

Meraka Institute



Living Lab network in Southern Africa (LLiSA)

4th Euro-Africa cooperation Forum on ICT research
14-15 November 2011



Marlien Herselman
Chairperson: LLiSA



Living Labs in Southern Africa network

- Living Labs in Southern Africa Network (LLiSA) emerged from 2006 until its formal launch in 2009 was funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland under the COFISA and SAFIPA Programmes, hosted by the Meraka Institute, CSIR
- Primarily focused on building capacity, facilitating collaboration, establishing and developing Living Lab activities and supporting existing and emerging Living Labs in Southern Africa
 - Opportunities for co-creation of innovation and collaboration to offer/develop new ideas of innovation
 - Multistakeholder
 - **Government** (Department of Science and Technology, Telkom Centers of Excellence, COFISA, SAFIPA, Limpopo Provincial government);
 - **Research** (CSIR, Rhodes University, Fort Hare University, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Venda University, University of Free State, North West University, UKZN, NMMU);
 - **Industry** (Nokia/Siemens, Intel, SAP, Motorola, First National Bank, Vodacom, SAINe, Telkom) and
 - **Civil Society**
- Established a commonly owned vision for the goals and objectives of the Network through engagement and a co-creation process with all key stakeholders
- Provide support in relation to monitoring and evaluation
- Successful model and experience which can be transferred to other regions



Defining LL in Africa context

- Herselman & Cunningham (2011):
- 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”.
- Leveraging Living Labs methodologies and Living Labs Networks in Africa provide an important opportunity to collaborate, co-create, prototype and test new products and services, technologies, processes, business models or ideas customised for developing markets

African Living Labs Profiled

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

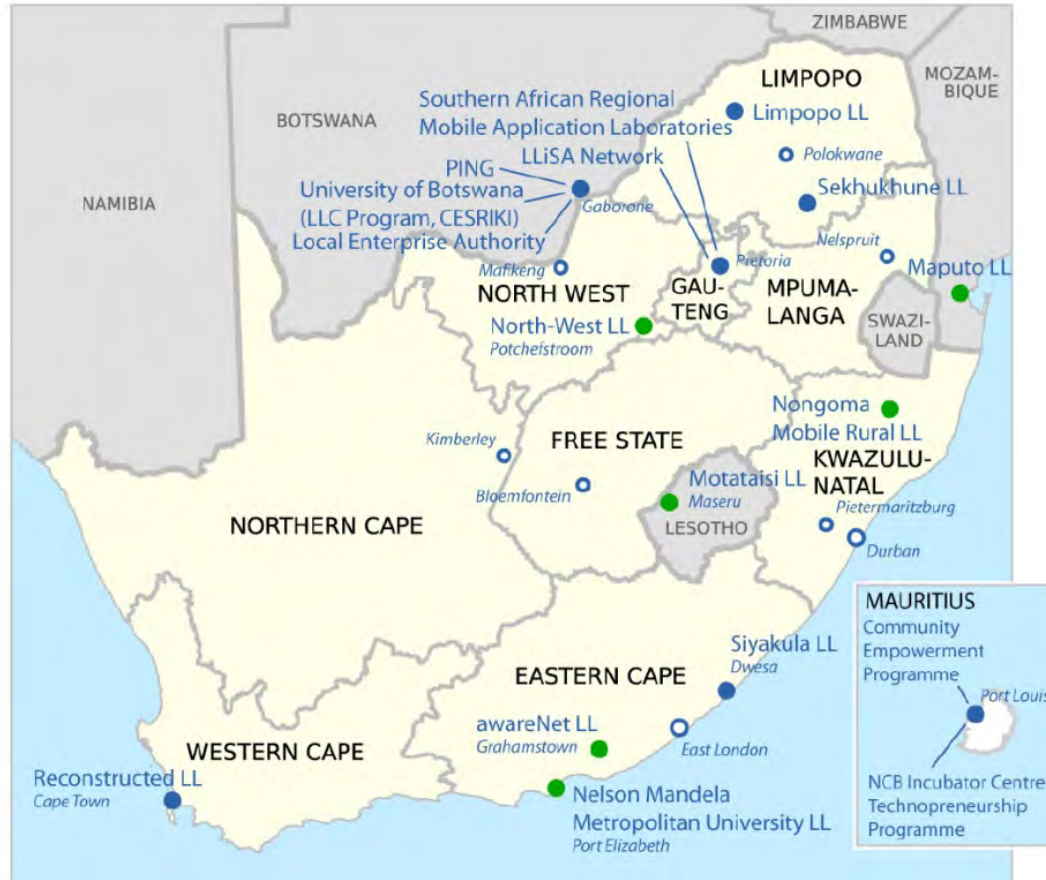


Diagram 13 – Living Labs in Southern Africa

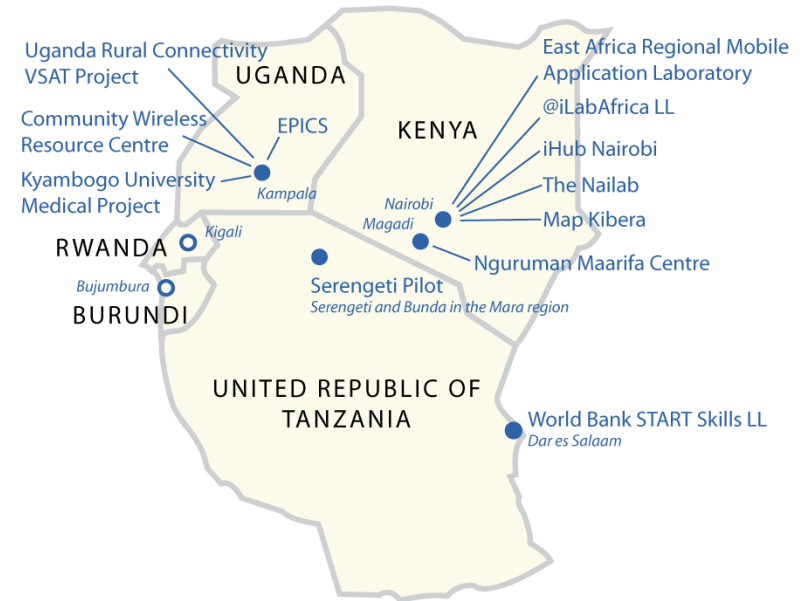
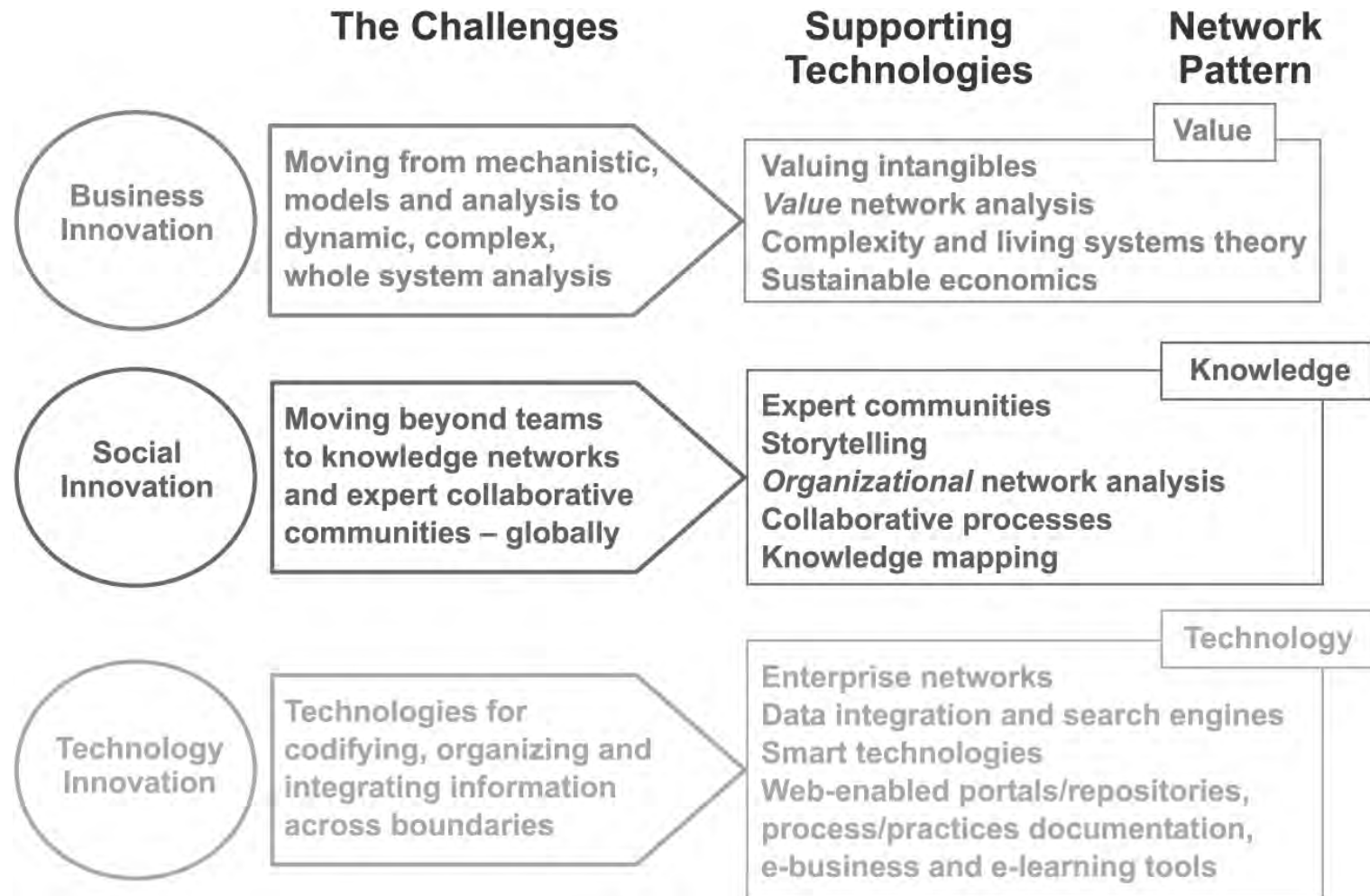


Diagram 14 – Living Labs in East Africa

Overview of Focus of some South African Living Labs

Living Lab	Purpose	Process (approach/model)	Products/services	Evaluation
<i>Siyakhula LL</i>	Multi-dimensional ICT initiative	Quadruple helix model	Research, development and training	Towards continuous evaluation and impact assessment
<i>Limpopo LL</i>	Innovative business and technology solutions through multi-stakeholder relationships	Model supporting MDGs and WSIS	ICT, business and community-based services/products	Future impact analyses
<i>North-West LL</i>	Community-based research and development from a wellness perspective	Eclectic wellness approach to conducting research	Research and interventions	Client feedback and internal evaluation
<i>SAP Research LLs</i>	Project-based LL: Technologies for emerging economies	User-centred model driven by strategic research focus/ mission	Enterprise resource planning research	Evaluation based on four dimensions of LL definition
<i>RLabs</i>	Innovative solutions to community problems on a global scale	Value-based model	Social media, innovation-driven products/services	Continuous evaluation through online feedback

Source: LLiSA Case Study Report: Living Labs in South Africa, Hendri Coetzee & Ina-Mari du Toit, July 2011

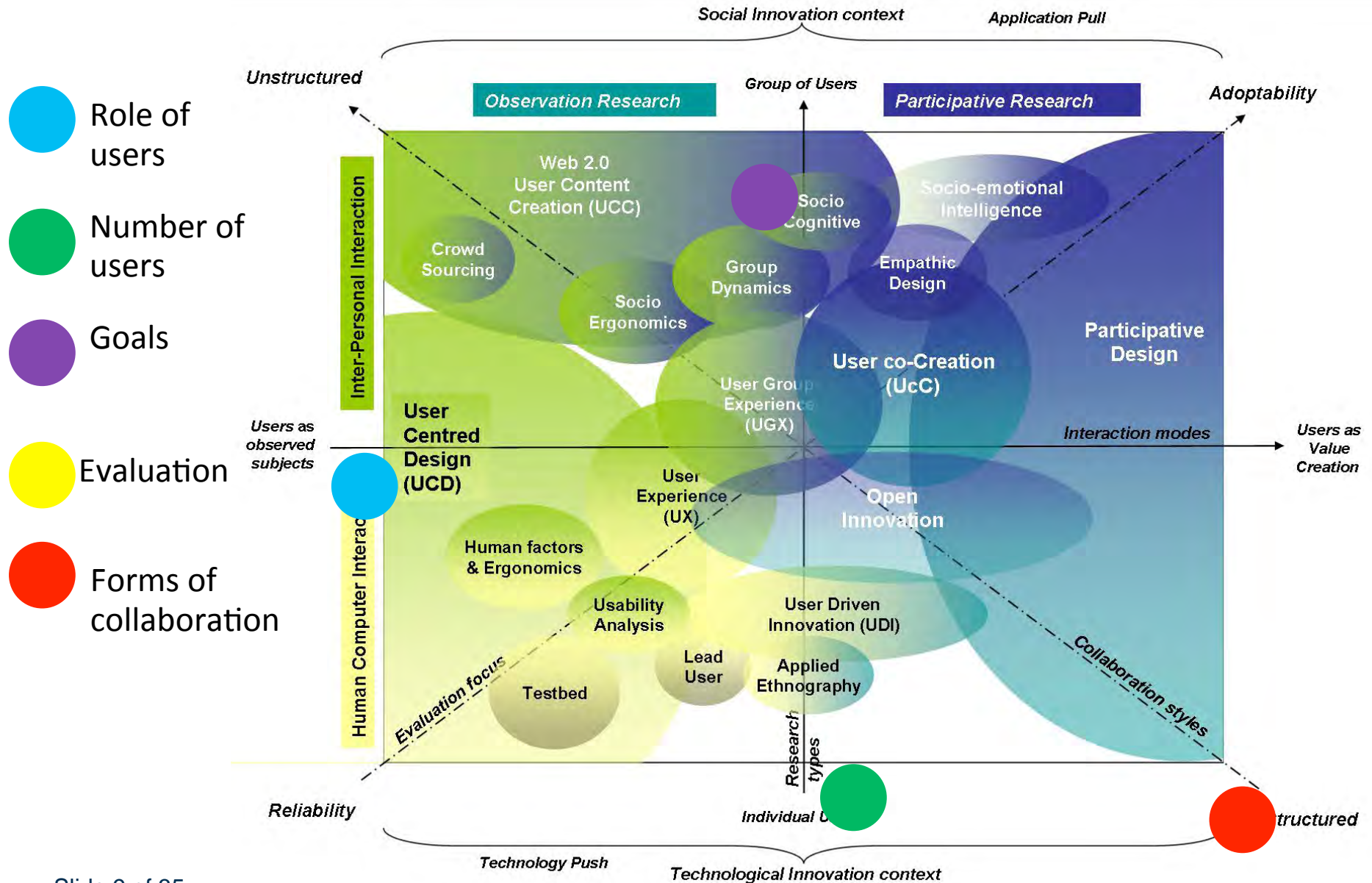




What makes LLiSA a success?

- Hosting entity – independent (Meraka)
- LLiSA board – insight & transparency with portfolios, broad representation
- Using specific community focus with DI and CI as key area for comparing and collaboration in Africa & international
- Use our small entity as a strength to get work done & leverage LL expertise
- Have regular face-to-face interactions and workshops with specific focus/ theme
- Focus on successes of existing LL – best practices/replication and why LL fail – also product testing between LL
- Research LL from all angles
- Share networks, knowledge & skills transfer & ideas, replication of models
- Databases of users, industry involvement, stakeholder maps and unique focus of LL
- Write collaborative & scientific papers
- Market LL to each other and to potential funders/partners
- Uniqueness of each LL focus = contributions not only on ICT
- Established and new LL – part of network

Southern African Network of Living Labs



Thank You

Contact Details (LLiSA board)



Chair: Prof Marlien Herselman (mherselman@csir.co.za)

Members:

Meraka: Mario Marais

Meraka: Mmamakanye Pitse-Boshomane (secretary/network manager)

NGO: Deon Manuel

Reconstructed LL: Rene Parker

Siyakhula LL: Sibukele Gumbo

North West LL: Hendri Coetzee

SAFIPA: Thiru Swettenham

SAP research: Prof Darelle van Greunen

Government: Mr Baldwin Ramasobane (Limpopo provincial)

URLs:

<http://www.llisa.net>