IST-Africa Initiative

Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa

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Living Labs in Africa Report

- White Paper "*Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa*" Provides overview of
  - (a) the basic concepts behind Living Labs;
  - (b) the different forms and focus that Living Labs can take;
  - (c) diversity of Living Labs related activities that already exist in Africa;
  - (d) the potential socio-economic, socio-cultural and quality of life benefits and opportunities presented by applying Living Labs Methodologies adapted to an African context; and
  - (e) potential impact of supporting replication across Africa
- Public consultation undertaken between September – December 2010
- Validation Workshops with LLiSA Members in Southern Africa
- IST-Africa Living Lab Workshops in Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zambia and Swaziland

www.ist-africa.org/home/files/Supporting_the_Evolution_of_Sustainable_Living_Labs_and_Living_Labs_Networks_in_Africa.pdf

Living Labs in an African Context

- Based on an integrated Developed and Developing Country perspective, Herselman and Cunningham [2011] propose this definition:
- "*Living Labs are environments, a methodology or an approach which caters for user-driven open innovation within real-life rural and urban settings/communities,*
- *where users can collaborate with multiple committed stakeholders (whether NGOs, SMMEs, industrial, academic/research, government institutions or donors) in one or more locations, to become co-creators or co-designers of innovative ideas, processes or products within multidisciplinary environments.*
- *Successful deployments can result in improved processes or service delivery, new business models, products or services, and can be replicated (with necessary socio-cultural adaption) to improve overall quality of life and wider socio-economic impact (including entrepreneurship) in participating and other communities*".

Living Labs concepts today

- **Prominent Clusters**
  - Creativity, co-create, creation
  - Innovation
  - Research
  - Collaborate/cooperation
  - Problem solving
  - Experiment
  - Management
  - Sustain
  - Community
- **Other**
  - Technology, people/users/empower, eco-system, connections/network
- **Unique**
  - Hacathon, Interactive, evaluation, mobility, re-use

African Living Labs Profiled

Source: Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa, IST-Africa & LLiSA, 2011

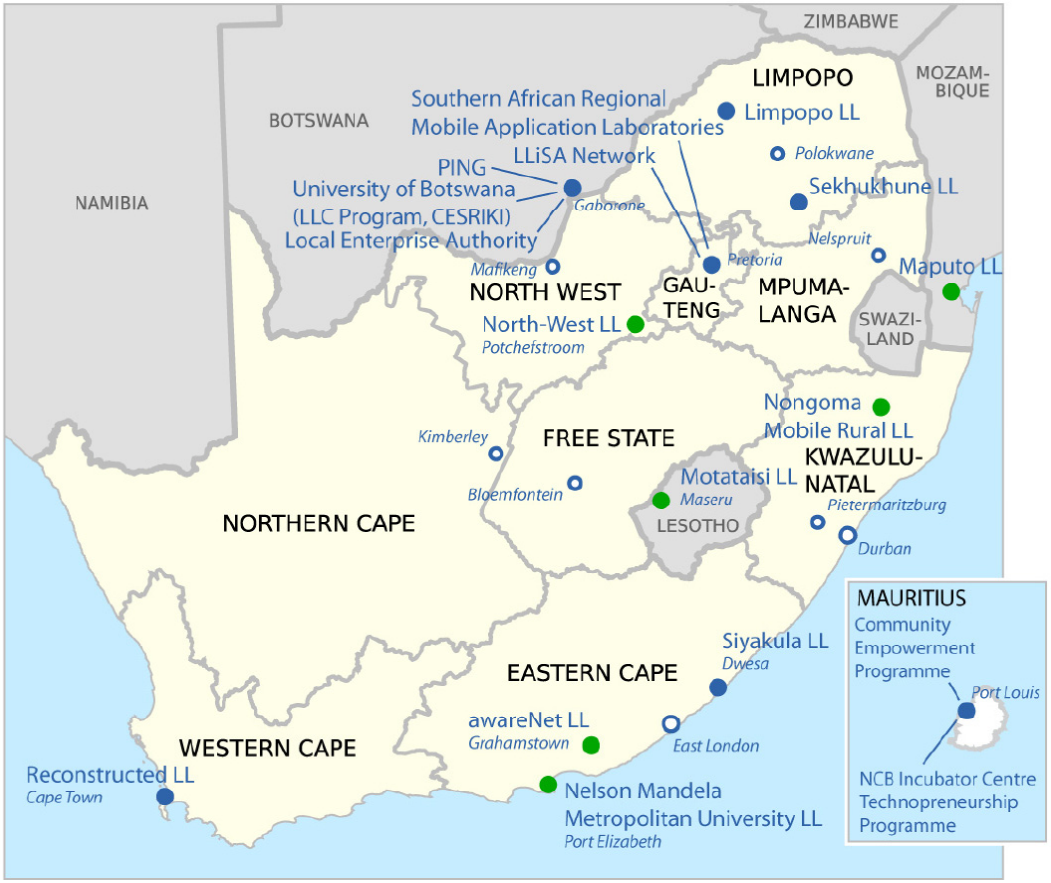

Diagram 13 – Living Labs in Southern Africa

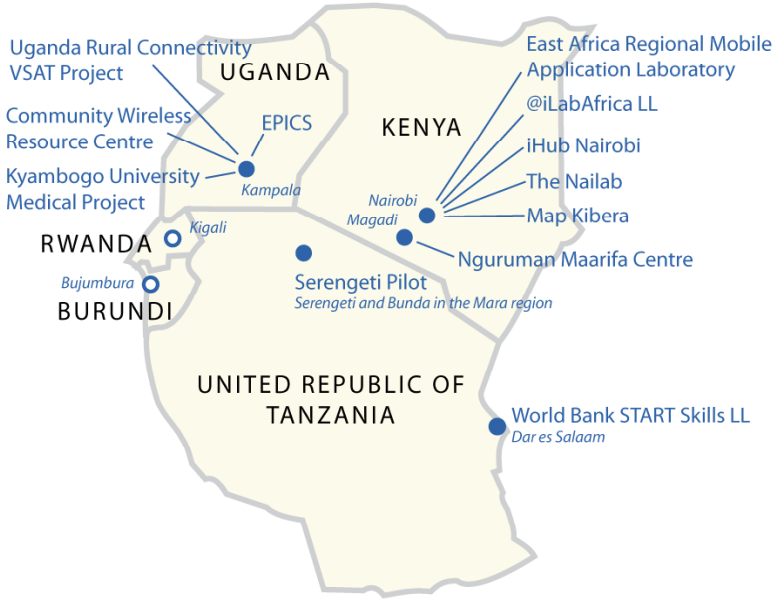

Diagram 14 – Living Labs in East Africa

Overview of African Living Labs

Status	Southern Africa	East Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Operational	**South Africa** - Siyakula Living Lab, Reconstructed Living Lab, Limpopo Living Lab **Zambia** - MachaWorks	East Africa Regional Mobile Application Laboratory **Tanzania** - Serengeti Pilot **Kenya** - @iLabAfrica Living Lab; iHub Nairobi; Nailab; Map Kibera	**Senegal** - African Living Lab ISEG/UNIDAF	
Project-based	**South Africa** - Sekhukhune Rural Living Lab (C@R)/RUSTICA project; Overture Living Lab - closed; PatHS (Patient Health System) Living Lab - closed **Lesotho** - Motataisi Living Lab	**Uganda** - EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service-Learning), Rural Connectivity VSAT Project	**Ghana** – African Cashew Initiative Living Lab	
Emerging	Southern African Regional Mobile Application Laboratory **South Africa** - North-West Living Lab; awareNet Living Lab; 3ilab (Mabopane, near Pretoria); NMMU Emmanuel HAVEN LL; **Mozambique** - Maputo LL **Mauritius** - Community Empowerment Programme; Technopreneurship Programme **Botswana** –PING; Learning and Living Community Programme, University of Botswana; Local Enterprise Authority; CesrIKI	**Tanzania** – Iringa Living Lab **Burundi** – Hope Africa University (Computer Research Living Lab, Medical Living Lab) **Uganda** – Community Wireless Resource Centre		**Egypt** - Egyptian-Dutch Agricultural Living Lab; Egyptian School Education Living Labs; Egyptian Retail Trade Development **Tunisia** - Start-Up Systeme
Proposed	**South Africa** - Nongoma Mobile Rural Living Lab; Immanuel Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Living Lab; Kujali Living Lab	**Burundi** - Skills Development for Telecoms Engineers Living Lab; Telemedicine Living Lab; Agricultural Living Lab **Tanzania** – Morogoro Living Lab; Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology LL; **Uganda** - Sustainable Donation of Medical Devices to Developing Countries		

Source: Supporting the Evolution of Sustainable Living Labs and Living Labs Networks in Africa, IST-Africa & LLiSA, 2011

Key Success Factors Identified to Date 1

- Need to identify Win – Win, mutually beneficial opportunities (New Market Opportunities for Europe Vs. Foreign Direct Investment and Opportunity to Co-Create new products, services and business models designed for African needs)
- Success factors from developed countries are subject to adaptation within Africa
- Focus of Living Labs need to be aligned with national and regional policies (both to maximise impact and secure funding) as well as potential market opportunities
- Direct relationship between eSkills Development Programmes, Incubators and Living Labs as important mechanisms to support wider socio-economic impact

Key Success Factors Identified to Date 2

- Active, early engagement with community leaders, gatekeepers & key influencers is key to manage expectations and clearly explain responsibilities & potential benefits
- Benefits for participating stakeholders must be balanced with community impact (community development, skills transfer, and support for entrepreneurial activity)
- The “X-Factor” is a commitment to team building and a Train the Trainer philosophy (to create capacity within the team and within communities with which they engage)
- Developing a 3 year business plan and training plan ensures Living Labs promoters have defined an operational terms of reference & considered likely key risk factors

Previously Identified Objectives for Living Labs Networks 1

- Primary Goal - provide Members with advice, contacts, introductions, educational and research services and opportunities for knowledge sharing, community & skills development, and networking
- Secondary Goal - represent Member interests by engaging with key stakeholders (government, industry, research, civil society and donors) to raise awareness and identify opportunities for implementation, replication and funding
- Create a framework for trust and credibility with key stakeholders by establishing Codes of Practice, Codes of Ethics & minimum standards Members should observe
- Living Labs Networks must promote and instil a culture of collaboration and cooperation in Members and their communities - the heart of Living Labs concept

Previously Identified Objectives for Living Labs Networks 2

- Networks must support Members to offer low or no cost professional training and skills development to communities, increasing the overall value proposition to all
- Networks must actively engage with research organisations, government, industry and community groups, as valuable sources of expertise, market requirements, resources and income/funding
- Each Network must identify key provincial, national and regional actors that could directly benefit from Living Labs: industry players and supply chains to test and customise technologies and processes, services and products for emerging markets; and government agencies to pilot and evaluate new services for education, healthcare and public service delivery, which could attract funding

Previously Identified Key Success Factors for Living Labs Networks 1

- Establish a commonly owned vision for the goals and objectives of the Living Labs Network through active engagement and co-creation with all key stakeholders
- Consider co-locating Networks with incubators or thematically relevant government or research organisations with strong procurement, payment, auditing and reporting systems to lower costs and access complementary resources and skill sets
- Identify strong, focused leadership with clear vision and support & trust of Members, and strong board with complementary skills, expertise, contacts and credibility

Previously Identified Key Success Factors for Living Labs Networks 2

- Networks must actively support skills development of Members and communities with which they engage and support community engagement & development
- Networks must proactively address the needs of Members, their communities and all stakeholders who either fund or use services of Living Labs Networks or Members
- While virtual infrastructure is essential to maximise knowledge sharing and community building, regular face-to-face interactions facilitate developing trust relationships, overcoming cultural differences and identifying opportunities for collaboration that occur during the “empty spaces” of a meeting or event

Previously Identified Recommendations I

- Starting Point - Identify priority sectors and committed public & private stakeholders
  - Analyse national, regional (and donor) policies related to skills development and human resource development to align Network activities and access funding
- Support establishment of National and Regional Living Labs Networks (loosely coupled National Networks, or Hybrid Network with strong regional engagement)
- Build links between existing and emerging Living Labs and with complementary initiatives (e.g. InfoDev Incubator Network) for knowledge sharing and skills transfer
- Carry out a feasibility study for each proposed National or Hybrid Network and where results are positive, develop a three year business plan

Previously Identified Recommendations 2

- Establish a Hybrid Living Labs Network in other regions of Africa on a phased basis (starting with East Africa), leveraging the LLiSA experience to (a) lower implementation risks by sharing hands-on experience of how a successful Network is operated and managed in Africa, providing a model that can be adapted to national priorities; (b) promote Living Labs (and Incubators) principles of collaboration, community building and knowledge sharing on a cross border basis; (c) establish cross-border trust relationships to facilitate regional coordination; (d) cost effectively nurture and support Living Labs in neighbouring countries who may not have the necessary scale or resources to justify a National Network
- Consider co-locating/hosting Networks with relevant research/government institutions or incubators to access complementary expertise, lower operating costs and focus resources on strategy & service delivery
- Recommended that key stakeholders leverage the LLiSA Experience to facilitate regional knowledge transfer

Previously Identified Recommendations 3

- It is recommended that African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) consider requesting future allocation of EDF funds to establish or strengthen ICT/STI Desks within REC Secretariat(s) and implementation of related regional policies, including wider adoption of Living Labs methodologies and implementation of accredited eSkills training programmes and Living Labs Networks
- It is recommended that African Member States request future allocation of EDF, bi-lateral EU or international donor funds to support implementation of ICT and STI policies including wider adoption of Living Labs methodologies and implementation of accredited eSkills training programmes & National or Hybrid Networks
- Leverage the concept of Smart and Virtual Organisations to extend existing business models, facilitate collaboration between individual or loosely coupled Living Labs and Incubators, and support wider adoption of Living Labs methodologies by Incubators to create an accelerated Innovation Funnel process