



African Forensic Sciences Academy (AFSA)

A New Era for Forensic Sciences in Africa

Dr Antonel OLCKERS

On behalf of the Interim Executive of AFSA

3rd DNA Symposium, Cape Town - 14 Jun 2023

Please Note



- The views expressed reflect that of AFSA and no other entity
 - If an AFSA presenter expresses her/his own opinion it will be indicated
- **AFSA executive members**
 - Perform all work for AFSA pro bono
 - Receive no form of compensation from AFSA or other bodies for this work
 - Volunteers who work to enhance the forensic science profession in Africa
- If any product, label or entity is mentioned during the presentation it should not be construed by the audience as endorsement
- The aim of this presentation is to make forensic science practitioners in Africa
 - Aware of AFSA & how AFSA can support them in their practice

Introduction to AFSA



- Why AFSA?
- Role of AFSA in Africa
- AFSA when & how
- Founding & Launch
- Hosting organization
- Formal registration & systems in place
 - What has been done
 - Next steps
- Media interaction
- Members & membership
- Website & Communication



Signup for AFSA Newsletter



Don't miss out! Sign up now to the AFSA database

To stay in touch with AFSA, Please sign up to our database to receive regular news and events information from AFSA. It is the best way to network with colleagues from across Africa!

Title *

Name *

First

Last

Email *

Email


Confirm Email

Mobile Number *

Please use international number format

Are you an AFSA member? *

- Yes
 No

I'm not a robot  reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

SUBMIT



Why AFSA?

- Forensic science services in Africa
 - Discrepant from country to country
 - Across the various fields of forensic sciences
- Absence of a collegial and united structure
 - in place prior to AFSA that
 - can be the voice of ALL Forensic Sciences professionals and students
 - throughout Africa



Role of AFSA in Africa



Network for forensic science practitioners, in all fields of forensic science across the African continent



Support practitioners in creating opportunities among the continent specific challenges encountered in Africa



Build a culture of quality and excellence → ultimately **enhancing justice and humanitarian efforts** in Africa

AFSA when & how?

- Date of birth
 - 12-15 Dec 2022
- Place of birth
 - Pretoria, South Africa
- Seed-planters
 - 17 founding members
- Starting points
 - Goodwill
 - Benchmark
 - Innovative and dreaming big





Forensic Pathology
Humanitarian Forensics
Human DNA
Anthropology
Forensic Odontology
Chemistry
Human ID & DVI



Founding Meeting Outcomes

- Clear Vision and Mission statements
- 3 year strategic framework



AFSA Vision

To be the leader in promoting excellence and integrity in forensic science in Africa

AFSA Mission

- Promote evidence based, innovative and multi-disciplinary forensic sciences practice.
- Promote relevant and impactful research.
- Disseminate forensic science knowledge among the practitioners and institutions in Africa.
- Develop appropriate standards and guidelines.
- Promote collaboration, partnership, and training in forensic sciences.

AFSA Core Values

The core values of AFSA embody how we practice and advocate for forensic science

- Excellence
- Transparency
- Integrity and ethical practice
- Independence and impartiality
- Inclusion, diversity, and equality

 [View Our Core Values](#)



Founding Meeting Outcomes

- Clear Vision and Mission statements
- 3 year strategic framework

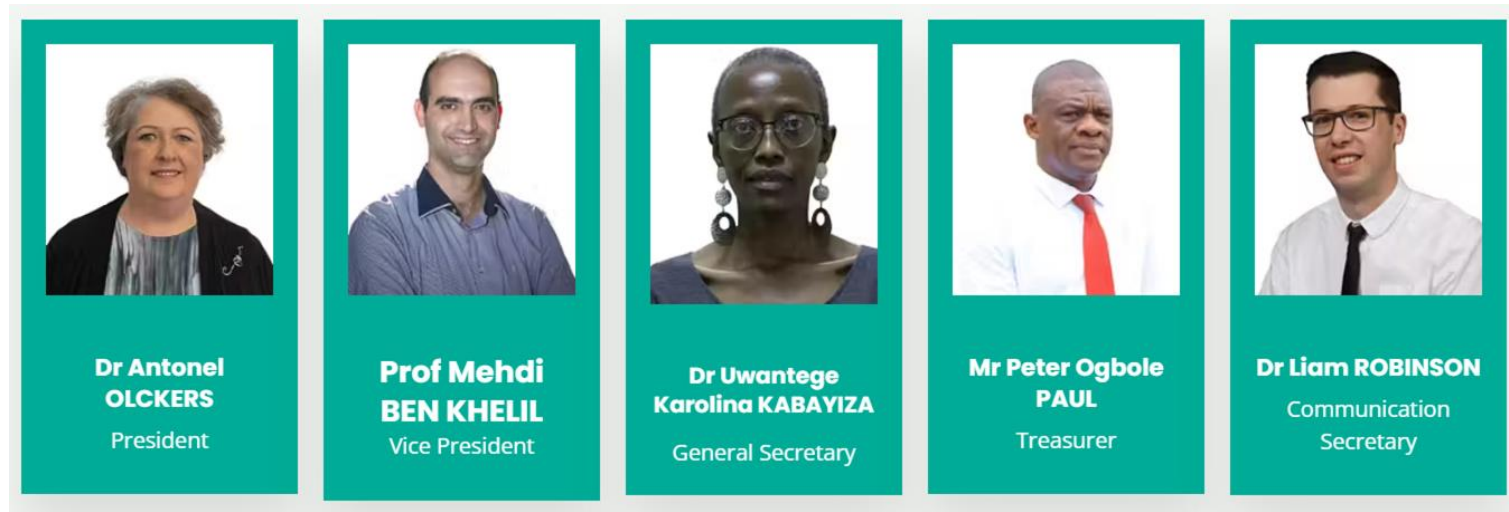
- An Interim Executive elected to construct AFSA
 - Tasked to put structures in place
 - *Pro bono*
 - None of us are paid to do this
 - Takes significant amount of time
 - Progress to date ...



Interim Executive (IE) of AFSA



- Tasked with building AFSA
 - Literally
- Call for first AGM





Practitioners & Laboratories
& Systems
Make African expertise visible

What, what, where
Wide & far

Valid scientific data generated
Sustainable
Accredited

Launch on 27 Jun 2023
Invitations: please spread the word
(new topic on our radar)



Grow

Highlight
African FS

Africa wide
survey

Laboratories

Webinar
Series

AFSA
Database

Links
International

Represent

Membership
Drive

Practitioners

IAFS - already in place
AAFS - already in place
Other FS Academies

Credible point of contact
- International community
- Funders, etc.

Will need your help !
Please distribute in your networks

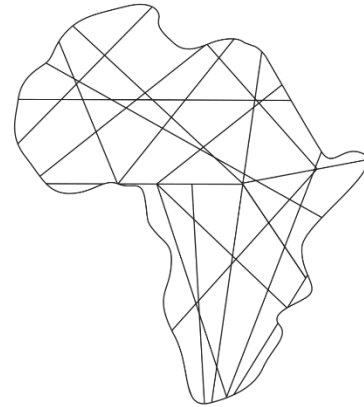
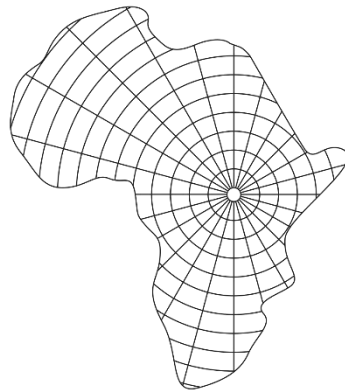
Network
Training - connections
AFSA journal
- FS publications
- Highlight African FS
Other



AFSA - Network in Africa for Africa



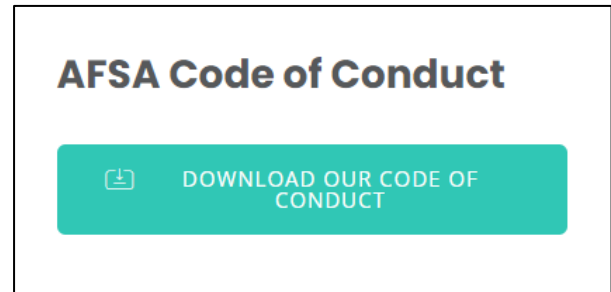
- For ALL forensic science practitioners in Africa
 - Who are we
 - Where are we
 - What are we doing ...
- Make excellence in Africa visible to the world



Ethical Conduct - AFSA Code of Conduct



- Key to the core values of AFSA
 - Choose to be part of the solution in Africa
- How to comply to ethical conduct across various jurisdictions?
 - Formal regulation
 - Self regulation
 - Peer-to-peer
- Components of ethical conduct
 - What does it include?
 - Who defines it?
 - Value chain of compliance



Forensic Sciences

AFSA subscribes to the definition of forensic science as outlined by the Sydney Declaration

How we define Forensic Science

Forensic science is a case-based (or multi-case-based) research-oriented, science-based endeavor to study traces – the remnants of past activities (such as an individual's presence and actions) – through their detection, recognition, recovery, examination, and interpretation to understand anomalous events of public interest (e.g., crimes, security incidents).

Click to learn more about the

[SYDNEY DECLARATION](#)



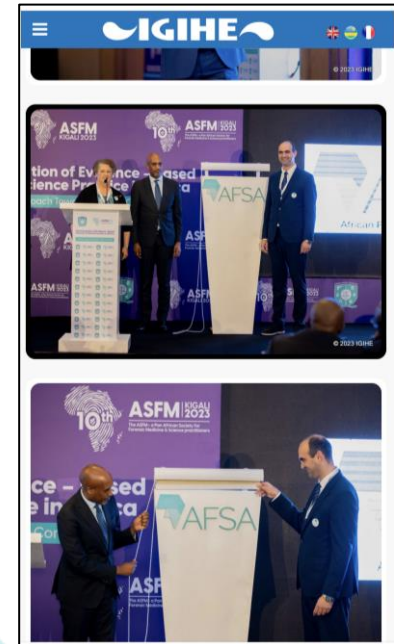
How we define the term "African"

Echoing the definition of the African Union, AFSA defines an individual as someone with African parents, that were born in Africa, or has citizenship of an African country conferred by naturalisation or marriage.

Launch of AFSA



- Officially launched on 07 Mar 2023
 - Kigali, Rwanda
 - Grateful to ASFM & RFL for the time afforded to AFSA in the programme
- Official launch
 - Minister of Justice / Attorney General of Rwanda
 - Dr Emmanuel UGIRASHEBUJA
 - Vice President of AFSA
 - President of AFSA





ASFM
KIGALI 2023

10th
ASFM KIGALI 2023
The ASFM is Pan African Society for
Forensic Medicine & Science practitioners

Organization of Evidence Based
Forensic Science Practice in Africa

AFSA

AFSA
African Forensic Sciences Academy

ASFM KIGALI 2023

ASFM KIGALI 2023

10th

ASFM

AFSA plenary session after launch



AFSA interaction with media



- Critical from day one
- Helped printing press to verify scientific content
 - Work to make their deadline!
- THEY asked for AFSA media workshop
 - AFSA committed
- Who talks to whom?
 - Professionals to each other
 - Media to society



AFSA in the press



Tujyane mu imurika rya serivisi mu nama y'inzobere mu bimenyetso bya gihanga (Amafoto)

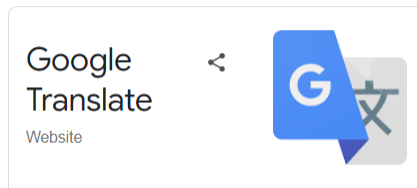
08-03-2023 - 21:57 - Akayezu Jean de Dieu

Ibigo bitandukanye bitanga serivisi, ubujyanama cyangwa ibikoresho byifashishwa mu rwego rw'ubumenyi n'ibimenyetso bya gihanga byifashishwa mu butabera, baje kumurika ibikorwa byabo mu nama ya ASFM2023, iri kubera i Kigali.

Inama ASFM [African Society of Forensic Medicine] itegurwa n'ihuriro Nyafurika ry'ibimenyetso bishingiye ku Bumenyi n'Ubuhanga byifashishwa mu butabera.

Yitabirwe n'abarenga 400 baturutse mu bihugu 40 barimo abayobozi, impuguke, abahanga n'abashakashatsi bo mu rwego rw'ibimenyetso bya gihanga bikoreshwa mu butabera.

Ibaye ku nshuro ya 10 aho yakiriwe n'u Rwanda binyuze muri Laboratwari y'Igihugu y'ibimenyetso bya Gihanga byifashishwa mu Butabera [Rwanda Forensic Laboratory].



-AFSA

Ni ikigo kizajya gitanga inama ku bo mu bijyanye n'ibimenyetso bishingiye ku bumenyi n'ubuhanga cya African Forensic Science Academy, AFSA.

Cyafunguwe ku mugaragaro ku muni wa mbere w'iyi nama, tariki 7 Mutarama 2023, kikazaba gifite icyicaro i Kigali, aho cyitezweho gutanga umusanzu ukomeye mu kubaka uru rwego muri Afurika.

Ni ikigo kitari gisanzweho ariko kubera urwego u Rwanda rumaze kugeraho mu gutanga izi serivisi, cyatangirijwe i Kigali. Kizaba gihuriweho n'ibihugu bya Afurika byose.

Cyitezweho kongera no kuzamura urwego mu bijyanye n'ubushobozi n'ubumenyi ibihugu bya Afurika bifite mu bijyanye n'ibimenyetso bya gihanga byifashishwa mu butabera.

Perezida w'Agateganyo wa AFSA, Dr Antonel Olckers yavuze ko iki kigo ari ikimenyetso cy'uko Afurika igeze igihe cyo kwishakamo ibisubizo kandi ahari ubushake n'ubushobozi buhaboneka.

Who creates the narrative?



- Sources of information
 - If we as scientists do not interact with media
 - They get their information elsewhere
 - THE STORY WILL BE TOLD
- Engage across sectors
 - Scientists vs media vs legal
- Work to ensure that the correct information is disseminated
 - What it takes in reality
 - Expect miscommunication
 - Expect some mis-quotes (intentional vs unintentional)
 - Media deadlines
 - Get yourself media-smart
 - Attend our AFSA webinar on this topic later this year

Languages to date



مجال الخبرة

- مادة الأحياء**
 - علم الأحياء الجزيئي الحيوي
 - علم الأحياء الجزيئي الحيوي
- الأدوية والسموم المضبوطة**
 - المخدرات المضبوطة
 - علم السموم الجزيئي
- تتبع الأدلة**
 - علم الأدلة
 - التحليل الجنائي للتحليل والمخدرات ومخاطبات ومخاطبات المخدرات
- الدواء**
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية من المواد
 - الجذب الجزيئي
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
- تفسير الفيزياء / الأنماط**
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
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 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
- رقصي / وسائل متعددة**
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
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 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية
 - التحليل الجزيئي للأدوية

Arabic

Area of Expertise

- Biology**
 - Human Forensic Biology
 - Non-human Forensic Biology
- Selcted Drugs & Toxicology**
 - Selected Drugs
 - Forensic Toxicology
- Trace Evidence**
 - Trace Evidence
 - Ballistics, Locomotion, Explosives, & Gunshot Residue
- Physics / Pattern Interpretation**
 - Ballistics Pattern Exams
 - Forensic Document Examination
 - Forensic & Treatment
 - Printer Ridge
 - Footwear & Tires
- Scene Examination**
 - Drugs & Seizures
 - Fire & Explosion Investigation
 - Crime Scene Investigation & Reconstruction
- Medicine**
 - Medicolegal Death Investigation
 - Forensic Pathology
 - Clinical Forensic Medicine
 - Forensic Anthropology
 - Forensic Nursing
 - Forensic Odontology
 - Forensic Imaging
 - Forensic Psychiatry
- Digital / Multimedia**
 - Digital Evidence
 - Facial Identification
 - Seizure/Reception
 - Video Imaging Technology & Analysis

English

Domaine d'expertise

- La biologie**
 - Biologie médico-légale humaine
 - Biologie médico-légale non humaine
- Drogues saisies et toxicologie**
 - Substances sélectives
 - Toxicologie médico-légale
- Tracer des preuves**
 - Traces de balles
 - Traces d'effluents, explosifs et résidus de tir
- Examen de scène**
 - Drogues et substances
 - Enquête sur les incendies et les explosions
 - Enquête sur les scènes de crime et reconstruction
- Médecine**
 - Épidémiologie médico-légale
 - Pathologie médico-légale
 - Médecine légale clinique
 - Anthropologie médico-légale
 - Odontologie médico-légale
 - Imagerie médico-légale
 - Psychiatrie médico-légale
- Physique / Interprétation des modèles**
 - Analyse du profil des balles de sang
 - Examen judiciaire des documents
 - Armes à feu et résidus de tir
 - Cibles de fusil
 - Chaussures et pneus
- Numerique / Multimedia**
 - Preuve numérique
 - Identification faciale
 - Reconnaissance du contenu vidéo
 - Vidéo / Technologie d'imagerie et analyse

French

Eneo la Utaalamu

- Biojoloja**
 - Biolojia ya Uchunguzi wa Binadamu
 - Biolojia ya Uchunguzi kwa Biolojia
- Dawa zilizoakamatwa na Toxicology**
 - Mabawa ya kuhusika ya kemia
 - Forensic Toxicology
- Fuatiilia Ushahidi**
 - Kuifuatilia Ushahidi
 - Ushahidi wa Uchunguzi wa Ushahidi
 - Ushahidi wa Uchunguzi wa Ushahidi
- Uchunguzi wa Scene**
 - Mitaa & Sehemu
 - Uchunguzi wa Mitaa na Uchunguzi wa Ushahidi & Uchunguzi wa Ushahidi
- Dawa**
 - Uchunguzi wa Kifa wa Medico-legal
 - Pathology ya Uchunguzi
 - Klinik ya Dawa ya Uchunguzi
 - Anthropology ya Uchunguzi
 - Uchunguzi wa Uchunguzi
 - Odontology ya Uchunguzi
 - Uchunguzi wa Uchunguzi
- Digital / Multimedia**
 - Ushahidi wa Diji
 - Kompyuta na Uchunguzi
 - Uchunguzi wa Diji
 - Identiifiaji ya Wajuzi / Picha na Uchunguzi

Swahili

Host of AFSA in Rwanda

- Rwanda Forensic Laboratory (RFL)
- Dr Charles KARANGWA
 - Director General (DG) of RFL
- Supported by
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Government of Rwanda
- Grateful to RFL
 - Has been a phenomenal host for AFSA
 - Support & investment (time, effort, etc.) is beyond what AFSA expected
 - RFL team assists regularly as needed
 - Exceptional leadership of Dr Charles KARANGWA





AFSA Registered in Rwanda



- Rwanda Governance Board (RGB)
- Formal registration as INGO in Rwanda
 - International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO)
 - Allows AFSA to operate in Rwanda where it is hosted
 - Provides external governance oversight for AFSA
- Agreed to milestones & action plan for AFSA
- Acknowledge
 - Incredible support from RGB
 - From registration process & beyond
 - CEO: Dr Usta KAITESI
 - Registrar: Mrs Judith KAZAIRE
 - Staff: Dr Solange MUKAMURENZI

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Usta Kaitesi and 5 others

922 9 18

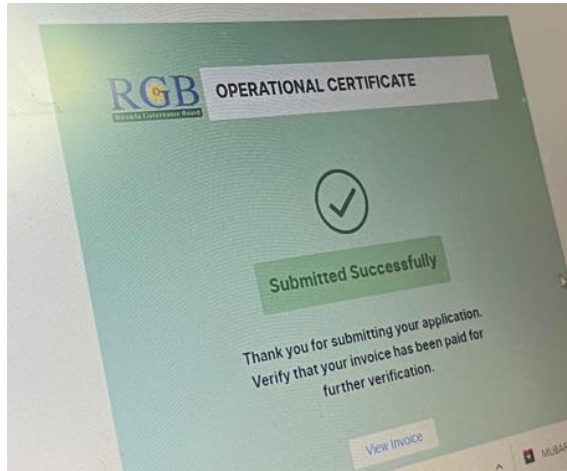


Rwanda Gov Board · 6h

Today, the RGB CEO Dr. [@UstaNcusta](#) received Members of Interim Committee of Africa Forensic Sciences Academy (AFSA) in a courtesy call. They discussed the upcoming AFSA's activities including its preparation of being registered and hosted in [#Rwanda](#) as an International NGO.



Registration as INGO in Rwanda



Putting Systems in Place



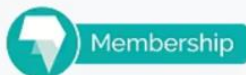
- Formalising systems from the start
 - E.g. financial
 - Bank account after registration
 - Ecobank in Kigali, Rwanda
- Currently
 - Putting systems in place for easier payment by members
 - Annually from start of July to end of June next year
 - Full members \$50
 - Associate members \$30
 - Students \$10



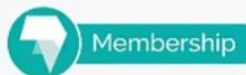
AFSA Membership

Membership in AFSA is applied for by individual members and approved by the membership committee. Several categories exist and are outlined below. A right and/or privilege has to be explicitly indicated for a membership category to exist for that category.

Please take note of the AFSA [Constitution](#) and [Code of Conduct](#) before signing up for membership, as all members have to abide by these documents.



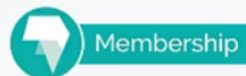
Full Member



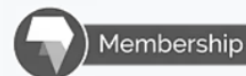
Associate Member



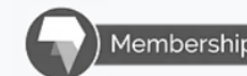
Student Member



Affiliate Member

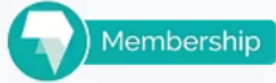


Honorary Member



Founding Members of AFSA

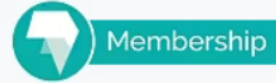
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Full Member

To apply for membership in this category the applicant already has/are:

- Credentials in forensic science
 - A Qualification: graduate or post-graduate qualification, thus education or training in forensic science or equivalent
 - Work experience in forensic science alone (minimum 5 years)
- Works within or outside Africa, but is African
- Non-Africans but providing a verifiable forensic sciences service in Africa
- Can be an office bearer in AFSA
- Pay an annual membership fee, currently set at 50 USD
- Has a vote in AFSA, full members have 1 vote each

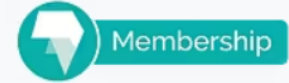


Associate Member

To apply for membership in this category the applicant already has/are:

- Non forensic scientists
 - Working to promote forensic science
 - E.g. legal professionals, law enforcement officers
- Forensic scientists who are not African
- Professionals who do not practice forensic science
- Non-African origin professionals practicing forensic science in a forensic institution in Africa
- Cannot be an office bearer in AFSA
- Membership fee currently set at 30 USD
- Has no vote in AFSA

Website: AfricanFSA.org

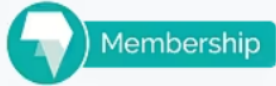


Student Member

To apply for membership in this category the applicant already has/are:

- African forensic science students studying in Africa or outside Africa
- Non-African students studying forensic science in Africa
- Are in training (e.g. work based and medical residency) in forensic programmes or relevant forensic science institutions in Africa.
- Pay an annual membership fee, currently set at 10 USD
- Has no vote in AFSA

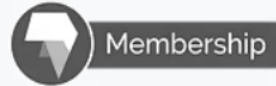
Please note further details on the AFSA website



Affiliate Member

This category of membership is reserved for organisations and are not open to individuals. To apply for membership in this category the applicant already is:

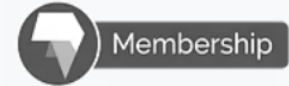
- An organisation located within or outside of Africa that promotes forensic sciences in Africa
- Do not pay membership
- Has not vote in AFSA



Honorary Member

Members cannot apply for this category of membership, as it is nominated by the Board of AFSA. Individuals who may qualify for this category of membership are:

- Recognised advocates of AFSA
- Reputable individuals that promote or support forensic science activities
- Nominated and approved by board
- No membership fee is due
- Has no vote in AFSA



Founding Members of AFSA

Founding members of AFSA are recognised as the group of individuals that were present at the founding meeting of AFSA in December 2022 and who voted in agreement to the founding of AFSA.

Area of Expertise



Biology

- Human Forensic Biology
- Non-human Forensic Biology



Seized Drugs & Toxicology

- Seized Drugs
- Forensic Toxicology



Trace Evidence

- Trace Material
- Ignitable Liquids, Explosives, & Gunshot Residue



Physics / Pattern Interpretation

- Bloodstain Pattern Analysis
- Forensic Document Examination
- Firearms & Toolmarks
- Friction Ridge
- Footwear & Tyre



Scene Examination

- Dogs & Sensors
- Fire & Explosion Investigation
- Crime Scene Investigation & Reconstruction



Medicine

- Medico-legal Death Investigation
- Forensic Pathology
- Clinical Forensic Medicine
- Forensic Anthropology
- Forensic Nursing
- Forensic Odontology
- Forensic Imaging
- Forensic Psychiatry



Digital / Multimedia

- Digital Evidence
- Facial Identification
- Speaker Recognition
- Video / Imaging Technology & Analysis



Represents
these
7 fields
of practice



- AFSA
- African Forensic Sciences Academy
- All forensic practitioners
- Across Africa
- Registered INGO
- Hosted in Kigali, RW

- SAAFS
- South African Academy of FS
- All forensic practitioners
- South Africa
- Registered NPC
- Hosted in ZA

- ASFM
- African Society for Forensic Medicine
- Forensic pathologists +
- Across Africa

South African Academy of Forensic Sciences



- Founded in 2018
- Focus on forensic sciences in **South Africa**

South African Academy of Forensic Sciences



- Founded in 2018
- Focus on forensic sciences in **South Africa**
- Director of SAAFS in audience, Willie Fouche
 - HIT of the year winner 2023
- Let's keep on highlighting AFRICAN SUCCESS



Legal Systems & Frameworks

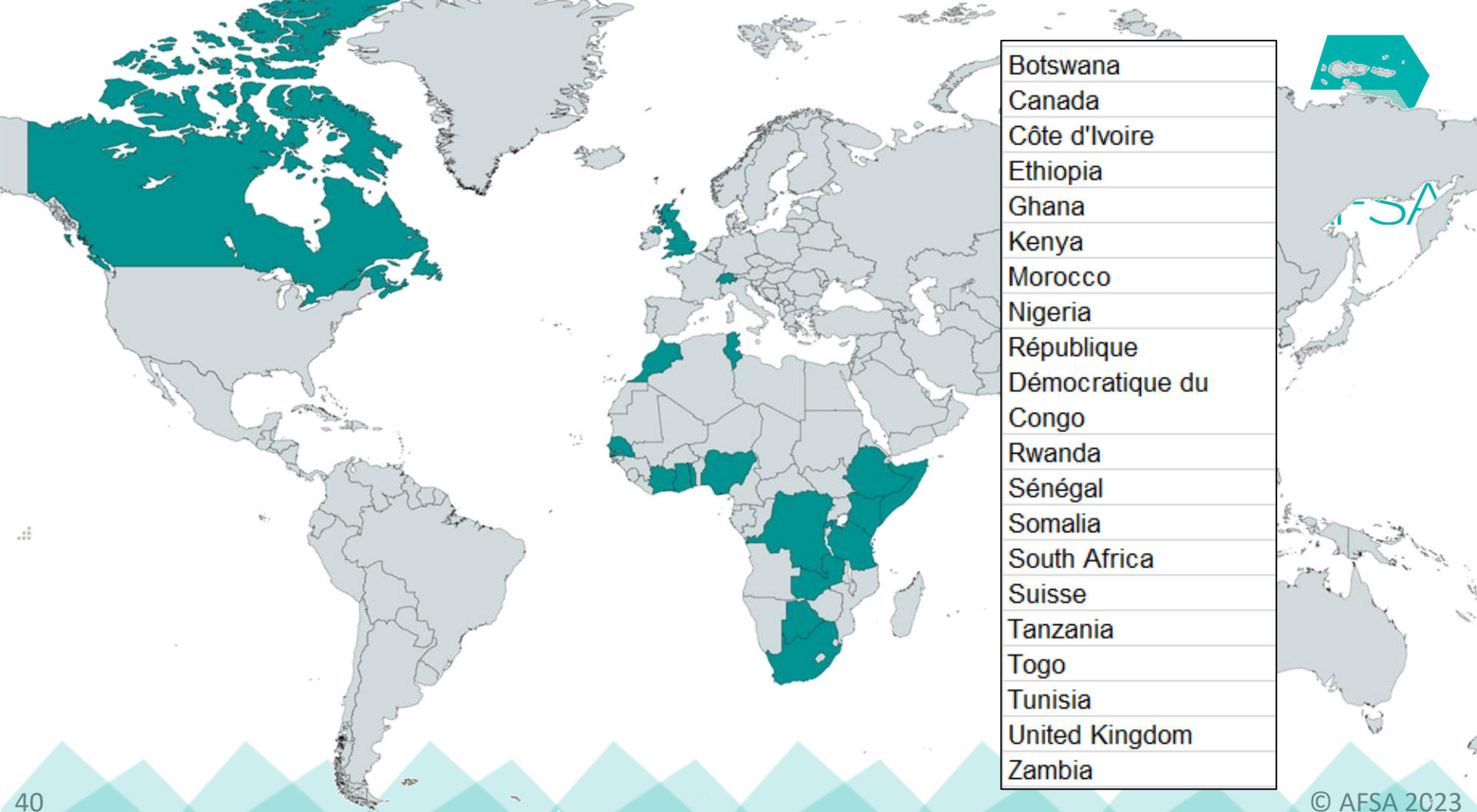


- Various jurisdictions
- AFSA not involved at country level
 - Encourage compliance to your own national system/framework
 - What if your country currently does not have one?
- Encourage use of
 - Legal Frameworks
 - Legal Systems
 - Support for legal systems and frameworks envisaged in future

Members Signed Up



- Started at conference in Kigali
 - After formal registration of AFSA
- Signed up members
 - At conference
 - Via online portal
 - Please do so as soon as you can
- Current status
 - Reconciliation of memberships underway
 - Still to make an open call for members to sign-up



Signing up AFSA members



AFSA website



- AfricanFSA.org

- Gratitude to
 - ICT Chamber of Rwanda
 - CEO Alex Ntale
 - Christian MUGABO MUTSINZI
 - Nicole UMURUNGI
 - Constructed the website and donated time + effort to AFSA



African Forensic Sciences Academy

Together for Excellence, Integrity, and Innovation in Forensic Sciences in Africa

AFSA social media



➤ Twitter

- African Forensic Sciences Academy (AFSA)
- @AFSA_African
- #AFSA_African



➤ LinkedIn

- African Forensic Sciences Academy (AFSA)
- @African Forensic Sciences Academy
- #AFSA_African



➤ Please tag AFSA every time with

- #AFSA_African

Contact AFSA



➤ info@AfricanFSA.org

➤ Via the website



Join AFSA



- Our goals are aligned
 - None of us can do this by ourselves
 - Working together we **can** and **will** and are **doing it!**
- Create awareness of forensic science
- Use forensic science to create solutions
 - For Africa
- Restore
 - Trust in forensic sciences
 - Fabric of society in Africa



African Forensic Sciences Academy