

# *New Priority Areas*

As part of the HSRC's vision to transform its existing disciplinary strengths into more relevant and comprehensive social research services, research managers and HSRC Council members reorganised the HSRC's research activities and regrouped its projects into interdisciplinary New Priority Areas (NPAs), thus replacing the organisation's previous research programme structure.

Guided by the government's development priorities, the targets of the National System of Innovation, and the Presidential Imperative Programmes of the Committee of Heads of Research and Technology, the NPAs encourage more user-driven and problem-oriented research, and thereby also enhance the HSRC's research earnings and financial sustainability.

There are currently eight NPAs, while Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and gender issues are cross-cutting themes in each NPA.



Three further NPAs are envisaged, to cover Socio-cultural Integration, Knowledge Management and Policy Impact Evaluation.

NPA boundaries are flexible so that a team conducting any particular project, typically includes researchers from more than one NPA drawn from the HSRC's office in Pretoria, as well as from its new offices in Cape Town and Durban.

The following sections describe in greater detail the activities and future plans of the eight NPAs.