Towards a shared vision for open science in Ghana.

LIBSENSE

STRENGTHENING OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA

Omo Oaiya, Chief Strategy Officer, WACREN

Open Science Symposium - **Accra - October 19, 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
    - **Lib**rary **S**upport for **E**mbedded **N**REN **S**ervices 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
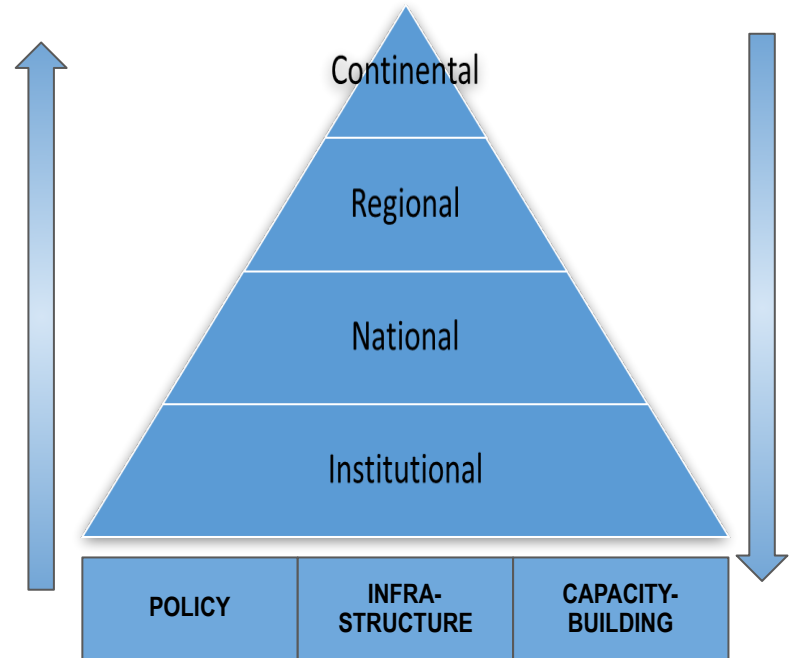- Build human capacity
- Develop value-added services
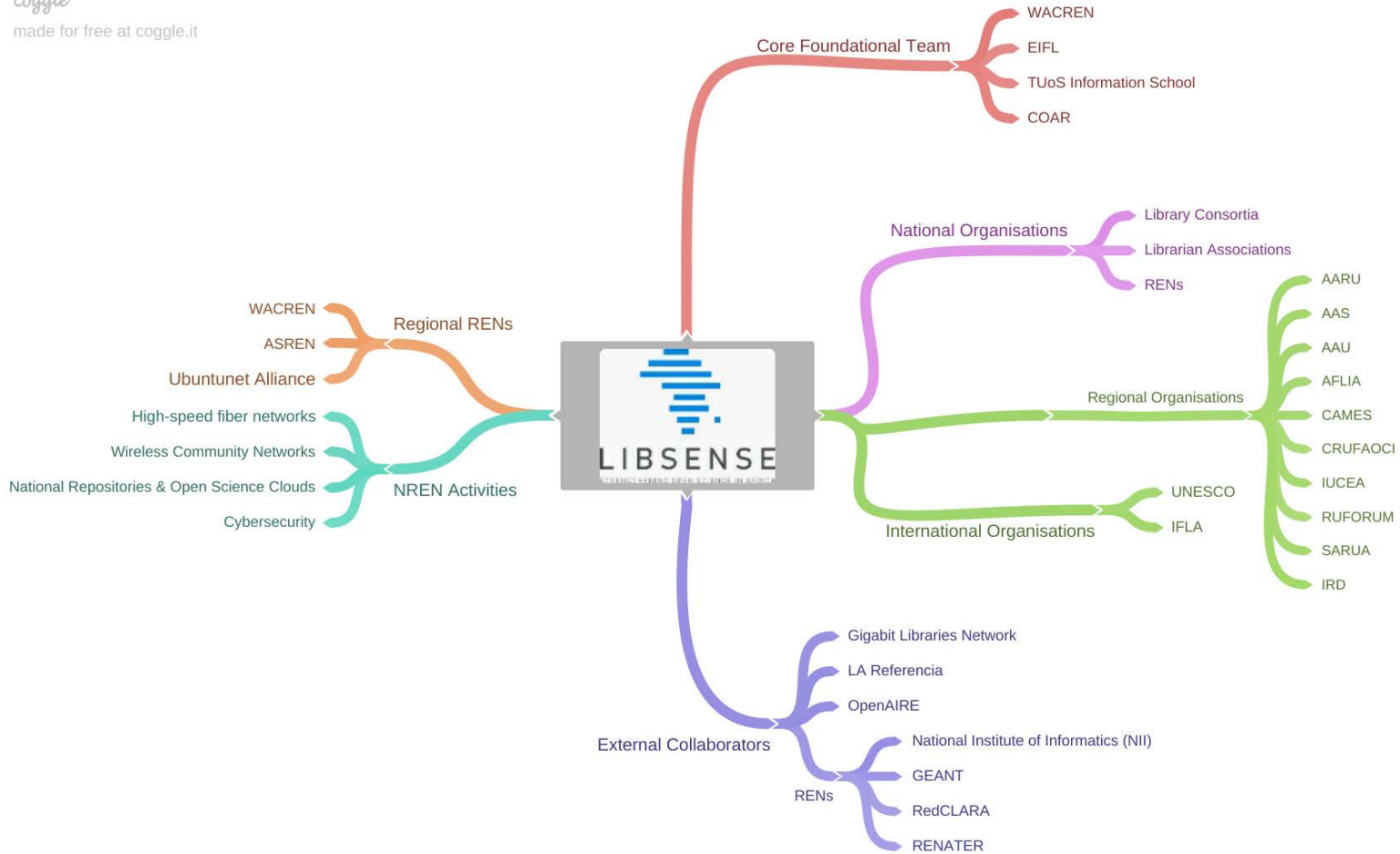
LIBSENSE – Strategy & Organisation

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

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LIBSENSE

Core Foundational Team
- WACREN
- EIFL
- TUoS Information School
- COAR

Regional RENs
- WACREN
- ASREN
- Ubuntunet Alliance

NREN Activities
- High-speed fiber networks
- Wireless Community Networks
- National Repositories & Open Science Clouds
- Cybersecurity

National Organisations
- Library Consortia
- Librarian Associations
- RENs

Regional Organisations
- AARU
- AAS
- AAU
- AFLIA
- CAMES
- CRUFAOCI
- IUCEA
- RUFORUM
- SARUA
- IRD

International Organisations
- UNESCO
- IFLA

External Collaborators
- Gigabit Libraries Network
- LA Referencia
- OpenAIRE
- RENs
  - National Institute of Informatics (NII)
  - GEANT
  - RedCLARA
  - RENATER

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

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

2016   **2017**   **2018**   **2019**

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
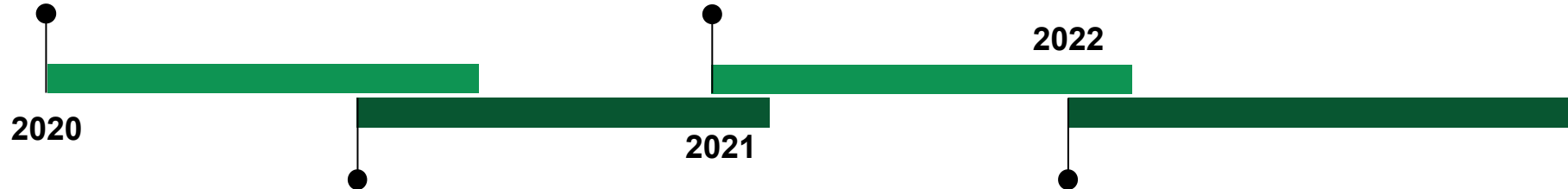
National Open Science Roadmaps
- Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda

National open access repository and publishing platforms
- Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, ...

National Policy Development Workshops
- Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, ...

2022

2020

2021

UNESCO Open Science Partnerships
- Open Science Africa: Principles and Actions for Global Participation
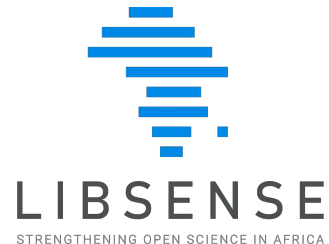
Other Partnerships
- LA Referencia, RedCLARA
- RUFORUM

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
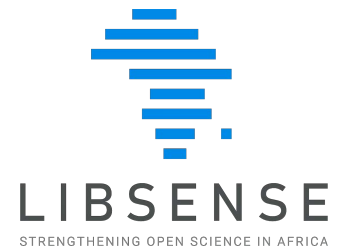
Key Achievements - CONTINENTAL

- 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/

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

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

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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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Our objectives for today

- Highlight the importance of open access/open science in achieving the SDGs and develop a shared vision for an open science policy framework for Ghana
- Consult with diverse stakeholders and partners to understand the landscape and establish a priority-setting process
- Identify opportunities for building synergies in the science, tech, and innovation ecosystem for open science
- Co-create a road map for an enabling policy environment for Ghana, including priority infrastructure and capacity building.

Stay in touch

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