

# SHAPING THE NRENs IN AFRICA: THE LANDSCAPE IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

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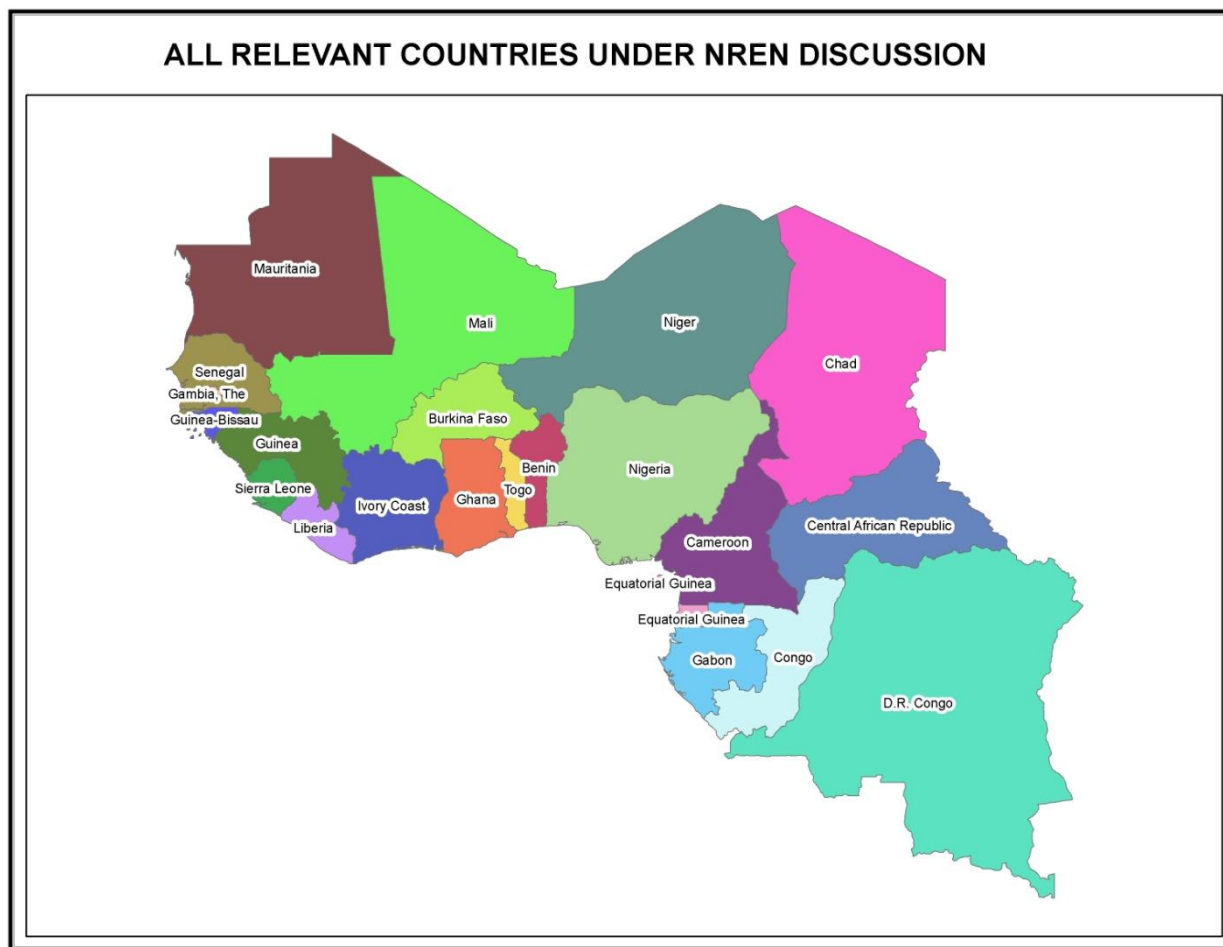
# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Country Landscape of NRENs in West and Central Africa
- Issues related to NREN maturity
- Status of RREN (WACREN)
- The way forward (Conclusion)

# INTRODUCTION

- On the African continent today, West and Central African countries are the most deprived in terms of not having adequate access to resources for research and education from the **Global Research and Education Network**.
- The Universities in the various countries have not been able to mobilize themselves into forming NRENs.
- NRENs are the building Blocks for the formation of Regional Research Education Network (RREN- WACREN)
- RRENs are more convenient for linking to the Global Research and Education Network (GEANT; INTERNET2) to participate in the acquisition and sharing of Educational and Research Resources, through collaboration.

# COUNTRIES IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA



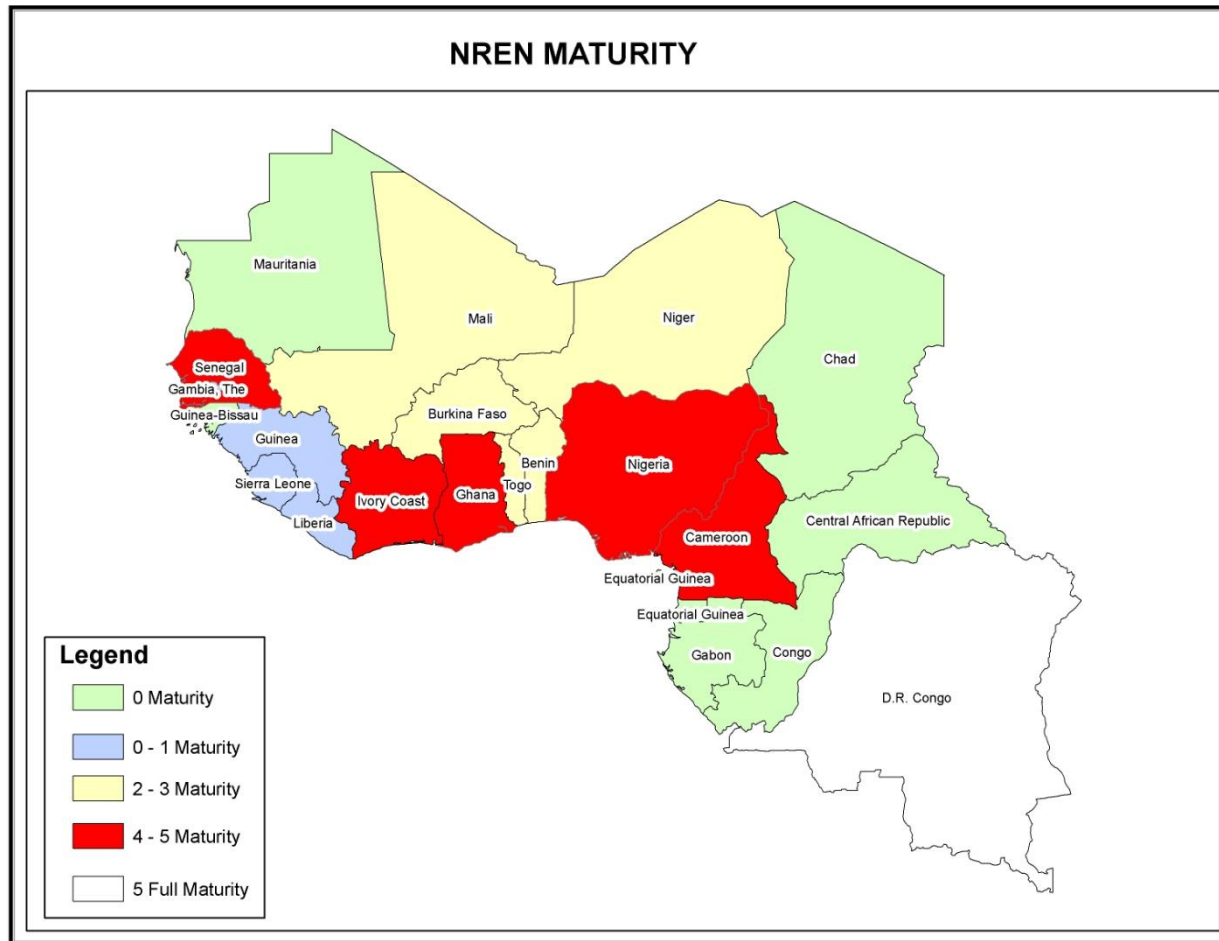
# ISSUES RELATED TO MATURITY

- An excellent account is given in the studies commissioned by the AAU: “CONNECTING WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA TO THE GLOBAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK” by Bjorn Pehrson and Anders Comstedt. 2007

# ISSUES RELATED TO NREN MATURITY

- Lack of viable Campus Area Networks (CANs).  
CANs are the building blocks for NRENs
- Consensus and Trust among Institutions
- National backbone Infrastructure & ICT Policy
- Commitment and Financial support by National Governments (Endowment necessary)
- Political Stability in Country
- International support should be a catalyst

# NREN LANDSCAPE BASED ON READINESS



# RIPENESS FOR CONNECTIVITY INTO WACREN

- Viable NRENs
- Clusters of Networks (Nigeria)
- Easy regulatory issues (WATRA)
- Fibre for interconnectivity is not an issue now except for may be pricing is, but this is changing fast!!!!

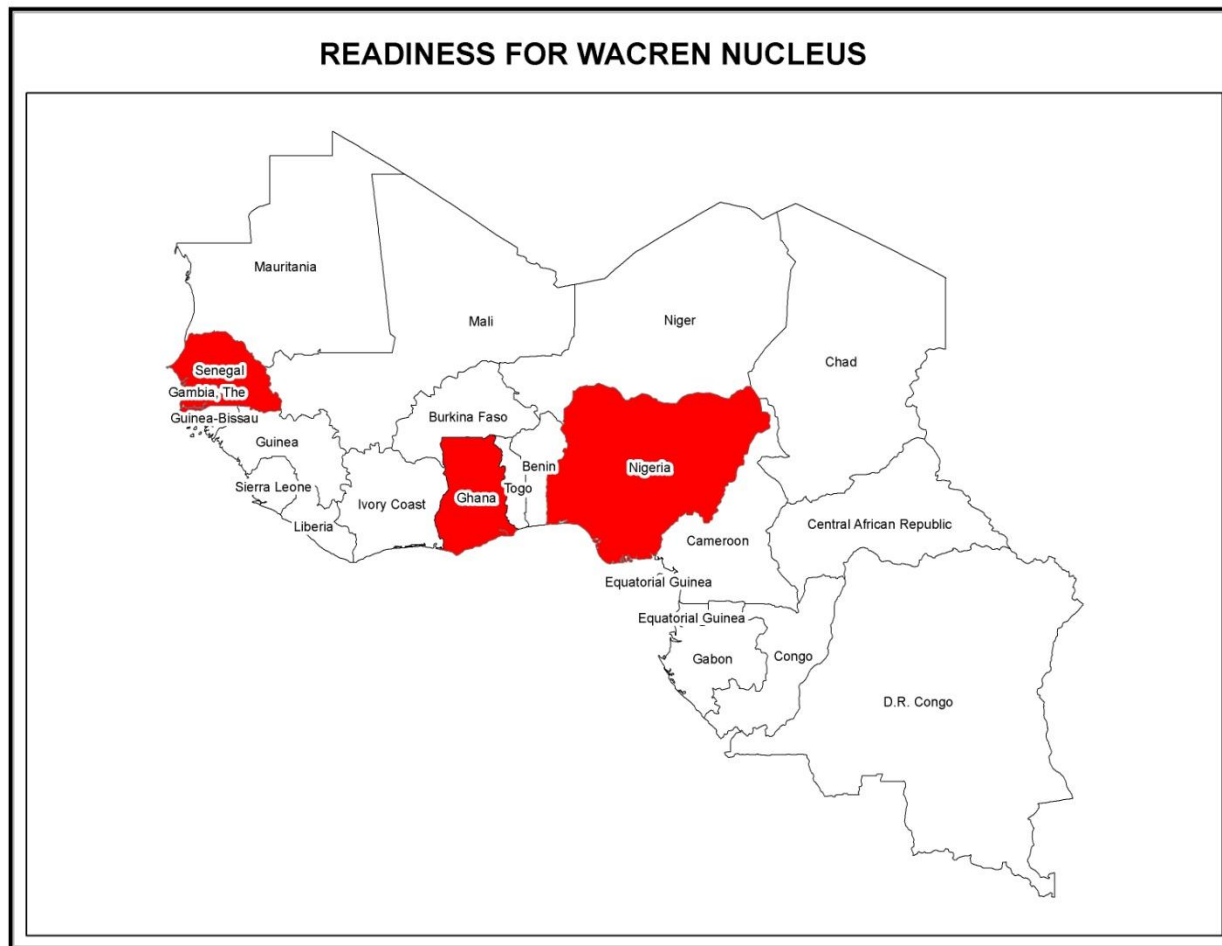
# WACREN IN FORMATION

- AAU Mandated to move WACREN to operation
  - Task Team and WGs looking at following issues:
    - Governance and admin. structure, Financing
    - Infrastructure and regulatory issues
    - Implementation strategy and partnerships
    - Capacity building
    - Content and Applications
  - ✓ WACREN incorporated in August 2010 (see [www.wacren.net](http://www.wacren.net))

# THE WAY FORWARD

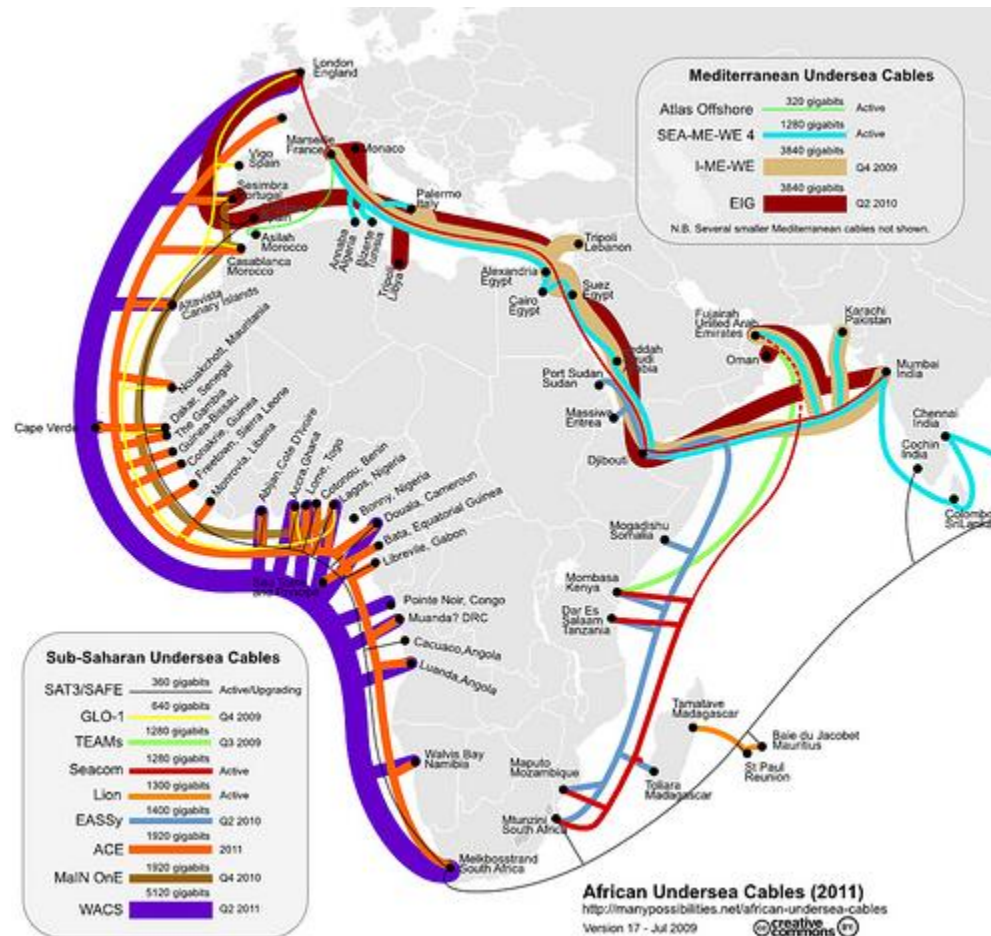
- WACREN is incorporated
  - Full time CEO (Task force)
  - NOC under discussion (Task Force)
  - Physical structure (Task force)
  - We have to start small we can't wait for all NRENs readiness.
  - Commitment from Governments and International partners (Finance and expertise)
  - Extensive Support is expected from AfricaConnect Project to link to GEANT.

# COUNTRIES RIPE FOR IMMEDIATE CONNECTIVITY



# Fibre is not an issue!

## Ubiquitous Slide!



# THANKS

- THANKS FOR THE INVITATION AND THE PART SUPPORT TO BE HERE TODAY

AND

- THANK YOU ALSO, FOR YOUR ATTENTION