

UbuntuNet Alliance

www.ubuntunet.net

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Reflection

- “We know that we have it in ourselves as Africans, to change all this [*the challenges we face*]. We must assert our will to do so. We must say there is no obstacle big enough to stop us from bringing about an African renaissance.”

– *Nelson Mandela*



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The beginning..

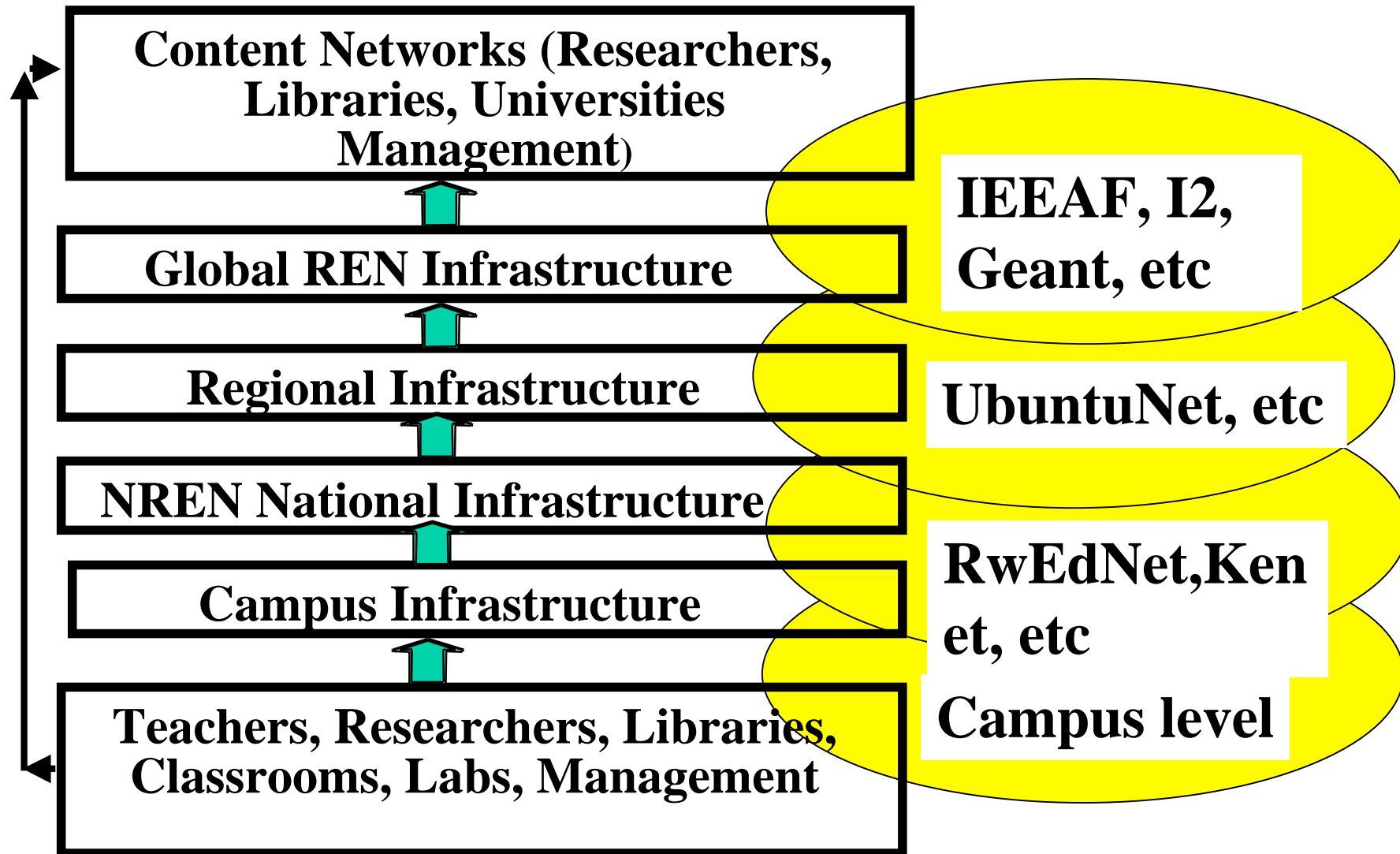
- **Mid 2005: Availability of terrestrial fibre and the potential east coast submarine cable EASSy catalysed the coming together of embryonic and developed NRENs in 5 countries to initiate the development of an African regional REN . At Internet2 2005 Fall Meeting in Philadelphia during an informal chat among African pioneers in the lobby, Duncan Martin of TENET mooted the name “UbuntuNet” for the regional REN. The name eclipsed all earlier attempts at baptism! The UbuntuNet Alliance was registered in March 2006.**



Our Vision and Role

- **We see an African continent holding its own as a member of the global REN community**
- **Our role: enabling connectivity of national and regional RENs, with sufficient and affordable connection to each other and the international research community via fibre .**
- **We work with the AAU REN Unit which provides continent-wide policy level stimulus, guidance and international governmental level negotiations and linkages**

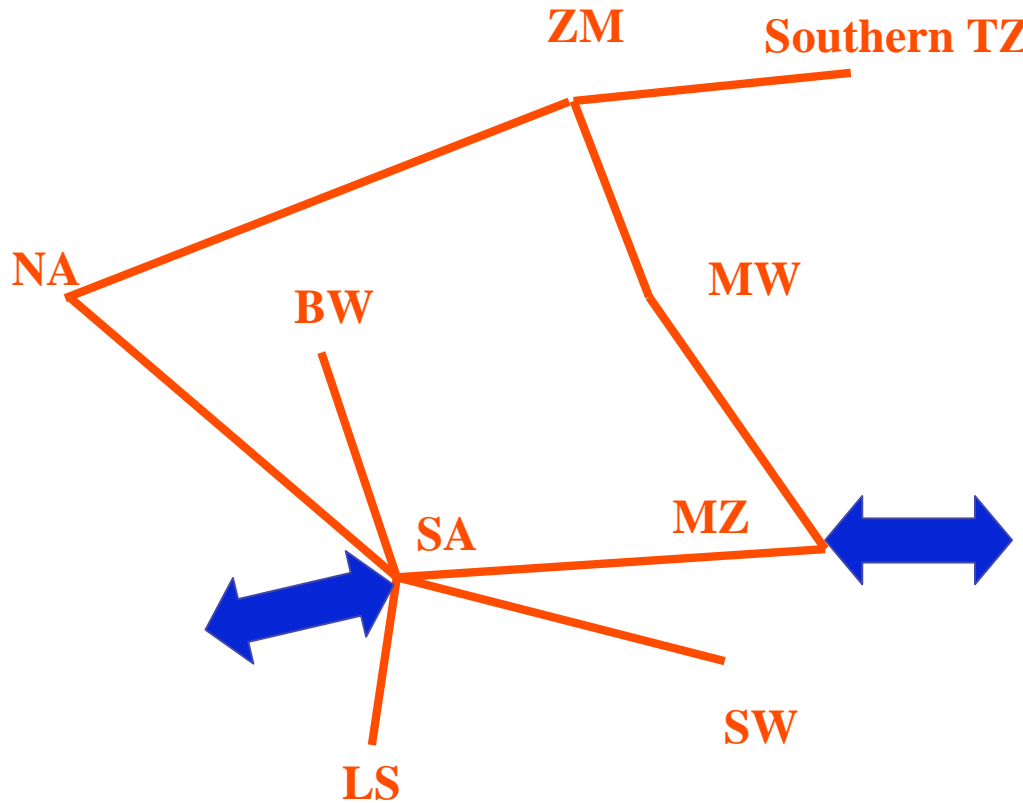
Layers and Roles: Many dimensions, many players



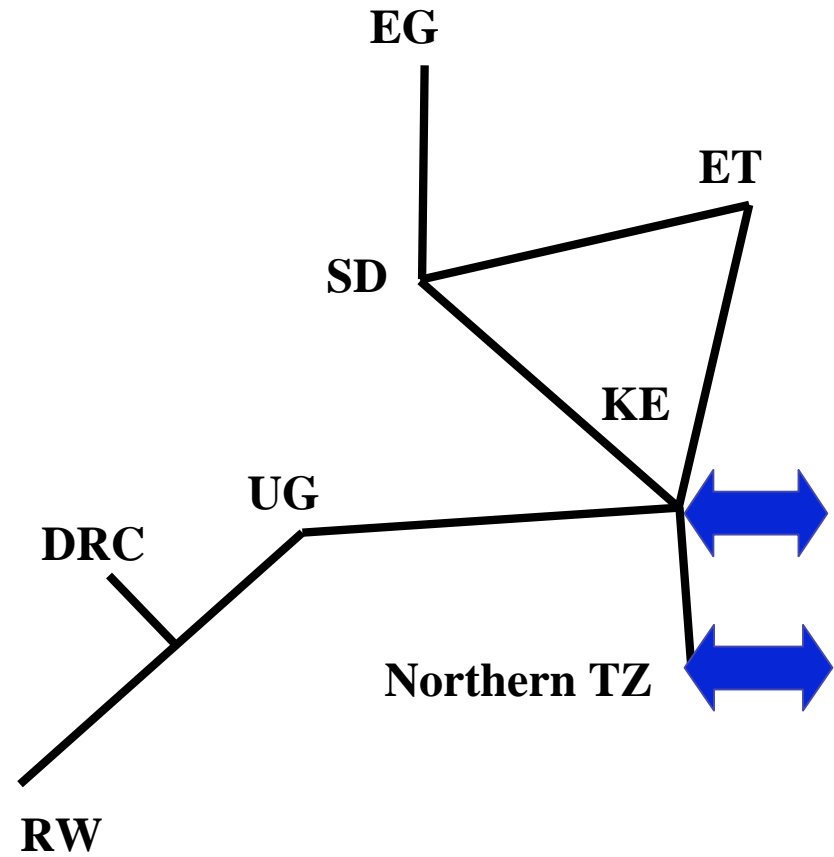
Cluster Based Approaches

- **Cluster based approach, but using common architecture/interface standards so that clusters will connect seamlessly**
- **Data centres and network operations centres in Nairobi and Cape Town (when clusters link, these will serve each other as back-up and disaster recovery).**
- **Enabling networking and access for institutions that use VSAT.**
- **Linking to other regional and international REN networks.**

South and East Clusters

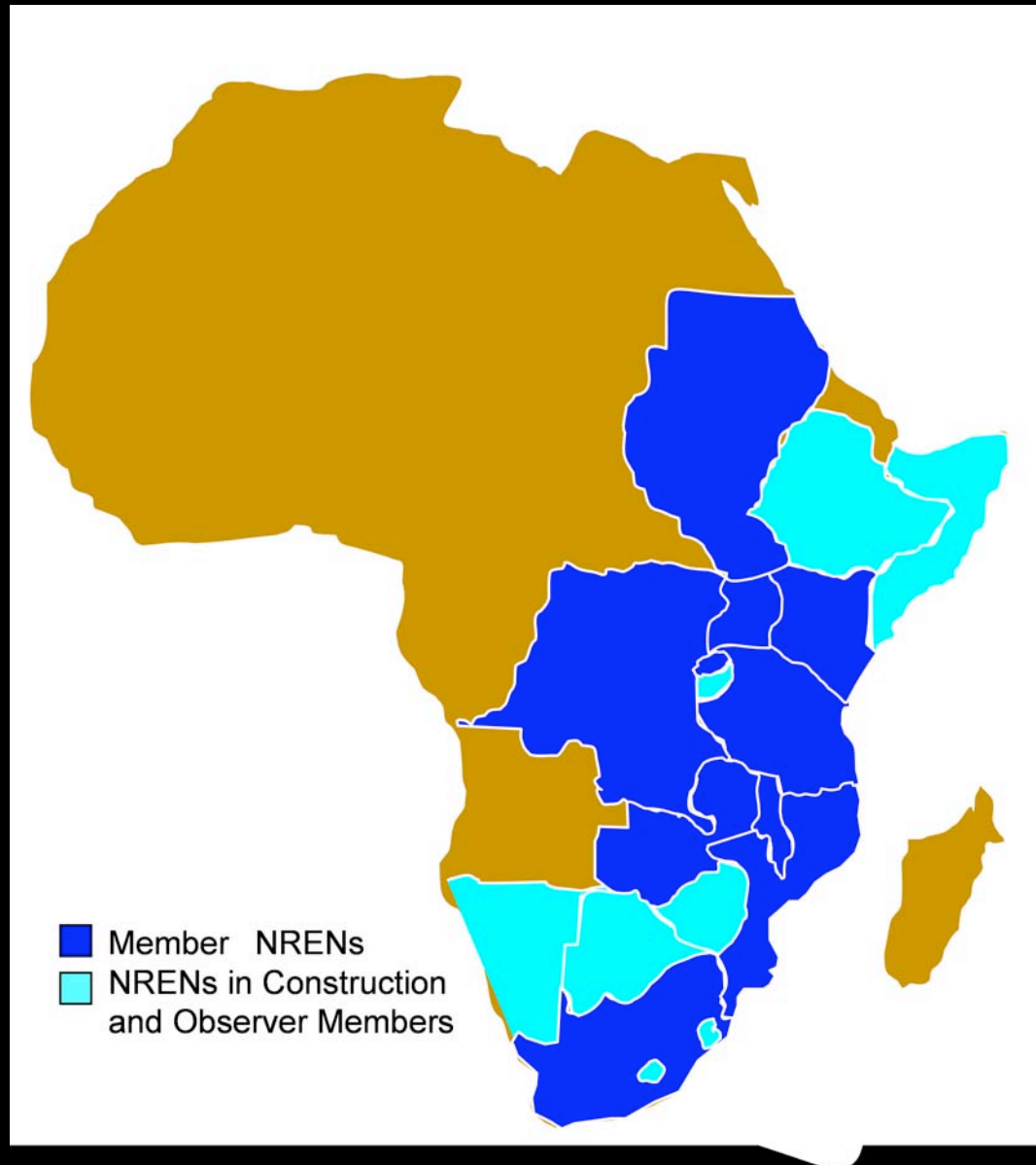


South Cluster



East Cluster

UbuntuNet: Current membership



Current Status (Ref: East and South Clusters)

Formal REN, advanced network and sufficient bandwidth: **NONE**



Formal REN and underlying infrastructure: **Malawi, Mozambique, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan, Namibia, Rwanda**



Formal REN but no underlying infrastructure: **Tanzania, Zambia, DRC, Uganda**



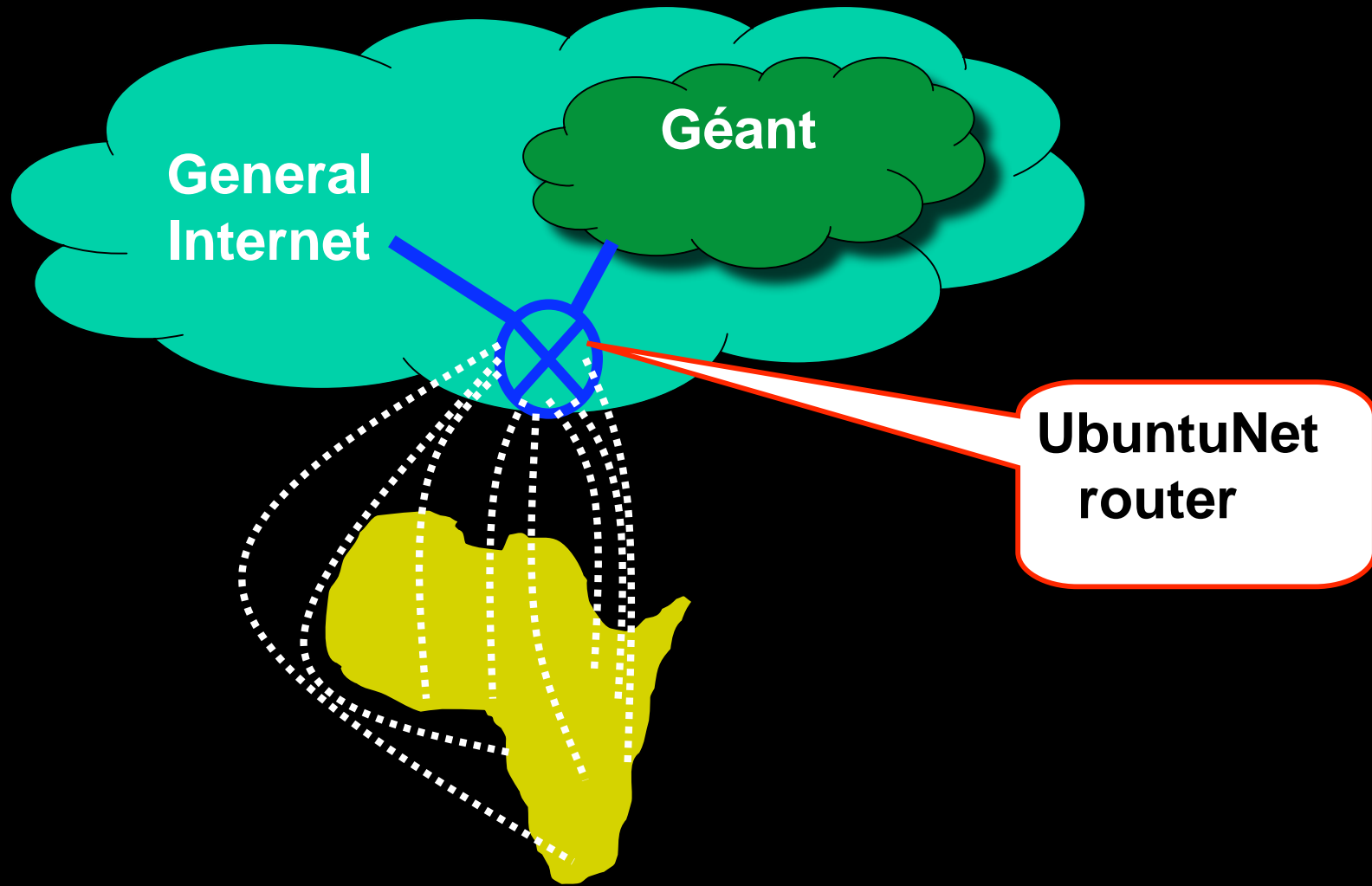
REN in formation: **Botswana, Burundi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Ethiopia, Somalia**



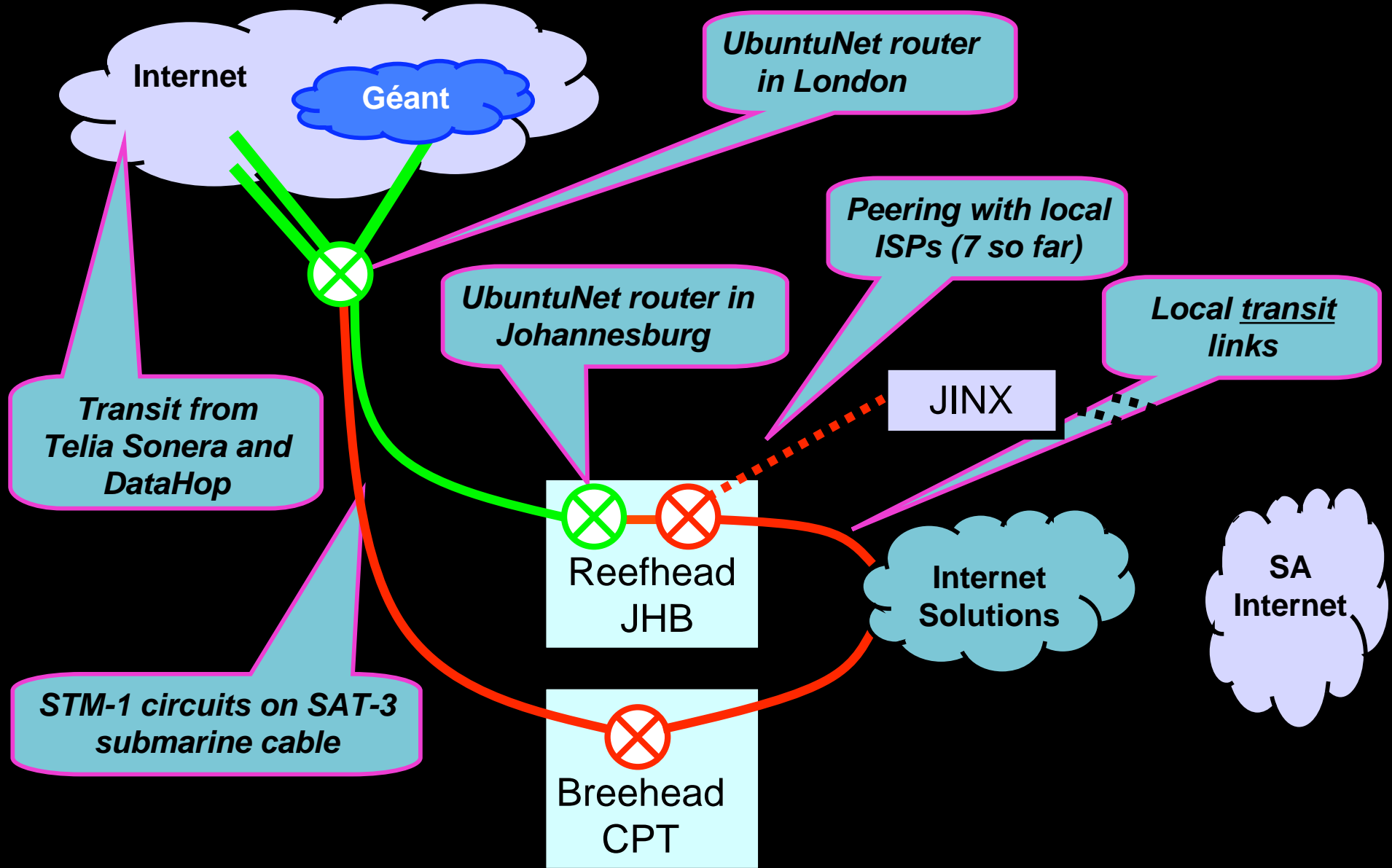
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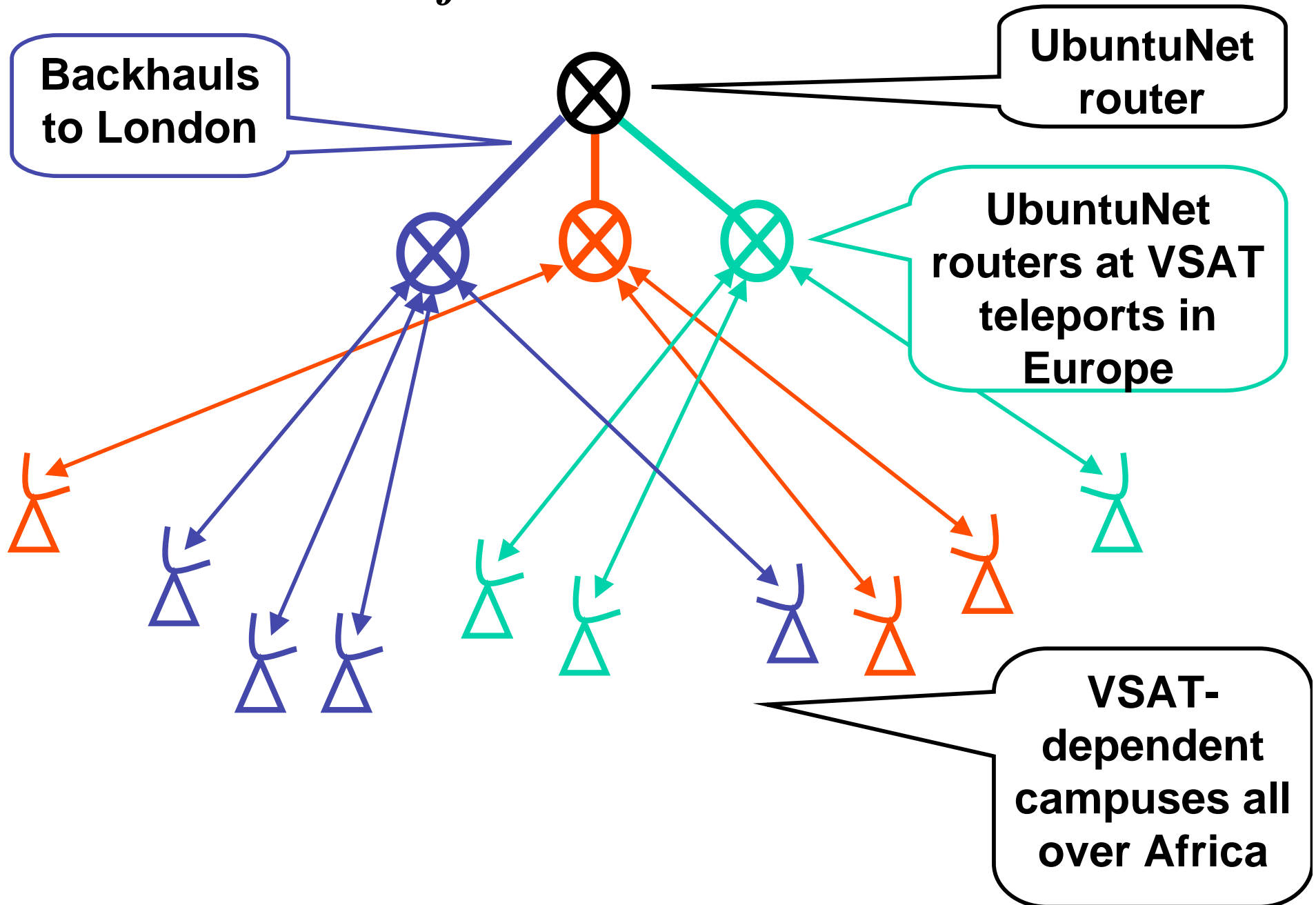
Connection to Géant and the world of research (1)



Connection to Géant and the world of research (2)



Plans for VSAT Virtual RENS



CORENA (1)

- CORENA – **C**onsolidating **R**esearch and **E**ducation **N**etworking in **A**frica.
- **The challenge:** African institutions' contribution to human development is very limited. They do not feature proportionately at the international intellectual property output level. We assert that a major cause is isolation from the knowledge age that is driven by easy and cheap access to the global information infrastructure .
- **Our Thesis:** *“Improved and affordable connectivity will enable African researchers to produce proportionate intellectual output and generate a proportionate amount of intellectual property goods”*

CORENA (2)

- **Major Activities:**

- *Creating a planning and strategy knowledge base through studies and research (CORENA Phase 1, supported by IDRC)*
- *Developing strategy and a master plan for cross-border connections and a regional overlay (country level transit for international traffic)*
- *Implementing the infrastructure as per master plan*
- *Supporting NREN activity at the infrastructure and content level*
- *Capacity building*
- *Building and strengthening partnerships, incl engagement for funding of the Master Plan*



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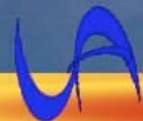
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Appreciation to our supporters to-date

- **IDRC and Connectivity Africa**
- **Partnership for Higher Education in Africa**
- **Sida**
- **Cisco**
- **KTH (Sweden)**
- **EU**
- **DANTE**
- **IEEAF**
- **Open Society Institute**
- **Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa**
- **TENET's FRENIA (Fostering Research and Education Networking in Africa) Program, funded by The Andrew W Mellon Foundation.**
- **USAID**
- **GEO**
- **University of Washington**



Thank you



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