

Management Summary

General

During the evaluation period (2017-2022) the African Studies Centre Leiden was an interfaculty institute of Leiden University. Staff totals around 40 fte, of which 20 fte scientific staff, 9 fte library staff and 11 fte support staff. Total budget (2022) was EUR 5.2 M, of which (on average over the evaluation period) 60% came from the Ministry of Education (earmarked) and 40% from teaching and supervision, external projects and other parties.

1) Research Quality

ASCL researchers published high-quality research in relevant journals and books. The Collaborative Research Groups provided a stimulating environment for this. Editorship and collaboration with academic partners in research and education were ongoing and have diversified. The number of scientific outputs decreased at the beginning of the evaluation period but has seen a recovery since 2019. Comparison of citations with the period 2012-2016 shows a stable situation. The strong tradition of independent research at the ASCL could be maintained.

2) Societal Relevance

The ASCL's societal relevance is visible in four specific domains: *Agenda setting* regarding 'Africa(n)' knowledge and partnerships (f.e. in the Africa Knows Conference); *Information and knowledge dissemination* via the ASCL Library (Open Access), INCLUDE, media contacts, websites, social media and other communication tools; *Collaborations* with the private sector, ministries and African partners; *Network and connecting* via Visiting Fellowships and the ASCL Community.

3) Viability

Viability of the ASCL showed in its pivotal position within the field of African Studies, illustrated by its position within AEGIS and the many requests for collaboration it receives from African Studies Centres all over the world; its position in Leiden University and stable connections with many African academic and societal partners; its continuous adaptation and contributions to changes going on in African Studies, the academic world, and society more broadly;

Four specific aspects:

1) **Open Science** was brought into practice by making publications and data on Africa openly accessible online, work on Open Science Infrastructure for African Studies, and collaboration in Africa.

2) **PhD Policy and Training.** In 2019 the ASCL started its own Graduate Programme African Studies that attracted 40 new PhDs. The programme offers a.o. academic and skills training and promotes intervision by peer review.

3) Academic Culture

An open culture in which independent and critical pursuit of science is made possible requires a safe working environment, good collegial and supervisory relations as well as safety in the field / at work. The ASCL actively works towards fostering this.

4) Human Resources Policy.

On the basis of the ASCL's 2022 strategic personnel plan, staff members are encouraged to participate in training opportunities. The ASCL promotes a policy of increasing diversity (age, gender, origin).

Additional aspects:

1) The **transition** to an institute functioning as a partially externally financed interfaculty research institute within the boundaries of Leiden University is an ongoing process. Linkages with other bodies

and people within Leiden University have been actively built, reinforced and diversified over the period under evaluation.

2) Doing **research 'with Africa'** instead of 'on Africa'. The ASCL is a strong proponent of co-creation and decolonisation of the research agenda, research and documentation activities and publications.

3) **Interaction between library/support and research staff in education and the societal field** This was visible in many fields, e.g. in the CRGs, in seminars and in new activities such as film evenings.