

Promoting Research Integrity in Africa

Experiences from the African Research Integrity Network (ARIN)

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(on behalf of ARIN)

Research Integrity (RI) in Africa

- Limited knowledge, data or publications on RI in Africa
- Institutional structures and systems to promote RI limited and lacking support
- Why this apparent neglect?
- What are the risks?



Introduction to ARIN



- Conceived during 4th WCRI in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in 2015
- Apparent lack of data and initiatives on RI in Africa
- Many questions, but very few answers ... someone had to do something

What is ARIN?

Our GOAL (Vision / dream)

To promote research integrity, responsible and respectful conduct of research in Africa through sharing, alignment and leveraging of available resources and ideas and engagement of individuals, institutions, governments as well as policy makers in Africa

ARIN : Our specific purposes

- To develop a better understanding of – and sensitise people about – the local environment, conditions and context that affect research integrity in Africa
- To promote research integrity by increasing awareness and improving access to information and resources
- To create and nurture leadership in responsible conduct of research in Africa.
- To enhance dialogue, engagement and networking among policy makers, stakeholders and practitioners of RI.

ARIN: How do we want to achieve this?

- Networking, dialogues, information sharing
- “Informal” mentoring, “twinning”, friendships
- Meetings, workshops, conferences
- Student training for higher degrees
- Developing and sharing guidelines and resource materials
- Collaborative projects and publications

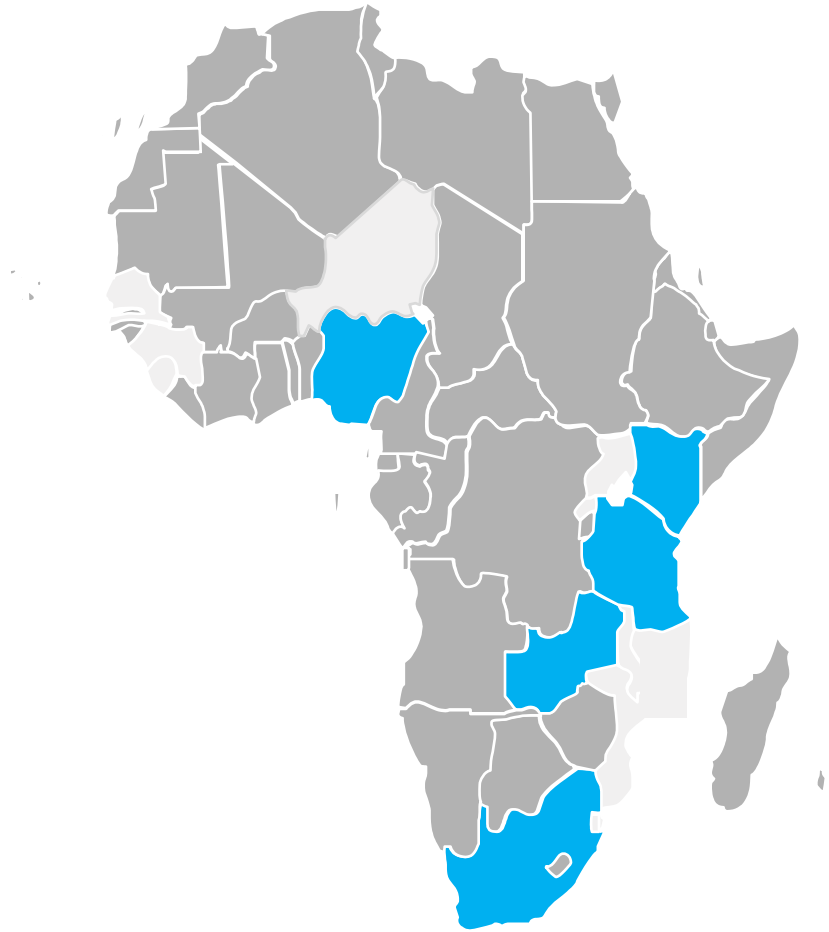
ARIN: Our approach



- Organic growth ... start with individual members
- Roots firmly in Africa!
- Without realising it, we applied principles of Singapore and Montreal statement
 - Goal – must share a dream
 - Purpose – also outlining steps to achieve our goal
 - Integrity & trust – we are sharing and want to support each other



Progress to date: Membership



- Total=30 expressed interest
- Friends of ARIN from USA and Europe

Progress to date: Achievements



- SARIMA pre-conference workshop
- Individual contributions to WCRI
- On-going virtual networking and communication
- Interim steering committee (Francis, Limbanazo, Christa)
- Building a track record –feeding into a future business plan
- Constitution-Establishing a Formal entity – may take time

Next steps

- Face-to-face meeting
- Website or blog to share resources
- Inventory of available or missing resources
- Identifying role models – other networks to emulate
- Finding and responding to funding opportunities
- Branding / identity



Acknowledgements

- Members (list names)
- Our employing institutions
- SFSA participation support: DST
- SARIMA workshop support: HSRC, NRF, UP
- 4WCRI



Conclusion

If you want
to go fast,
go alone.

If you want
to go far,
go together.

African proverb



ZIKOMO

Verein zur Förderung afrikanischer
StudentInnen in Ihren Heimatländern