



## *SCECSAL Excellence Award*

### Revised Guidelines

The Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) owes its existence to several dedicated library, information, and knowledge (LIK) professionals<sup>1</sup> who have done their best to keep the organization “alive” since its establishment (as the Standing Conference of Eastern, and Central African Librarians [SCECAL]) and the first conference in 1974 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. In addition, several LIK professionals have played and continue to play a key role in the development of the LIK profession<sup>2</sup> at national and regional levels, ultimately contributing to the continued existence of SCECSAL.

#### Goal

**The goal** of the *SCECSAL Excellence<sup>3</sup> Award* is to honour and recognize individuals who have made **sustained<sup>4</sup> contributions** to the development of the and/or **major achievements** in the LIK profession at national and/or the SCECSAL region level.

#### The Award

A plaque bearing the SCECSAL logo, award recipient’s name, country of origin of the awardee, year of the award.

Only a maximum of two (2) awards can be made per SCECSAL biennial.

#### Eligibility for the Award:

Any individual, regardless of country of residence, who has made **sustainable contribution** to the development of the LIK profession or major achievements at national or the SCECSAL regional level. Such **sustained contributions** or **major achievements** could be in any of the following areas:

- **SCECSAL work at the regional level:** including organizing SCECSAL conferences, reviewing and editing SCECSAL conference papers and publications, facilitating SCECSAL events, promoting SCECSAL, etc.
- **Capacity development** including mentoring and coaching young LIK professionals, supporting and delivering continuing professional development (CPD) initiatives.
- **Leadership** in the LIK field at national and regional level.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in Article 2(b) of the 2018 SCECSAL Constitution.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Article 2(a) of the 2018 SCECSAL Constitution.

<sup>3</sup> Excellence is defined as: the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.

<sup>4</sup> For a period of at least 10 years.

- **LIK knowledge** related to the SCECSAL region through research, publications including articles and books.
- **Innovation:** introducing innovative LIK services, innovative use of technology in LIK field, methodologies, etc.

The award may be made in **absentia** or **posthumous**.

### **Not Eligible**

Current members of the Executive Committees of SCECSAL member Associations, members of the SCECSAL Council and members of the SCECSAL Secretariat, are not eligible for the Award.

### **Nominations**

- Only SCECSAL member Associations in good standing of SCECSAL and the SCECSAL Secretariat can nominate candidates (from any SCECSAL country) for the award.
- Member Associations can submit only **one nomination per biennial**.
- Nominations must be sent to the SCECSAL Secretariat via email **by deadline** to be indicated in the call for nominations.
- All nominations must be submitted with supporting evidence (publication, news stories or articles, videos, photos, charts, etc.) to support the claims.
- At the time of being nominated, the nominee must a member in good standing of a SCECSAL member Association in any SCECSAL country. If nominated posthumously, the nominee must have been a member in good standing at the time of passing on.
- Winners of the award cannot be nominated again and previous nominees who have not been selected may be nominated only after **four years** from the time they were considered for the award.

### **Jury**

An independent jury of three members (including the Jury Chair) shall be appointed by the SCECSAL Council at the recommendation of the SCECSAL Secretariat. Jury members must be:

- Outstanding LIK professionals in Africa.
- Not be a member of any Executive Committee of a SCECSAL member Association.
- Declare any conflict of interest related to any nominee for the award and recuse themselves from the jury in which case they would be replaced on the jury.

### **Selection Process**

- The SCECSAL Secretariat will verify the nominees' eligibility and completeness of the nominations and supporting evidence. Incomplete nominations will be rejected.
- The jury will review the nominations and supporting documentation and use both asynchronous scoring and asynchronous discussions to make its final decision as to who should be given the award, up to a maximum of two (2) awardees.
- The SCECSAL Secretariat will, via email, inform the members of the SCECSAL Council and the member Associations that nominated the individuals about the decision of the jury.

- The SCECSAL Secretariat will, via email, inform the awardee(s) about the decision of the jury, date, and place where the awards ceremony will take place.

### **Awards Ceremony**

- The SCECSAL Excellence Awards shall be given at an awards ceremony during the biennial SCECSAL Conference.
- Plaques for the awardees who are unable to attend the awards ceremony shall be handed to the official representative of the member Associations that had nominated the awardees.

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*Approved by the SCECSAL General Council on:  
4 April 2023*