

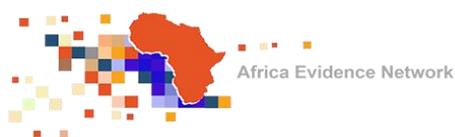
An overview of role players outside government that are central to evidence-informed decision-making in the spheres of the African Capacity Building Foundation

Ms. Aimtonga Makawia

2016

This map is part of a series of maps on the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscapes in different countries in Africa. The series comprises 25 maps and is available from the Africa Evidence Network. This is map 11 in the series. Maps were produced as part of the bursary conditions for attendance at Evidence 2016 (<http://evidenceconference.org.za/>). Bursaries were provided as part of the UJ-BCURE programme, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

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Strengthening Evidence-Informed Decision-Making in Africa

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1. Land scape overview

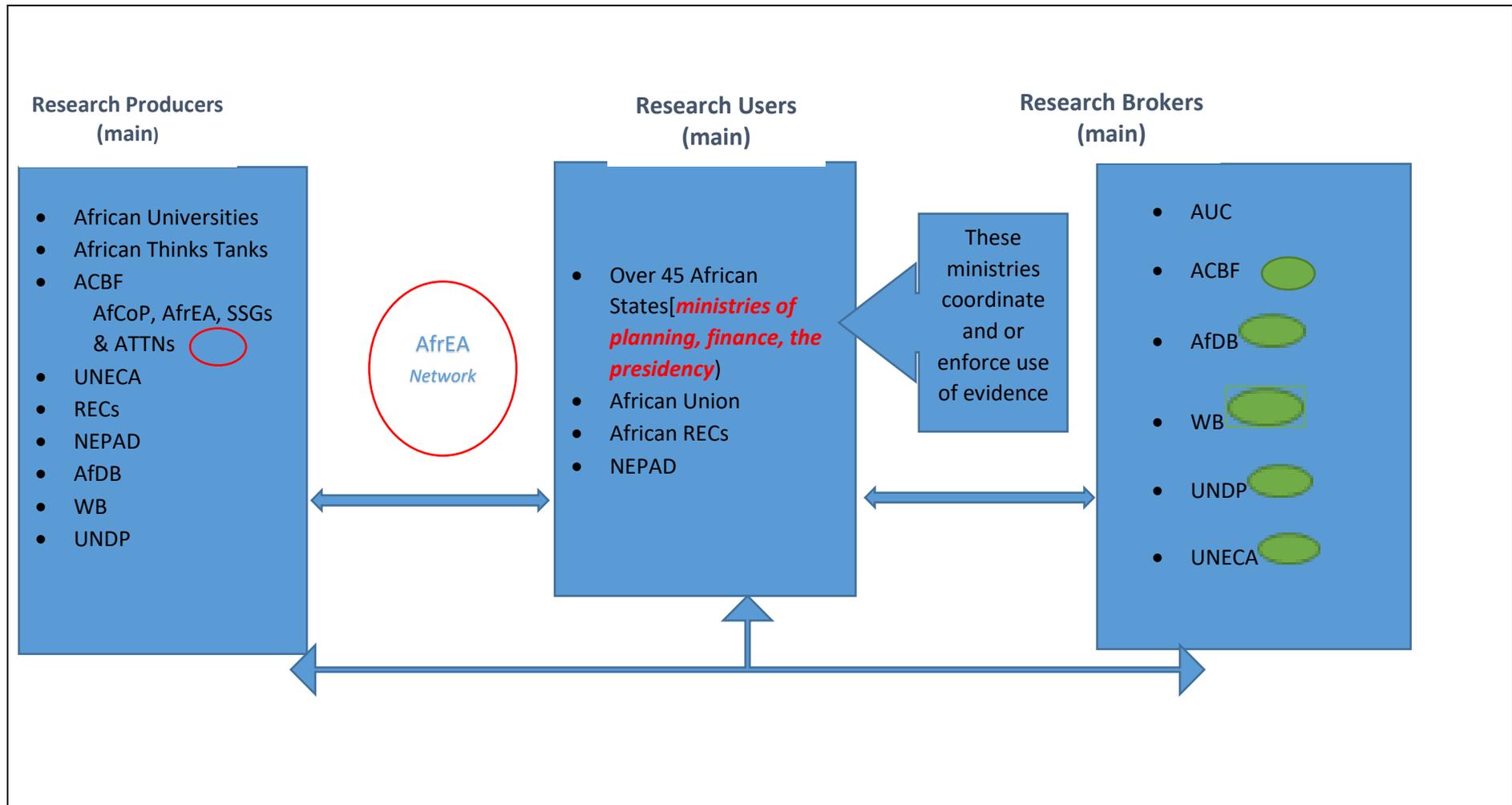
This mapping focuses on capacity building for economic policy formulation and implementation in more than 45 African countries. The main role players of the evidence informed decision making landscape are:

- African states (more than 45 Africa governments)
- Donors and development partners such as the world Bank (WB), United Nations Development Programme, (UNDP), The African Development Bank (AfDB), The Melinda Gates Foundation), Swedish Development Agency (SIDA) and the African Governments/member states.
- The implementation strategic partners:
 - o The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),
 - o The Africa Union (AU),
 - o New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),
 - o Selected Universities and Research institutions,
 - o Selected Non-Governmental organisations,
 - o African 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 Centre d'Etudes des Politiques de Développement (CEPOD) in Senegal, 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
 - o The African regional economic communities (RECS) such as
 - The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU/UMA),
 - The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
 - The East African Community (EAC)
 - The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
 - The Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
 - The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and
 - The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD).
- Knowledge networks such as the African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results (AfCoP-MfDR), The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) and the African Think Tanks Network (ATTN)

EIDM Gaps: inadequate coordination among players; organisational silos, limited capacities to influence effective and evidence based national policies. Core initiative missing to my knowledge is adequate capacity building initiatives and support for evidence research promotions and uses. This also goes to inadequate capacity building and support to African states on managing for development results and result culture.

The relationships between the research producer and user in this context can be describes as ineffective, in the sense that the producer sometime don't consider the needs and capacities of the user at the specific time and the forms of presentation of the research findings – for effective adaptation and use.

2. **ACBF's EIDM MAP:** This map shows production of research (universities, research institutions) role player in the use of research (governments, NGO, professional bodies), and intermediaries (knowledge brokers, donors, networks).



- **How is the ACBF's Map related to the theme for 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 relate well with the theme and objective of the evidence 2016, in the following characteristics: **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**.

- **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.

- **Aspects of engagement that work well that can be scaled up**

The African community of practice (AfCoP-MfDR), the African Think Tank Network (ATTN), and the strategic Studies Group (SSG) are very useful networks that are critical in enhancing use of evidence in Africa states and partners. AfCoP- MfDR capacity building initiative is a pilot project and is being implemented in 17 out of 54 Africa countries. If scaled and supported it has a great potential to transform African states capacities and culture for results and use of evidence in decision making. This is the same for the African Think Tank Network (ATTN).

- **Creative Metaphor to describe the overall EIDM system**

"Evidence in real life circles in Africa"