



**LIBSENSE**

STRENGTHENING OPEN SCIENCE IN AFRICA

**Breaking down silos across infrastructures to  
improve the visibility of African research  
outputs**

Omo Oaiya, WACREN



# What is LIBSENSE?

- 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.



<https://libsense.ren.africa>

## Overarching Goals:

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



# 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

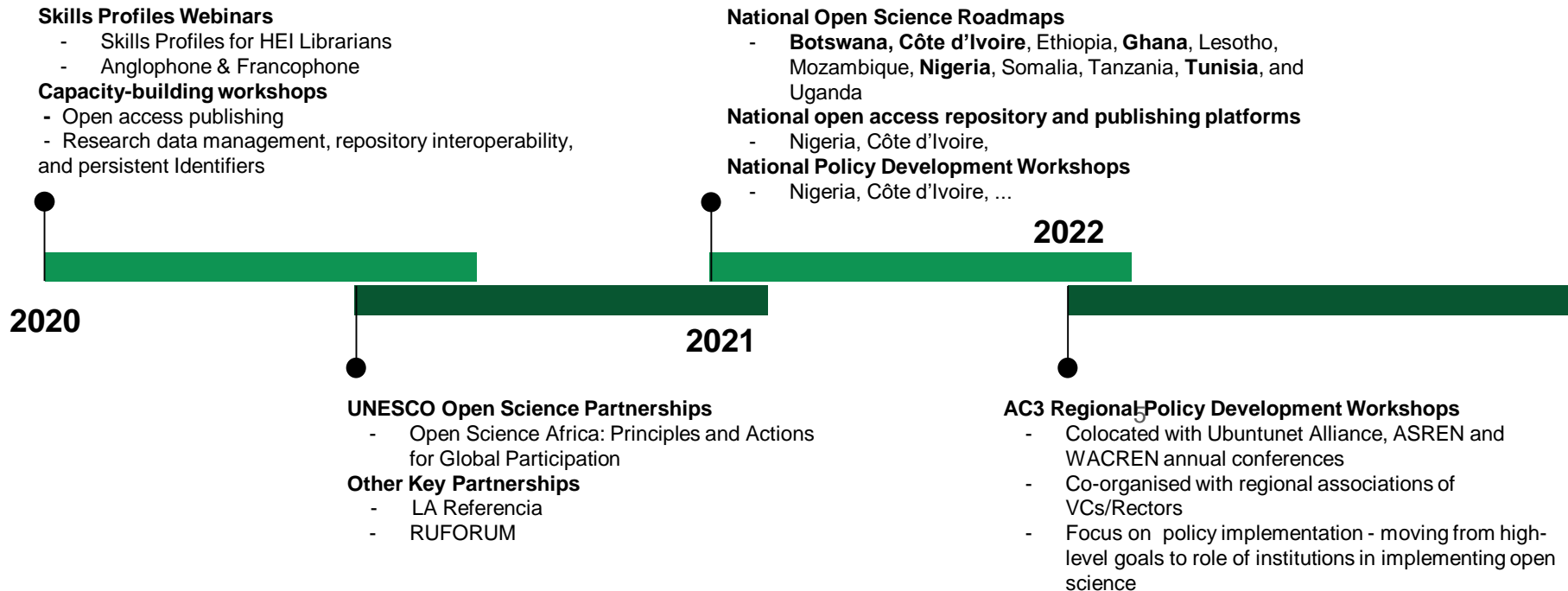
- WACREN LIBSENSE workshops commence
- COAR brought on board as key collaborator
- Pilot survey planned and implemented
- Pilot survey results presented at UA conference

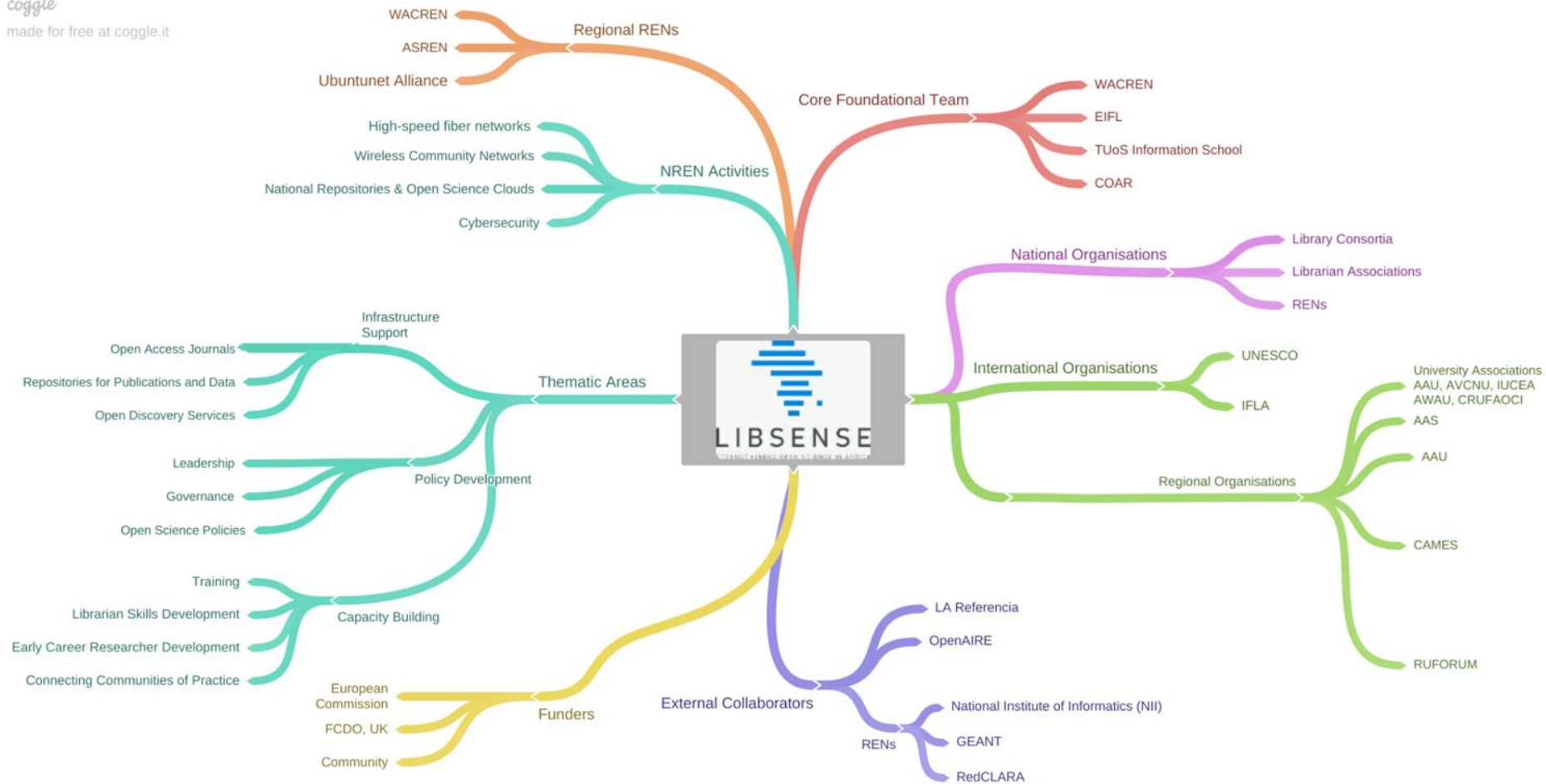
## Workshop Activities and Outputs

- 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)





# Notable outcomes - 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)
  - Needs analysis  
<https://survey.wacren.net/index.php/516664>
- Federated Identity Management for Research and Libraries (eduID.africa) for secure access (continental level) - <https://www.eduid.africa/>
- Roadmap for PIDs implementation in Africa - <https://zenodo.org/record/7970386>



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# Notable outcomes - 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>



# Notable outcomes - 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**, Tunisia and **Botswana**.
- 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 with Eko-Konnect



# Notable outcomes - 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



# Work with us!

E-mail: [libsense@ren.africa](mailto:libsense@ren.africa)

Social: @LIBSENSE

Website: <https://libsense.ren.africa>



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