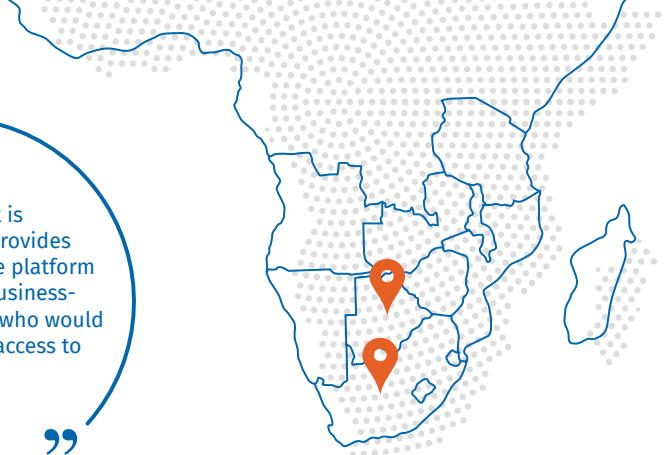




“ This project is necessary as it provides an easily accessible platform to creative and business-minded individuals who would usually not have access to market. ”



REGIONAL OPEN INNOVATION PLATFORM

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project involves the creation and usage of a digital open innovation platform that actively sources solutions (products, services or processes) from innovative individuals, start-ups, ideas and companies to solve current and pressing problems in health, education, agriculture and tourism. Through four open innovation opportunity programmes, each addressing an identified need in the respective sector, the public will be invited to submit a potential solution to address the need. Through this open innovation process, applicants are provided with an access point to enter a competitive market, and potentially gain access to interested investors.

Individuals, teams or corporations that are selected will undergo a 3 month incubation programme at BITRI, and receive valuable innovation training by RIIS, in order to create their own sustainable business. The digital platform created for this project will act as a tool for RIIS and BITRI to build databases of relevant contacts and interested parties, and provide marketing communication to the public to raise innovation awareness. Post programme launch and finalisation, the digital platform will be a networking tool for all potential and successful solution providers to connect, share ideas, and learn from one another, and connect with external parties interested in their solutions.

This platform will result in the acceleration of the innovation process between, and within public and private sectors; and increases the footprint and impact of identified solutions that solve for pressing issues, thus enabling SADC countries to achieve their sustainable development goals. It will develop entrepreneurial and innovation capacity in regions, empowers societies to solve social and technological issues; and provides the public with an easy access to market.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Establish a digital open innovation platform
2. Empower social entrepreneurs with problem solving skills, valuable innovation knowledge focusing on lean start-up
3. Create sustainable, positive impact companies on society
4. Build an innovation ecosystem across the SADC region.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Research Institute of Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS) (South Africa)

Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (BITRI)



PROJECT COORDINATOR

Research Institute of Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS) South Africa

IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

Botswana
South Africa