



The renewed CAFRAD at the service of the global, digital, Smart, and sustainable transformation of African public and private administrations

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD) is a pan-African intergovernmental organization created in 1962 at the initiative of Morocco and several African governments, with support from UNESCO. It is the first pan-African centre dedicated to training and research aimed at strengthening public administration and governance systems across the continent.

I. BACKGROUND

Since 1967, CAFRAD has published its biannual journal, *Cahiers Africains d'Administration Publique* (African Journal of Public Administration), a scholarly publication focused on public administration issues in Africa and around the world. In this context, CAFRAD works in partnership with numerous international organizations, including the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations, UNDP, UNDESA, and the OECD.

In 2026, the journal will enter a new phase after decades of contributing significantly to African public administration literature. It will be renamed the *African Review of Smart Public Administration (RAAPI)* and will focus on ongoing administrative transformations and the continent's development challenges through a multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary lens. This reform is essential to align the publication with

the evolving needs and expectations of modern public administrations and to enhance its overall quality and relevance.

The Review will examine a wide range of topics, including benchmarking, best practices, and innovative approaches in public administration, governance, management, diplomacy, trade, and sustainable and inclusive development. It will also address emerging challenges shaping the future of public action, such as digital, intelligent, and sustainable transitions; Africa's socioeconomic transformations; public values; the evolution of public institutions; and political, institutional, and legal developments.

In addition, the Review will explore global security concerns, geopolitics, geostrategy, geoeconomics, and the shifting configuration of the international order. It aims to help Africa anticipate the profound and multifaceted transformations driven by artificial intelligence. Its relevance will be strengthened by a focus on new methods, tools, and principles of authentic, ethical, transformational, situational, and contingency leadership.

The Review will serve as a handbook—a guide to governance in an increasingly globalized and turbulent world where information, though abundant, is both scarce and strategic. Valuable, reliable intelligence is generated by the most capable analysts. For this reason, the Review will function as a monitoring platform that readers can use to identify and anticipate risks, threats, and opportunities. It will be a solutions-oriented publication addressing professional and capacity-building challenges.

Academics, experts, and researchers working on African issues—particularly those related to the theme of the next issue, ***“The Digital, Ecological, and Economic Transformations of and in Africa”***—from both the public and private sectors are invited to submit articles on this topic. You are therefore invited to express your interest by sending us the summary of your article proposal (including the topic and the issue

addressed), as well as your curriculum vitae, before December 15, 2025. We will provide you with additional information that will enable you to submit your completed articles—in French, English, or Arabic—by January 20, 2026.

II. RESEARCH AREAS

- **Area 1:** The New Structural Economy: Green Economy, Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence, Social and Solidarity Economy
- **Area 2:** Global Economic Transformations and Digital Taxation in Africa
- **Area 3:** The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- **Area 4:** Geoeconomics, Geopolitics, Geostrategy, and the Responsible Governance of Natural Resources in Africa
- **Area 5:** Digital Intelligence and Cybersecurity
- **Area 6:** Digital Transformations in Public Administration

III. WRITING GUIDELINES, REVIEW PROCESS, AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection of projects will be carried out by the experts of the permanent scientific committee. Each research proposal will undergo a critical review by the members of the permanent scientific committee with the aim of providing its author with constructive and relevant feedback, as well as suggestions for possible improvements. The article proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the topic
- Clarity and precision of the research question
- Appropriateness of the conceptual framework
- Quality and rigor of bibliographic references
- Consistency of methodological and epistemological choices
- Quality of the analysis and discussion of results
- Contribution to research on the theme

- Contribution to existing knowledge
- Quality of writing

Authors must ensure that their submissions meet the following requirements:

- Manuscripts must demonstrate strong writing skills and adhere to scientific rigor, ethical standards, and professional norms.
- Contributions must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration by any other academic journal.
- Articles should range between 15 and 30 pages, including appendices, footnotes, and bibliographic references, and must follow universal academic standards.
- The manuscript must be written in Bookman Old Style font (size 14 for Arabic; size 12 for French and English), with 2.5 cm margins and 1.5 line spacing.
- The title of the article should appear in bold, using Bookman Old Style, size 16.
- The abstract, written in the language of communication and in English or French, should be between 150 and 300 words. It must be concise, highlight the main points of the analysis, and include five keywords.
- The introduction should provide adequate background information, clearly presenting the study's context and enabling readers to assess its significance and evaluate the results.
- The main body of the article should be organized logically, with sections and subsections clearly numbered (e.g., 1., 1.1, 1.2, 2., 2.1, 2.2, etc.). The introduction and conclusion should not be numbered.
- Submissions must be accompanied by the author's curriculum vitae.

1. Copyright Notice

Authors may reproduce their article published in this journal on personal platforms, provided that the source is acknowledged and the *African Review of Smart Public Administration (RAAPI)* is cited as the copyright holder.

2. Confidentiality Statement

The names and information received will be used solely for the purposes of the *African Review of Smart Public Administration (RAAPI)*.

3. Article Submission

Please submit manuscripts in both PDF and Word formats, with the file title structured as: *Author's Last Name – Article Title*. All submissions and correspondence should be sent to: cafrad@cafrad.org

IV. TIMELINE

Publication and dissemination of the call for papers	November 20, 2025
Receipt of abstracts for article proposals (proposed topic and research question) + CV	December 15, 2025
Notifications to authors whose proposals are accepted	December 22, 2025
Receipt of draft articles written in accordance with APA style (7th edition)	January 20, 2026
Blind peer review of drafts	February 10, 2026
Return of draft articles to authors for reviewer feedback	February 10, 2026
Receipt of final article texts	February 20, 2026
Publication of the RAAPI	March 2026

V. SCIENTIFIC BODIES OF RAAPI

The Review comprises:

1. A Select Scientific Committee

- **Her Excellency Professor Amal EL FALLAH SEGHRUCHNI**, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, Chair of the Governing Board of CAFRAD.

- **Dr. Coffi Dieudonné ASSOUVI**, Director General of CAFRAD.
- **Professor Mohamed HAKKAT**, Professor Emeritus, Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco.
- **Professor Moussa EL MALKI**, Coordinator of the Master's Program in Economic and Political Geography of Africa, Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco, President of the African Forum for Development and Geographic and Strategic Research
- **Professor Nicaise MEDE**, Professor of Public Law and Political Science and President of the West African Public Finance Company (SOAFiP), Benin.
- **Professor Ibrahim LY**, Full Professor, Director of the LERPDES Laboratory, Member of the Board of Directors of the International Center for Comparative Environmental Law (CIDCE), Senegal.
- **Professor Jean Baptiste HARELIMANA**, President of the African Academy of International Law Practice (AAPDI), Paris, France.

2. Publication Director

Dr. Coffi Dieudonné ASSOUVI, Director General of CAFRAD

3. Publication Secretariat

Ms. NEMBOT, Training and Research Assistant, CAFRAD

Ms. Najat YAHICH, Assistant to the Director General and Coordinator of Operational Activities, CAFRAD

For further information about CAFRAD and/or past publications, please visit our website at www.cafrad.org or contact us using the details provided below.