



Co-funded by
the European Union



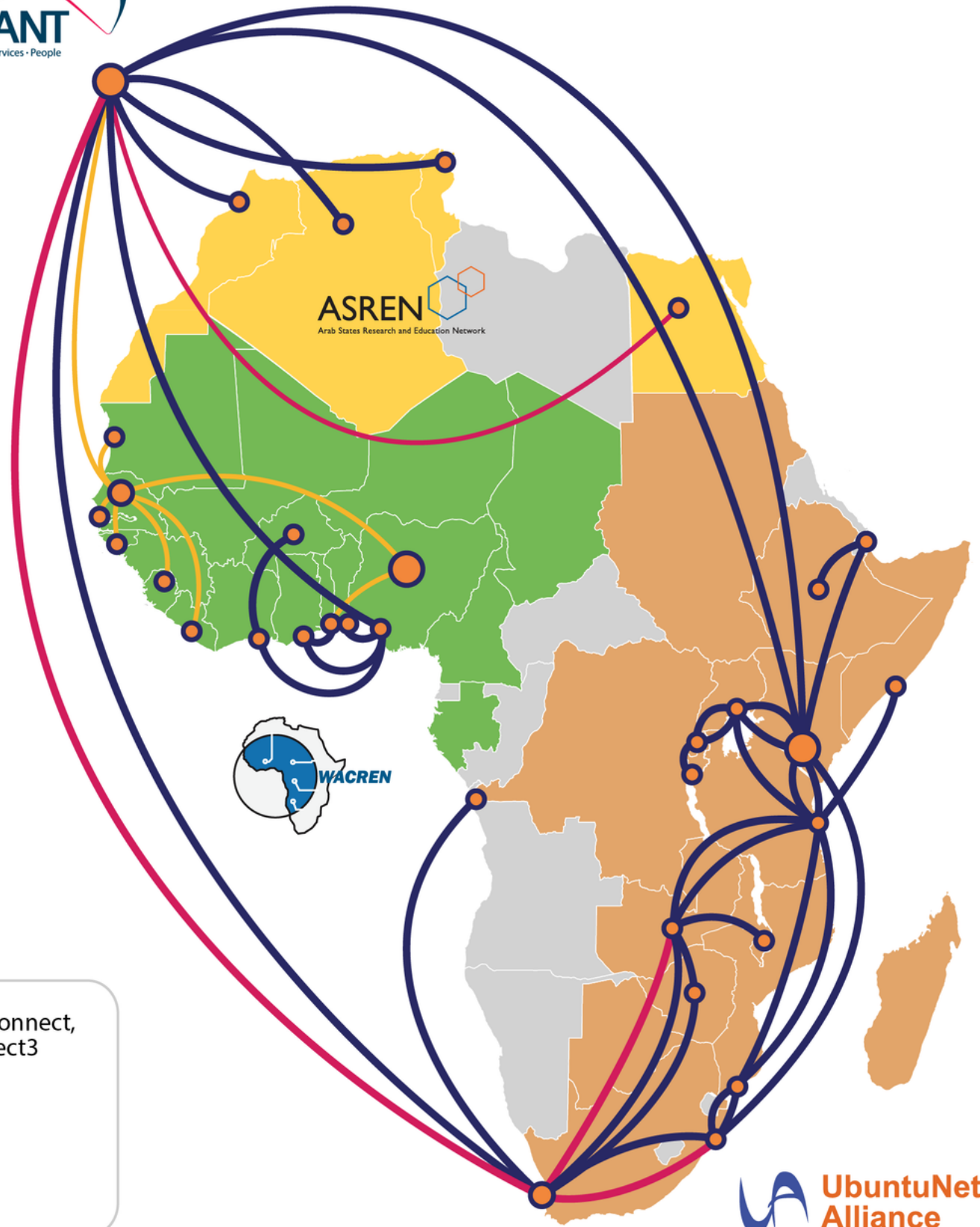
AfricaConnect3

Project Brochure



Connecting Africa to Unlimited Possibilities

2019 - 2024



- Network built under AfricaConnect, AfricaConnect2, AfricaConnect3 & EUMEDCONNECT
- Planned links
- Non-AC funded links

February 2024

About AfricaConnect3



What is AfricaConnect3?

AfricaConnect3 is the 3rd iteration of the AfricaConnect project. A pan-African project which started in 2011 with the aim of enhancing high-speed internet connectivity and e-infrastructure across the continent to support research and education.



Project partners

Co-funded by the **European Union**.

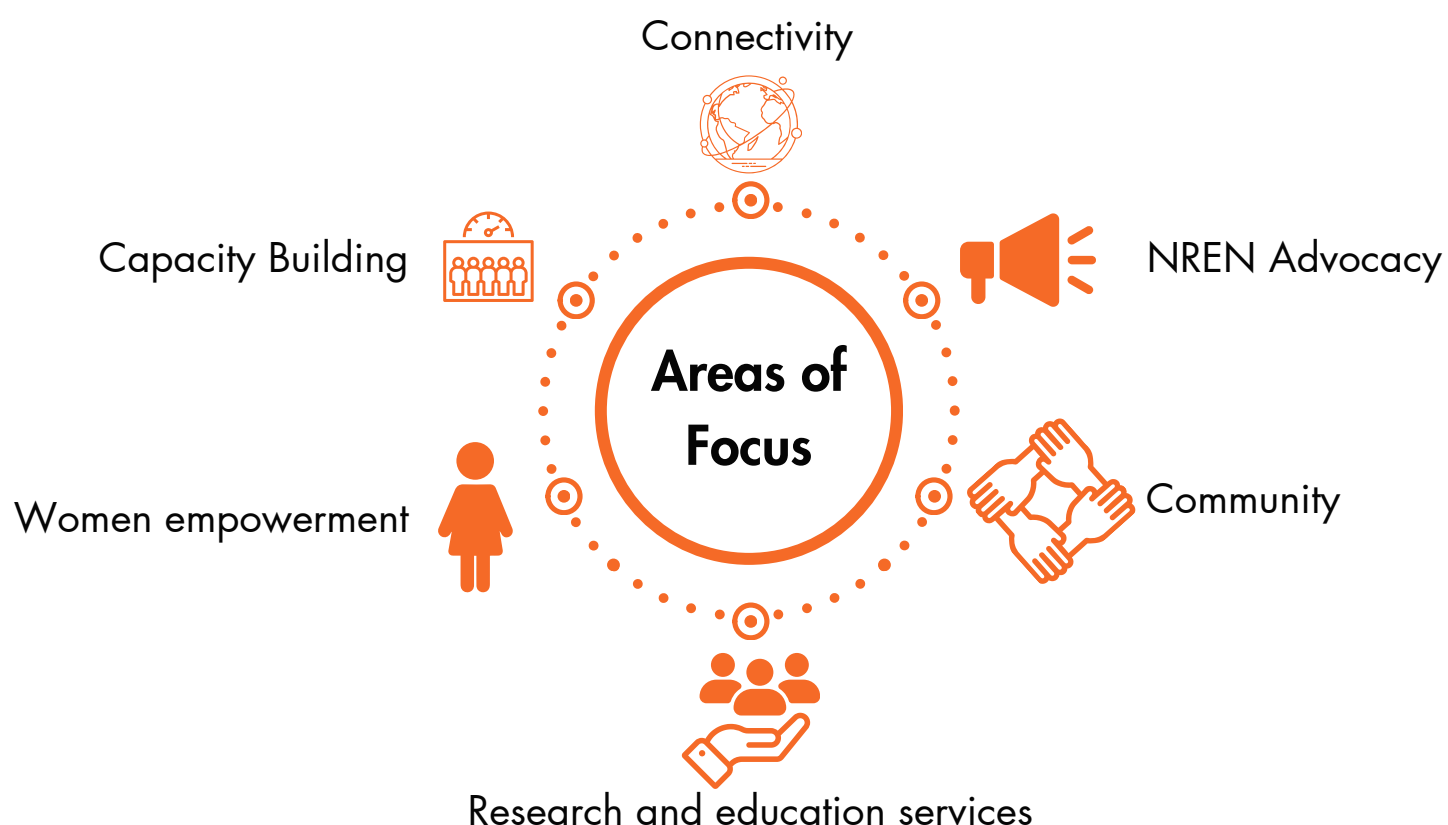
Implemented by:

- **UbuntuNet Alliance**: ubuntunet.net
- **WACREN**: wacren.net
- **ASREN**: asrenorg.net
- **GÉANT**: geant.org



Project Objectives

- Increase access to affordable and adequate e-infrastructure
- Development of dedicated R&E services and applications
- Build adequate human resource capacity and expertise
- Raise digital transformation in research and education



AFRICA CONNECT3 BENEFICIARIES

38
NRENs

+1900
Institutions

+5
Million
Students + Staff

NRENs

A National Research and Education Network (NREN) is a specialized, high-capacity network infrastructure dedicated to supporting collaboration, research, and education within a specific country. 24 out of 38 NRENs in Africa have been connected.

Research and education institutions

These are beneficiaries, gaining improved high-speed internet connectivity and advanced e-infrastructure to enhance research, education, and collaboration across the African continent. These also include colleges, universities, research institutions, Technical and vocational education and training colleges, secondary and primary schools, libraries, hospitals, government departments etc.

Students and Staff

Enjoy increased access to high-speed internet and advanced e-infrastructure, which enhances learning, research, and collaboration opportunities within institutions of higher learning across Africa.

Internet Connectivity

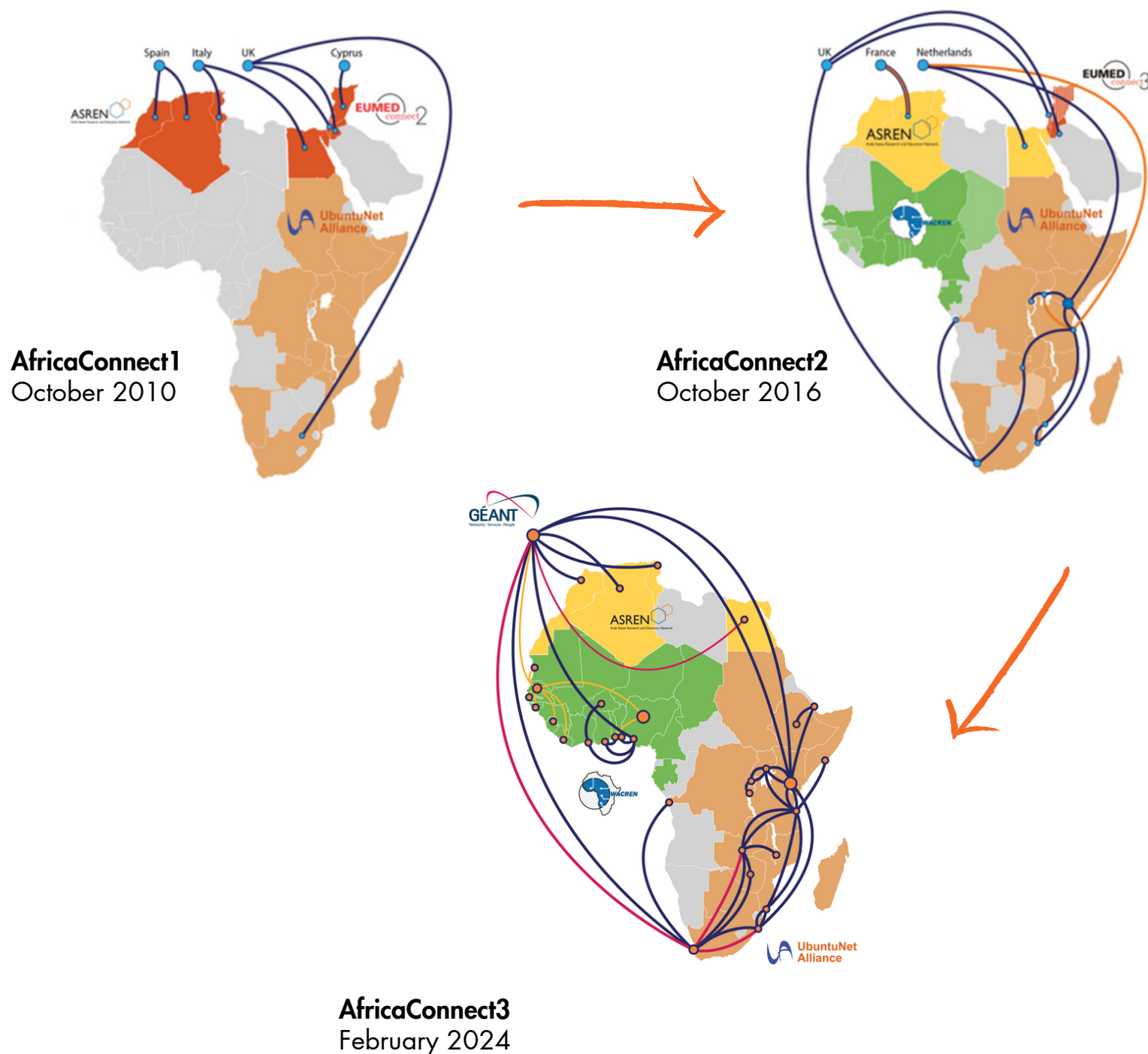


i Through the AfricaConnect project, 38 African NRENs have been connected to the RREN internet backbone which offers internet connectivity which is:

Affordable

High-Speed

Resilient



Value Added Services

Through the AfricaConnect3 project, African NRENs and RRENs are supported to provide the following services:



Global Wi-Fi consortium that enables students and staff seamless and secure internet connectivity across participating institutions worldwide.

7.5

Billion worldwide authentications to date

eduroam.org



A catchall identification system for seamless and secure authentication across educational and research institutions in Africa.

eduid.africa



A global inter-federation service, enabling integrated and secure access to a wide range of research and education services, fostering international collaboration.

edugain.org



Bringing together RRENs and academic library communities to strengthen open access and open science in Africa with a bottom-up approach.

- ✓ Regional and national collaborations and capacity building on Open Science
- ✓ Fostering the development of infrastructure for open science
- ✓ Community building to advance research data management ecosystem



Policy



Capacity Building



Infrastructure

libsense.ren.africa

Capacity Building



The NREN capacity building initiative in AfricaConnect3 continues to enhance the skills of staff working in NRENs. This program focuses on providing targeted training to improve technical expertise and management skills, fostering a more capable workforce for advancing research and education networks across the continent.

Exchange programmes

Library services

Network connectivity

NREN best practices

Cybersecurity

Cloud

Governance

and more

Community Events



- i** AfricaConnect3 promotes community by fostering collaboration, shared resources, and mutual support within the research and education community in Africa.

Annual Conferences

All RRENs conduct annual conferences that bring together their member NRENs and community of universities as a platform for knowledge sharing and exchange of good practice.

Under a central theme, such conferences bring together hundreds of practitioners in research and education to discuss and map a way forward.

NREN Exchange Programme

Facilitate collaborative knowledge-sharing and expertise development among National Research and Education Networks, fostering a stronger, interconnected community across regions.

Emerging NREN Programme

A unique initiative aimed to integrate NREN staff members into the TNC community, fostering synergies and connections between European and international NRENs.

Women Empowerment

The women empowerment initiatives under the AfricaConnect3 project are strategically focused on reducing gender inequalities in STEM. By providing mentorship, training, and networking opportunities, AfricaConnect3 aims to enhance the participation and leadership of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and thriving research and education community across the African continent.

Women in STEM
Campaigns

Women
Hackathon



African RENS & UN SDGs



The SDGs have become a benchmark to measure the success and relevance of an organization or a project. Naturally, SDGs have attracted wide interest from policy and decision makers. A common misconception is that only governments are expected to drive them. Within the science, education, and innovation ecosystem, NRENs and RRENs play a crucial role in helping to meet these Global Goals by contributing towards them directly and indirectly.

Current Achievements



Policy Paper

A policy paper that NRENs can use to advocate for their activities and showcase their impact.



Workshops and Presentations

To build awareness of the impact that African NRENs are making on the UN SDGs, several workshops and presentations have been made in international forums. Including UbuntuNet-Connect 2022 and TNC23.

Learn more about the initiative



africaconnect3.net/sdgs-info-centre/



africconnect.net



asrenorg.net



wacren.net



ubuntunet.net



geant.org



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