



# Domination or Dependence for data collaboration in Africa

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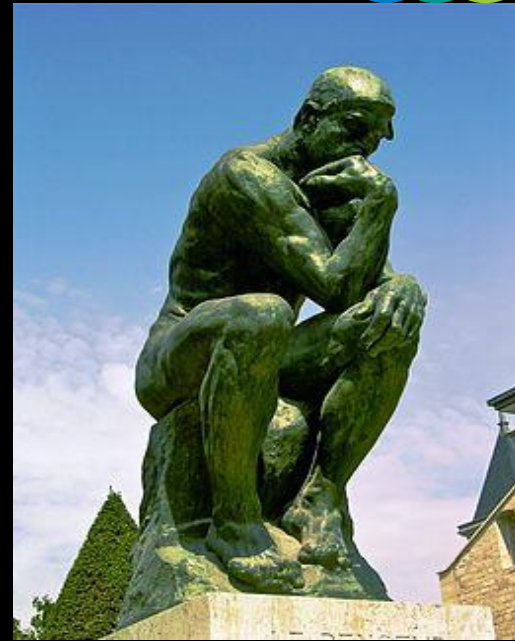
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web [www.start.org](http://www.start.org)



# Background: Evolution of Ethical considerations

- Science is not only created using data: **Rational purity vs opinions!**
- **Open data**: What is open and for Who?
- **Aspirations**: Hidden agendas, contentious intent and objectives
- **Confusing**, fragmented landscape, tools, methods, truncated
- **Data disparity** between Global North and South: The power relationships
- **Lack of feedback mechanisms** between data providers and users
- Complex environmental issues through **Transdisciplinary data**



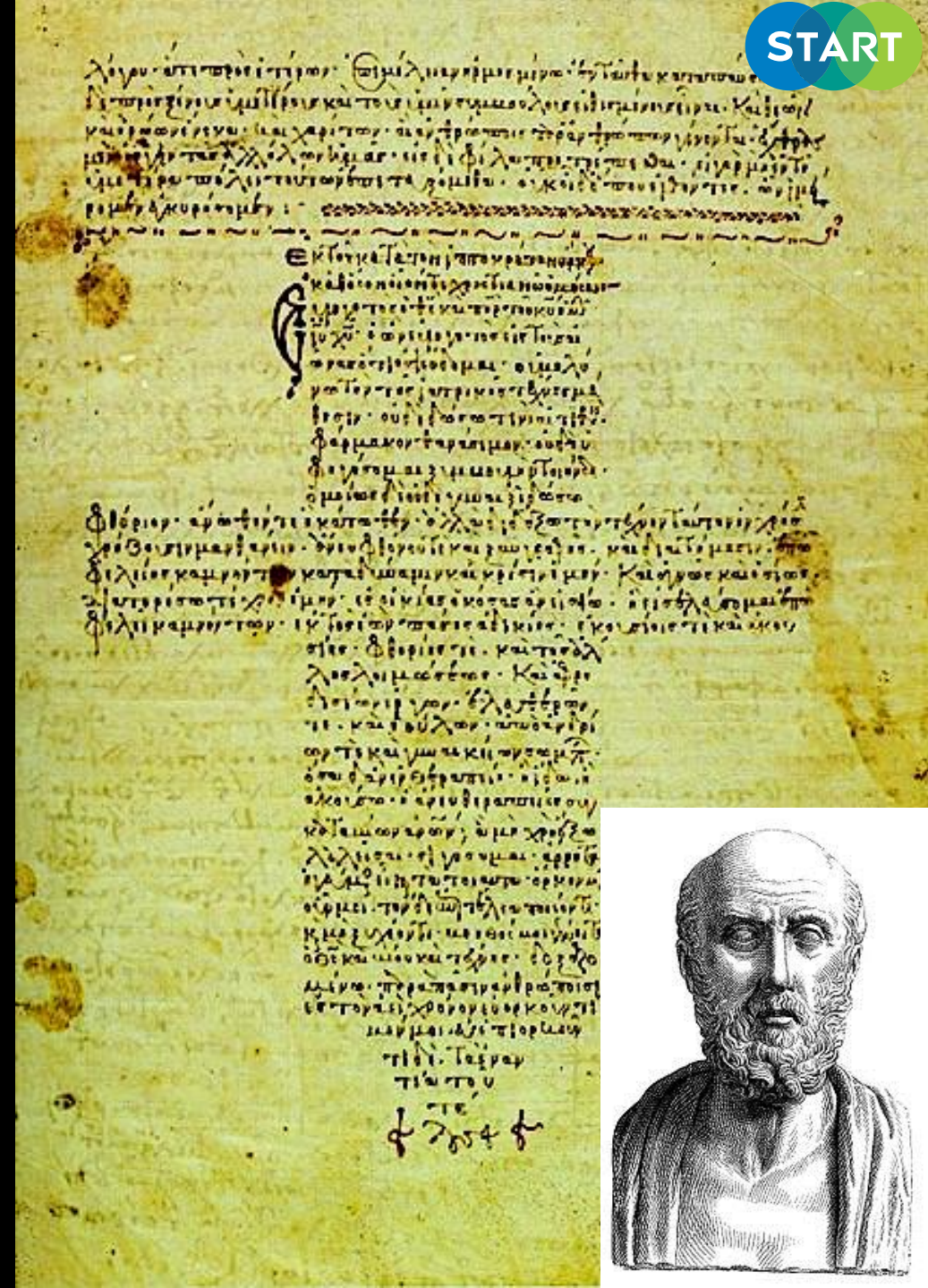


# Hippocratic Oath (IV Century Before JC)

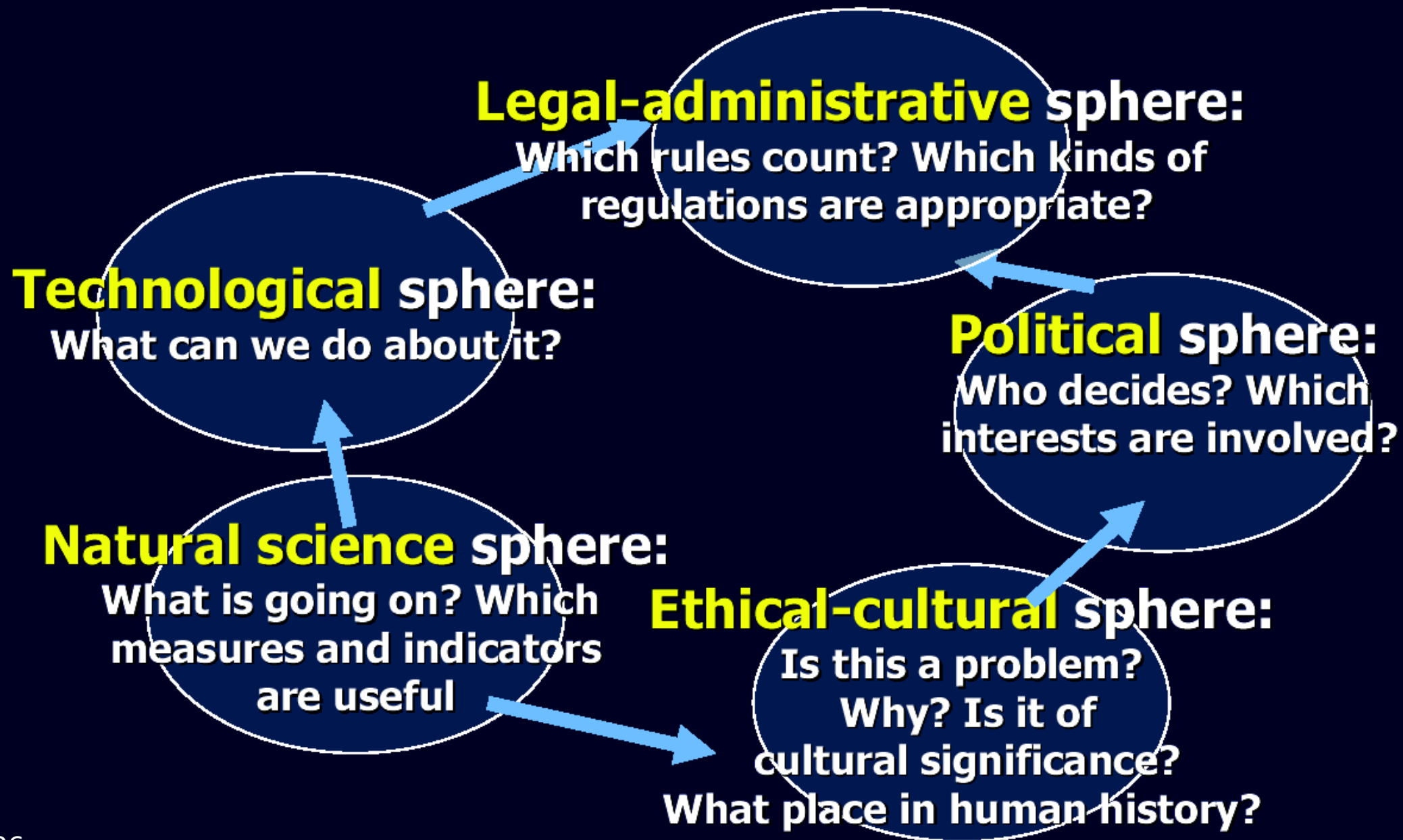
"I swear upon a number of healing gods that he will uphold a number of **professional ethical standards**.

I **swear** by Apollo, the healer, Asclepius, Hygieia, and Panaceae, and I take to witness all the gods, all the goddesses, to keep according to my ability and my judgment:

- **Never do harm** to anyone
- **Not give a lethal drug** to anyone if I am asked,
- **will preserve the purity of my life and my arts"**



# Where data ties with ethics



Science is not  
only created  
using data

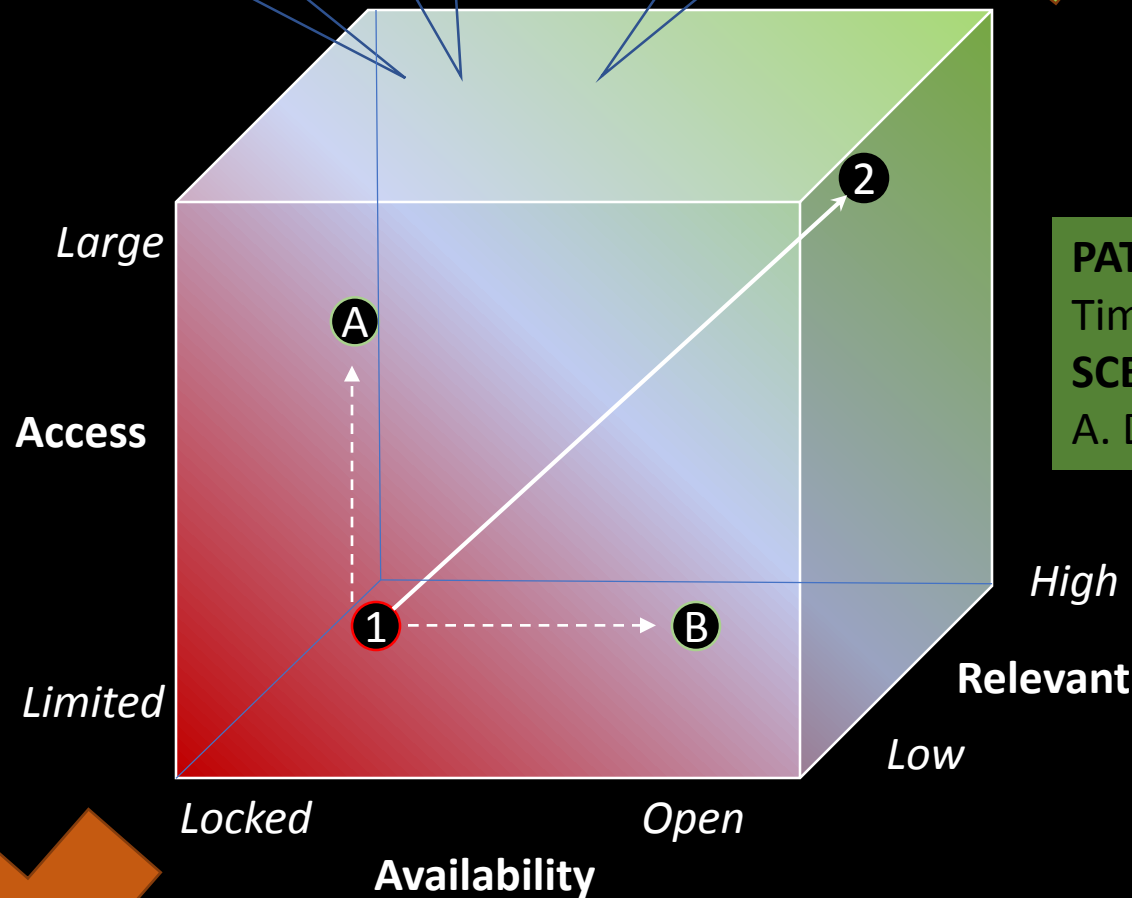
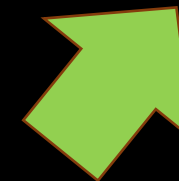
External  
considerations

Budget

Storage

Operable

Ideal data  
framework



Poor data  
framework



What are the Ethical Dimensions in Each of the Axis





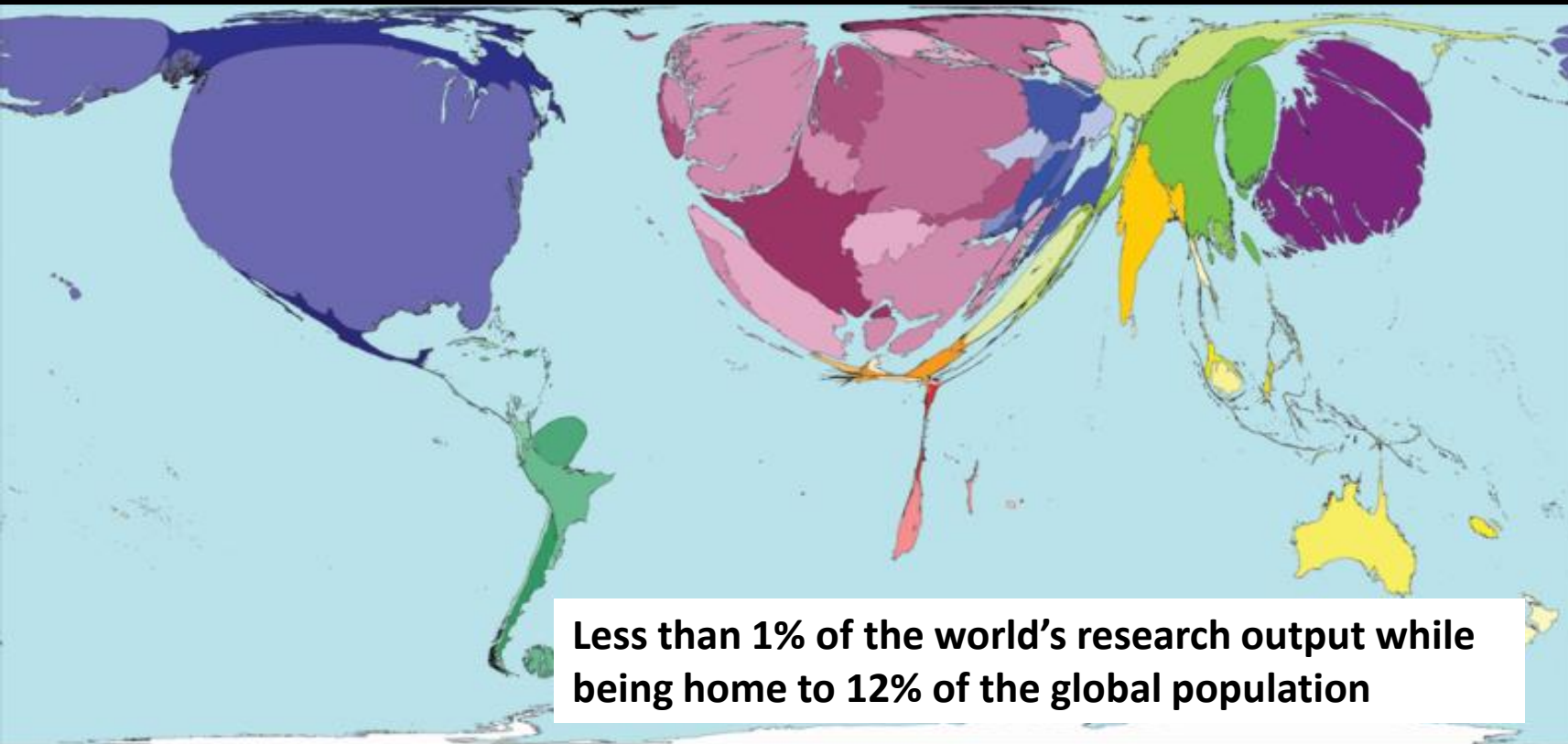
**A Big Continent  
with a Lot of Resources**

**But Who is telling us  
the region's stories?**



# Normative science vs domestic knowledge

- Addressing common problems through **transdisciplinary** research
- **Europe and USA dominates** the Science in Africa!



Main foreign partners,  
2008–2014 (# papers)

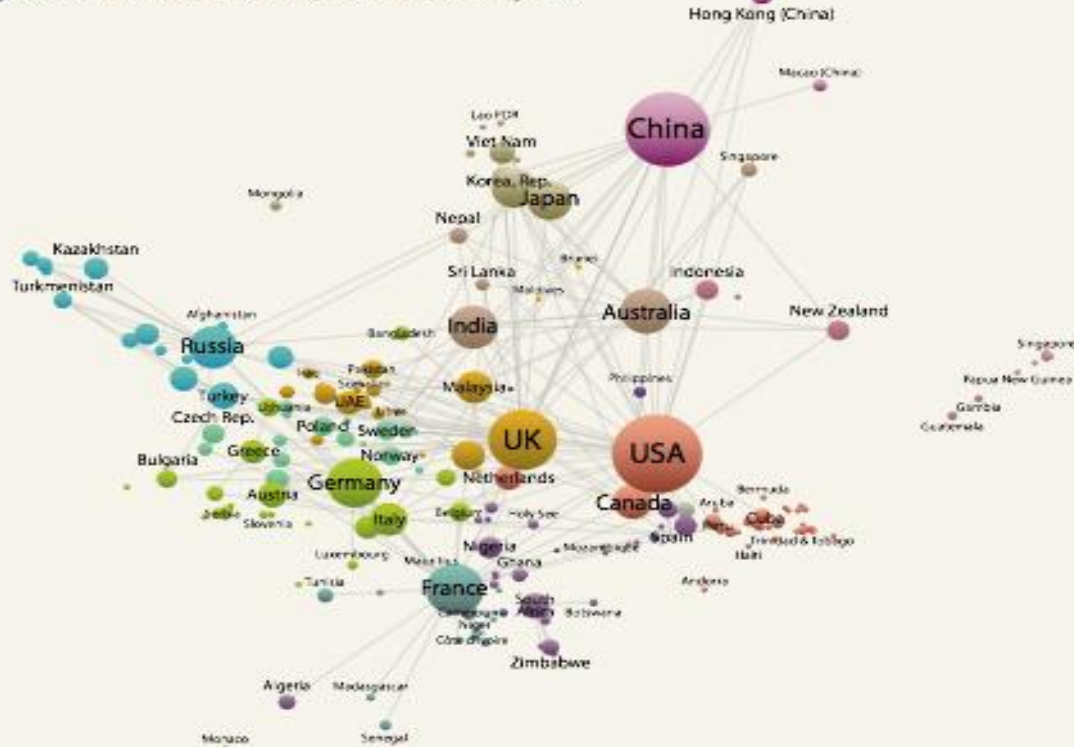
	1st collaborator
Benin	France (529)
Burkina Faso	France (676)
Cabo Verde	Portugal (42)
Côte d'Ivoire	France (610)
Gambia	UK (473)
Ghana	USA (830)
Guinea	France (71)
Guinea-Bissau	Denmark (112)
Liberia	USA (36)
Mali	USA (358)
Niger	France (238)
Nigeria	USA (1309)
Senegal	France (1009)
Sierra Leone	USA (87)
Togo	France (146)



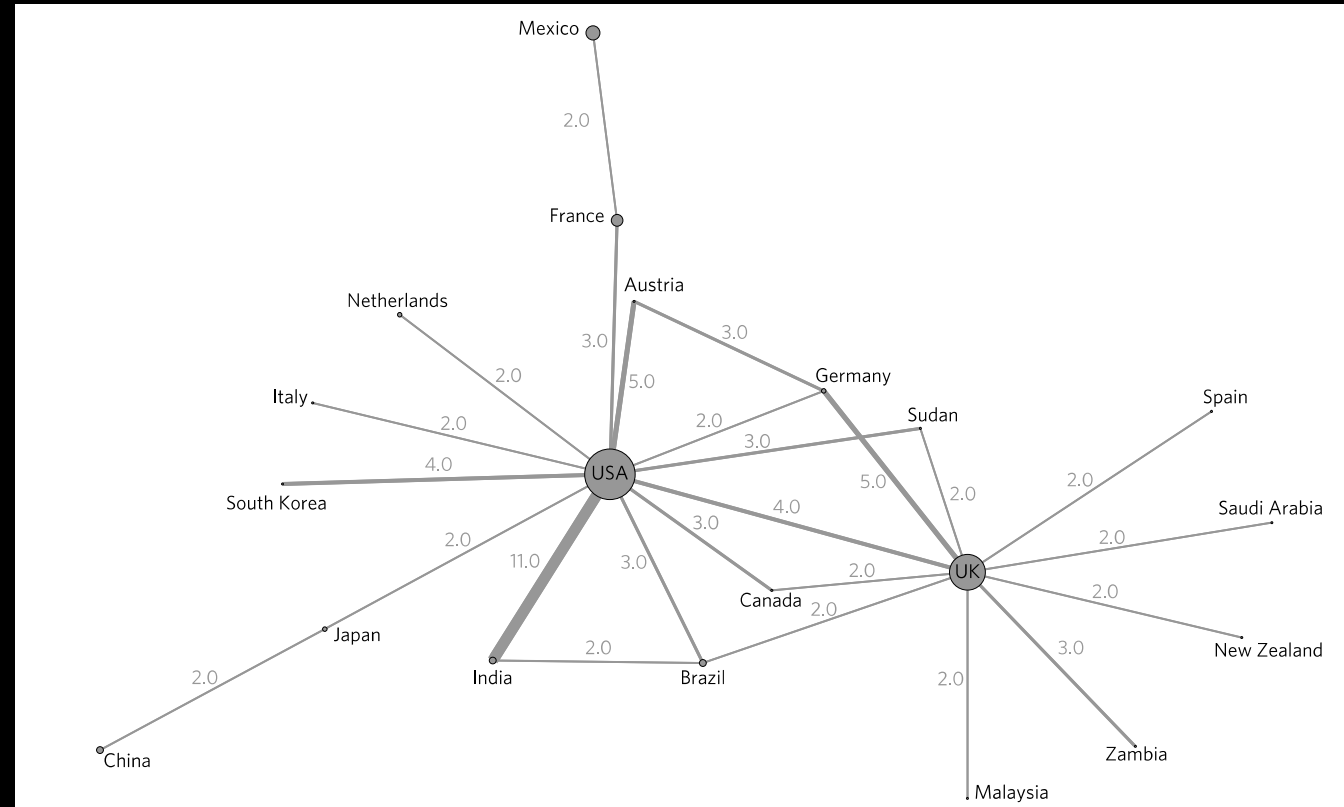
# The value of affiliation

- A global Family or a global competition?
- Developing **soft power** through data
- **Asymmetrical power relationship** largely related to funding disparities (Command control vs Engage-align)

Figure 2.13: Main clusters of international student mobility, 2012



Source: Data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics, October 2014; map created using VOSviewer



*Abstracts supposedly originating from leading US and German universities scored higher than identical ones attributed to top universities in Ethiopia and Malawi ([M. Harris et al. Health Aff. 36, 1997–2004; 2017](#))*

# Context specific data and power relationships

- **Data & knowledge means power**, and thus that the struggle to have data is an inherently political one.
- **Engaging users to identify what data they need** to act (Legitimacy and salience/relevance)
- **Mobilizing various epistemic groups-not just scientists- to produce that knowledge**, in ways that...
  - Integrate knowledge of practitioners, outside experts
  - Assure access by all to the fruits of such knowledge mobilization





# Data fatigue

Are we producing data we use  
Who takes credit of the data collected in Africa

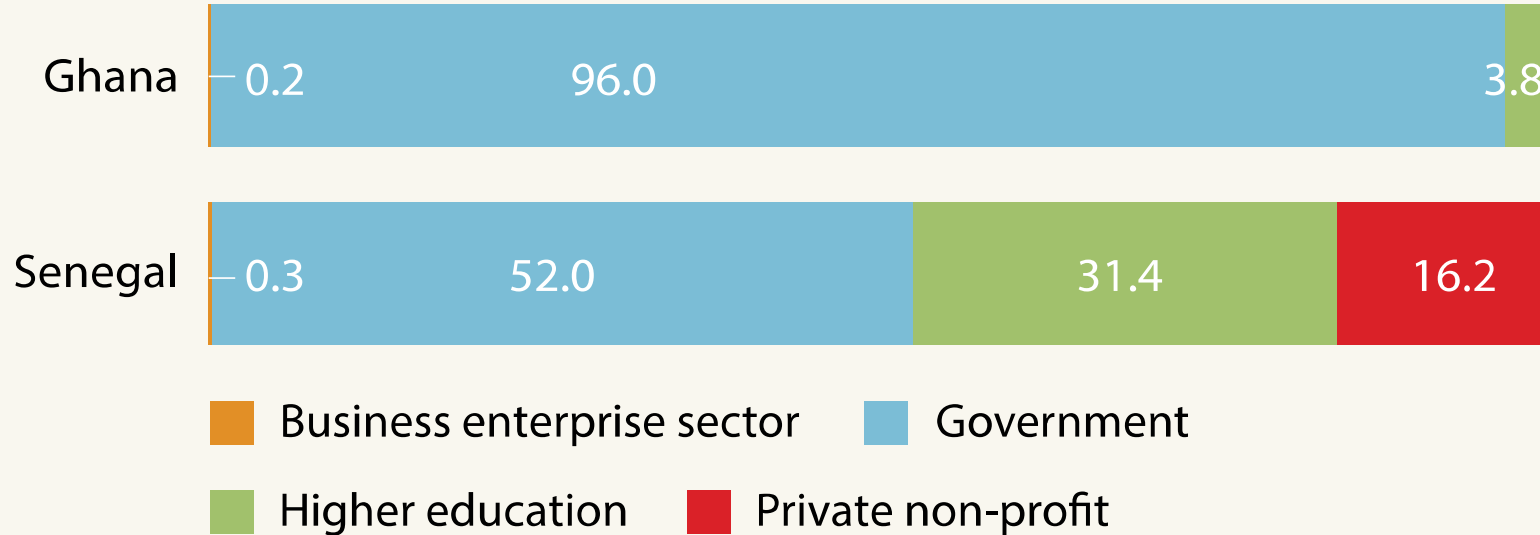
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# Opportunities Prioritization

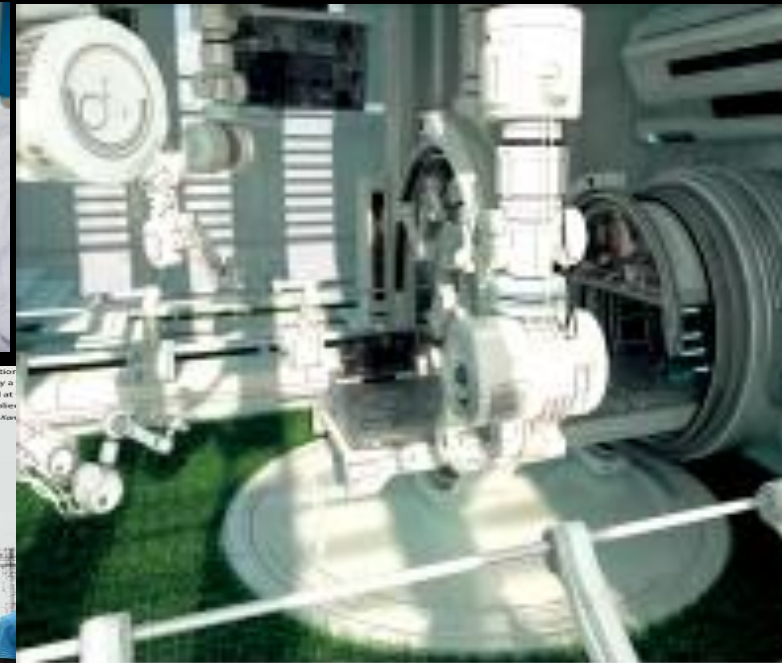
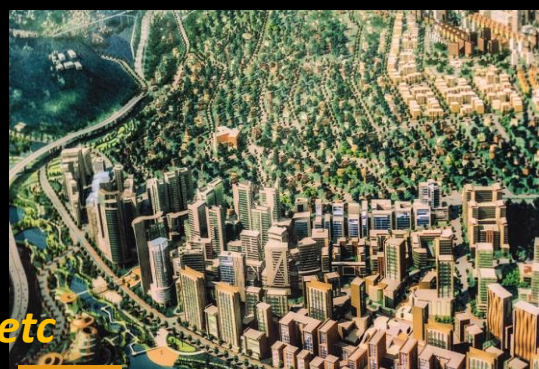
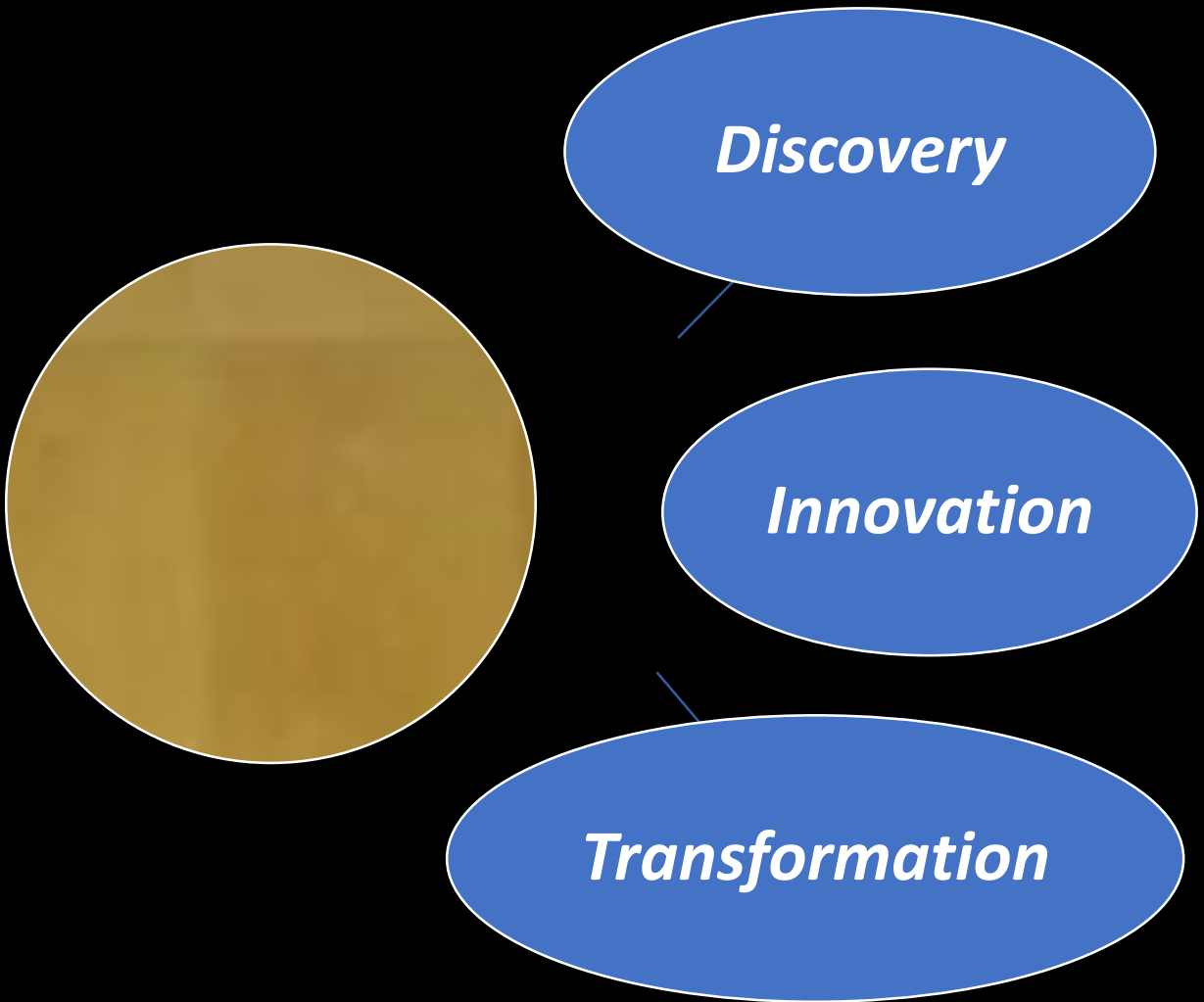
- Double equation
  - Where the money comes from?
  - Where the money is invested?



*Note:* Complete data for each sector are unavailable for other West African countries.

*Source:* UNESCO Institute for Statistics, January 2015

Economic Stakes entails Legal implications  
Managing the tension between:  
confidentiality and transparency

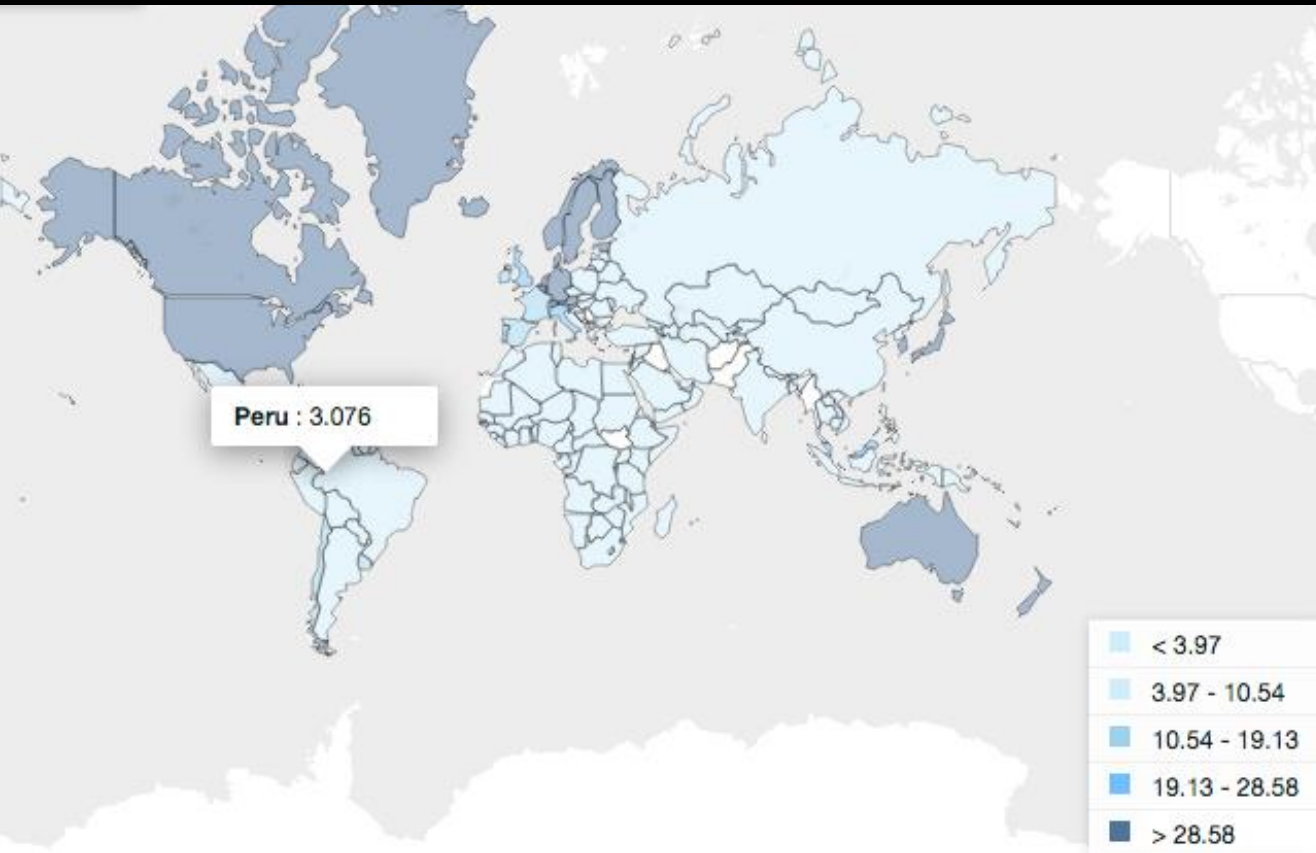
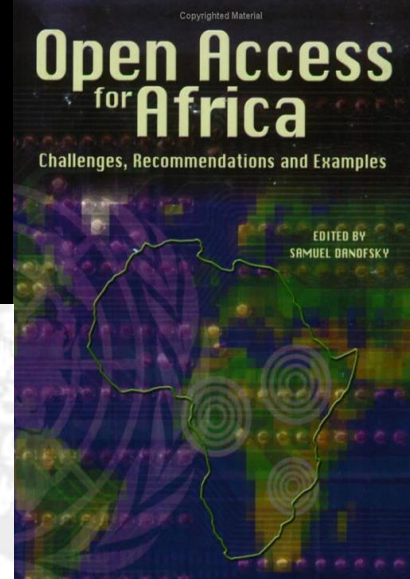


Patents, Property rights, protectionism, private competitions, etc



# 35% of African population has access to internet

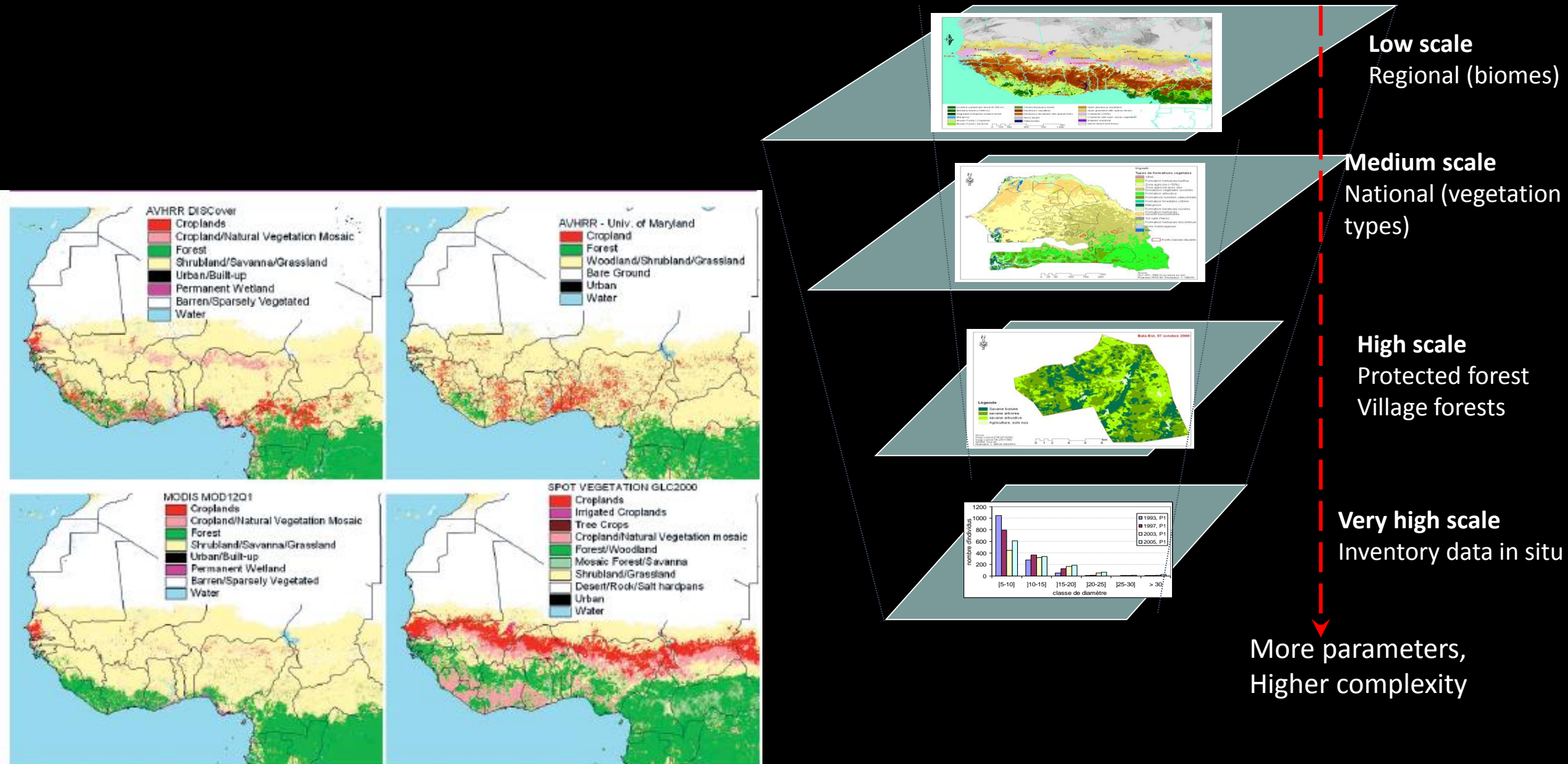
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# Diversity of products and scales

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# Data Governance: Scaling up information

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Knowledge transfer platform



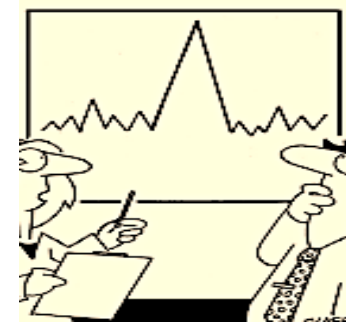
Research Centers



Curation of data



Audit/Screening of Demand driven data



**Data Governance**



Data by sector vs integrated data



All Actors / Partners  
Lessons learnt



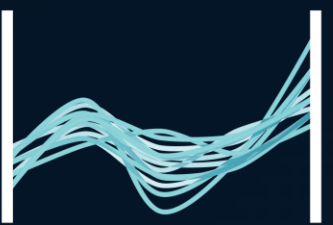
Data Package



Application, scaling up, partners



**Ethics should be managed along the data value chain**



# PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE & PREPAREDNESS

PREP — both through the Partnership and its PREPdata platform — helps visualize and customize data, improves access to datasets, and supports the climate resilience ecosystem.

## Building Resilience Through Data

<https://www.prepdata.org/>

### PREP Membership Today

#### Coordination & Core Partners



#### Public Sector Partners



#### NGO Partners



#### Private Sector Partners





# Ninad Bondre

## Independent Scholar working on Science Communication in Sweden

- *At times, the role of the local researchers is reduced to that of a tourist guide: they help negotiate and open up the physical and cultural terrain rather than conceive of projects or contribute equally.*
- *These local researchers, too, accept this role, perhaps because the resources/facilities at their disposal don't always allow them to rectify the imbalances of privilege. For them, thus, the choice is between being the last author on a paper versus not being an author at all.*
- *There are many good recommendations, hopefully some of them will be implemented with unrelenting diligence!*