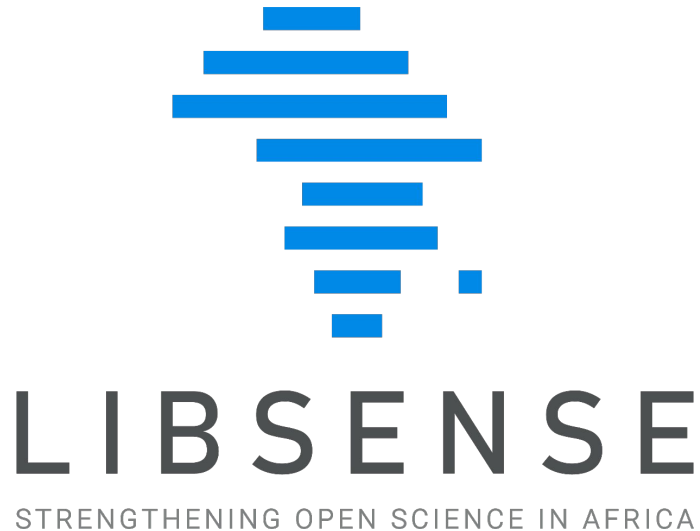


Advancing Open Science in Africa: LIBSENSE and AfricaConnect3 Initiatives



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 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

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



2018

2017



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

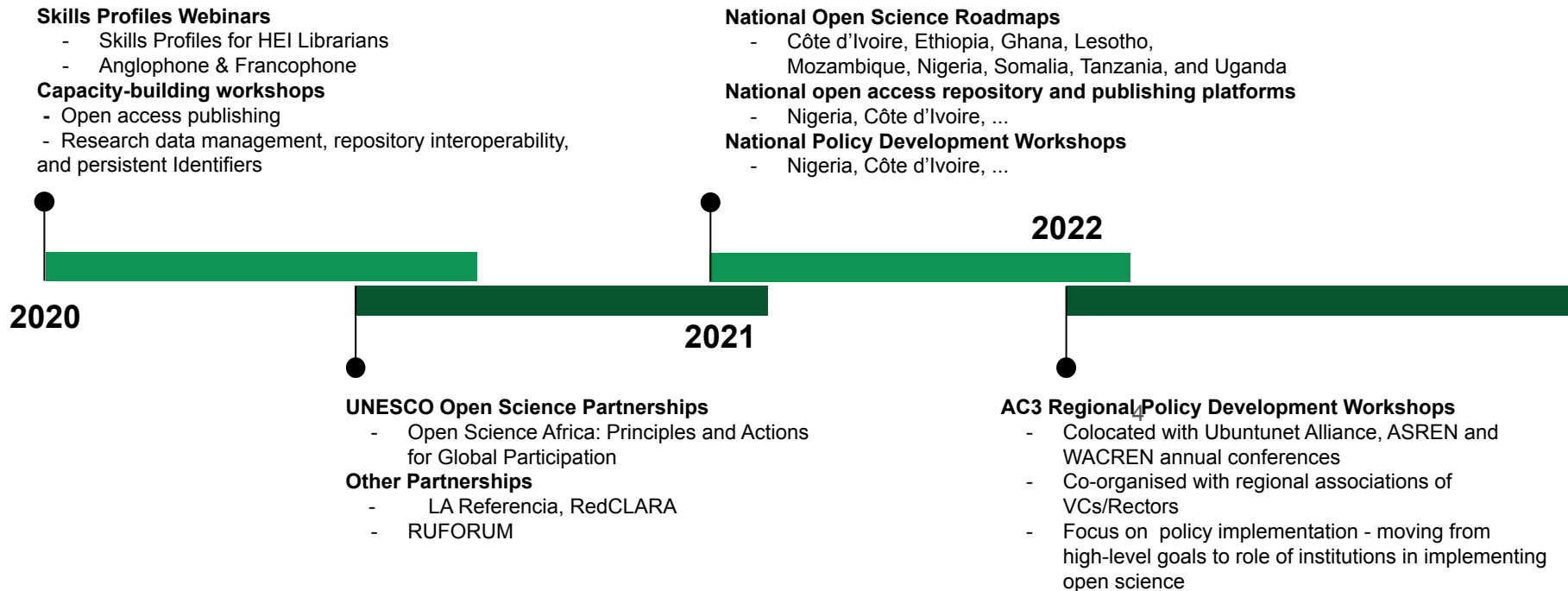
2019



Workshop Activities and Outputs

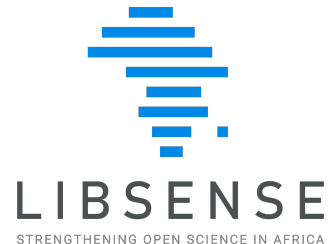
- LIBSENSE workshops in all regions completed
- Outputs include roadmaps, guidelines, survey reports, workshop reports
- Community activities begin to make impact
- Plans for AC3 LIBSENSE drawn up

LIBSENSE Timeline (2019-2023)



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/>
 - Sierra Leone is 6th country.
- National shared open access repository and publishing platforms - Pilots in Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria; 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
- National book platform - 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 - the library as Open Science commons on campus
- Template for Leadership Programme



Upcoming events

- Webinar on increasing the visibility and impact of Nigerian research - August 31
- 3-part webinar series on ARKs - last event on Sept 4
- Research data management workshop in Yaounde - co-located with the RUFORUM AGM
- 2nd iteration of the OS symposium in Nigeria -Special focus - amplifying the presence of Nigerian journals and books in DOAJ and DOAB
- Workshop for software and infrastructure developers to embrace open science principles and practices - Nov 6-8
 - practical insights into leveraging metadata, technical standards, and repository platforms



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