

# Securing an African Geoscientific Network: Concluding Remarks

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# Objectives

- Briefly lay the framework to explore options for the future
- Identify opportunities beyond the mining box
- Discuss threats
- Elaborate on collaborators

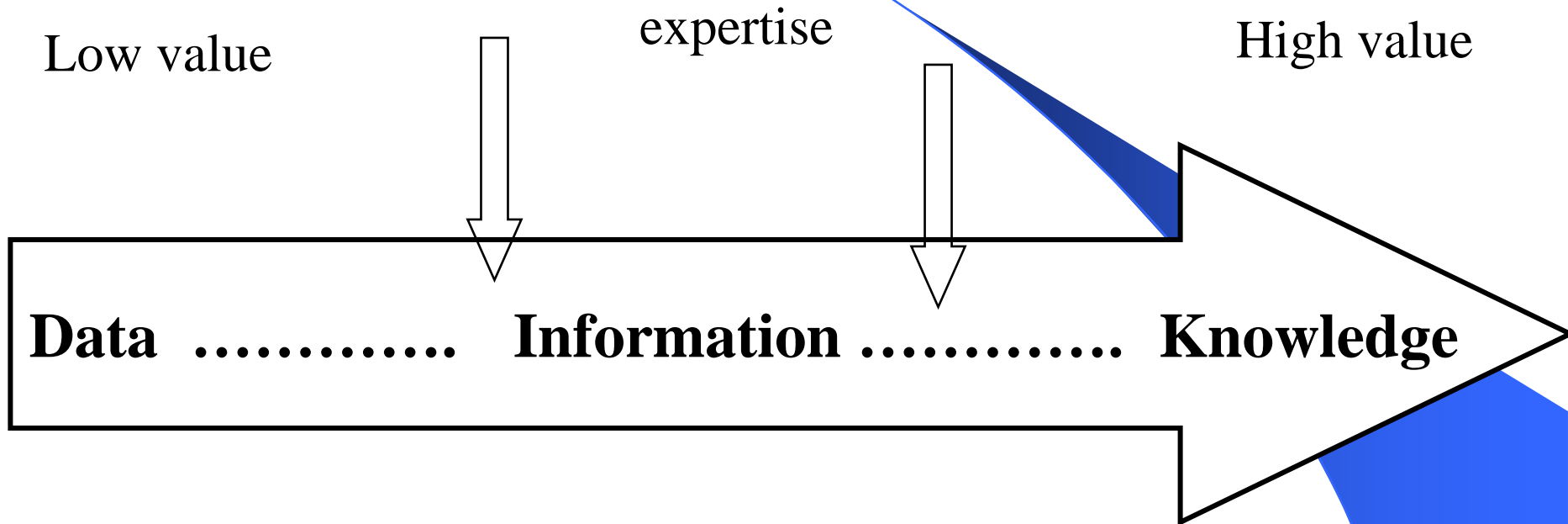
# Is there a niche?

- Supplying what is demanded: It is basic, yet it is often ignored
- Who are the clients?
- What are their needs?
- Can we address those needs?
- At what cost?
- Can we ensure reliability?
- Who are the competitors?
- Who are the collaborators?
- Where are the opportunities?

# Know your product

- Knowledge is the product
- Its value increases with its dissemination and usage
- It needs to be updated to remain valid
- It loses value if it is kept confidential or its access is restricted
- It realises its full potential if it is made universally and widely accessible at affordable cost
- Networks address transaction cost barriers and efficiency issues
- GisAfrique built a network across the cultural and language divide and anchored on a strong axis: BRGM/CIFEG, SEAMIC and UEMOA
- This network is an asset and needs to be maintained
- These institutions stood the test of time: Good for the future

# The data value chain



Example:

seismic data

Profile

3D model

Productive well

# Understand your roles

Traditionally GSOs were responsible for:

- Collect on a systematic and nation-wide basis geo-data through mapping
- Process, interpret and present data according to user requirements
- Maintain comprehensive baseline data banks of geo-scientific data
- Provide geo-science information services
- Mineral inventories (in some countries)

# Understand your roles (2)

Now, societal dimensions are gaining importance:

- WSSD entrenches the sustainable development discourse
- Social corporate responsibility: New jargon in corporate culture
- MMSD project reflects search for new social contract for mining
- EIR:Ditto
- GRI:New data requirements for reporting purposes (e.g. GIS based poverty/prosperity maps and other impact maps)
- GSOs can grab the opportunity and repackage its products
- Observatoire Minier: A good start, build from it

# The GRI

- Multi-stakeholder process to develop and disseminate globally applicable Sustainability Reporting Guidelines
- 2004 GRI for mining completed
- Social, environmental and economic indicators include:
  1. Revenue capture, management and distribution
  2. Value-added disaggregated to country level
  3. Employee benefits beyond those legally mandated
  4. Description of equal opportunity policies and programmes
  5. Compensation payments to local communities

# Use a bigger picture to expand the client base

- Governments and private sector were traditional clients
- But, given societal dimensions, client base can include foundations, IGOs (UN, etc), CSOs, NGOs, etc
- Remember: In the CSD multi-year programme of work, the reporting and policy cycles for mining are 2011 and 2012, respectively

# Don't underestimate the threats: Build scenarios

- The network collapses
- Product becomes irrelevant
- Funding is not available
- Governments loose interest
- Competition from the private sector and other service providers
- Staff turnover and poorly funded GSOs

# Agenda for the future

- GisAfrique has built from:

1. Geo-science Data Compilation in Eastern and Southern Africa (GEODESA);
2. Geological Electronic Information Exchange System (GEIXIS)
3. Pan-African Network for a Geological Information System (PANGIS)

- For the future there is need to recognise:

1. The AMP
2. The AMN
3. The Association of African Geological Surveys
4. The Europe-Africa project network
5. The potential of public-private partnerships
6. The potential of new technological developments