

MAPPING THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION'S RESEARCH TO POLICY LANDSCAPE

*An Overview Of Role Players Outside Government That Are
Central To Evidence-informed Decision-making in the Spheres of
The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)*

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OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- 1** Land scape overview
- 2** EIDM Gaps
- 3** ACBF's EIDM map
- 4** The ACBF's map & the theme for 2016 conference
- 5** Type of intervention or support required by the system
- 6** Aspects of engagement that work well that can be scaled up
- 7** Summary



1. Land scape overview

- This mapping focuses on capacity building for economic policy formulation and implementation in more than 45 African countries.
- The key players of the evidence informed decision making (EIDM) in this landscape are:
 - a) The African states (more than 45 Africa governments)
 - b) Donors and development partners such as the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), The African Development Bank (AfDB), The Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the African Governments/member states.
- The map is implemented by 3 types of partners: Strategic Partners, African Economic Communities (RECS) and knowledge networks/community of practices (CoP).



Land scape overview cont....

The implementation strategic partners of this land scape are:

- a) The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA);
- b) The Africa Union Commission (AUC);
- c) The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
- d) Selected Universities and Research Institutions;
- e) Selected Non-Governmental Organisations;
- f) Africa Think Tanks such as
 - The Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI);
 - The Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI);
 - The Kenya Institute For Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA); Institute of policy Analysis and Research (IPAR) in Rwanda,;
 - The South Africa Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) in South Africa;
 - Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in Tanzania;
 - The Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) etc.



Land scape overview cont.

The African regional economic communities

- a) The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU/UMA),
- b) The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- c) The East African Community (EAC)
- d) The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- e) The Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- f) The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- g) The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), CS) and
- h) The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD).



Land scape overview cont....

Knowledge networks

- a) The African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results (AfCoP-MfDR);
- b) The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA);
- c) The African Think Tanks Network (ATTN);
- d) The CAADP Technical Network on Knowledge Management, Policy analysis and accountability for results.



2. Evidence Informed Decision Making Gaps

- a) Inadequate coordination among players;
- b) Organisational silos;
- c) Inadequate capacities to influence effective & evidence-based national policies – planning, implementation & accountability for results.



3. Core initiative missing

- a) Adequate capacity building initiatives;
- b) Support for evidence –based research, promotions and uses;
- c) Comprehensive capacity building & support on managing for development results & result culture;
- d) Comprehensive and coordinated knowledge management and sharing for effective adaptation & use;
- e) Mismatch between the number of research produced and capacity of absorption of users;
- f) Weak capacity to translate knowledge produced into skills;
- g) Lack of consultation with key stakeholders/potential users from the onset (for easy uptake and adoption of policy recommendations);
- h) Scarcity (or poverty) of data (evidence presume existence of data).



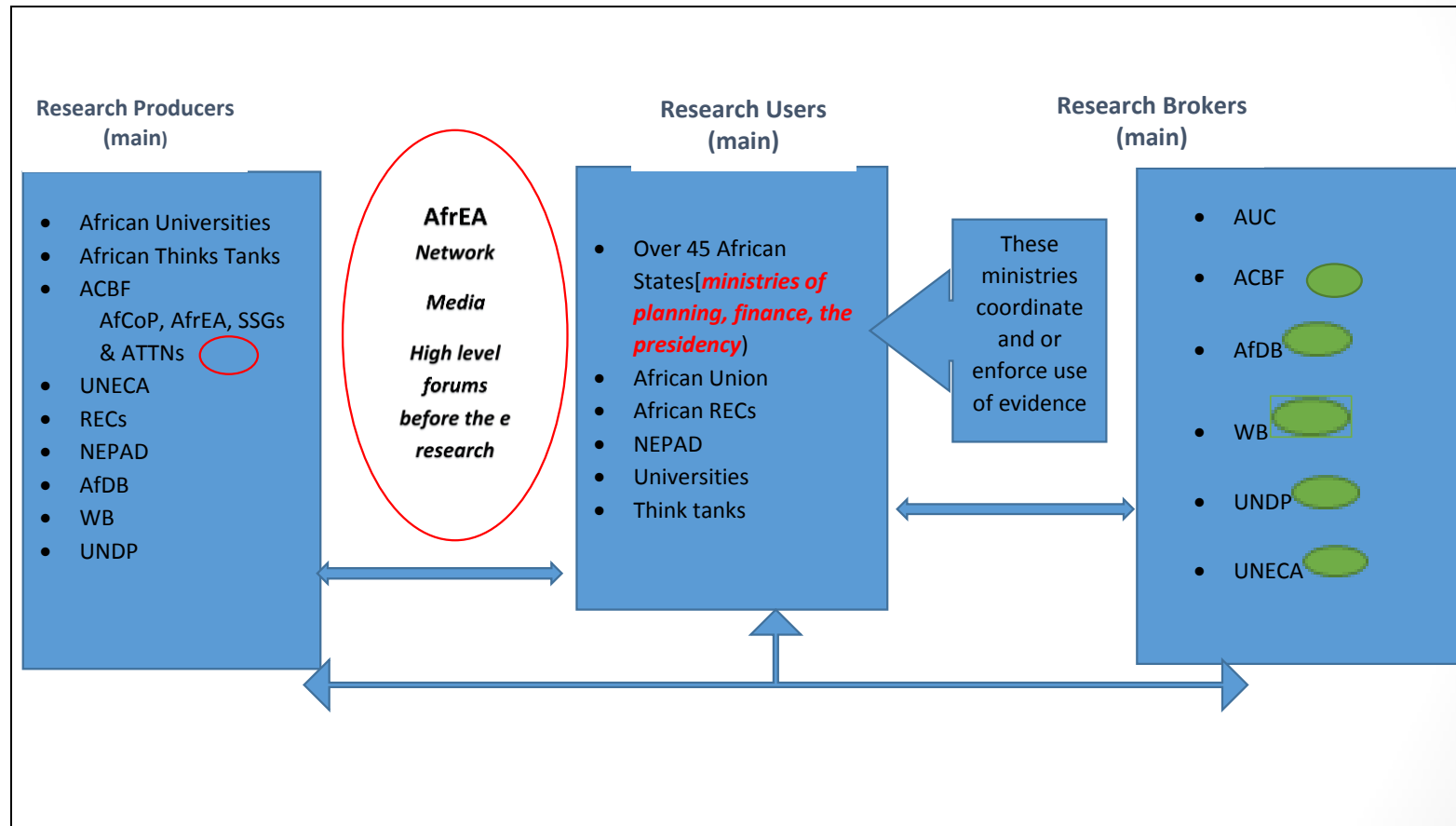
4. Relationships between the research producer & user

- The relationships between the research producer and user in this context can be describes as inadequate or ineffective.
 - Many times, the producer don't consider the needs and capacities of the user at the specific time;
 - Limited consideration of the forms of presentation of the research findings for effective adaptation and uses by user;
 - Limited avenues to translate findings to actionable policies and intervention;



5. The ACBF's EIDM MAP

The map shows research–policy environment : production of research (universities, research institutions etc) and the users of research (governments, NGO, professional bodies), and intermediaries (knowledge brokers, donors, networks).



6. How ACBF's Map Related to the Evidence 2016 Conference (engage, understand, impact).

The evidence 2016 aims to encourage and promote evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) in Africa, thereby contributing to the development of effective public policies, efficient implementation of services, as well as joint learning on interventions that tackle poverty and equality in African countries. The ACBF map relates well with the theme and objective of the evidence 2016, in the following characteristics:



How ACBF's Map Related to the Evidence 2016 Conference (engage, understand, impact) cont....

- **Engagement** of all key stakeholders in the map is critical in understanding the needs of research users and interests of the knowledge brokers. This is critically important for the research and evidence to put into effective uses and demands – as well as for the designed policies and programmes to achieve the desired impacts and or the national outcomes. All research is conducted through a consultative process (Africa capacity report theme is decided based on consultations with African governments – ACBF Board of Governors (BoG), for instance) or through demand expressed by countries (knowledge products on Agenda 2063 are requested by AUC)



How ACBF's Map Related to the Evidence 2016 Conference (engage, understand, impact) cont....

- **Understanding:** ACBF is virtually present in all countries and have been working on CD issues in Africa for the past 25 years; and its BoG is made of Ministries of Finance/development planning. The Foundation therefore have a good understanding of the needs and country contexts.
- **Impact:** Given that all research are based on consultations and real demand expressed by stakeholders, the impact would be certain. Being a result focus organization, ACBF also ensure that all research products are supported by proper M&E framework to ensure that their real impacts are assessed and captured.



7. What type of intervention /support would the system most benefit from?

The system would benefit from a support to increase effective coordination and capacity to produce, use and demand evidence in policy formulation, as well programming. This could range from producer, users and the knowledge networks. Equally important is the political and financial support to ACBF's strategy 2017-2021 in which evidence informed decision making is at the core of its four strategic pillars:

- Enabling effective delivery of continental development priorities
- Supporting countries to achieve tangible development results
- Enhancing private sector and civil society to contribute to sustainable development
- Leveraging knowledge and learning to increase development effectiveness



8. Aspects of engagement that work well that can be scaled up

- i. The African community of practice (AfCoP) on managing for development results (MfDR) is promoting accountability for results in 18/54 African countries through the Africa for result project supported by ACBF and AfDB;
- ii. The African Think Tank Network (ATTN): Support by ACBF , provides a platform for sharing information, exchanging ideas, and enhancing partnerships among TTs in order to individually and collectively develop informed solutions to the pressing development challenges facing Africa;



8. Aspects of engagement that work well that can be scaled up continue....

iii) The strategic Studies Group Network (SSG): Supported by ACBF and World Bank. SSG constitute a core competence of global knowledge experts from various institutions that assist in identifying key policy and emerging issues requiring the attention of ACBF and its stakeholders and support the Foundation drive its strategic priorities;

iv) The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) technical network on knowledge management, policy analysis and accountability for results: Supported mainly by the African Union, the newly formulated network is crucial in achievement of Malabo declarations – transformation of African agriculture.



These networks: Are very useful and critical in enhancing use of evidence in Africa states and partners.

9. Creative Metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system
“Evidence in African Development Circles”



Thank you for your Attention

**Nous vous remercions pour votre
attention**

