

Building communities to strengthen open access and open science in Africa.



LIBSENSE

STRENGTHENING OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA

Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN | **ConfOA2022 - Maputo - October 12, 2022**

What is LIBSENSE?

- Initiated in 2016 by the WACREN with support of sister regional RENs in the AfricaConnect project as a Library - NREN collaboration to build information management capabilities
 - **Library Support for Embedded NREN Services and E-infrastructure**) ⇒ the **sensible** thing to do at the time :-)
- Evolved from 2018 into a continent-wide initiative to expand open science in Africa, based on strategies and solutions that work in the African context.

Overarching Goals:

- Support cultural change
- Provide technical support
- Build human capacity
- Develop value-added services



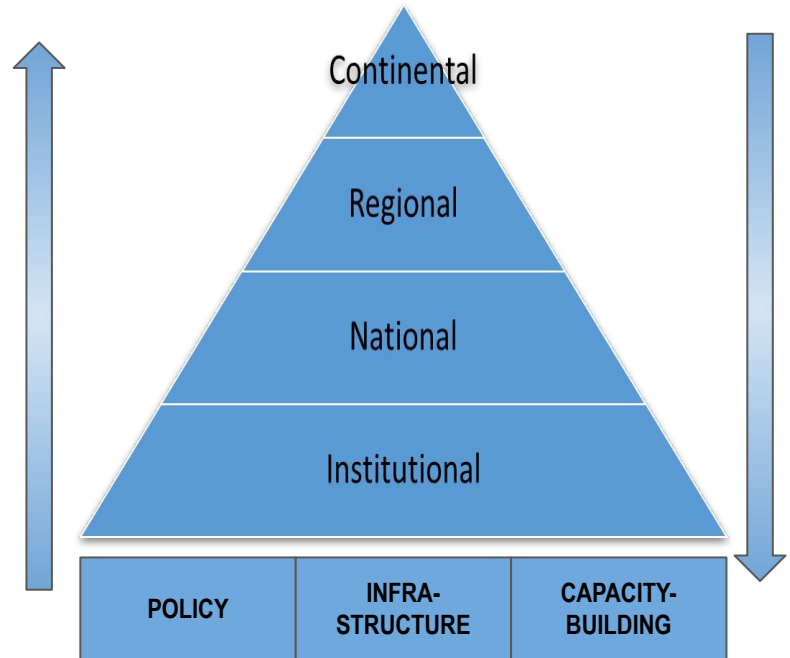
LIBSENSE – Strategy & Organisation

Overall Strategy:

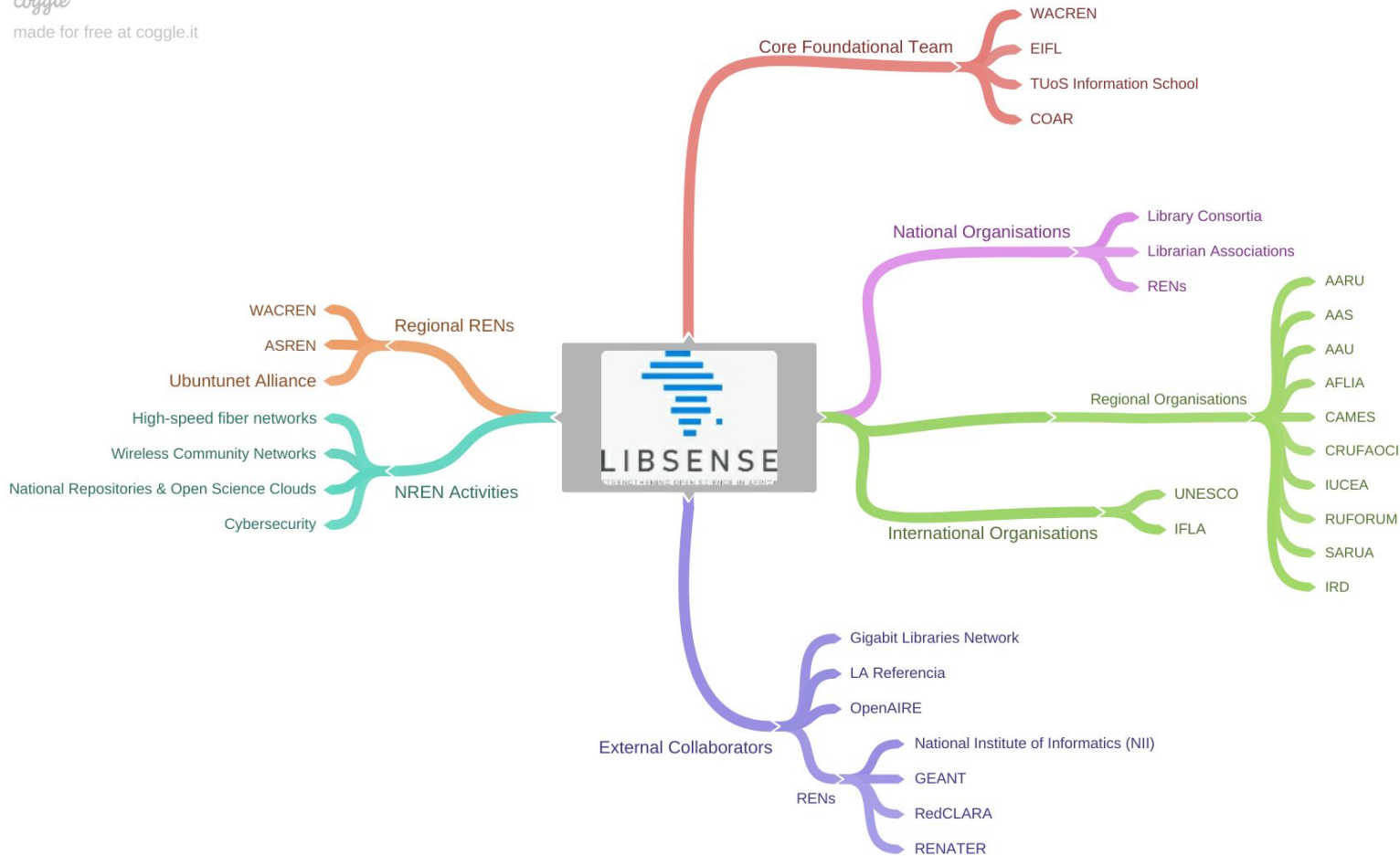
- Building communities of practice
- Strengthening local and national services
- Bottom-up, distributed, heterogeneous
- Inclusive
 - 3 Working languages, Arabic, English and French; **Portuguese?**
 - Indigenous and traditional knowledge

Three Pillars:

- **Policy:** open science policies, governance and leadership
- **Infrastructure:** open access journals, repositories for publications and data and open discovery services
- **Capacity-building:** communities of practice and training







LIBSENSE Timeline (2016-2019)

Initial Activities and Ideas

- Library Open Access Workshop
- Institutional Focal Points Workshop
- Setting the agenda for LIBSENSE
- Informal collaboration btw. EIFL & WACREN
- TUoS Information School joins collaboration

2016

2017

2018

2019

Connecting to AfricaConnect 2 (AC2)

- COAR workshop on repositories for pan-African harvester
- AC2 funds pan African survey/workshops on OAR
- Survey launch in 3 regions commences
- Pan-African LIBSENSE workshops commence

Building the Community

- WACREN LIBSENSE workshops commence
- COAR brought on board as key collaborator
- Pilot survey planned and implemented
- Pilot survey results presented at UA conference

Workshop Activities and Outputs

- LIBSENSE workshops in all regions completed
- Outputs include roadmaps, guidelines, survey reports, workshop reports
- Community activities begin to make impact
- Plans for AC3 LIBSENSE drawn up

LIBSENSE Timeline (2019-2023)

Skills Profiles Webinars

- Skills Profiles for HEI Librarians
- Anglophone & Francophone

Capacity-building workshops

- Open access publishing
- Research data management, repository interoperability, and persistent Identifiers

National Open Science Roadmaps

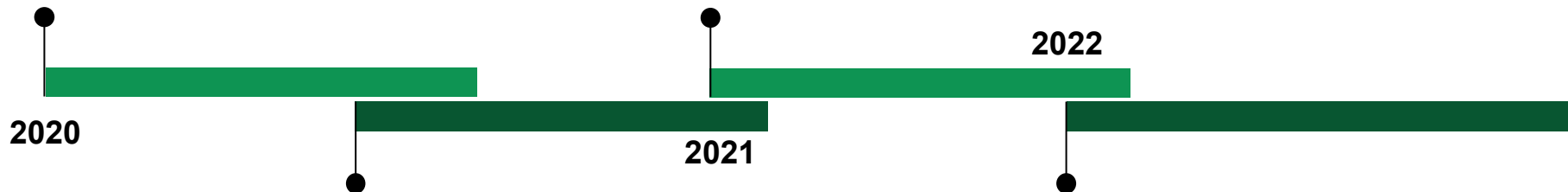
- Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda

National open access repository and publishing platforms

- Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, ...

National Policy Development Workshops

- Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, ...



UNESCO Open Science Partnerships

- Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation

Other Partnerships

- LA Referencia, RedCLARA
- RUFORUM

AC3 Regional Policy Development Workshops

- Colocated with Ubuntunet Alliance, ASREN and WACREN annual conferences
- Co-organised with regional associations of VCs/Rectors
- Focus on policy implementation - moving from high-level goals to role of institutions in implementing open science

Key Achievements - CONTINENTAL

- UNESCO Open Science Partnerships - Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation
 - <https://zenodo.org/record/4017999>
- Shared Agricultural Research Data Management and Publications Platform with RUFORUM (regional, multi-institutional level)
- Federated Identity Management for Research and Libraries
 - Identity Management Federation program (eduID.africa) for secure access (continental level) - <https://www.eduid.africa/>



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Key Achievements - REGIONAL



- Capacity-building workshops – regional policy development

- <https://libsense.ren.africa/en/open-science/regional/>

- Skills profiles webinars, open access publishing, research data repositories, repository interoperability, persistent identifiers.



- Emerging framework for REN-based Federated High-Performance Computing Service



- Leverages African Centers of Excellence (ACE)

- Emergence of the ASREN regional platform for harvesting, validation, enrichment and publication of metadata of scientific production in the Arab region -

- <https://asrenorg.net/?q=ar/node/1014>



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Key Achievements - NATIONAL

- National Open Science Roadmaps -
<https://libsense.ren.africa/en/open-science/national/>
 - Several countries involved. Symposiums towards Open Science action plans held in Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire. Ghana scheduled for October 19; Botswana Nov 23
- National shared open access repository and publishing platforms - Pilots in Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Uganda; Burkina Faso and Benin in Africa Digital Campus
 - Focus on international interoperability - schema draws from COAR Vocabularies, Datacite, Dublin Core and OpenAIRE guidelines
- National shared platform for Journals, Micropublications and Preprints
⇒ Pilot in Nigeria

Key Achievements - INSTITUTIONAL

- Institutional Open Science Policy Development Workshops
- Compendium of Open Access/Open Science Policy Case Studies from African Higher Education Institutions - <https://zenodo.org/record/6467301>
 - Recommended checklist for universities to follow when implementing recommendations on open science has been added to the UNESCO Toolkit
- Model for Open Science Communities on Campus
- Template for Leadership Programme



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