

DST/NRF Initiatives Towards Advancing Marine Sciences



26 September 2013

Dr Gilbert Siko



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Marine Biosciences Platform



Objectives: Provide a policy platform for the maintenance of marine and oceanic research and human capital development through provision of resources

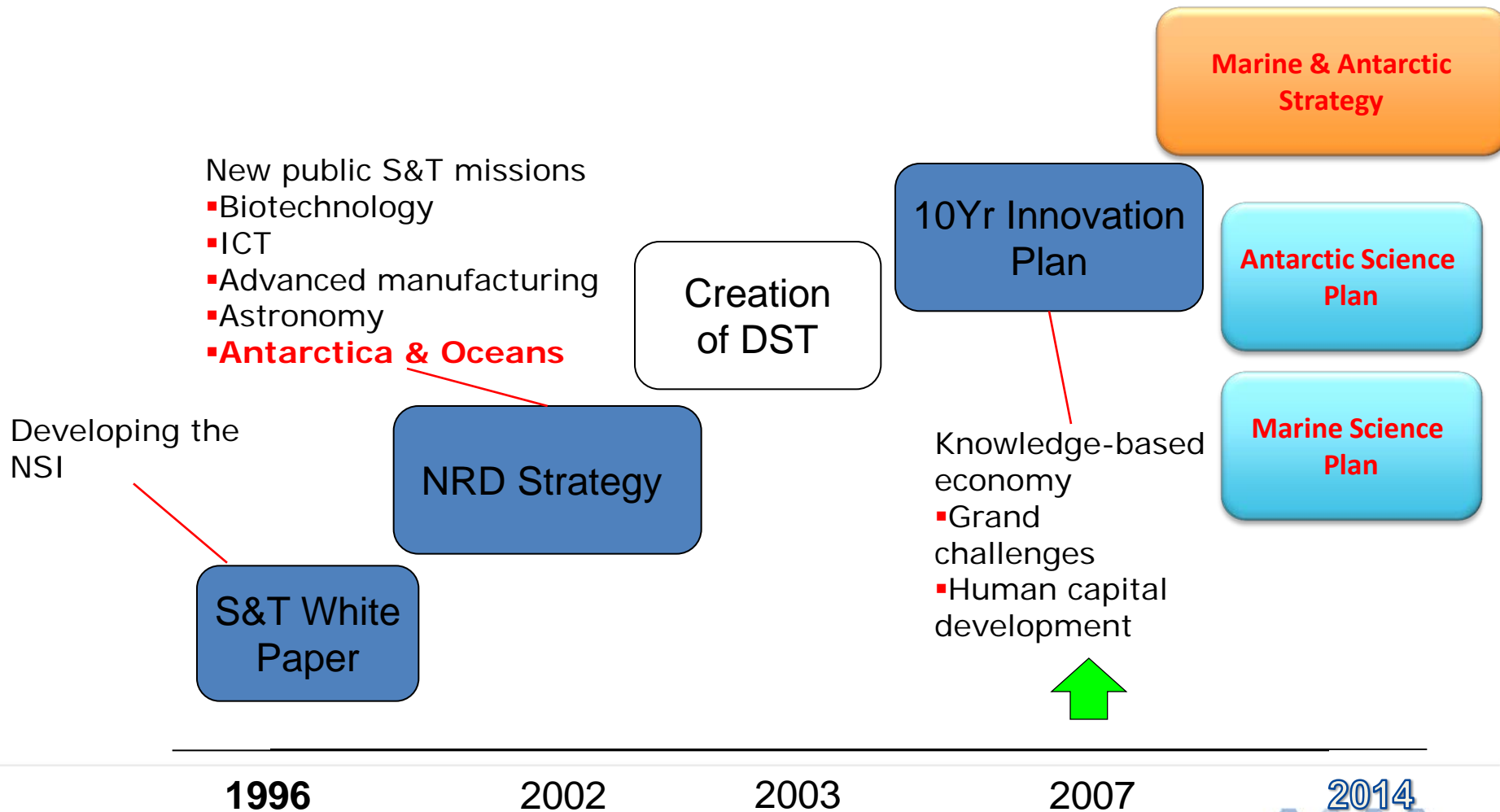


Background

- The DST derives its functions from the 1996 White Paper on S&T.
 - consequently promotes the development of the NSI
- The NRDS has identified priority science missions taking advantage of South Africa's geographic position.
 - Antarctic & Marine research are among the science missions that the DST has identified as areas that South Africa has a geographic advantage
- The TYIP has identified grand challenges for South Africa to prioritise addressing



SET Policy Landscape



TYIP GRAND CHALLENGES



1. Bio-Economy (Farmer to Pharma)
 2. Space science and technology
 3. Energy security
 4. Global change with a focus on climate change
 5. Human and social dynamics
- Marine sciences are covered in all 5 but predominant in 4. Global Change with a focus on climate change.

DST/NRF FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

- **Direct ring fenced marine research funding**
 - **SEACChange (Thematic Open research call)**
 - ACEP (Thematic Open research call linked to infrastructure provision)
 - ACCESS marine (Thematic COE research call to COE partners)
- **Marine research forms a key component**
 - SARCHI (Open call)
 - SANAP (Open call)
- **Platform provision for long term research**
 - SAEON Elwandle
 - SAEON Egagazini





DST/NRF FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

- **Open calls which can support Marine research**
 - Blue sky (Open call)
 - Thuthuka (Transformation call)
 - Rated researchers (Open to rated researchers)
 - Unrated researchers (Open to all)
 - Inter country Bi-Lateral collaborative calls
 - Equipment calls to HEI's
 - THRIP
- **Strategic infrastructure**
 - Science equipment to Departments and Science Councils





Current DST Supported Marine Research Platforms

- **SAIAB**
 - ACEP → Open research grants, HCD, Infrastructure platform & International leveraging
- **COE**
 - ACCESS → Research, HCD, Infrastructure & International leveraging
- **SAEON**
 - Elwandle & Egagasini nodes
- **CSIR**



DST Support

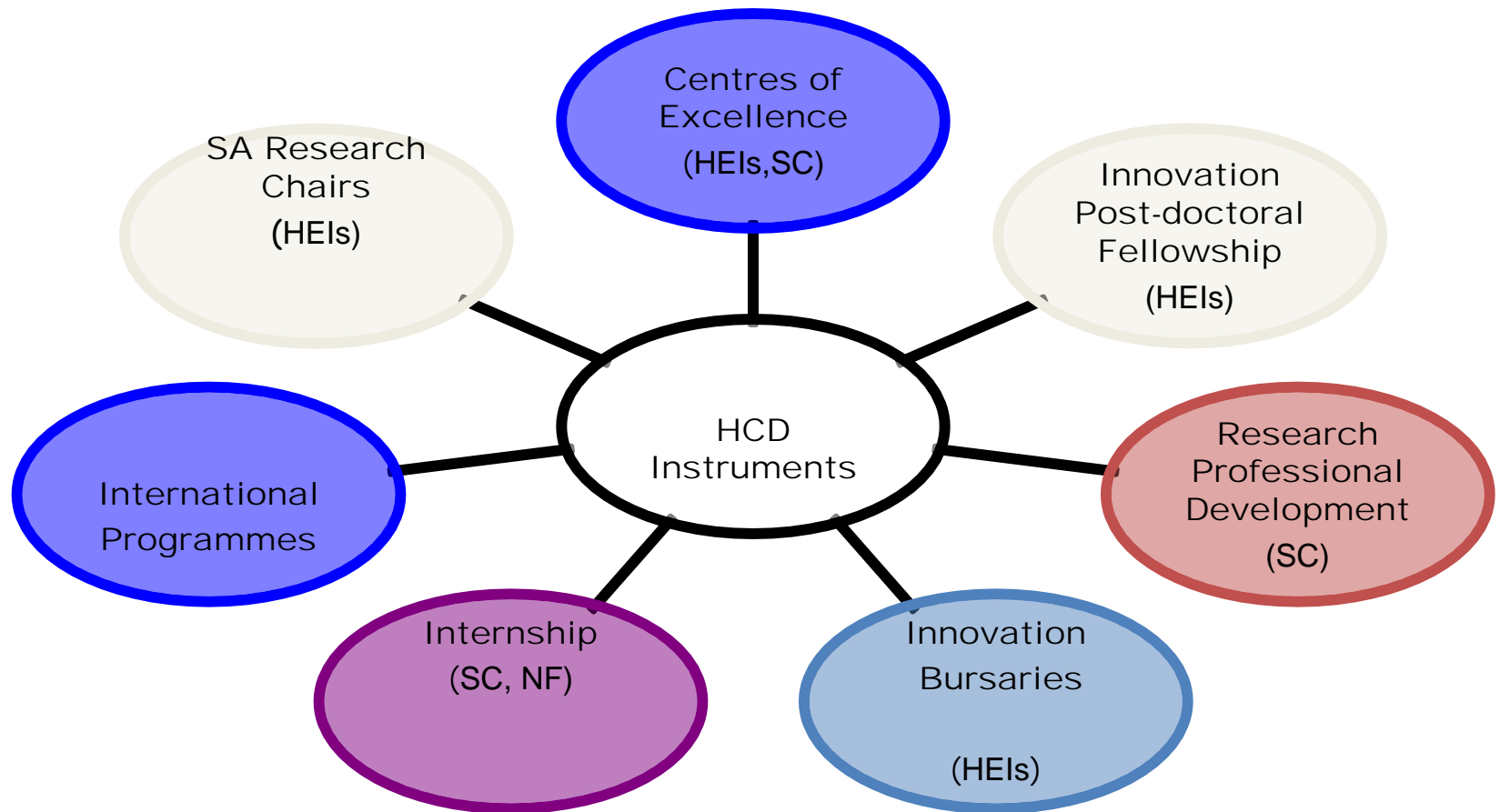
- DST is in full support of an open competitive research system
- Research should ensure alignment with the National Priorities
- Marine sciences should ensure that HCD is prioritised
 - transformation initiatives e.g. ACEP Phuhlisa initiative



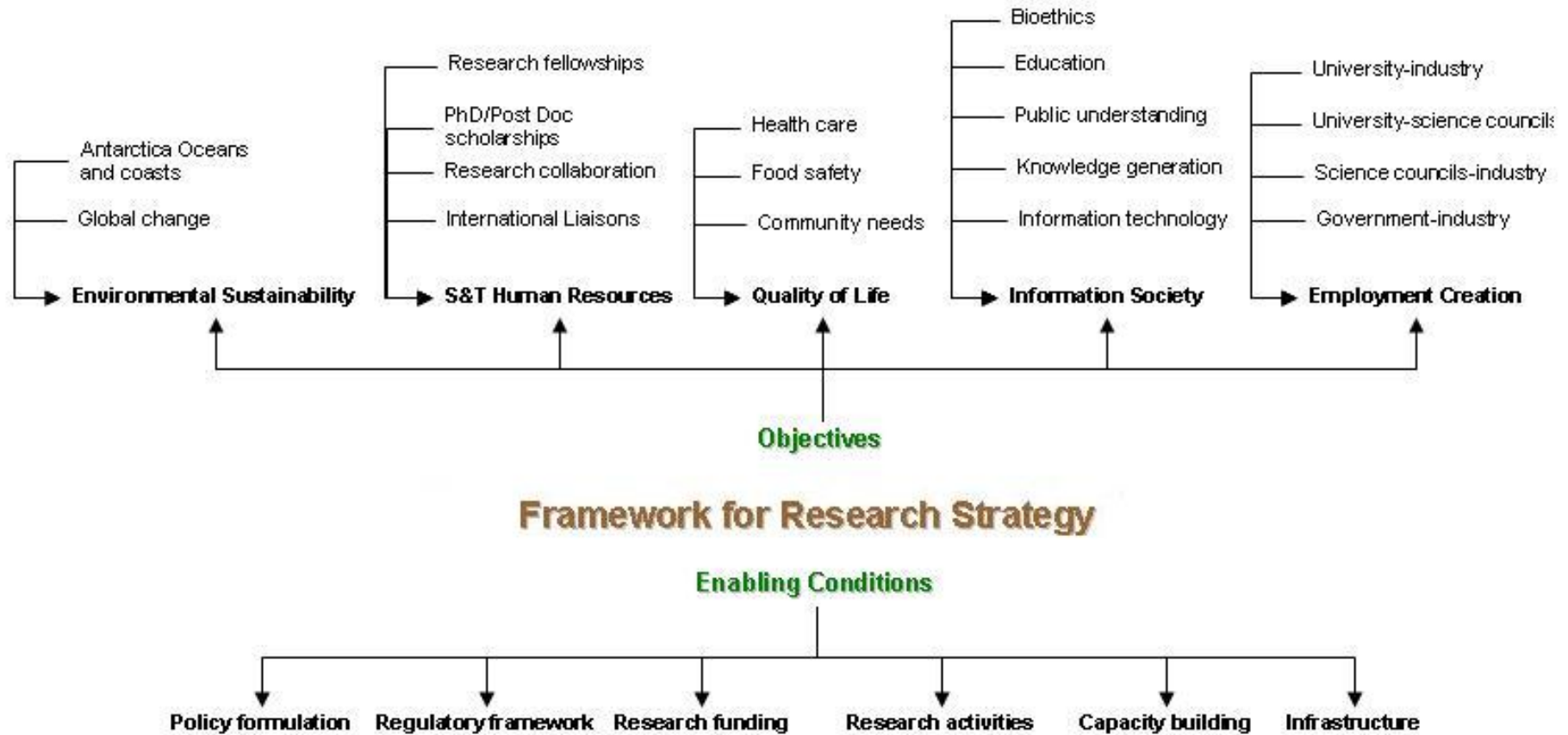
Critical Human Capital Development Issues

- **Encouraging the new generation of researchers:**
 - i.e., support more postgraduate students and post doctoral fellows.
- **Developing the emerging researchers:**
 - i.e., transform more new generation researchers into established researchers.
- **Maximising the output of the established researchers:**
 - i.e., increase the number of active researchers and ensure that they produce the required knowledge and innovation outputs and supervise the next generation of researchers.

Key Human Capital Development Initiatives



RESEARCH STRATEGY





THANK YOU