



# CONCEPT NOTE

## THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL BI-ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS CONFERENCE, 2025

*THEME: "Innovation for Sustainable Development:  
Postgraduate Research for Societal Transformation"*



## 1.0 Background

The National Research Fund (NRF) is a Semi-Autonomous Government Agency (SAGA) established under the Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Act of 2013. NRF is mandated to mobilize and allocate financial resources for the advancement of research and development. Since its inception, NRF has funded postgraduate research directly through the postgraduate calls and indirectly as part of capacity-building initiatives within several research projects.

The National Research Fund in collaboration with Maasai Mara University would like to organize the Inaugural National Postgraduate Students Conference to bring on board the postgraduate students funded by NRF, other development partners and those that are self-financed to have a platform to share their research findings for peer review and quality assurance. The proposed Conference will enable NRF to establish the quality of research and progress of the postgraduate students who were funded under different calls. This conference will also be critical in providing monitoring, evaluation and impact reports on the status of postgraduate funding in Kenya. The Inaugural conference will take place at the Maasai Mara University, Narok County, from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

NRF aims to engage all the postgraduate who have been funded directly or through the different project calls that run in the past. This conference will be an eye-opener for more networking and collaborations by the different researchers and partners in Kenya. It will also present an opportunity to mentor the young generation and early career researchers through the recommendations they will get from experienced experts in different fields.

## 2.0 Objectives

The Bi-annual conference aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Knowledge Sharing - Provide a platform for postgraduate researchers to share the latest developments, research findings and best practices in their fields.
2. Professional Development - Offer workshops, seminars, and training sessions on Proposal grant writing, job market search, entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialization to help postgraduate attendees enhance their skills and knowledge.
3. Strategic Discussions - Address critical issues and challenges facing postgraduate research in Kenya and develop strategies to tackle them.
4. Showcasing research outputs - Highlight new technologies, products, and services from funded projects that can drive progress and efficiency.
5. Policy and Advocacy - Discuss and influence policies that impact the industry or community, advocating for beneficial changes.
6. Recognition of researchers with impactful outputs

7. Networking - Facilitate connections among attendees, fostering collaborations and partnerships that can lead to new opportunities and innovations.

### **3.0 Sub-Themes:**

Some of the Sub-themes of the conference are:

1. Technological Innovations for Socio-Economic Growth (ICT and emerging trends in AI)
2. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action (Earth sciences and climate change)
3. Policy, Governance, and Societal Impact
4. Emerging issues in Education
5. Pure, and Applied sciences in technological advancements
6. Business and Economics for sustainable economic development
7. Arts and social sciences for societal transformation
8. Innovations in Agriculture and food security
9. Cross-cutting issues

### **4.0 Implementation Plan**

The first edition of the National Bi-Annual Postgraduate Students Conference will be co-organized by NRF and Maasai Mara University, which will be the host. It will involve the following four major events;

- i) Keynote speakers and paper presentations
- ii) Panel discussions Poster presentation and Research outputs.
- iii) Workshops and breakout sessions on different thematic areas

### **5.0 Expected Outcomes**

The anticipated outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the National Bi-Annual Postgraduate Students Conference will include;

- i) Networks, partnerships and collaborations created with other institutions, industries and government agencies
- ii) Peer reviews to enhance the quality of research outputs
- iii) Policy enhancement/review/ advocacy/ recommendations

### **6.0 Partnership**

The National Bi-annual Postgraduate Students' Conference seeks to bring on board different partners, from the academia, industry, financial institutions,

conservationists, government agencies, county government, NGOs, CBOs and development partners to:

- i) Support with funds or in-kind sponsorships for some of the activities of the inaugural National Bi-Annual postgraduate students Conference 2025
- ii) Bring on board other partners in supporting postgraduate research in Kenya.

## 7.0 Sponsorship Package

We propose the following package to our sponsors;

### Sponsorship Levels

Sponsorship Level	Platinum Sponsor	Diamond Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
Investment (Kshs)	1,000,000/=	500,000/=	300,000/=	200,000/=	100,000/=

### Sponsorship Benefits

Benefit	Platinum	Diamond	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
Logo on Event Website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logo on Marketing Materials	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Booth Space	✓	✓	Standard (Ntimama square)	Shared	
Speaking Opportunity	✓	✓	Session	Panel	
Social Media Mentions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Event Signage	✓	✓	✓		
Inclusion in Press Releases	✓				
Sponsored Content on Website	✓				

For more information on the conference, you can contact;

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