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**OFFICE OF THE PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN & DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

ZERO DRAFT

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY POLICY

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FOREWORD



Science, technology and innovation are increasingly shaping the trajectory of nations, economies, and global relations. In today's interconnected and rapidly evolving world, the ability to harness scientific knowledge and innovation within foreign policy has become essential for advancing national interests, strengthening international partnerships, and addressing shared global challenges. Science diplomacy therefore stands at the centre of this transformation, serving as a critical instrument for navigating complex global issues and positioning countries within the emerging knowledge-based global order.

Kenya stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey. Guided by our national development priorities, including the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and Kenya Vision 2030, we recognise that sustainable growth, economic competitiveness, and national resilience are increasingly dependent on our ability to leverage science, technology and innovation. At the same time, our expanding diplomatic footprint and growing role in regional and global processes present a unique opportunity to strategically align our scientific capabilities with our foreign policy objectives.

This Science Diplomacy Policy marks a significant milestone in Kenya's efforts to institutionalise and strengthen this alignment. It provides a coherent and strategic framework for integrating science, technology and innovation into our diplomatic engagements, enhancing coordination across government and stakeholders, and positioning Kenya as a credible and influential actor in global science governance. The policy builds on our strong institutional foundations, vibrant research ecosystem, and active international engagement, while addressing the structural and operational gaps that have limited the full realisation of our science diplomacy potential.

Through this policy, the Government commits to advancing a whole-of-government approach to science diplomacy, strengthening the interface between science and policy, and investing in the systems, capacities, and partnerships required to support effective engagement at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels. It also underscores the importance of leveraging our scientific diaspora, private sector, and research institutions as key partners in driving innovation, knowledge exchange, and international collaboration.

Kenya's strategic position as a regional hub for diplomacy and science, coupled with its leadership in areas such as climate action, digital innovation, and sustainable development, places the country in a strong position to shape global conversations and contribute meaningfully to addressing transboundary challenges. This policy seeks to consolidate these strengths and transition Kenya from a participant in global processes to a proactive and strategic actor that influences agendas, norms, and outcomes.

The successful implementation of this policy will require sustained commitment, coordination, and collaboration across all sectors. I therefore call upon all Ministries, Departments and Agencies, County Governments, research institutions, the private sector, development partners, and the Kenyan diaspora to actively support its implementation.

I am confident that this policy will serve as a catalyst for strengthening Kenya's global engagement, enhancing our national development outcomes, and positioning our country at the forefront of science diplomacy in Africa and the Global South.

H.E. Dr Musalia Mudavadi, E.G.H
Cabinet Secretary,

**Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora
affairs**

PREFACE



The State Department for Science, Research and Innovation was established through **Executive Order No. 1 of June, 2025 on the Organization of the Government of the Republic of Kenya**, which assigned specific functions to the State Department in advancing science, research, innovation, and their integration into national development and international engagement.

The development of the **Science Diplomacy Policy** was undertaken under the auspices of the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, and through extensive consultations with key stakeholders across Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), academia, research institutions, the private sector, and international partners.

This Policy provides a structured and coordinated approach to leveraging science, technology and innovation as instruments of foreign policy and international cooperation. It seeks to strengthen Kenya's global positioning, enhance strategic partnerships, promote knowledge exchange, and support the achievement of national development priorities. The Policy further provides guidance on institutional coordination, implementation mechanisms, and frameworks for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning.

I wish to sincerely thank all stakeholders who contributed to the development of this Policy and look forward to their continued support and collaboration during its implementation. I particularly wish to acknowledge the Prime Cabinet Secretary for the strategic guidance and leadership provided throughout the policy development process. I also extend my appreciation to my colleagues, Principal Secretaries, and all participating institutions for their invaluable contributions, including the review of policy frameworks, provision of technical input, and active engagement in the drafting process.

It is my expectation that this Science Diplomacy Policy will serve as a strategic instrument in advancing Kenya's national interests, strengthening international cooperation, and positioning the country as a key player in global science, technology and innovation.

Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak
PhD,E.B.S
Principal Secretary,

State Department for Science, Research and Innovation

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BETA	Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda
CoK	Constitution of Kenya
EAC	East Africa Community
GRC	Global Research Council
KeNIA	Kenya National Innovation Agency
KV2030	Kenya Vision 2030
MDAs	Ministries Departments and Agencies
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation
NRF	National Research Fund
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
TVETs	Technical Vocational Education Training institutions
USA	United States of America.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Diplomacy	The work of maintaining relations between foreign government
Evaluation	It refers to the periodic (mid-term, final) assessment and analysis of an on-going or completed project. It is a systematic and objective assessment of an on-going or completed project, program, or policy, and its design, implementation and results. Evaluation involves the examination of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact of activities in the light of specified objectives.
Monitoring:	It is a systematic process for collecting and reviewing data and information across the life of a project and analysis of the information to guide project implementation. It is a continuing function that aims primarily to provide...an ongoing intervention with early indications of progress, or lack thereof, in the achievement of results.
Monitoring, evaluation, Reporting and learning (MERL)	It refers to different parts of the monitoring and Evaluation cycle. It involves monitoring a project to see how it is travelling in real time compared with expectations or to identify unintended issues or outcomes; evaluating a project to understand more about its implementation, impacts, and value; learning from the information gathered so improvements can be undertaken.
Persons with disability	This refers to people who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.
Policy	Statements of purpose and intent regarding research, science, technology and innovation enunciated and discussed by the government in various ways and in myriad arenas of debate. Such policies mobilize all of the

key instruments of taxation, spending, regulation and persuasion.

**Science and
Technology policy**

It refers to a policy that promotes and governs the use of scientific and technical knowledge in public policy and regulation, where governments need to draw on their internal S&T or the S&T capacities of others to carry out their responsibilities under laws, rules and international agreements, especially in public interest areas such as environment, health and safety policy, and regulation.

Science Diplomacy

This is the strategic use of scientific knowledge, collaboration, and innovation to advance national interests, inform policy decisions, strengthen international partnerships, and address shared global challenges

**Scientific
Research:**

It is research that follows a systematic approach to acquiring new information that adds to the existing knowledge in the research field. It is a process by which various phenomenon is studied using systematic methods of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. It is often referred to as a creative process because it involves novel ways to test ideas that can lead to new ideas and information.

**Special Interest
Groups**

It is a group of individuals who unite to support common concerns and interests. The primary purpose of a special interest group is to influence government policies to benefit the group's cause.

Stakeholders

They are individuals, organizations or communities that have a direct interest in the process and outcomes of a project, research or policy endeavor Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa

Technology:

The application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life or, to the change and manipulation of the human environment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Science diplomacy has emerged as a critical instrument for advancing national interests, strengthening international partnerships, and addressing complex global challenges. In an increasingly interconnected and science-driven world, the integration of science, technology and innovation (STI) into foreign policy is no longer optional—it is a strategic imperative. Issues such as climate change, global health security, food systems, digital transformation, and emerging technologies require coordinated international responses grounded in scientific knowledge and collaboration.

The Government of Kenya through this Policy outlines the strategic framework to integrate science, technology, and innovation (STI) into its foreign policy and international engagements. In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to harness scientific knowledge has become essential for advancing national interests and addressing global challenges such as climate change, health security, and digital transformation. This policy serves as a critical milestone in institutionalizing the alignment between Kenya's vibrant research ecosystem and its expanding diplomatic footprint, aiming to position the country as a proactive and influential actor in global science governance.

Kenya currently operates within a structural imbalance characterized by high levels of international activity but limited institutional coherence. While the country is a signatory to hundreds of international agreements and hosts major research institutions, its science diplomacy functions are fragmented across multiple agencies without a unified framework. This fragmentation often leads to reactive engagement driven by external opportunities rather than clearly defined national priorities. Critical constraints identified include weak institutional coordination, a limited integration of scientific evidence into negotiation processes, and the absence of key instruments such as science attachés and formal advisory systems. Furthermore, funding for research and innovation remains below national targets and is often misaligned with strategic foreign policy objectives.

To address these challenges, the policy establishes a goal to transition Kenya toward a coordinated, strategy-led science diplomacy system. The overarching objective is to institutionalize science diplomacy as a strategic instrument of foreign policy to strengthen international cooperation and promote sustainable development. Key interventions include the establishment of a **National Science Diplomacy Committee** to provide oversight and the development of a government-wide registry of experts to support diplomatic teams during technical negotiations. The policy also mandates the creation of a framework for deploying **Science Attachés** to strategic missions abroad, ensuring that Kenya has dedicated technical representation in the global scientific landscape.

Capacity building is a central pillar of this new framework, with plans to re-orient the **Foreign Service Academy** to include science-based training for diplomats. This cross-disciplinary training aims to bridge the gap between the scientific and diplomatic communities, equipping representatives with the skills needed to navigate technical international negotiations. Additionally, the policy commits to establishing a centralized scientific evidence repository and observatory system. This system will consolidate and

manage data relevant to external engagements, ensuring that Kenya's national positions are consistently informed by reliable and current scientific evidence.

The policy also addresses the need for robust governance frameworks to safeguard against harmful or unvetted foreign research and technologies. By strengthening intellectual property governance and operationalizing national technology assessment mechanisms, Kenya aims to protect its scientific sovereignty and mitigate risks associated with biopiracy and unequal knowledge extraction. Financing for these initiatives will be pursued through a coordinated resource mobilization strategy that aligns government funding, development partner support, and public-private partnerships with national science diplomacy priorities.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of this policy requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, engaging the private sector, academia, and the significant but underutilized Kenyan scientific diaspora. By strengthening the interface between science and policy, Kenya intends to leverage its strategic position as a regional hub to shape international norms and contribute to the global knowledge economy. Through sustained commitment and effective coordination, this framework will ensure that science, technology, and innovation serve as powerful drivers for Kenya's inclusive and sustainable development on the world stage

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Information

The nexus between science and diplomacy has existed for a long time, with the former producing evidence-based knowledge to inform discourses and negotiations on common issues of concerns, while the latter serving as a strategic tool of foreign policy for shaping transnational decisions, norms, standards and procedures on issues under consideration. As result, the partnership between scientists and diplomats has not only grown but also become indispensable especially in the context of global transitioning to green economy and in response to threats posed by environmental degradation.

In this context, Science diplomacy is the strategic and coordinated use of scientific knowledge, expertise, collaboration, research, technology, innovation and other emerging issues in diplomatic engagements to advance national interests, inform evidence-based policy decisions, strengthen international partnerships, influence global agenda, and address shared challenges.

Science is a key shaper of the global economy through the development of discoveries, technologies and innovative solutions to a variety of challenges. It is also a key element in international relations, with emphasis on cooperation or competition or pursuing a combination of both. Globally, science diplomacy has evolved from informal scientific exchanges into a more structured component of foreign policy practice. Many countries including Kenya have integrated STI considerations into diplomatic engagements. This is to support research collaboration, influence international norms and standards, and respond to transboundary challenges and emerging technologies. Multilateral and bilateral platforms have also increasingly relied on scientific evidence to inform negotiations and collective decision-making.

Within the region, African countries have recognized the value of regional scientific cooperation in addressing shared development priorities. Continental and regional frameworks emphasize collaboration in research, innovation, capacity building, and technology transfer as key drivers of Africa's transformation and global positioning.

At the national level, Kenya has developed a strong foundation in science, technology, and innovation and actively engages in international scientific cooperation. The country hosts regional and international research institutions, participates in bilateral and multilateral scientific initiatives, and contributes to global discussions in areas such as health, agriculture, climate science, digital technologies, and innovation.

The Government of Kenya, has taken important steps to address these gaps and has enacted policies, laws, and institutional arrangements that support STI development and international engagement, including the Constitution of Kenya, Kenya Vision 2030, the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2013, the Kenya Foreign Policy 2024 and Foreign Policy Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025. This Foreign Policy explicitly identifies STI Diplomacy as a key focus area. This policy mandates the "re-orientation" of the Foreign Service Academy to include science-based training for diplomats and other stakeholders. The Foreign Policy Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, which designates STI Diplomacy as a priority focus area and mandates science-based training for diplomats signals that this separation is no longer sustainable.

Despite these strengths, Kenya's diplomatic engagements and strategic outcomes within the global RSTI landscape is currently sub-optimal. This undesirable scenario is fueled by a lack of a unified science diplomacy policy framework to guide external engagements, resulting in weak coordination, fragmentation, and siloed engagement leading to policy incoherence and inconsistent alignment between STI systems and foreign policy objectives. Besides, most engagements are often reactive, driven by external stimulus rather than guided by clearly defined national priorities.

1.2 Policy Issue Identification

The core policy issue addressed by this Policy is the absence of a coherent, coordinated, and operational national framework to guide the use of science, technology, and innovation in Kenya's foreign policy and international engagements. This absence limits the country's capacity to leverage her scientific assets and reduces its influence in international agenda-setting processes.

As science diplomacy matured globally into a structured instrument of statecraft, Kenya's institutional arrangements did not keep pace, creating a measurable gap between the country's breadth of scientific engagement and the strategic returns. Earlier interventions addressed domestic STI development and foreign policy as separate domains, without explicitly linking scientific capability to diplomatic practice or national interest. The Foreign Policy Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025, which designates STI Diplomacy as a priority focus area and mandates science-based training for diplomats, signals that this separation is no longer sustainable. The convergence of domestic policy mandate and accelerating global competition for influence in critical and emerging areas, makes this the defining moment for Kenya to establish a coherent, coordinated science diplomacy framework.

Kenya's participation in international scientific engagements is extensive but remains largely sector-specific and institution-driven. Scientific expertise is not consistently incorporated into diplomatic efforts or formal frameworks, and limited mechanisms exist

to align domestic STI priorities with international diplomatic goals. Few platforms exist to track the outcomes of science diplomacy initiatives, meaning that the full strategic value of Kenya's scientific engagement is neither measured nor optimized.

The policy issue affects a wide range of stakeholders. Government institutions responsible for foreign policy and STI bear the immediate coordination burden. Researchers, scientists, and innovators operate without a structured interface between their work and Kenya's diplomatic agenda. The private sector and development partners engage without consistent policy signals. Ultimately, the public bears the cost through missed opportunities for development, technology and innovation access, and equitable participation in international cooperation.

Beyond coordination, the policy issue raises important legal, ethical, and moral considerations. A structured policy framework is necessary to ensure that Kenya's science diplomacy engagements reflect constitutional values, advance national interests, and meet international ethical standards.

1.3 Rationale for the Policy

The urgency of this Policy is grounded in a convergence of domestic and global conditions that make continued inaction strategically costly. Internationally, science diplomacy has matured from informal exchange into a structured instrument of statecraft. Major economies and emerging powers have institutionalised dedicated science diplomacy frameworks, capacities, and bilateral instruments, reshaping the terms on which international scientific cooperation is negotiated. Kenya risks ceding influence in critical international processes governing data governance, intellectual property, climate technology transfer, and health security if it continues to engage without a coherent national position. This legislative signal creates both the mandate and the political window to act. Furthermore, Kenya's hosting of regional and international research institutions, its active participation in multilateral scientific initiatives, and its contributions to global health, agriculture, climate, and digital technology agendas represent a critical mass of scientific engagement that now requires a coordinating framework to convert participation into durable influence. The question is no longer whether Kenya needs a Science Diplomacy Policy, but whether the country will act before the cost of institutional lag becomes irreversible.

1.4 Policy Goal and Objectives

1.4.1 Policy Goal

To institutionalize science diplomacy as a strategic instrument of Kenya's foreign policy in order to strengthen international cooperation, advance science, technology, and innovation, promote sustainable development, and enhance Kenya's role in contributing to transnational issues informed by science.

1.4.2 Policy Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

1. To institutionalize continued enhancement of the technical capacity of Kenya's representatives in technical agreements to strengthen the country's bargaining position.
2. To institutionalize mechanisms for the engagement of science attachés in the country's diplomatic agenda.
3. To institutionalize integration of scientific and technical expertise into Kenya's foreign policy and diplomatic practice to inform the National development agenda.
4. To strengthen evidence-based international and regional engagement by establishing a centralised scientific evidence repository and observatory system that improves the consolidation, accessibility, and analysis of data, ensuring that Kenya's participation in negotiations, partnerships, diplomatic forums, and reporting processes is consistently informed by reliable, current, and accessible scientific evidence across priority sectors.
5. To strengthen Kenya's capacity to screen, assess, and regulate potentially harmful research, technologies and innovations while enhancing its ability to engage in and influence regional and global governance processes, to safeguard national interests and protect technological and scientific sovereignty.
6. To strengthen the coordination, strategic alignment, and sustainable financing of RSTI in support of coherent, effective, and outcome-oriented science diplomacy.

1.5 Scope of the Policy

This Policy applies to all science diplomacy-related activities involving national and county governments, diplomatic missions, public and private research institutions, universities, innovation and technology transfer entities, and regional and international partners engaged in scientific cooperation with Kenya.

1.6 Structure of the Policy Document

This Policy document is organized into five chapters:

- **Chapter One:** Introduction
- **Chapter Two:** Situation Analysis
- **Chapter Three:** Public Policy Statements
- **Chapter Four:** Policy Implementation Framework
- **Chapter Five:** Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

CHAPTER TWO: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This policy operationalizes the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) diplomacy focus area articulated in the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya (2024) and the Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya. Science diplomacy has emerged as a critical interface between science, technology and innovation and foreign policy, reflecting the growing recognition that global challenges and national development priorities are increasingly science driven. Globally, science diplomacy is increasingly recognised as both a strategic instrument of statecraft and a form of soft power that enables countries to strengthen international partnerships, influence global agendas, and advance national interests through scientific cooperation and evidence-informed engagement. For Kenya, science diplomacy is both an external engagement tool and a strategic development instrument that supports climate resilience, industrialisation, innovation, and participation in the global knowledge economy.

2.2 Global Outlook on Science Diplomacy

Globally, science diplomacy has emerged as an important mechanism for advancing international cooperation, addressing transboundary challenges, and strengthening the role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in foreign policy and sustainable development. Increasingly, countries are integrating scientific expertise, innovation systems, and international research partnerships into diplomatic engagement, economic strategy, climate action, health security, and emerging technology governance.

The growing prominence of science diplomacy is reinforced by several global policies and governance frameworks. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises science, technology and innovation as critical enablers for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while international frameworks relating to climate change, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, ocean governance, health security, and digital transformation increasingly rely on scientific cooperation and evidence-informed decision-making. Multilateral institutions and global scientific platforms also continue to promote international collaboration, knowledge exchange, research partnerships, capacity building, and technology transfer to support collective responses to global challenges.

Recent global trends indicate a shift toward more institutionalized and strategic approaches to science diplomacy. Governments and regional blocs are increasingly establishing coordination mechanisms, scientific advisory systems, international research partnerships, and research security frameworks to align STI with foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and geopolitical interests. At the same time, growing concerns relating to unequal access to scientific infrastructure, emerging

technologies, financing, and participation in global knowledge systems have intensified calls for more inclusive and equitable science diplomacy frameworks, particularly for developing countries. Science diplomacy is therefore increasingly recognized not only as a tool for international cooperation, but also as a strategic instrument for enhancing national competitiveness, resilience, visibility, and influence within the global knowledge economy.

2.3 Continental and Regional Context

Science diplomacy in Africa is increasingly shaped by aligned continental and regional frameworks that position STI as central to economic transformation, sustainable development and regional integration. At the continental level, Agenda 2063 sets the vision for a knowledge-based economy supported by strong research systems and enhanced STI capacity. This is operationalised through Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa 2034, which prioritises research infrastructure, human capital development, innovation ecosystems and technology transfer. The AU Continental AI Strategy (2024-2034) further reinforces the role of emerging technologies, with emphasis on ethical governance, digital infrastructure and collaborative innovation. At the regional level, these priorities are translated into coordinated action through frameworks such as EAC Vision 2050 and the EAC STI Policy (2022–2033), which promote harmonised research systems, increased Research and Development investment and strengthened regional centres of excellence. Regional coordination mechanisms further support cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange and joint responses to shared challenges.

2.4 Review of the Status of Science Diplomacy In Kenya

2.4.1 Overview

Kenya's science diplomacy is active and multifaceted, implemented through a combination of diplomatic engagements, scientific collaboration, and international partnerships. At the multilateral level, Kenya participates in global processes where scientific knowledge is integral, including climate change negotiations, biodiversity frameworks, global health security, and emerging discussions on digital governance and frontier technologies. Regionally, scientific cooperation is advanced through the East African Community, particularly in disease surveillance, water and environmental management, education harmonisation, and innovation systems.

Bilateral and multilateral research collaborations form a central pillar of Kenya's science diplomacy practice. Universities, public research institutions, and innovation actors engage extensively with international partners through joint research programmes, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge exchange mechanisms. Kenya's growing

participation in digital innovation and emerging technology platforms, including discussions on artificial intelligence and data governance, further reflects an expanding science diplomacy footprint.

2.4.2 Legal and Regulatory Framework

Kenya's science diplomacy landscape is anchored within a broad national legal, policy, and institutional framework that supports science, technology and innovation (STI), sustainable development, international cooperation, and evidence-informed governance. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides the overarching framework by recognising the importance of sustainable development, environmental protection, international cooperation, access to information, and the role of science and technology in national development. Kenya Vision 2030 further positions STI as a key driver of industrialisation, competitiveness, and socio-economic transformation, while the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) emphasises innovation, digital transformation, climate resilience, food security, manufacturing, and value addition as central pillars of economic growth and resilience.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 provides the principal legal framework for the promotion, coordination, regulation, and advancement of STI in Kenya. The Act establishes key institutions including the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), the National Research Fund (NRF), and the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA), which collectively support research regulation, innovation promotion, and research financing. The Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kenya (2024) and Sessional Paper No. 1 of 2025 further recognise Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy as a strategic pillar of Kenya's foreign policy and international engagement, reflecting the growing importance of scientific knowledge, innovation, and technology in advancing national interests and strengthening Kenya's regional and global positioning. Several sectoral legal and policy frameworks further support the operationalisation of science diplomacy across key national priority areas. These include frameworks governing climate change, biosafety, digital transformation, cybersecurity, health, agriculture, environmental management, trade, and intellectual property rights. Collectively, these frameworks strengthen Kenya's engagement in regional and global scientific, technological, environmental, and innovation governance processes while supporting the protection of national interests, technological sovereignty, and sustainable development objectives. Despite the existence of these frameworks, science diplomacy functions remain fragmented across sectors and institutions, highlighting the need for a more coordinated and integrated national science diplomacy framework.

2.4.3 Institutional Architecture and Actors

Institutionally, science diplomacy in Kenya is anchored in an evolving governance architecture that brings together foreign policy and STI systems. The Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs leads Kenya's external engagements. The State Department for Science, Research and Innovation (SDSRI) within the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, represents a significant step toward integrating STI into foreign policy. This arrangement signals increasing recognition of science diplomacy as a strategic governance function.

Kenya's academia, research institutes, regulatory bodies, and innovation support agencies generate scientific knowledge and support international cooperation across key sectors, including climate science, agriculture, health, and emerging technologies. Non-state actors, including the private sector, civil society, development partners, and the diaspora, also contribute to international scientific engagement through innovation partnerships, global research networks, and knowledge exchange.

Despite the presence of significant scientific and technical expertise across government, academia, research institutions, and the diaspora, the country has underdeveloped structured mechanisms for rapid expert mobilisation and deployment in support of international negotiations, diplomatic engagements, and emerging global scientific issues. Kenya also lacks a comprehensive and centralised national register of STI subject matter experts to support coordinated science diplomacy engagement. This limits the systematic integration of specialised expertise into foreign policy processes and reduces institutional preparedness in responding to complex science-driven global challenges. While formal diplomatic processes are structured, many science-driven international engagements are initiated independently by research and academic institutions, with limited aggregation, visibility, coordination, or strategic alignment at the national level.

In addition, systems for generating, collecting, storing, sharing, and utilising scientific evidence and research outputs remain fragmented across institutions and government agencies. Evidence management practices are inconsistently coordinated, resulting in limited accessibility, underutilisation of existing knowledge, and weak integration of scientific evidence into policy, diplomatic, and international engagement processes.

2.4.4 Systemic and Capacity Constraints

Capacity constraints continue to affect the effective operationalisation of science diplomacy in Kenya. While the country possesses strong diplomatic and scientific institutions, specialised training at the intersection of science, technology, innovation, and foreign policy remains limited. Cross-disciplinary exposure between scientists and diplomats is still relatively underdeveloped, constraining effective participation in increasingly technical and science-driven international negotiations.

The Foreign Service Academy (FSA), established under Section 29 of the Foreign Service Act (Cap. 185E), plays a central role in strengthening Kenya's diplomatic capacity. However, specialised training in emerging areas such as science, technology, and innovation diplomacy remains at a nascent stage within formal diplomatic training systems. This limits the extent to which diplomats are equipped to effectively engage with rapidly evolving scientific, technological, and innovation-related global issues.

In practice, specialised capacity-building in science diplomacy has largely been supported through collaborations with external strategic partners, international organisations, universities, and development partners. While these partnerships have enhanced knowledge exchange, technical exposure, and professional development opportunities, they also underscore the need for more institutionalised and sustainable domestic capacity-building frameworks.

2.5 Policy Gaps and Issues

From the SWOT and PESTEL analyses (Annexes), the key policy gaps for science diplomacy and their implications are summarised below:

Policy Gap	Description	Implication
Absence of a Dedicated Science Diplomacy Policy	Science diplomacy is not formally defined or operationalised as a distinct policy domain, with relevant provisions dispersed across STI, foreign policy, and sectoral frameworks.	Limits strategic coherence, weakens accountability, and constrains the ability to coordinate and scale science diplomacy as a national priority.
Fragmented Institutional science diplomacy Coordination	Science diplomacy functions are distributed across multiple institutions without a clearly designated coordinating authority or structured whole-of-government mechanism.	Leads to overlapping mandates, duplication of efforts, and weak alignment between STI systems and foreign policy objectives.

**Weak Science–
Policy–
Diplomacy
Interface**

Mechanisms for integrating scientific evidence and specialised expertise into foreign policy, negotiations, and international engagements are not institutionalised and remain largely ad hoc. Systems for generating, managing, and utilising scientific evidence are fragmented across institutions and agencies.

Reduces effectiveness in negotiations, limits evidence-informed decision-making, and weakens Kenya's influence in global science governance processes.

**Limited
Science
Diplomacy
Capacity**

There is a limited professional science diplomacy workforce, and formalised training pathways in STI diplomacy across diplomatic and scientific institutions. Cross-training between scientists and diplomats is insufficient, while specialised capacity-building remains largely dependent on external partners.

Constrains effective participation in complex, science-driven negotiations and reduces the country's ability to anticipate and respond to emerging global scientific and technological issues.

**Limited Core
Science
Diplomacy
Mechanisms**

Key enabling mechanisms, such as Science Diplomacy attachés, structured advisory instruments, foresight and strategic intelligence systems, are not yet institutionalised.

Results in reactive and discontinuous engagement, limiting long-term positioning, preparedness, and sustained influence.

Inadequate and Misaligned Financing

Funding for science diplomacy and R&D remains below national targets, fragmented across multiple sources, and not strategically aligned to foreign policy priorities.

Limits scale, sustainability, and the ability to leverage international partnerships for economic transformation and technology transfer.

Weak Strategic Positioning in Emerging Technologies

Engagement in emerging domains such as artificial intelligence and biotechnology remains inadequate and poorly coordinated, particularly in relation to intellectual property management, technology governance, commercialization, and long-term stewardship of research and innovation outputs..

Risks Kenya becoming a passive participant in global technology governance and standard-setting processes, limiting its ability to shape international norms, safeguard national interests, protect intellectual property, and derive long-term strategic and socio-economic value from research and innovation.

Weak Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Systems

Inadequate systems to track, assess, and report the outcomes and impact of science diplomacy engagements.

Weakens accountability, limits institutional learning, and constrains evidence-based policy refinement and performance measurement.

Fragmented Scientific Evidence and Expert Coordination Systems

Kenya lacks a comprehensive national register and structured mobilisation framework for STI subject matter experts. Scientific evidence systems are fragmented and

Limits timely access to expertise, weakens coordinated scientific input into diplomatic engagements, and reduces strategic

inconsistently coordinated
across institutions.

utilisation of national
scientific capabilities.

**Underutilisation
of Scientific
Diaspora and
Non-State
Actors**

There are limited formal
mechanisms to
systematically engage the
diaspora, private sector,
academia, and civil society in
science diplomacy
processes.

Results in missed
opportunities for
knowledge transfer,
investment mobilisation,
innovation scaling, and
global influence.

2.6 Emerging Opportunities and Strategic Positioning

Notwithstanding these challenges, Kenya is undergoing a clear transition toward a more integrated and strategic science diplomacy system. Recent institutional developments, particularly the integration of the STI focus area into national foreign policy, signal a shift toward greater coordination and policy coherence. Kenya's active participation in regional and global processes, combined with its strong research base and diplomatic footprint, positions the country as an emerging regional hub for science diplomacy.

The presence of international organisations, expanding innovation ecosystems, and a growing pool of scientific and technical expertise further enhance this positioning. These factors create opportunities for Kenya to strengthen its influence in global science governance, attract strategic partnerships, and leverage science diplomacy as a driver of sustainable development and economic transformation. The challenge, and opportunity, moving forward lies in consolidating these strengths into a coordinated, well-institutionalised system that can translate active engagement into sustained national advantage.

2.7 Conclusion

The situational analysis underscores that Kenya's science diplomacy landscape is characterised by strong potential but limited institutional coherence. While the country is actively engaged in science-related international processes and possesses solid STI and diplomatic foundations, these efforts remain fragmented and insufficiently aligned with national strategic objectives. The core constraint is therefore not a lack of participation

or capability, but a deficit in coordination, institutionalisation, and strategic direction. This limits Kenya's ability to fully leverage science diplomacy to influence global agenda, secure partnerships, and advance national development priorities. Addressing these challenges requires a deliberate shift from ad hoc engagement to a coordinated, strategy-led science diplomacy system. This analysis further provides the foundation for the policy measures outlined in Chapter Three.

CHAPTER 3 POLICY STATEMENT

3.0 Overview

This chapter outlines the Science Diplomacy Policy priorities and interventions by the Government of Kenya, in collaboration and partnership with other stakeholders. The broad, long-term aim of this policy is to strengthen Science diplomacy a strategic instrument of Kenya's foreign policy in order to address challenges and maximize opportunities available through international cooperation.

To achieve this policy goal, the following policy objectives are key.

Policy Issue 1: Underutilization of available experts for science diplomacy engagement

Kenya's effectiveness in its external engagements on STI requires that diplomatic teams are backed up by technical members with the expertise and skillset aligned to the subject under discussion. In the absence of such skills within the mainstream government negotiating team, such expertise can be sourced from relevant institutions within the country. The Kenyan diaspora also represents a national resource with untapped knowledge, networks and influence that can contribute immensely to Kenya's diplomatic STI agenda. In all circumstances, the development of technical position papers must be aligned to national interest and take into account other dynamics of the negotiations.

Policy Statement:

The government of Kenya commits leverage on Kenyan experts and professionals in science diplomacy engagements.

Policy Objective:

To institutionalise continued engagement of Kenyan experts and professionals in science diplomacy

Interventions

To address the objective above the Government will:

- i. Develop and institutionalise a framework for engaging STI experts in external diplomatic engagements in a clear, professional and consistent approach.
- ii. Institutionalize and operationalise a government-wide registry of experts to support the government in STI diplomatic engagements.
- iii. Establish a National standing committee on science diplomacy

Policy Issue 2: Lack of a framework for Science Attaché's

The global STI landscape has become increasingly complex, necessitating the need for dedicated staff to lead in the pursuit of national interests. Whereas Kenya lacks a framework for posting science attaché to diplomatic missions abroad, this could be an opportunity to explore and develop a framework for deployment where feasible. Kenya stands to gain more international influence and visibility on strategic scientific, technological and innovation matters through structured approach and engagements.

Policy Statement:

The government of Kenya is committed to exploring mechanisms for deployment of science attachés in specified missions abroad.

Policy Objective:

To develop a framework for the deployment of science attachés to specified missions abroad.

To address the objective above, the Government will:

- i. Develop criteria to identify strategic diplomatic missions for deployment of STI attaches.
- ii. Develop and implement a framework for the identification and deployment of STI specialists on diplomatic missions abroad.

Policy Issue 3. Inadequate Capacity building for Science Diplomacy

There is inadequate technical capacity for the advancements of STI diplomatic engagements. There is limited formalized training pathways in Kenya on science diplomacy and emerging STI areas. Strategic collaborations with relevant foreign based institutions and governments should be scaled up to offer opportunities for training Kenyans across the broad spectrum of science diplomacy.

Policy statement:

The government commits to institutionalise continuous capacity building in science diplomacy.

Policy objective:

To facilitate continuous capacity building in science diplomacy.

To address the objective above, the Government will:

- i. Develop and implement a programme for the initial and refresher training of science diplomacy experts.
- ii. Develop a strategy for continuous training of diplomatic staff on new and emerging STI knowledge and skill areas
- iii. Strengthen existing collaborations and explore new ones for capacity building in science diplomacy.
- iv. Establish and maintain a data repository for trained science diplomacy experts.

Policy Issue 4: Lack of a Centralized Scientific Evidence and Information Management System

Kenya's participation in external engagements should be grounded in robust scientific and technical evidence. Systems for generating, collecting, storing, and utilising such evidence should be effectively coordinated and centralized for ease of access and utilization across relevant institutions. This will enhance effective use of evidence in informing national positions and decision-making processes, placing Kenya at advantage in external engagements. The need for a centralised scientific evidence repository and an observatory function to strengthen data access, analysis, and strategic use in international engagements is key.

Policy statement:

The Government of Kenya commits to establish a centralised and coordinated system for the consolidation, management, and utilisation of scientific evidence to inform external engagements.

Policy objective:

To establish a centralized evidence repository and observatory system in order to strengthen evidence-based external engagements.

Interventions

To address the objective above the Government will:

- i. Establish a centralised national STI repository to consolidate and manage data relevant to external engagements, addressing fragmentation and ensuring consistent access to reliable and up-to-date scientific evidence.
- ii. Establish a framework for operationalizing STI observatory function to support the analysis, monitoring, and interpretation of data, and to generate policy-relevant insights to inform strategic decision-making in external processes.

- iii. Strengthen the collaboration of the private sector in scientific evidence, technology and innovation.
- iv. Strengthen sharing of up-to-date evidence with the ministry responsible for foreign affairs.

Policy Issue 5: Limited Coordination Mechanisms for Safeguarding against Harmful and Unvetted Foreign Research, Technology and Innovation

Kenya's growing integration into the global technological and scientific landscape has increased its exposure to the cross-border flow and adoption of emerging technologies and research, which may carry significant social, ethical, security, and public health risks. While multiple state agencies regulate aspects of foreign technologies and research, limited coordination among them creates gaps in effectively safeguarding against associated risks. There is need to strengthen existing approaches to proactively assess and manage these risks, thus enhancing the country's ability to evaluate technologies, research, and Intellectual property management before their adoption and deployment, and to effectively engage in international processes governing their development and use.

Policy statement:

The Government of Kenya commits to strengthen and institutionalise governance frameworks to safeguard science sovereignty and mitigate risks associated with foreign research, technology and innovation.

Policy objective:

To strengthen Kenya's capacity and systems for the governance, assessment, and strategic engagement foreign research, technology and innovations to enhance safeguards, mitigate associated risks, align with national interests and protect technological and scientific sovereignty.

Interventions

To address the objective above the Government will:

- i. Establish a national framework for the identification, screening and assessment, of research, technologies and innovations to ensure their safe, ethical, and strategic adoption and reduce exposure to security, economic, and sovereignty risks.

- ii. Operationalize a national technology and research assessment mechanism to systematically identify, evaluate, and monitor potential risks and impacts across priority sectors.
- iii. Strengthen Kenya's participation and coordination in regional and global technology and research governance processes to support informed engagement, negotiation, and protection of national interests and sovereignty.
- iv. Strengthen intellectual property governance to safeguard science and data sovereignty and mitigate risks associated with foreign research collaborations, including biopiracy, knowledge extraction, and unequal benefit sharing.

Policy Issue 6: Inadequate STI Funding and implementation challenges

STI is a key enabler of sustainable development. Despite this STI landscape in Kenya remains insufficiently resourced. While the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, 2013 provides for sustained investment in research through the National Research Fund, overall STI financing remains below the national target of 2% of GDP. Furthermore the multiplicity of financial sources especially from external funders remains dispersed and uncoordinated and not strategically aligned to foreign policy priorities. This leads to fragmented engagements, disjointed institutional collaborations, and missed opportunities to leverage STI strategically in international relations. This further limits accountability and efficient use of resources for science diplomacy.

Policy statement:

The Government commits to prioritise STI as a strategic instrument of foreign policy by strengthening coordination and sustainably financing STI at national, bilateral, and multilateral levels. A key priority of the Government is to enhance accountability, alignment, efficiency and impact of STI investments in diplomacy.

Policy objective:

To strengthen sourcing, coordination, strategic alignment, and sustainable financing of STI in support of coherent, effective, and outcome-oriented science diplomacy.

Interventions

To address the objective above the Government will:

- i. Develop a framework for the mobilization and alignment of finances for RSTI – driven science diplomacy
- ii. Develop a mechanism to promote strategic investment in transformative and frontier technologies
- iii. Increase mutually beneficial and equitable partnerships
- iv. Develop a framework for tracking, monitoring and accountability for resources committed to science diplomacy

CHAPTER FOUR: IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

4.0 Overview

The implementation of this Policy shall be undertaken through a coordinated and institutionalized framework that translates policy objectives into actionable programmes, aligned with national planning, budgeting, governance, and accountability systems. The framework recognises the cross-cutting and strategic nature of science diplomacy and therefore adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that integrates foreign policy, STI, economic development, environmental governance, national security, and international cooperation.

4.1 Implementation Framework

The implementation of this Policy shall be undertaken through a structured framework that translates policy objectives into actionable programmes, in line with national planning and budgeting processes.

Institutional Arrangements:

A National Science Diplomacy Committee shall be established to provide policy oversight, strategic guidance, inter-agency coordination, and implementation support for this Policy. The Committee shall serve as the principal coordination mechanism for science diplomacy in Kenya and shall be constituted in accordance with principles of good governance, institutional accountability, inclusivity, and relevant national governance frameworks.

The Committee shall comprise representatives from:

- The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs;
- The Ministry responsible for Science, Research and Innovation;
- Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);
- Council of Governors;
- Research institutions, and academia;
- The private sector, civil society; and
- The Kenyan scientific diaspora and other relevant experts.

The composition of the Committee shall ensure diversity of expertise and representation across scientific, technical, diplomatic, regulatory, legal, policy, and innovation domains, while promoting inclusivity, gender equity, and intergenerational participation.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Ministry responsible for Science, Research and Innovation shall serve as the lead implementing and coordinating agency for this Policy and shall:

- Coordinate overall implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the Policy;
- Develop and maintain a national registry and repository of scientific, technical, and innovation expertise to support diplomacy, negotiations, and international engagements;
- Coordinate scientific advisory and technical support mechanisms for international engagements;
- Establish mechanisms for rapid mobilisation and deployment of scientific and technical expertise in response to emerging national, regional, and global issues requiring specialised knowledge;
- Promote alignment between national STI priorities and international cooperation frameworks; and
- Coordinate engagement with research institutions, academia, innovation actors, and the scientific diaspora.

The Ministry responsible for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs shall:

- Lead the integration of science diplomacy within Kenya's foreign policy and diplomatic engagements;
- Develop modalities and guidelines for the appointment, deployment, and coordination of Science Attachés in consultation with the State Department responsible for Science, Research and Innovation;
- Facilitate coordination between diplomatic missions and national scientific institutions on strategic international engagements; and
- Support Kenya's participation and representation in regional and international science diplomacy processes.

Relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies shall integrate science diplomacy priorities into their sectoral plans, programmes, and budgets, and shall collaborate in the provision of technical expertise, scientific evidence, and regulatory oversight within their respective mandates.

Regulatory and oversight institutions shall collaborate to strengthen national capacity for technology assessment, ethical review, intellectual property governance, biosafety oversight, cybersecurity preparedness, and strategic governance of emerging and frontier technologies, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, genomics, and digital systems.

Universities, research institutions, private sector actors, civil society organisations, and the Kenyan scientific diaspora shall support implementation through research collaboration, technical advisory services, innovation partnerships, knowledge exchange, and capacity development initiatives.

Implementation Instruments

Implementation of this Policy shall be operationalised through:

- A National Science Diplomacy Strategy;
- Sector-specific implementation plans and guidelines;
- Annual work plans and action plans;
- Inter-agency coordination mechanisms and National Science Diplomacy Committee;
- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning frameworks with clearly defined performance indicators, targets, and accountability mechanisms.

A detailed Policy Implementation Matrix outlining timelines, outputs, indicators, responsible institutions, and resource requirements shall be provided in the Annex to this Policy.

4.2 Coordination Framework

This Policy establishes a coordinated and institutionalised framework to enhance coherence, efficiency, accountability, and strategic alignment in the implementation of science diplomacy across Government and stakeholders.

The Coordination Framework shall promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to science diplomacy to ensure coherence across foreign policy, science, technology and innovation, economic development, environmental governance, national security, and international cooperation systems.

The Framework shall:

- Promote inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination and collaboration on science diplomacy matters;
- Facilitate structured partnerships with academia, research institutions, the private sector, civil society, development partners, and the Kenyan scientific diaspora;
- Strengthen alignment between national priorities, regional and global science, technology and innovation frameworks and processes;
- Support information sharing, joint planning, technical coordination, and evidence exchange across institutions;

- Promote coherence in Kenya’s participation in bilateral, regional, and multilateral scientific and diplomatic engagements;
- Minimise duplication of efforts and enhance institutional efficiency and resource utilisation; and
- Strengthen coordination on emerging and strategic issues requiring rapid scientific and technical advisory support.

The National Science Diplomacy Committee shall serve as the principal coordination mechanism for implementation of this Policy and may establish technical working groups, expert panels, or advisory platforms where necessary to support specialised thematic areas and emerging issues.

4.3 Resource Mobilisation

To ensure effective and sustainable implementation of this Policy, the Government shall establish a coordinated Resource Mobilisation Strategy aligned with national planning and budgeting frameworks.

The Strategy shall promote sustainable financing, strategic partnerships, and resource alignment to support science diplomacy priorities and national interests.

The Strategy shall include:

Government Financing: The National Government shall allocate adequate financial resources through the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), annual budgeting processes, and relevant national financing mechanisms to support implementation of this Policy.

Development Partner Support: The Government shall mobilise financial, technical, and institutional support from bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international partners to strengthen science diplomacy initiatives, scientific cooperation, capacity development, and strategic international engagements.

Public–Private Partnerships: The Government shall promote partnerships with the private sector, industry, innovation actors, and philanthropic institutions to leverage investment, technology transfer, innovation, infrastructure development, and technical expertise.

Research and Innovation Financing: The Government shall strengthen mechanisms for mobilising and aligning financing for research, science, technology, and innovation to support strategic diplomatic priorities, emerging technologies, and international scientific cooperation.

Diaspora Engagement: Mechanisms shall be established to facilitate and harness financial, technical, scientific, and knowledge contributions from Kenyans in the diaspora in support of national science diplomacy objectives.

4.4 Policy Communication

Communication shall be an integral component of implementation of this Policy and shall support awareness creation, stakeholder engagement, transparency, knowledge exchange, and public participation.

The Government shall adopt the following measures:

a) Information Dissemination: Appropriate communication platforms, including official websites, knowledge portals, digital platforms, publications, and media channels, shall be utilised to disseminate information on science diplomacy priorities, opportunities, programmes, partnerships, and policy updates.

b) Guidelines and Standardisation: Clear and accessible guidelines, procedures, standards, and reporting frameworks shall be developed and communicated to ensure consistency, coordination, accountability, and effective implementation across institutions.

c) Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation: Structured mechanisms shall be established to facilitate stakeholder participation in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya (2010). These mechanisms shall ensure inclusion of:

- Researchers and academia;
- Industry and the private sector;
- Civil society organisations;
- Women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalised groups; and
- The Kenyan scientific diaspora and other non-state actors.

Feedback and consultation mechanisms, including stakeholder forums, policy dialogues, surveys, and digital engagement platforms, shall be institutionalised to support continuous learning and improvement.

d) Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration Platforms: The Government shall establish and strengthen platforms for knowledge exchange, scientific collaboration, data sharing, and institutional networking, including research databases, innovation platforms, observatory systems, and digital collaboration tools at national, regional, and international levels.

e) Advocacy, Outreach and Capacity Building: The Government shall implement advocacy, outreach, and communication programmes to enhance awareness, visibility, and uptake of this Policy. Capacity-building initiatives shall also be undertaken to strengthen institutional, scientific, technical, and diplomatic competencies necessary for effective participation in science diplomacy processes and international engagements.

CHAPTER FIVE: MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING

5.0 Overview

The Ministry responsible for Research, Science, Technology and Innovation shall coordinate the overall Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) framework, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. The MERL framework shall be a critical mechanism for ensuring effective implementation, accountability, and continuous improvement of science, technology and innovation diplomacy initiatives. Given the dynamic and transnational nature of science, technology and innovation diplomacy, the framework will provide mechanisms to track performance, measure outcomes, and respond to emerging global scientific, technological and geopolitical developments. It will also assess the policy's contribution to national development priorities and Kenya's positioning in international science, technology and innovation ecosystems.

5.1 Policy Monitoring

The MERL framework shall be anchored on a Results-Based Management approach and aligned with Government performance contracting and reporting systems. It shall adopt a structured, participatory, and evidence-based approach to monitor implementation of the Science Diplomacy Policy. Monitoring will focus on tracking activities, outputs, and immediate outcomes to ensure that implementation remains on course.

5.1.1 Data Collection, Analysis and Management

The implementing entities shall:

- a) Establish mechanisms for systematic data collection, including administrative data, diplomatic mission reports, partnership records, and stakeholder feedback.
- b) Develop and maintain a centralized STI diplomacy data observatory accessible to relevant institutions.
- c) Ensure data is disaggregated, where applicable, by sector, geography, thematic area, and type of partnership.
- d) Utilize digital platforms and tools for real-time tracking of STI diplomacy engagements and initiatives.
- e) Leverage on risk-based analysis in identifying lessons and areas of improvement.

5.1.2 Baselines, Indicators and Targets

- a) Establish baseline values for all indicators at the onset of policy implementation.
- b) Develop SMART indicators aligned to policy objectives, including outputs, outcomes, and impacts.
- c) Define clear mid-term and end-term targets as outlined in the Monitoring and Evaluation Matrix.
- d) Regularly review indicators to ensure relevance in a rapidly evolving global context.

5.1.3 Monitoring Schedule and Timeframes

- a) Monitoring activities shall be conducted on quarterly and annual basis.
- b) Real-time monitoring may be undertaken for high-priority engagements, international negotiations, and emerging global issues.
- c) Periodic reviews shall be conducted to assess implementation progress across institutions.

5.1.4 Tracking of Resources and Implementation Progress

- a) Track implementation of policy actions against approved timelines and allocated resources.
- b) Document variances and recommend corrective actions.
- c) Ensure alignment between planning, budgeting, and implementation processes.

5.1.5 Identification of Challenges and Bottlenecks

- a) Monitoring processes shall identify operational, institutional, financial, and diplomatic challenges.
- b) Provide recommendations for addressing identified bottlenecks.
- c) Facilitate coordination among institutions to resolve implementation challenges.

5.2 Policy Evaluation

Evaluation shall assess the extent to which the objectives of the Science Diplomacy Policy have been achieved, and determine its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, sustainability, and impact.

5.2.1 Evaluation Objectives

- a) Assess achievement of intended outcomes and impacts.
- b) Determine alignment with national development priorities and foreign policy objectives.
- c) Identify intended and unintended effects of policy implementation.
- d) Generate lessons to inform future policy and programming.

5.2.2 Evidence Collection

- a) Baseline and end-line assessments.
- b) Administrative and financial records.
- c) Reports from diplomatic missions and implementing agencies.
- d) Stakeholder consultations, including academia, private sector, and international partners.

5.2.3 Evaluation Methods and Timing

- a) A Mid-term evaluation (formative) will be conducted after five (5) years followed by end-term evaluation (summative) after the tenth (10th) year of implementation.
- b) Independent external evaluations may be undertaken to enhance objectivity.
- c) Special evaluations may be conducted in response to emerging developments.

5.2.4 Addressing Unintended Outcomes

- a) Unanticipated outcomes, including risks and systemic effects.
- b) Policy gaps and overlaps with other national and international frameworks.

- c) Opportunities for policy adjustment and strategic realignment.

5.3 Policy Reporting

A structured reporting system shall be established to enhance transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.

5.3.1 Types of Reports

- a) Progress Reports.
- b) Performance Reports.
- c) Financial Reports.
- d) Thematic Reports on specific science diplomacy priorities.

5.3.2 Reporting Frequency

- a) Quarterly and annual reports shall be prepared.
- b) Mid-term and end-term evaluation reports shall be produced.
- c) Ad hoc reports may be generated for strategic or high-level engagements.

5.3.3 Report Dissemination

Reports shall be shared with relevant Government institutions, oversight bodies, and stakeholders, including development partners and the public, where appropriate.

5.4 Learning and Knowledge Management

Learning shall be integral to the implementation of the Science Diplomacy Policy, ensuring continuous improvement and adaptive management. This will enable timely policy adjustments in response to evolving scientific, technological and geopolitical dynamics.

5.4.1 Capturing and Applying Lessons Learned

- a) Document best practices and lessons from Science diplomacy initiatives.
- b) Integrate lessons into policy implementation and future programming.

5.4.2 Knowledge Sharing and Dissemination

- a) Facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms, including policy dialogues and stakeholder forums.
- b) Disseminate best practices through reports, policy briefs, and digital platforms.

5.4.3 Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- a) Build capacity in monitoring, evaluation, and data analysis.
- b) Promote collaboration between scientific and diplomatic institutions.

5.4.4 Continuous Feedback and Improvement

- a) Establish feedback mechanisms to inform decision-making.
- b) Ensure MERL findings are used to refine strategies and interventions.

5.5 Policy Review

This Policy shall be reviewed after every ten (10) years, or such other period as may be determined by the stakeholders under the guidance of the Ministry responsible for Science, Technology and Innovation.

ANNEX I: SCIENCE DIPLOMACY POLICY IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Key Activities	Output	Output Indicator	Time Frame	Budget (Kshs. Millions)	2026 – 2028	2028 – 2030	2030 – 2032	2032 – 2034	2034 – 2036	Lead Actors
Policy Issue 1: Underutilization of available experts for science diplomacy engagement										
Policy Statement: The government of Kenya commits leverage on Kenyan experts and professionals in science diplomacy engagements.										
Policy Objective: To institutionalise continued engagement of Kenyan experts and professionals in science diplomacy										
Develop and institutionalise a framework for engaging STI experts in external diplomatic engagements in a clear, professional and consistent approach.	Standardized national framework and guidelines for engagement of STI experts operationalized.	Framework developed and approved.	Short-term		✓					Ministry responsible for STI; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs
Institutionalize and operationalise a government-wide registry of experts to support the government in STI	Functional national registry/database of STI experts established.	Number of experts profiled in the registry.	Short–Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs

diplomatic engagements.										
Establish a National standing committee on RSTI diplomacy	National Standing Committee on RSTI Diplomacy operationalized.	Committee established and functional.	Short-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs
Policy Issue 2: Lack of a framework for Science Attaches										
Policy Statement: The government of Kenya is committed to exploring mechanisms for deployment of science attachés in specified missions abroad.										
Policy Objective: To develop a framework for the deployment of science attachés to specified missions abroad.										
Develop criteria to identify strategic diplomatic missions for deployment of STI attaches.	Criteria and selection guidelines for strategic missions developed.	Approved criteria and identified missions.	Short-term		✓					Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs
Develop and implement a framework for the identification and deployment of STI specialists on diplomatic missions abroad.	Framework for deployment of STI specialists implemented.	Number of STI specialists deployed abroad.	Medium–Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs; Ministry responsible for STI

Policy Issue 3: Capacity building for strengthening Science Diplomacy

Policy Statement: The government commits to institutionalise continuous capacity building in science diplomacy.

Policy Objective: To institutionalize the integration of scientific and technical expertise into Kenya's foreign policy and diplomatic practice to inform the National development agenda.

Develop and implement a programme for the initial and refresher training of science diplomacy experts.	Continuous professional development programme established.	Number of experts trained and certified.	Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs (Kenya Foreign Service Academy)
Develop a strategy for continuous training of diplomatic staff on new and emerging STI knowledge and skill areas.	Capacity-building strategy for diplomatic staff implemented.	Number of diplomatic staff trained annually.	Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs; Ministry responsible for STI
Strengthen existing collaborations and explore new ones for capacity building in science diplomacy.	Expanded partnerships & collaboration agreements established.	Number of partnerships/MoUs operationalized.	Medium-Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Universities; Development Partners

Establish and maintain a data repository for trained science diplomacy experts.	Centralized repository of trained experts established and maintained.	Repository operational and regularly updated.	Short–Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI
Policy Issue 4: Lack of centralized Scientific Evidence and Information Management System										
Policy Statement: The Government of Kenya commits to establish a centralised and coordinated system for the consolidation, management, and utilisation of scientific evidence to inform external engagements.										
Policy Objective: To establish a centralized evidence repository and observatory system in order to strengthen evidence-based external engagements.										
Establish a centralised national STI repository to consolidate and manage data relevant to external engagements, addressing fragmentation and ensuring consistent access to reliable and up-to-date scientific evidence.	Centralized national STI repository operationalized.	Number of institutions contributing data.	Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; National Research Institutions

Establish a framework for operationalizing STI observatory function to support the analysis, monitoring, and interpretation of data, and to generate policy-relevant insights to inform strategic decision-making in external processes.	STI observatory framework operational and producing insights.	Number of analytical reports and policy briefs produced.	Medium –Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; KNBS; KIPPRA
Strengthen the collaboration of the private sector in scientific evidence, technology and innovation.	Enhanced private sector collaboration mechanisms established.	Number of private sector initiatives supported.	Medium –Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Private Sector Associations
Strengthen sharing of up-to-date evidence with the ministry responsible for foreign affairs.	Institutional evidence-sharing mechanism operationalized.	Frequency of evidence briefs shared.	Short-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs
Policy Issue 5: Limited Coordination Mechanisms for Safeguarding against Harmful and Unvetted Foreign Research, Technology and Innovation										

Policy Statement: The Government of Kenya commits to strengthen and institutionalise governance frameworks to safeguard science sovereignty and mitigate risks associated with foreign research, technology and innovation.

Policy Objective: To strengthen Kenya's capacity and systems for the governance, assessment, and strategic engagement foreign research, technology and innovations to enhance safeguards, mitigate associated risks, align with national interests and protect technological and scientific sovereignty.

Establish a national framework for the identification, screening and assessment, of potentially harmful research, technologies and innovations to ensure their safe, ethical, and strategic adoption and reduce exposure to security, economic, and sovereignty risks.	National screening and assessment framework operationalized.	Number of technologies/research initiatives assessed.	Medium-term		✓	✓	✓		✓	Ministry responsible for STI; National Security Agencies; KEBS; KEPHIS; National Biosafety Authority
Operationalize a national technology and research assessment mechanism to	National technology and research assessment mechanism	Number of sector assessments	Medium-Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Sector Ministries

systematically identify, evaluate, and monitor potential risks and impacts across priority sectors.	operationalized.	conducted annually.								
Strengthen Kenya's participation and coordination in regional and global technology and research governance processes to support informed engagement, negotiation, and protection of national interests and sovereignty.	Improved participation in regional and global STI governance platforms.	Number of international engagements and position papers.	Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs; Ministry responsible for STI
Strengthen intellectual property governance to safeguard science and data sovereignty and mitigate risks	Strengthened IP governance and safeguards established.	Revised IP governance framework adopted.	Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	KIPI; Ministry responsible for STI

associated with foreign research collaborations, including biopiracy, knowledge extraction, and unequal benefit sharing.										
Policy Issue 6: Inadequate STI Funding										
Policy Statement: The Government commits to prioritise STI as a strategic instrument of foreign policy by strengthening coordination and sustainably financing STI at national, bilateral, and multilateral levels. A key priority of the Government is to enhance accountability, alignment, efficiency and impact of STI investments in diplomacy.										
Policy Objective: To strengthen sourcing, coordination, strategic alignment, and sustainable financing of RSTI in support of coherent, effective, and outcome-oriented science diplomacy.										
Develop a framework for mobilization and alignment of finances for STI – driven science diplomacy	Financing framework for science diplomacy developed.	Amount of resources mobilized.	Short–Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	National Treasury; Ministry responsible for STI
Develop a mechanism to promote strategic investment in transformative and frontier technologies	Investment promotion mechanism operationalized.	Value of investments mobilized.	Long-term			✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Investment Promotion Agencies

Increase mutually beneficial and equitable partnerships	Increased equitable STI partnerships established.	Number of equitable partnerships maintained	Long-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; Development Partners
Develop a framework for tracking, monitoring and accountability for resources committed to science diplomacy	Monitoring and accountability framework implemented.	Annual accountability reports produced.	Short–Medium-term		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ministry responsible for STI; National Treasury

ANNEX II: PESTEL Analysis of Science Diplomacy in Kenya

Factor	Key Issues	Strategic Implication
Political	Kenya maintains a strong diplomatic footprint, with over 70 missions abroad and participation in more than 600 international agreements. Science, technology and innovation (STI) is increasingly recognised within foreign policy, particularly under economic and digital diplomacy. Institutional reforms, including the positioning of the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation within the Office of the Prime Cabinet Secretary, signal progress toward integration. However, inter-agency coordination remains fragmented, and the systematic inclusion of scientific expertise in negotiation processes is inconsistent.	Requires a whole-of-government science diplomacy framework that strengthens coordination across ministries and agencies, institutionalises the integration of scientific expertise into diplomatic processes, and aligns STI priorities with foreign policy objectives to enhance coherence and influence.

Economic	R&D expenditure remains below national and continental targets, limiting the scale and sustainability of domestic innovation systems. Research is significantly supported by donor funding, which may influence national research priorities. Commercialisation of research outputs is limited, and linkages between STI, trade, and industrial policy remain weak. Interactions across the quadruple helix, academia, government, industry, and society, are underdeveloped, constraining innovation uptake and private sector engagement.	Constrains Kenya's ability to leverage science diplomacy for economic transformation, technology transfer, and value addition. Strengthening domestic investment, aligning STI with industrial and trade policy, and enhancing innovation ecosystems are critical to improving competitiveness and bargaining power in global partnerships.
Social	Kenya has a growing pool of scientific and technical talent, supported by expanding higher education and research systems. The Kenyan scientific diaspora represents a significant but underutilised resource for knowledge exchange, investment, and global influence. However, gender disparities and inclusion gaps persist within STI and diplomacy. Public awareness and	Presents an opportunity to build an inclusive and people-centred science diplomacy ecosystem that leverages diaspora networks, promotes gender and social equity, and strengthens public engagement and national

understanding of science diplomacy ownership of international
 remain limited. scientific collaboration.

Technologica Kenya's innovation ecosystem is Necessitates a shift toward
I expanding rapidly, particularly in digital proactive technology
 technologies, fintech, and diplomacy, including
 entrepreneurship. However, strategic prioritisation of strategic
 positioning in emerging and frontier technology domains,
 technologies—such as artificial investment in foresight and
 intelligence, biotechnology, space, and intelligence systems, and
 data governance—remains limited. stronger alignment
 Foresight, horizon scanning, and between innovation
 technology intelligence systems are ecosystems and foreign
 underdeveloped, constraining policy to enhance global
 anticipatory governance and long-term competitiveness and
 planning. influence.

Environmental	Kenya is highly vulnerable to climate change, environmental degradation, and ecosystem pressures, which have significant socio-economic implications. At the same time, the country is an active participant in global environmental processes and hosts major international environmental institutions, positioning it within key global sustainability networks.	Positions Kenya to play a leadership role in climate and environmental science diplomacy, particularly in areas such as adaptation, resilience, biodiversity, and nature-based solutions, while leveraging international partnerships to address domestic vulnerabilities.
Legal & Institutional	Kenya has a relatively strong STI legal and policy framework, including the Science, Technology and Innovation Act and related institutional structures. However, there is no dedicated science diplomacy policy, and institutional mandates for international STI engagement remain diffuse. Formal advisory, coordination, and implementation mechanisms for science diplomacy are weak or absent.	Highlights the need for a clear legal and institutional framework to operationalise science diplomacy, including defined mandates, coordination structures, advisory systems, and accountability mechanisms to ensure coherence, effectiveness, and sustained impact.

ANNEX III: SWOT Analysis of Science Diplomacy in Kenya

Strengths

- Well-established STI governance architecture, including National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation, National Research Fund, and Kenya National Innovation Agency, providing regulatory, funding, and coordination functions
- Strong diplomatic footprint and active participation in multilateral, regional, and bilateral processes
- Strategic geographic and diplomatic positioning, including hosting major international organisations and research institutions
- Growing and globally recognised innovation ecosystem, particularly in digital innovation and applied research
- Strong human capital base, including a growing pool of scientists, researchers, and an increasingly influential scientific diaspora
- Expanding international research collaborations and partnerships across priority sectors

Weaknesses

- Absence of a dedicated and operational science diplomacy policy framework
- Fragmented institutional coordination and siloed engagement across ministries, agencies, and research actors
- Weak science-policy-diplomacy interface, with limited institutionalised use of scientific evidence in foreign policy and negotiations
- Limited R&D financing and over-reliance on external and donor funding
- Absence of dedicated science diplomacy instruments, including science attachés, advisory systems, and foresight mechanisms
- Weak monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems to track science diplomacy outcomes and impact

Opportunities

- Increasing global demand for STI-driven partnerships to address transboundary challenges such as climate change, health, and digital transformation

- Potential to position Kenya as a regional science diplomacy hub within the East African Community, African Union, and broader Global South
- Rapid growth of emerging technologies (e.g., AI, biotechnology, climate technologies, data systems) creating new diplomatic, economic, and strategic leverage points
- Growing global emphasis on science–policy integration and evidence-informed decision-making
- Opportunities to leverage the Kenyan scientific diaspora for knowledge transfer, investment mobilisation, and global influence
- Expansion of regional and continental integration frameworks providing platforms for collective bargaining, joint research, and coordinated diplomatic engagement

Threats

- Intensifying geopolitical competition in science and technology, potentially limiting access to knowledge, partnerships, and strategic technologies
- Risk of donor-driven research agendas that may not align with national priorities and development needs
- Persistent capacity gaps in science diplomacy, limiting effectiveness in complex, science-driven negotiations