well as facilitating collaboration among Diaspora Scholars through various avenues.

Furthermore, NGOs and philanthropic organizations were seen as important actors in providing additional funding avenues and extending the program's reach. Many participants advocated for the involvement of wealthy Africans in higher education, emphasizing their potential to contribute resources and support in domesticating CADFP.

In any efforts to localize the program's ownership and foster African ownership, participants emphasized the importance of Carnegie Corporation and IIE having smooth "domesticating" plans in place. It was suggested that the Corporation and IIE could continue to offer support and serve in advisory capacities as leadership gradually transitions to established continental efforts.

Attendees highlighted the leadership of CADFP as crucial in exploring and implementing sustainable funding strategies, fostering partnerships and collaborations, and effectively communicating the program's value and impact to stakeholders. Furthermore, participants emphasized that Host and Diaspora Fellows should not be passive participants in the program but rather active contributors. They are expected to engage in fundraising and resource mobilization efforts and share their expertise to contribute to the program's development.

As is evident from the preceding discussion, there is a general consensus regarding the existence of multiple stakeholders and the critical need for collaboration among them. By working together, these stakeholders can ensure the long-term sustainability of CADFP and its positive impact on African higher education.

Among the ideas discussed for potential sources of funding during the convening, one participant proposed that African nations should consider taxing remittances as a means of funding Diaspora Scholars' engagement with local host institutions. This approach could ultimately contribute to the development of host universities and countries, leveraging the significant contributions made by the African diaspora, including many of the Carnegie Fellows, toward the development of African states through remittances.

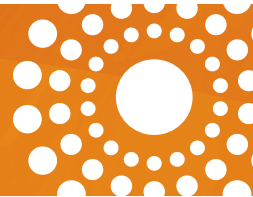
Additionally, some participants viewed the Diaspora Fellows themselves as potential sources of funding for the collaboration. Encouraging the Fellows to consider themselves as financial contributors to the program, the concept of a "Carnegie Alumni fund" was discussed by some participants. This suggests leveraging the financial resources and expertise of the alumni network to support the sustainability and growth of CADFP.

Key Strategies for Domesticating CADFP

While securing sustained funding is crucial, participants highlighted a few additional strategies for successfully domesticating CADFP:

Effective Contextualization: Participants emphasized the importance of effective contextualization, highlighting that Africa is not a homogenous entity and that a "one-size-fits-all" strategy may not be suitable. They underscored the need to understand the potential contextual variations present across the continent. These variations include diversity in how governments value higher education and research, the presence of different types of institutions with varying levels of experience, and the varying levels of need for specific projects or types of engagement.

Participants indicated that the success of domestication depends on the specific circumstances of each region, country, or institution, given that governmental approaches and institutional capacities differ. Therefore, some participants proposed a multilevel engagement or solution to the program, involving continental bodies, regional institutions, governments, local institutions (universities), and even



individuals. This approach would allow for tailored strategies that account for the diverse contexts across Africa, ensuring that CADFP effectively addresses the unique needs and challenges of each region, country, or institution.

Awareness Creation: Participants identified awareness creation as a key strategy to increase African ownership and sustainability of CADFP. The discussion primarily focused on strategies to attract African governments and various stakeholders to participate in the domestication process of CADFP. These strategies included organizing meetings with Ministers of Education, heads of quality assurance institutions, and potential funding organizations to emphasize the program's long-term vision. The goal was to change mindsets and encourage stakeholders to view the Fellowship as a means to benefit from diaspora expertise.

Participants emphasized that the awareness-creation effort should highlight the tangible impact and success stories of CADFP, particularly in curriculum development and research. By showcasing these successes, stakeholders would be more likely to recognize the value of the program and commit to its long-term sustainability.

Expanding the Program: In the domestication effort, participants discussed the necessity of expanding the program to include all African states, allowing more institutions and countries to benefit from the program and its collaborations. Some participants also argued that the conventional duration of 90 days is insufficient to have a significant impact, advocating for longer durations to make collaborations more sustainable and to enable visiting Fellows to make more meaningful contributions.

Participants highlighted challenges related to limited awareness and understanding of the program's benefits among host institutions, which often face financial constraints, and domestic Scholars who may be underpaid and have numerous other commitments. To address these challenges, participants proposed organizing sensitization workshops and meetings with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, they suggested the need for two-way exchange programs, where Host Scholars visit their diaspora collaborators' home institutions and collaborate there, fostering deeper engagement and reciprocity.

Smooth Transition: Participants emphasized the importance of proper planning for the transition of CADFP as a crucial aspect of successful domestication. They also expressed

uncertainty about whether the proposed two-year transitional period was sufficient. To ensure a successful transition, participants identified several tasks that needed to be addressed.

First, there is a need to sensitize governments and other stakeholders about the long-term vision and impacts of the program. This involves building awareness of the program's benefits and garnering support from key actors. Second, participants highlighted the importance of building a strong alumni network to engage with governments and other stakeholders. Alumni can play a significant role in advocating for the program and ensuring its sustainability.

In terms of the transition process itself, participants discussed the need to conduct a pilot program to test the sustainability of the program in selected countries. This would help identify interested actors and assess the program's viability under different circumstances.

Furthermore, participants emphasized the importance of long-term planning and learning from similar successful programs in other countries or regions. They also underscored the need for thoughtful knowledge transfer between current CADFP leadership and future leaders to ensure continuity and effectiveness.

Lastly, participants stressed the urgency of ensuring that Carnegie does not withdraw its support from the program prematurely, as this could jeopardize the transition process. Overall, careful planning and coordination are essential to make the transition smoother and ensure the long-term sustainability of CADFP.

Backbone Institution: Participants widely agreed that ensuring the sustainability of CADFP requires the establishment of a permanent administrative body in Africa. This body would be tasked with facilitating the search for potential funding sources and ensuring the effectiveness of the program. Various terms were used to describe this proposed body, including "Alumni Body," "Task Team," "Administrative Body," "Institutional Framework," "Backbone Institution," "Small Team," and "CADFP Office." Despite the variation in terms, there was a consensus that the domestication of CADFP needs to be led by an institutionalized body that will coordinate with different stakeholders.

This body's role would be to seek funding sources, draw lessons from the decade of CADFP's performance and experience, engage with Diaspora Fellows and host nations

Participants discussed the importance of providing visiting Fellows with information about the culture and environment they will encounter in the host state and institutions.

and institutions, empower CADFP alumni, strengthen networks and collaboration, and facilitate conferences. Participants suggested that this institutional body could be established within the framework of either AU or AAU. Such a body would provide the necessary leadership and structure to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of CADFP on the continent.

Infrastructural Readiness: The other very essential element of the strategy in domestication of CADFP, as identified by participants, was the need to ensure infrastructural readiness of countries and institutions to collaborate with CADFP Fellows. According to participants, the infrastructural readiness (presence of organizational readiness and support systems) determines the functionality, effectiveness, and sustainability of the program.

Diaspora Collaboration Database and Website: One of the infrastructural needs highlighted by participants was access to information on available funding for research collaborations and showcasing the profiles of diaspora academics. They emphasized the necessity of having an aggregator of funding opportunities specifically applicable to Africa and African diaspora academics. Such a platform could significantly support the development of collaborative research and other academic programs by providing comprehensive information on available funding sources.

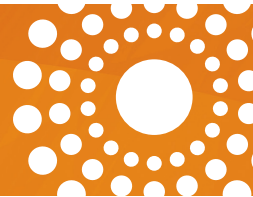
Virtual Collaborations: Participants noted that virtual communication can serve as a cost-effective alternative to physical collaborations, particularly in cases such as external supervision and examination of doctoral students. By leveraging virtual communication tools, institutions can optimize both time and financial resources that would otherwise be spent on travel to host institutions. Therefore, the adoption of such technologies should be encouraged, as they offer efficient means of collaboration without the constraints of geographical distance.

To fully capitalize on the benefits of virtual communication, participants stressed the importance of African institutions investing more in the necessary infrastructure. This includes ensuring access to reliable internet connectivity, appropriate software platforms, and technical support to facilitate seamless virtual collaborations. By investing in these infrastructural improvements, institutions can enhance their capacity for virtual engagement and leverage technology to strengthen collaborative efforts in research and academic activities.

Effective Communication and Alignment: Participants highlighted instances where their excitement about collaborating with host institutions was dampened by the lack of readiness and appropriate logistical support on the part of the host institutions and scholars. To address this issue, participants emphasized the need for mechanisms to receive feedback from both host institutions and Diaspora Fellows. This feedback loop would help ensure that visiting academics are sent to institutions that are prepared to receive them and provide the necessary support for efficient collaboration.

Furthermore, participants discussed the importance of providing visiting Fellows with information about the culture and environment they will encounter in the host state and institutions. This could include resources and support to help Fellows navigate cultural differences and adjust to their new surroundings effectively. By addressing these needs, CADFP can better support collaborative research and academic initiatives, fostering meaningful partnerships and exchanges between diaspora academics and institutions in Africa.

Additionally, participants stressed the importance of avoiding clashes of institutional cultures through communicating effectively and paying attention to the suitability of calendars in scheduling the visits of Diaspora Fellows. By addressing these considerations, CADFP can enhance the overall experience for visiting academics and facilitate more productive collaborations with host institutions.



Discussion Topic: Building Successful Research Ecosystems

On the second day of the convening, the spotlight shifted to “Building Successful Research Ecosystems.” Representatives from prominent funding organizations delivered insightful presentations, while accomplished alumni Host and Diaspora Fellows shared their experiences securing grants. Attendees had the opportunity to glean valuable insights from two distinct groups of panelists: funders and successful CADFP hosts and alumni.

The Funders’ Panel

The funders panel consisted of nine presenters from seven dominant funding organizations. They were:

- Mr. Jim Suits, Senior Advisor, Global Programs, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture
- Dr. Wenda Bauchspies, Program Officer, Office of International Science and Engineering, National Science Foundation
- Ms. Amirah Nelson, Senior Outreach Officer, Fulbright Specialist Program, World Learning
- Ms. Kate Van Emrik, Assistant Director, Fulbright Scholar Program, Institute of International Education
- Mr. Peter Kerrigan, Deputy Director, North America, German Academic Exchange Service
- Ms. Gudrun Chazotte, Head of Selection Scholarships, Sub-Saharan Africa, German Academic Exchange Service
- Mr. Sam Oti, Senior Program Specialist, Global Health Programs Division, International Development Research Centre
- Dr. Sylvia Mkandawire, Senior Program Manager (World Bank’s African Higher Education Centers of Excellence Impact), Association of African Universities
- Mr. Daniel Placht, Program Officer, US-Africa Frontiers Program, National Academies of Sciences

The panelists unveiled numerous funding opportunities tailored to scholars seeking financial support. These opportunities encompassed exclusive programs for Diaspora Scholars in the U.S. and Canada, as well as initiatives specifically targeting individuals from developing countries and scholars from Africa.

Notable opportunities included the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s scientific exchange programs for non-high-income countries, the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) support for U.S.-based research with international partnerships, and Fulbright’s diverse exchange programs for scholars and students based on their backgrounds and goals. Additionally, Germany’s German Academic Exchange Service offered scholarships and research grants for international students and researchers, while the International Development Research Centre provided support for research initiatives focused on the Global South. AAU also emerged as a gateway to African universities and projects funded by various donors. Overall, the session emphasized the multitude of funding opportunities available, even within these seven organizations, showcasing the extensive support available to participants.

The Hosts and Fellows’ Panel

The Fellows’ panel consisted of five highly experienced and accomplished CADFP alumni (three Diaspora Fellows and two Host Fellows).

- Prof. Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika, University of Alberta, Canada
- Dr. Simon Mariwah, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
- Dr. Onesimus Otieno, Oakwood University, USA
- Prof. Margaret Khaita, Mississippi State University, USA
- Prof. Lawrence Mugisha, Makerere University, Uganda

Hosts and Fellows recounted their collaborative experiences in the CADFP framework and how the connections established through the program evolved into partnerships for larger projects, often involving efforts to secure funding.

Insights from Funders and Alumni

The following discussion underscores the valuable insights imparted by both the panel of funders and the alumni regarding the strategies for effectively securing grants and other resources to foster successful research collaborations and nurture a thriving research ecosystem.

Know Your Funders: The panelists emphasized the importance of familiarizing oneself with potential funders to enhance the likelihood of securing funding. They underscored the significance of understanding the priorities and preferences of funding organizations, establishing communication channels with relevant contacts, and actively seeking feedback. Additionally, they highlighted the value of receiving grant writing training and mastering the intricacies of the grant application process.

Strong Proposal: The panelists encouraged participants to emphasize the strengths of their proposals by articulating a clear action plan and outlining expected outcomes. They advised them to tailor their proposals to align with the priorities of potential funders and to showcase the capabilities of their team. Additionally, panelists urged participants to pursue opportunities that are relevant to their research goals and to ensure that their proposals are both realistic and feasible.

Impact: The panelists urged participants to articulate how their projects would contribute to the betterment of society and the host state or institution. They encouraged them to design programs that would benefit not only the host entity but also its people, aligning closely with their needs and interests. By demonstrating a clear plan to address these priorities, participants could enhance the relevance and impact of their projects.

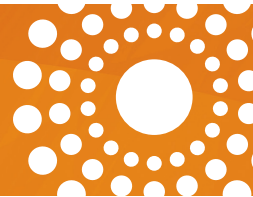
Patience: The panelists emphasized the importance of patience in the pursuit of grants. They advised participants not to be discouraged by obstacles and to understand that

success in grant applications is not solely determined by winning or losing. Instead, they encouraged participants to remain persistent and resilient, emphasizing that perseverance is key to eventual success.

Active Search for Funding: The panelists highlighted the need for active engagement in the search for funding opportunities. They emphasized that waiting for fund providers to approach was unlikely to yield results and encouraged attendees to proactively seek opportunities. This includes regularly checking websites, using databases with relevant keywords, and proactively contacting funders. They also suggested monitoring calls announced through institutions, professional associations, and other platforms. Moreover, the panelists recommended assigning individuals to search for calls and even hiring personnel dedicated to finding opportunities. Among the recommended resources was the [Scientifyresearch.org](https://www.scientifyresearch.org) website, which is known for its extensive database of grants.

Compelling Profile: The panelists also emphasized the importance of presenting a compelling profile and background story when seeking grants. This involves showcasing previous achievements in related projects, building a reputation for dependability, and ensuring high-quality research and project execution. Participants were encouraged to demonstrate their expertise in their field and their dedication to their work, highlighting their grounded-ness as scholars. This approach helps to instill confidence in funders and increases the likelihood of securing grants and funding opportunities.

Diversification in Research Strategies: The panelists emphasized the importance of diversification to optimize research success, highlighting three key aspects. First, exploring various funding sources to increase their chances of securing support. Second, the importance of an interdisciplinary focus, such as by forming teams with diverse expertise to address a broader range of research topics. The panelists emphasized that contemporary research requires interdisciplinary collaboration, as no one conducts research in isolation. Last, they emphasized the importance of incorporating multiple dimensions into grants, including research, teaching, and outreach/community engagement, to maximize the impact and relevance of the projects.



Starting Small: The panelists emphasized the importance of starting small and shared their success stories as examples. They highlighted the significance of not overlooking small funds but instead using them as opportunities for learning and growth. These small grants can serve as stepping stones to larger projects and career advancement. The strategy of beginning with a small grant, conducting impactful research, and then leveraging that experience to apply for larger grants was highlighted as a pathway to securing substantial funding.

In conclusion, the panelists provided valuable insights on securing grants for research projects. They discussed understanding funders' goals, being patient and persistent in the application process, creating strong profiles and proposals, forming diverse interdisciplinary teams, and starting with small-scale projects to build credibility for larger ones. These key points emerged from the discussions during the two panels of the day and subsequent Q&A sessions, offering attendees practical strategies for successful grant acquisition in research endeavors.

Discussion Topic: Sustaining Collaborations

On Day 3 of the convening, the focus was “Sustaining Collaborations.” The agenda comprised sessions covering an IIE research report regarding the legacies of CADFP, an opening remark, a keynote address, and breakout sessions. The main objective was to explore strategies and models for sustainability of collaborations.

CADFP Research, Evaluation, and Learning

Ms. Janice D’souza, a Research Specialist at IIE, delivered a presentation outlining the results of research conducted on collaborations within CADFP. The evaluation centered on elucidating the program’s effects on capacity strengthening and its long-term sustainability.

During her presentation of the findings, Ms. D’souza reported that 79% of Host and Diaspora Fellows agreed that CADFP supported their capacity strengthening projects. Furthermore, she highlighted that 81% of Diaspora Fellows maintained contact with their Host Fellows after their Fellowship. Notably, 54 follow-on grants totaling \$4.9 million were awarded to CADFP Fellows by other funders to continue related activities after their initial CADFP grants.

Regarding activities and sustainability, the analysis indicated that codeveloping curriculum remained important, with robust engagement observed within the first two years postgrant. Similarly, research collaboration continued, with

46% of Fellows collaborating on research, resulting in 70% of research being published or shared. Moreover, some Fellows testified to the evolution of these international research partnerships into lifelong relationships fostering ongoing collaborations.

In addition to curriculum development and research collaboration, Diaspora Fellows played a crucial role in shaping the next generation of African scholars through graduate student teaching and mentoring. A significant percentage of Host Fellows reported that CADFP helped increase their knowledge about teaching, training, and mentoring graduate students. Diaspora Fellows also continued to provide support by offering feedback on dissertation drafts, writing letters of recommendation, and hosting students at their home institutions.

Furthermore, long-term capacity strengthening showed improvements in graduate student mentorship, research programs, and curriculum development at host institutions. Collaboration beyond host institutions was also observed, with 52% of Diaspora Fellows engaging in collaborations with other African higher education institutions. The impact on alumni was profound, with 98% reporting positive impacts on personal growth and professional advancement, and 97% acknowledging expanded knowledge of African higher education systems.

Ms. D'souza concluded the presentation with a promise to make the "CADFP Legacy Report" (a detailed discussion on the findings of the research) available at the end of March 2024.

Opening Remark by Prof. Paul Zeleza

Prof. Paul Zeleza, CADFP Advisory Council Chair Emeritus, delivered the opening remarks for Day 3. In his address, Professor Zeleza shared insights into the CADFP's beginnings and future direction. CADFP began in 2011 as a research project commissioned by

Carnegie Corporation to investigate the involvement of African-born academics in Canada and the United States with African institutions. The project aimed to harness intellectual contributions from the African diaspora, akin to financial remittances, to benefit the continent.

Professor Zeleza highlighted that the study undertaken between 2011 and 2012 led to the establishment of CADFP in 2013, expressing gratitude to Carnegie Corporation and IIE for their contributions. The initiative has facilitated over 665 African-born academics visiting 180 universities, fostering official collaborations and

Keynote Address


As a keynote speaker, Dr. Godwin R. Murunga, the Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, shared insights on sustaining collaborations and their complexities, emphasizing the importance of fostering long-term partnerships in academia, particularly in programs like CADFP.

Dr. Murunga highlighted a significant paradigm shift in Africa's perception of the emigration of African academia, moving from viewing it exclusively as brain drain to understanding it as brain circulation. He underscored the beneficial effects of diaspora participation on African development, extending beyond monetary remittances.


Furthermore, he emphasized the critical role of individual and institutional partnerships in enhancing higher education institutions across Africa, commending CADFP's emphasis on harnessing diverse skills to codevelop courses and establish networks. Nevertheless, Dr. Murunga cautioned against overlooking the challenges of maintaining cooperation, especially in the complex landscape of African higher education, which requires resource mobilization and institutional improvements.

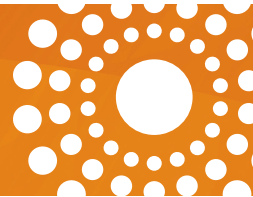
Dr. Murunga highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to overcome the global intellectual division of labor, which often marginalizes African knowledge systems and perpetuates reliance on external experts. He emphasized the need for policy-level collaboration and increased government funding in higher education to facilitate a genuine shift from dependence on imported knowledge to enabling African knowledge generation.

In conclusion, Dr. Murunga advocated for leveraging the strengths of diverse stakeholders to foster genuine collaboration aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges facing African higher education.



Dr. Murunga emphasized the critical role of individual and institutional partnerships in enhancing higher education institutions across Africa, commending CADFP's emphasis on harnessing diverse skills to codevelop courses and establish networks.





partnerships in teaching, research, and graduate student training. Professor Zeleza commended the program's continuous improvement based on participant feedback, emphasizing its purposeful and systematic approach, distinguishing it from other foreign exchange programs.

He then discussed the Consortium of African Diaspora Scholars Programs, aiming to include the entire African diaspora, including descendants of African-born individuals. The program's scope expanded beyond its initial focus nations to encompass the entire African continent, along with the inclusion of not only universities, but also research institutions, think tanks, corporations, NGOs, and community-based groups. Professor Zeleza noted that the Consortium is already a nonprofit corporation registered in Nairobi and New York, aiming to build on CADFP's achievements and attract funders from diverse locations.

Breakout Sessions

The first three presentations offered insights and prompted further discussion during the breakout sessions. The breakout discussions explored key players and factors essential for sustaining collaborations, as well as identifying best practices attendees could adopt.

Key Contributors to Sustained Collaborations

The discussion on sustaining collaborative initiatives identified several key entities, paralleling stakeholders identified during the discussion on the "domestication of CADFP." Participants highlighted how individual alumni of CADFP can contribute to sustaining the program. They suggested that Diaspora Fellows should view themselves as valuable resources, filling gaps in African universities by providing books, teaching, and scholarships. Moreover, Diaspora Fellows can leverage their unique experiences to support the program through mentoring students and other collaborations. For instance, one participant mentioned that they are currently mentoring around eight students from Africa. Some participants also stressed the importance of establishing an institutionalized framework for diaspora engagement and using Diaspora Fellows as mobilizers of resources. Additionally, there was a suggestion to create institutions similar to the Fulbright Program to fund individuals and collaborations.

Furthermore, participants urged African organizations such as AU, the AfDB, and regional organizations like the Southern African Development Community to take up the challenge of funding scholars and providing general support. They also expressed challenges in engaging with African philanthropists, who currently do not adequately support higher education. Participants emphasized that African philanthropic institutions need to understand and address the unique challenges of African higher education. They suggested seeking ways to align their support with research needs that can effectively resolve these challenges.

Therefore, participants emphasized that sustaining collaborative initiatives requires the active participation of various stakeholders. By leveraging resources and aligning efforts, these contributors can play a crucial role in ensuring the continuity and success of collaborative programs.

Key Ingredients to Sustained Collaborations

The participants also explored the essential components of successful collaboration, highlighting several key ingredients crucial for sustainability. Among these, they identified effective communication, personal connections (networking), infrastructural readiness, and mutual interest as paramount factors.

Effective Communication: In the discussions, effective communication emerged as a cornerstone of successful collaboration. Participants emphasized the need for clear and consistent communication channels such as regular conferences, virtual or physical meetings, and interinstitutional commitment to facilitate the seamless exchange of ideas, progress updates, and strategic

Participants emphasized that African philanthropic institutions need to understand and address the unique challenges of African higher education.

According to some participants, the existence of African research funding initiatives brings hope to CADFP by indicating that interest and potential sources of funding exist within the continent.

planning. They recognized that effective communication frameworks foster transparency and alignment among collaborators, thereby enhancing the overall efficacy of collaborative endeavors.

Personal Connections (Networking): The significance of personal connections in fostering successful collaborations was also underscored during the discussions. Participants emphasized the value of building strong relationships with collaborators, as trust and mutual understanding are pivotal in navigating challenges and achieving shared goals. They identified networking as a means to cultivate these connections, enabling individuals to engage with like-minded peers and establish meaningful partnerships conducive to collaboration.

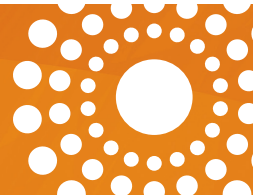
Mutual Interest and Like-Mindedness: The existence of mutual interest and like-mindedness among participating parties was identified as a necessity for sustaining collaborations. Participants emphasized the importance of shared goals, values, and visions in fostering synergy and cohesion within collaborative teams. Mutual interest ensures alignment of objectives and motivates stakeholders to actively contribute to the success of collaborative initiatives.

Conducive Environment (Infrastructural Readiness): Infrastructural readiness was highlighted as a foundational element for sustaining collaborations. Participants stressed the importance of having access to adequate resources, technology, and support systems to facilitate collaborative efforts effectively. A conducive environment enables smooth coordination and execution of collaborative projects, minimizing logistical hurdles and maximizing productivity.

**Models and Best Practices:
Successful Approaches and Challenges**

Participants identified different models and examples of best practices both within and outside the continent. They indicated that CADFP can benefit by drawing lessons from both African and international successful initiatives. According to some participants, the existence of African research funding initiatives brings hope to CADFP by indicating that interest and potential sources of funding exist within the continent. Among the African examples provided in the discussion are regional initiatives like the Inter-University Council for East Africa, which demonstrates successful regional collaboration and resource sharing. Nationally, examples such as the National Research Foundation in South Africa, the National Universities Commission, and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund in Nigeria were discussed. The existence of institutions or departments within institutions that directly address diaspora issues in many countries was highlighted as a positive development in Africa. These dedicated entities demonstrate a commitment to engaging with diaspora communities and potentially leveraging their expertise and resources for various research initiatives.

Participants also encouraged the CADFP leadership to explore international exchange and funding mechanisms, such as the European Union's Erasmus Mundus program, the American NSF, and other European funding mechanisms, as potential models and sources of inspiration for the domestication of CADFP. Additionally, they reiterated the importance of establishing an institutional framework across African countries, leveraging the infrastructure developed by organizations like AU and AAU for educational and research development. These institutions were highlighted for their capacity to extend networks and secure funding to ensure the sustainability of CADFP initiatives.



Participant Feedback and Closing

The participants overwhelmingly expressed satisfaction with the convening. The Zoom chats on Day 3 revealed that many found value in the opportunities to collaborate and network with Diaspora Fellows. They appreciated learning about grant acquisition strategies from funders and experienced Fellows, as well as discussing ways to localize and sustain CADFP. Here are some of the comments shared by participants:

“Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve and for giving us the opportunity to have this conversation. It’s good to ‘see’ everyone. Looking forward to future programs. :-)”
— Ruth Opara

“Thank you very much, fellow African Scholars for this wonderful learning opportunity. I am looking forward to further collaboration at different levels. Thank you, Jeremy and Carnegie, for making this possible. What a depth of learning in just three days!!!”
— Selina Mushi

“Thank you for organizing such a great conference. Please get everyone involved in next steps to keep the great work done by Fellows going forward”
— Tokunbo Ogunfunmi

“Thank you for the CADFP team and AAU for this wonderful forum. It was a pleasure engaging with each one of you.”
— Wycliffe W. Simiyu Njororai

“Three days of productive and informative conference. Thank you, Carnegie Corporation, CADFP Team, IIE and all the CADFP alumni.”
— Paulina Kuforiji

“The past three days have been invaluable in terms of our understanding of localizing and sustaining academic partnerships. Thanks to the organizers, keynote speakers, and alumni for this productive enterprise and robust plenary and breakout sessions.”
— Sheriff Folarin

Closing

At the conclusion of the discussions, Mr. Ransford Bekoe from AAU and Jeremy Coats from IIE delivered closing remarks. They both expressed appreciation toward the Alumni Steering Committee members for facilitating the discussion and thanked all participants for actively engaging in the three-day convening. They acknowledged the valuable insights shared and affirmed their commitment to considering them in the next steps of the program.

Actionable Items for CADFP

The three-day discussions focusing on the different themes of the convening can be distilled into actionable items that IIE, the CADFP Advisory Council, Carnegie Corporation, AAU, CADFP alumni, and other stakeholders may consider in next steps. By implementing these comprehensive strategies, CADFP can build a strong foundation for sustainable growth, collaboration, and impact across Africa.

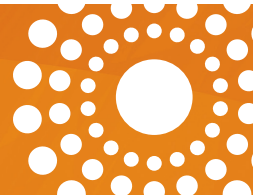
Funding and Resource Mobilization

- **Diversify Funding Sources:** Engage new partners like AU, AfDB, private companies, and African and external philanthropists. Leverage the growing emphasis on diaspora engagement at the continental and national levels to translate into potential financial and technical support.
- **Launch Awareness Campaigns:** Target African stakeholders (governments, NGOs, private individuals) and diaspora communities to educate them on the impact of CADFP. Organize meetings with officials and potential funders, showcasing program benefits and success stories.
- **Implement Sustainable Funding Strategies:** Explore strategies such as establishing a “Carnegie Alumni Fund,” taxing remittances, and encouraging Host and Diaspora Fellows, as well as their institutions, to participate in fundraising.
- **Leverage Influence of Universities:** Encourage universities to provide resources, integrate program goals into strategic plans, and engage alumni to leverage government and stakeholder support.

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

- **Foster Partnerships:** Collaborate with governments, universities, and regional organizations (AU, AfDB) for funding, knowledge sharing, and diaspora recognition.
- **Facilitate South–South Collaboration:** Encourage partnerships and knowledge exchange among African institutions for mutual benefit. Enable experienced hosts to visit other African institutions for knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- **Shift the Center of Gravity to Africa:** Establish a responsible institution based in Africa, prioritizing the African agenda and encouraging African institutions to take leadership roles. This permanent body or institution will be responsible for managing program activities beyond Carnegie support.
- **Develop a Knowledge-/Information-Sharing Platform:** Build a website and database to share information on grants, host institutions, alumni profiles, and best practices.
- **Ensure Knowledge Transfer:** Implement strategies such as mentoring programs, joint research projects, knowledge transfer workshops, and smooth leadership transitions to ensure program continuity.

By implementing these comprehensive strategies, CADFP can build a strong foundation for sustainable growth, collaboration, and impact across Africa.



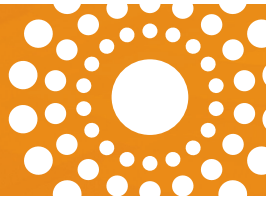
Key themes emerged through the convening discussions, emphasizing the importance of diversifying funding sources, engaging stakeholders at various levels, and tailoring strategies to diverse contexts across the African continent.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

- **Engage All Stakeholders:** Include youth, government officials, universities, regional institutions, diaspora communities, and Fellows in program activities, planning, and fundraising.
- **Develop a Dedicated Communication Strategy:** Communicate program value and impact effectively through regular updates, virtual meetings, impact stories, and other engagement opportunities.
- **Forge Informed Collaborations through Diplomatic Engagement:** Facilitate communication among Host and Diaspora Fellows and host nation diplomats for local context and seamless collaboration.

Program Sustainability and Impact

- **Tailor Strategies to Diverse Contexts:** Consider variations in government support, institutional types, and project needs across Africa.
- **Extend Fellowship Programs:** Consider an increase in the number of countries and institutions participating in the program, reciprocal visits for deeper impact and collaboration, and longer stays.
- **Connect Fellows with Aligned Institutions:** Match Fellows with institutions based on shared interests for long-term collaborations beyond the program.
- **Offer Training and Support:** Provide training on grant writing and program management to institutions and researchers.
- **Promote the CADFP Model:** Share the model with continental, regional, and national organizations for wider adoption and impact.



CONCLUSION



This report has presented the main outcomes and highlights of the second convening of CADFP, which took place virtually from January 23–25, 2024, with around 450 participants, including invited guests, representatives of funding organizations, representatives from IIE and AAU, CADFP alumni, and partners. The main objective of the convening was to solicit inputs from different stakeholders on how to localize and sustain CADFP without solely depending on funding from CCNY.

The All Program Alumni Virtual Convening participants shared many insightful ideas and strategies on how to domesticate CADFP and sustain the collaborations.

This report has synthesized the key points made by the invited speakers, funders, the CADFP alumni, and partners, based on the records of the plenary and breakout sessions, as well as the text-based discussions on Zoom’s chat and Q&A platforms.

The participants shared many insightful ideas and strategies on how to domesticate CADFP and sustain the collaborations. They suggested ways to facilitate the transition, to secure funding sources, and to enhance the infrastructure of the collaboration.

Furthermore, representatives of seven funding organizations and five highly experienced CADFP alumni offered their valuable insights on how to win grants and sustain collaborations on research projects, by emphasizing the importance of knowing the funders, developing proposal writing skills, building a strong team, and other essential strategies. The links to the programs and resources offered by the organizations can be part of a toolkit that is shared with program alumni as they plan for future work on the continent.

Generally, the discussions and insights shared throughout the convening have highlighted the multifaceted nature of sustaining collaborative initiatives. Key themes emerged, emphasizing the importance of diversifying funding sources, engaging stakeholders at various levels, and tailoring strategies to diverse contexts across the African continent. Participants emphasized the need for effective communication, personal connections, and infrastructure readiness to facilitate successful collaborations.

Moreover, there was a consensus on the necessity of establishing a dedicated body or institution to manage program activities and ensure continuity beyond external support. Additionally, the importance of knowledge transfer, youth engagement, and promoting the CADFP model for wider adoption were underscored as essential components of sustaining collaborative efforts in Africa. Overall, the discussions have provided valuable insights and actionable strategies to guide the success and sustainability of collaborative initiatives like CADFP.



Acknowledgements

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) would like to acknowledge the leadership and contributions of the Alumni Steering Committee: Dr. Simon Mariwah, University of Cape Coast; Dr. Lindani Ncube, University of South Africa; Dr. Esther Obonyo, Pennsylvania State University; Prof. Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika, University of Alberta; Dr. Michael Olabisi, University of Michigan; Prof. Kefa M. Otiso, Bowling Green State University; and Prof. Ankalo “Alfred” Shitandi, Kisii University.

The CADFP would like to thank the keynote speakers, panelists, Host Fellows, and Diaspora Fellows whose contributions made the CADFP All-Alumni Virtual Convening possible.

The CADFP would like to acknowledge the lead convener, the Association of African Universities (AAU), for their planning and technical support—especially the contributions of Mr. Ransford Bekoe and Mr. Agyemang Okyere Darko. The program acknowledges the coordination of Convening activities by Dr. Jeremy Coats, Ms. Randi Butler, and other staff at the Institute of International Education (IIE).

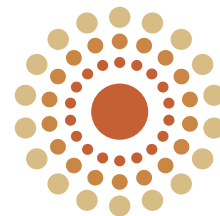
The CADFP and program alumni would like to express their sincerest gratitude to Carnegie Corporation of New York for their ongoing support of higher education on the Continent.

The All-Alumni Virtual Convening was made possible through a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York.



CADFP All Program
Alumni Convening

Appendix



CADFP All-Alumni Virtual Convening Agenda

January 23–25, 2024 | 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm GMT

Day 1: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Opening Ceremony

2:00-2:05pm GMT	CADFP Advisory Council and Alumni Steering Committee	Professor Kefa Otiso
2:05-2:10pm GMT	Carnegie Corporation of New York	Ms. Deana Arsenian, Vice President, International Program
2:10-2:15pm GMT	Institute of International Education	Mr. Jonah Kokodyniak, Senior Vice President
2:15-2:20pm GMT	Association of African Universities	Professor Oyewole Bandele Olusola, Secretary General
2:20-2:25pm GMT	Introduction to Alumni Steering Committee	Dr. Jeremy Coats
2:25-2:30pm GMT	Convening Overview	Professor Kefa Otiso

Topic 1: Domestication of CADFP

Facilitators: Professor Kefa Otiso and Professor Alfred Shitandi

2:30-2:35pm GMT	Topic 1 Introduction	
2:35-2:50pm GMT	Keynote	Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang, Former Education Minister of Ghana
2:50-2:55pm GMT	Breakout Session Introduction	
2:55-4:10pm GMT	Topic 1 Breakout Session	
4:10-4:55pm GMT	Report Back to Plenary	
4:55-5:00pm GMT	Wrap Up	

Day 2: Wednesday, January 24, 2024

2:00-2:10pm GMT **Day 1 Summary by Rapporteur General** Dr. Ayenachew Woldegiyorgis

Topic 2: Building Successful Research Ecosystems

Facilitators and Discussants: Dr. Esther Obonyo and Michael Olabisi

2:10-2:15pm GMT **Topic Introduction**

2:15-3:55pm GMT **Panel of Funders**

Mr. Jim Suits, Senior Advisor, Global Programs, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Dr. Wenda Bauchspies, Program Officer, Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE), National Science Foundation (NSF)

Ms. Kate Van Emrick, Assistant Director, Fulbright Scholar Program, Institute of International Education

Ms. Amirah Nelson, Senior Outreach Officer, Fulbright Specialist Program, World Learning

Mr. Peter Kerrigan, Deputy Director, North America, DAAD

Ms. Gudrun Chazotte, Head of Selection Scholarships, Sub-Saharan Africa, DAAD

Mr. Sam Oti, Senior Program Specialist, Global Health Programs Division, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Mr. Schenineda Kwaku Ankomah, Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst, World Bank Centres of Excellence, Association of African Universities (AAU)

Mr. Daniel Placht, Program Officer, US-Africa Frontiers Program National Academies of Sciences (NAS)

3:55-4:55pm GMT **Fellow Panel**

Professor Lawrence Mugisha, Makerere University, Uganda

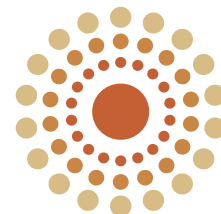
Professor Margaret Khaitsa, Mississippi State University, USA

Dr. Onesimus Otieno, Oakwood University, USA

Dr. Simon Mariwah, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Professor Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika, University of Alberta, Canada

4:55-5:00pm GMT **Wrap Up**

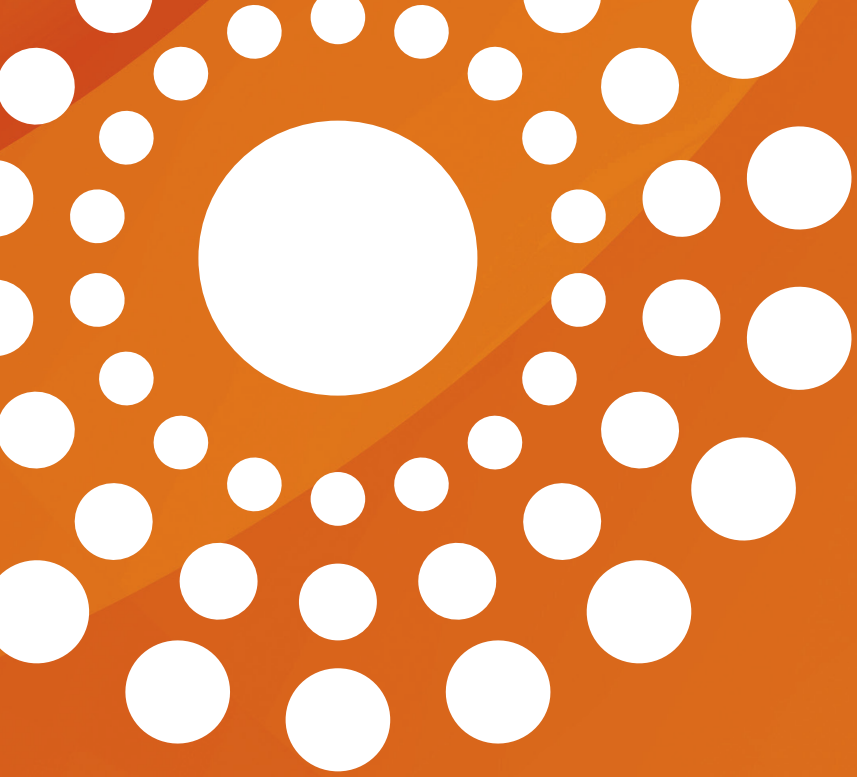


CADFP All-Alumni Virtual Convening Agenda *(continued)*

Day 3: Thursday, January 25, 2024

2:00-2:10pm GMT	Opening Remarks	Professor Paul Zeleza, CADFP Advisory Council Chair Emeritus
2:10-2:15pm GMT	Day 2 Summary by Rapporteur General	Ayenachew Woldegiyorgis
2:15-2:35pm GMT	CADFP Research, Evaluation, and Learning Presentation	Ms. Janice D'souza, Research Specialist, Institute of International Education
	Topic 3: Sustaining Collaborations	<i>Facilitators:</i> Dr. Simon Mariwah and Professor Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika
2:35-2:40pm GMT	Topic 3 Introduction	
2:40-2:55pm GMT	Keynote	Dr. Godwin R. Murunga, Executive Secretary, CODESRIA
2:55-3:00pm GMT	Breakout Session Introduction	
3:00-3:40pm GMT	Topic 3 Breakout Session	
3:40-4:10pm GMT	Report Back to Plenary	
4:10-4:55pm GMT	Next Steps and Way Forward	
4:55-5:00pm GMT	Closing Ceremony	Mr. Ransford Bekoe and Dr. Jeremy Coats

The CADFP is supported by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York.



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