



12TH Conference on Asphalt Pavements for southern Africa

13 -16 October 2019 | Sun City | South Africa

**Key lessons for road authorities for institutionalization
and implementation of research activities**

Nkululeko Leta, Pr Eng

Research for Community Access Partnership (ReCAP)

- Applied research to improve the evidence base on Low Volume Rural Roads (LVRRs) and the transport services that use them
- Key purpose to update and validate existing knowledge, and to generate new knowledge for safe, sustainable and cost-effective provision of rural access
- Funded by the UK government through DfID
- ReCAP (*AfCAP 2 + AsCAP*) is 6-year programme (2014-2020), following from AfCAP 1 (2007-2014)
- £24m research budget
- Managed by Cardno Emerging Markets (UK) Limited

Southern and Central Africa

- Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, DRC

East Africa

- Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania

West Africa

Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana

Asia

Myanmar, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan

Partnerships includes: Main funder (DfID) and others; PMU & technical panel; participating countries; implementation partners (private sector, NGOs)

Geographic locations

 AfCAP Partner Countries



 AsCAP Partner Countries



- Uncoordinated identification of knowledge gaps resulting in problems remaining unsolved after project execution
- Lack of ownership of outcomes of research (no uptake and embedment)
- Duplication in implementation of 'research' work
- Lack of interest from potential researchers due to uncertain career path
- Lack of interest from potential funders due to credibility issues
- Inconsistent performance monitoring of trial sections

Institutionalisation of research – key benefits

- Raise the profile of research within road agencies
- Develop minimum research capacity within countries
- Attract ‘young and bright’ minds
- Structured and systematic conduct of research (credible evidence)
- Increased potential for sustainable funding
- Enhanced capacity development, including coaching and mentoring
- ✓ Facilitates collaboration with tertiary institutions
- ✓ Motivates budding researchers
- ✓ Provides platform for partnerships with established regional and international research centres to conduct major research work

Activities

- Development of Business Plan (Research Strategic Plans) for new research units (RDU/RRC)
- Support to existing transport/road research centres (T/RRCs)
- Capacity building through:
 - Support to implementation of national research projects
 - Mentorship initiative for budding researchers – pilot phase in 2 countries, to develop methodology
- ✓ Customisation of methodology for each country for effective rollout

Outcomes of ReCAP research

- ✓ Raised profile of research in all ReCAP countries - more countries now with core research teams
- ✓ Approved research strategic plans in 3 AsCAP, 5 AfCAP countries
- ✓ New T/RRCs operational in 1 AsCAP, 3 AfCAP
- ✓ Requests for establishment of T/RRCs 3 - W Africa; 3 AsCAP
- ✓ Commitment by countries to provide sustainable funding for research
- ✓ Partnerships with established regional and international research centres to conduct research

Key pre-requisites for success

- ✓ inclusive identification and prioritisation process for research projects, preferably multisectoral
- ✓ clear identification and quantification of the benefits to demonstrate VfM
- ✓ dissemination of research process and outcomes on a regular basis
- ✓ Identification of a dedicated and passionate champion
- **Secure sustainable funding for continuous research**

Thank you for your attention

www.research4cap.org

Follow ReCAP on:

