



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ESRF)

Medium Term **STRATEGIC PLAN** 2012 - 2015

Research Focus Areas

ESRF is embarking on the fifth phase medium term Strategic Plans (2012-2015), taking into account the need to research and build capacity on priority issues highlighted during Tanzania's mid-term development plan, the current five-year plan (FYP 2011/12 to 2015/16), which focuses on addressing productive capacity constraints in addition to encompassing the objectives spelt out in MKUKUTA II, and other sector specific programmes and strategies. Our research agenda will focus on the issues central to the five-year plan of unleashing the country's growth potentials. The plan's core programmes reflect the objectives of MKUKUTA II, Mini-Tiger Plan 2020, and key sector strategies in Agriculture, Livestock, Mining, Tourism and similar Industries. It also addresses challenges for a more inclusive growth necessary for the substantial reduction of poverty in Tanzania.

The broad themes are Growth and Wealth Creation; Governance; Social Services and the Quality of Life; Globalisation and Regional Integration, as well as Natural Resources and Environment Management. Under each broad theme several sub-themes have been developed reflecting outstanding issues. Sub-themes proposed are geared towards achieving specific objectives, and building on the broad ESRF objectives.

Research Area One: Inclusive Growth and Wealth Creation

Sub-Theme 1: <i>Promoting Robust and Sustained Inclusive Growth</i>	ESRF has for a number of years supported sector level policy research that has been highly valued, for instance in agriculture, industry and SMEs, infrastructure sectors, tourism, and in many others that are critical in driving the economy. This kind of work will continue in the next SMTP. The ESRF will work with different export promotion and investment institutions to achieve a more comprehensive approach in export development.
Sub-Theme 2: <i>Enhancing Enabling Environment for Business and Investment Climate</i>	This initiative has two main dimensions: (i) to create an enabling environment generally; (ii) to increase the competitiveness of Tanzania's products and services in the domestic and international markets. ESRF will research into still outstanding major constraints to investors and the business community in Tanzania, including the quality of basic infrastructure services; access to finance and banking services; appropriate investment incentives, among other things.
Sub-Theme 3: <i>Employment Creation</i>	Employment is the epitome of poverty reduction. Employment should be a self-contained topic for priority attention by ESRF research because of its implication in affording sustainable development in Tanzania. Pro-employment policies need to be pursued vigorously in all the sectors, to avoid intolerable unemployment levels found in urban areas in Tanzania.
Sub-Theme 4: <i>Continuous Monitoring of Performance of the Macro-Economy</i>	As a policy think-tank, ESRF has to stay abreast of what is happening in the Tanzanian economy in general and be ready to participate, and exert influence, in any government initiated policy framework or related activity. Such preparedness requires the staff to monitor events and routinely do desk research on topical issues on a continuous basis, without being expressly asked to do so.

Research Area Two: Social Services, Social Protection and Quality of Life

Sub-Theme 1: <i>Social Sector Focused Research</i>	Human capital development is a key ingredient in the overall socio-economic development of the country. In the social sectors, ESRF has been involved in supporting the social sectors particularly at the level of policy research. This kind of work will continue in the next SMTP.
Sub-Theme 2: <i>Population Dynamics and Urbanisation</i>	As Tanzania's future lies with its children and youth population, these groups, plus the ageing population, become a major focus for attention for development studies. While the youth population is increasing, their role in socio-economic development remains unclear and the majority of them remain on the margin of the development spectrum. The challenge is thus to nurture and harness the youth potential so as to transform it into a dynamic workforce. ESRF thus intends to pay more attention to children and youth studies.

<p>Sub-Theme 3: <i>Social Services and Protection of Vulnerable Population</i></p>	<p>The ESRF undertook a comprehensive study in 2002-03 on vulnerability to poverty that needs to be revisited for pointers to possible solutions. This field will be pursued in the SMTP. The ESRF involvement will particularly focus more on the nexus between social wellbeing and economic development.</p>
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Research Area Three: Natural Resources and Environment Management

<p>Sub-Theme 1: <i>Climate Change and Environment Management</i></p>	<p>ESRF will conduct research and encourage policy dialogue on this important area. In collaboration with local and international institutions, it will try to further understand the effects, challenges and policy recommendations among the following examples of broad areas: effects of climate variability on agriculture production; climate change and livelihood adaptation and mitigation; etc.</p>
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<p>Sub-Theme 2: <i>Effective Management of Natural Resources</i></p>	<p>Good governance in natural resource management is a crucial element to ensure that renewable and non-renewable resources are properly utilised so as to benefit current and future generations. Due to its importance over long-term use of resources, ESRF will continue to work and engage in further research activities in this aspect. ESRF intends to work on the effectiveness of distribution of benefits from natural resources.</p>
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Research Area Four: Governance and Accountability

<p>Sub-Theme 1: <i>Government Effectiveness in the Management of Financial Resources</i></p>	<p>Aid management is part and parcel of budget resources management. In this respect, ESRF has been dealing with aid management generally, but more precisely in and relations, to encompass the effectiveness of the General Budget Support (GBS) and other budgetary modalities, alignment of the budget to MKUKUTA II and the FYP, budget disbursement behaviour, off-budget financing and coordinating the Independent Monitoring Group (IMG), which assesses aid effectiveness and government - donor relationships. Having established itself as a neutral broker, the ESRF intends to carry its brand of "Independent Monitoring" beyond aid effectiveness.</p>
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<p>Sub-Theme 2: <i>Monitoring and Assessment of the Quality of Service Delivery to the Public</i></p>	<p>The ESRF intends to engage in the monitoring and assessment of quality of social services at national and sub-national levels whether both deliver these by public or private institutions, or jointly. Different methodologies and techniques will be adopted in implementing this sub-theme.</p>
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<p>Sub-Theme 3: <i>Support of ICT Development for Increased Efficiency in Productivity and Services Delivery</i></p>	<p>The fast changing technology in the ICT domain presents a welcome challenge to Tanzania, as it can facilitate increased productivity and improved services. The ESRF has ICT facilities and experience that can be put to use to support the government in the e-government initiative that is expected to be in place by 2014.</p>
<p>Sub-Theme 4: <i>Research in Capacity Building</i></p>	<p>The ESRF carries out specific activities of capacity building for itself and for other stakeholders. As will be elaborated in the SMTP 2012-2015, and within the research themes briefly outlined above, the research also looks into intrinsic capacity. This important research dimension will continue in the new SMTP.</p>
<p>Research Area Five: Globalisation and Regional Integration</p>	
<p>Sub-Theme 1: <i>Regional and International Trade</i></p>	<p>Research would focus on linkages between trade policy and poverty reduction - analyse links between trade and poverty in order to increase the understanding of trade-poverty links, as well as the possibilities of designing policies to assist the poor through inter-country trading activities.</p>
<p>Sub-Theme 2: <i>The Dynamics of the Global Economy</i></p>	<p>With the ascendance of new economic powers on the world trading and finance scenes, especially Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS), South Korea, and Turkey, the dynamics of the global economy is changing profoundly. The ESRF should reposition its research to better understand the dynamics of relations resulting from the changing situation, and more importantly suggest how Tanzania should correspondingly respond, particularly in respect of exploiting the opportunities for trading, investment and to a limited extent, foreign aid.</p>
<p>Sub-Theme 3: <i>Monitoring Regional Economic Integration within EAC and SADC</i></p>	<p>The ESRF will be carrying out regular desk research of monitoring regional integration within EAC and SADC. This aims to assist in providing regular information on the progress and benefits of regional integration. ESRF outputs would be made available to decision makers particularly in the EAC and its member countries.</p>