



Optimizing Donors' Coordination in the funding of e-infrastructures projects in Africa

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Why iMENTORS?

- Explosive growth of ICT in Sub-Saharan Africa
- But: Prices remain high: despite increasing competition between operators, services, such as broadband Internet, are not widely available.

Improving the broadband infrastructure and delivering affordable advanced ICT services to all  next major challenge in the ICT sector in Africa

- 85% of ICT investments backed by the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Many donor funded initiatives:

- **EU:** Africa Connect (UbuntuNet Alliance, WACREN)
- **WB:** West & Central African Backbone, West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Program
- **IDRC:** UbuntuNet Alliance, WACREN

Why iMENTORS?

Lack of accurate knowledge on investments in e-infrastructures creates uncertainties that hamper the effectiveness of investments in the region:

- Double or ineffective investments
- Lack of synergetic potential
 - No Visibility
 - No Dialogue
 - No Sustainability

What is iMENTORS?

By October 2014:

- **Virtual observatory:** knowledge broker containing every e-infrastructure project & investment of the past 5 years
 - 80% of e-infrastructure projects/investment frameworks by the end of the project
 - 60-80% of stakeholder organisations
- **Social hub:** facilitating stakeholder interaction and knowledge sharing forming a community of practice for support to programme implementation
 - Improving collaboration
 - Identifying synergies
- **Decision-support system:** enabling users to produce queries ('what if'), and to evaluate e-infrastructure projects & proposals from multiple perspectives
 - Create synergies with high impact projects / consult and connect with similar initiatives

WHAT IS



iMENTORS: the most comprehensive data map
on ICT investments in Africa.

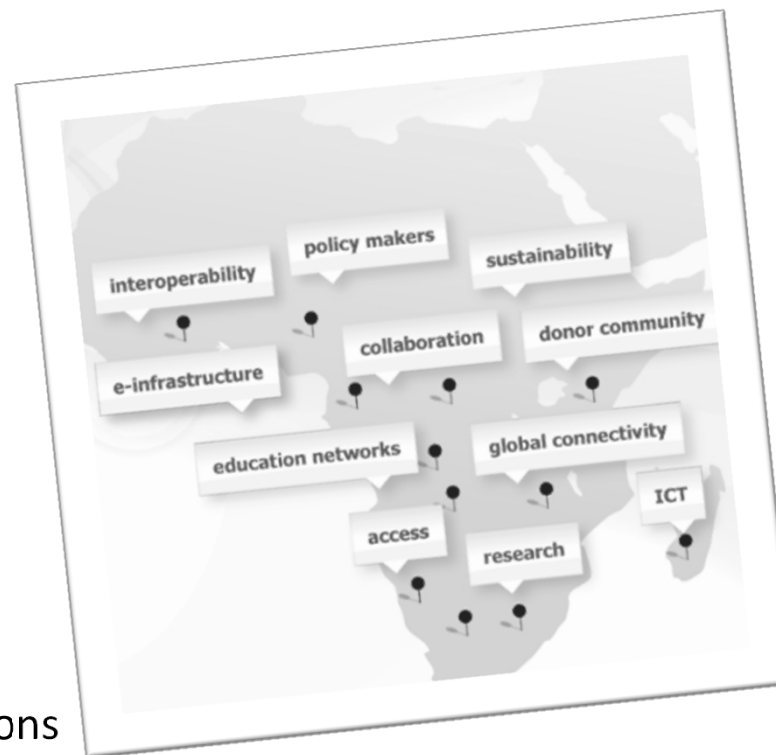
iMENTORS: Virtual observatory

- Providing data:
 - **Networking Infrastructure:** Private (ISPs) & Research Networks
 - **Research Infrastructures:** Grids for e-Science, Single-Sited RIs, Large and Medium Sized Scientific Instruments (SALT, SKA, etc.)
 - Connecting **Projects** (funding frameworks) to the physical infrastructure
 - Mapping **Stakeholder Organisations** (i.e. Meraka, DST SA, Tanzania Centre of Excellence in ICT, etc.)
 - Connecting **Users** together (VOs, User profiles, etc.) to the above
- Knowledge Broker:
 - Integrated with API to all major donor databases (Cordis, Idris+, WB, AfDB, etc.)



iMENTORS: Social hub

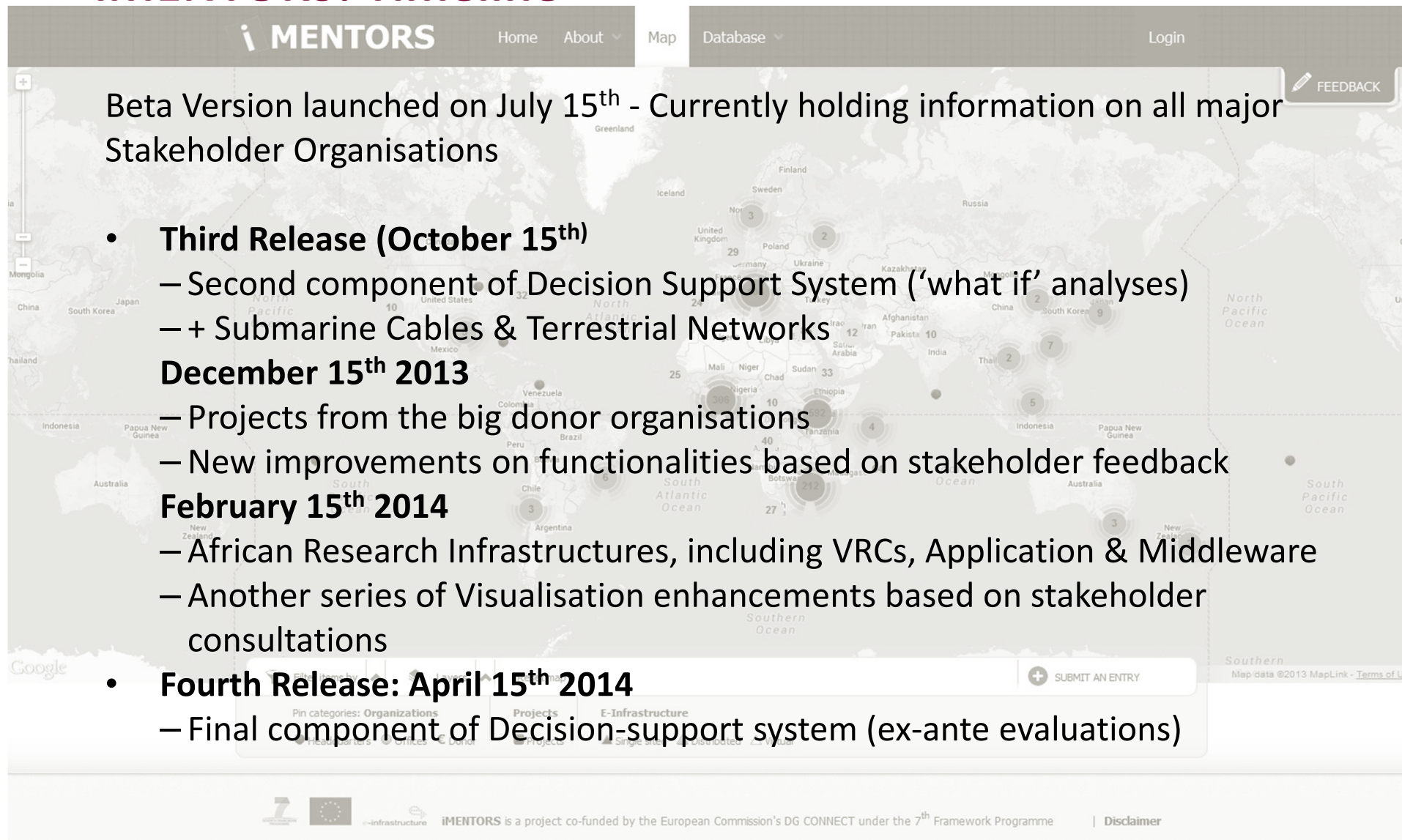
- Connecting stakeholders
 - Projects to Individuals, Organisations, Funding Frameworks, Software & Middleware, VRCs, Research Infrastructure...
 - Mapping projects & users to encourage discoverability
 - Connecting scientists to resources
- State of the art Web 2.0:
 - Single-sign in with LinkedIn profiles
 - Receive notifications for project you follow
 - Adding social feeds to projects, RIs, Organisations
 - Personal inbox with an index of users
- The objective is to stimulate crowdsourcing



iMENTORS: Providing Decision-Support

- Integrated Decision-Support System
 - Each project profile linked to a built-in evaluation module (tool box) Logical framework (RBM) methodology
 - Project managers and evaluators provide feedback on impact
 - Selecting the criteria that are relevant and the intensity to which the criteria impact
- Outcomes
 - The motive is not to rank projects per se
 - Gain visibility and enhance the sustainability of projects
 - Performance & impact data to perform project planning
 - Synergies: Consult & Connect with previously funded high-impact projects
 - Avoid duplication of funding and investments

iMENTORS: Timeline



The screenshot shows the iMENTORS website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with 'i MENTORS', 'Home', 'About', 'Map', 'Database', and 'Login'. A 'FEEDBACK' button is in the top right. The main content area features a world map with numbered pins (1-30) indicating project locations. Overlaid on the map is a timeline of releases:

- Beta Version launched on July 15th - Currently holding information on all major Stakeholder Organisations
- Third Release (October 15th)**
 - Second component of Decision Support System ('what if' analyses)
 - + Submarine Cables & Terrestrial Networks
- December 15th 2013**
 - Projects from the big donor organisations
 - New improvements on functionalities based on stakeholder feedback
- February 15th 2014**
 - African Research Infrastructures, including VRCs, Application & Middleware
 - Another series of Visualisation enhancements based on stakeholder consultations
- Fourth Release: April 15th 2014**
 - Final component of Decision-support system (ex-ante evaluations)

At the bottom of the map area, there are buttons for 'SUBMIT AN ENTRY' and 'Pin categories: Organizations, Projects, E-Infrastructure'. The footer contains logos for the European Union, e-infrastructure, and iMENTORS, along with text stating it is co-funded by the European Commission's DG CONNECT under the 7th Framework Programme.

iMENTORS Demonstration



How Can You Help

- Sign up to the platform
- Test it extensively, use the form to give us feedback
- Tell us what you want from it
- Share it, talk about it, make it sustainable
- Share as much data as you can
e-infrastructures, HPC centers, distributed resources, scientific
platforms, user communities, projects, etc.



TAKE ACTION

**We build the technology,
You provide the data.**

Thank you for your attention

Contact:

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