NEPAD ICT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Presentation at the Public & Private Sectors Partnership Forum:
Promoting Infrastructure Sharing and Low Cost Solutions for Africa

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NEPAD e-Africa Commission

NEPAD's Task Team for ICT

- **Mission**

  - To drive the NEPAD ICT programme.

  - Oversee the structured development and execution of this programme across the African continent.

- **ICT Infrastructure Objective:**

  To ensure that all African countries are connected to **one another by broadband networks** and, in turn, linked to the rest of the world.

NEPAD ICT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

NEPAD's ICT Infrastructure objective to be achieved by:

- NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network covering 23 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

- NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network for West, Central and North Africa.

- NEPAD e-Schools Satellite Network.

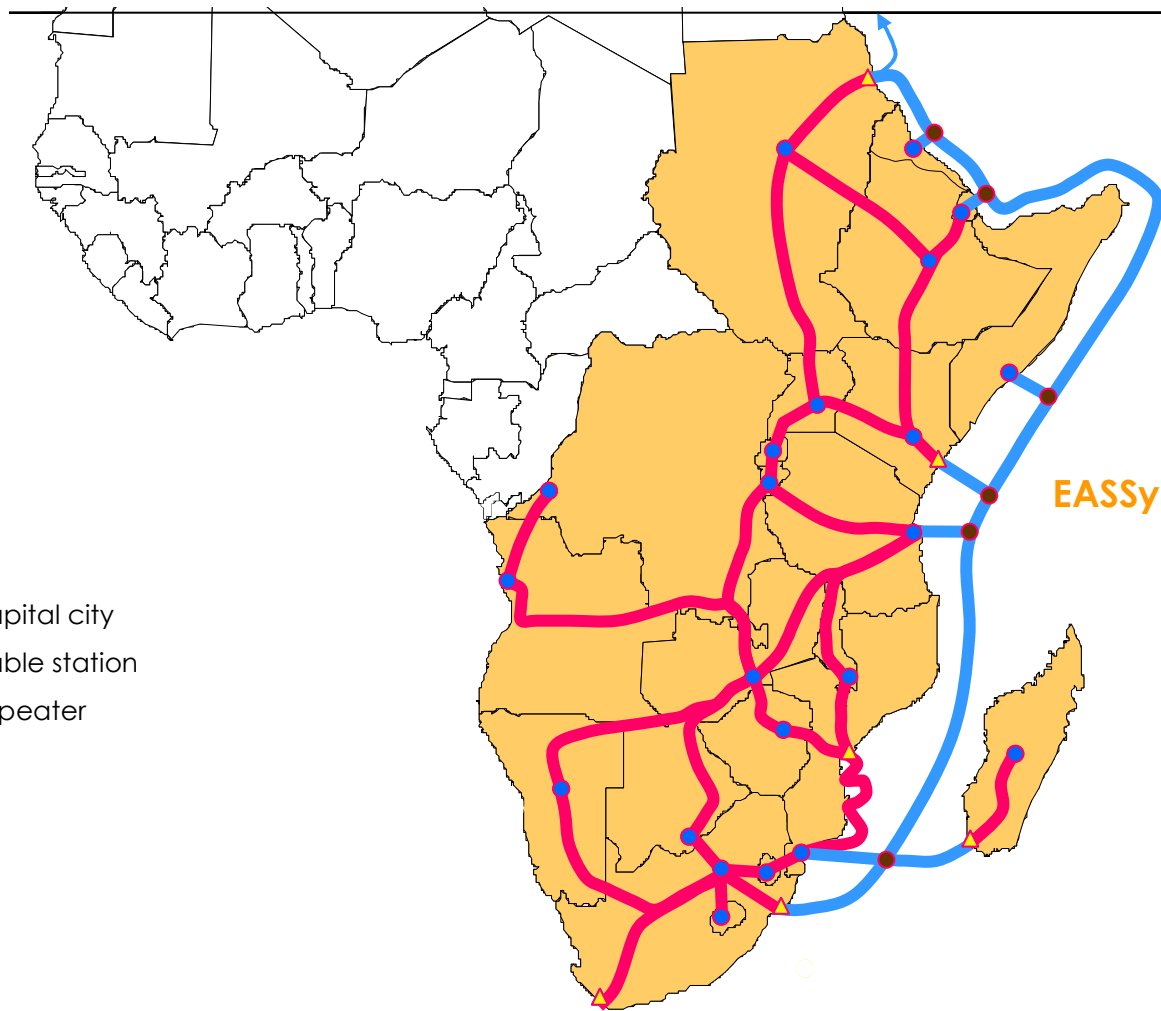# ORIGINS OF NEPAD ICT BROADBAND NETWORK FOR EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA

July 2004 - A workshop of stakeholders was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, to promote the establishment of a rationalised broadband optical fibre network for Eastern & Southern Africa.

The outcome was an agreed basic broadband ICT network for the region. The network consists of a terrestrial segment and a submarine segment.

The agreed network brought together a number of network development initiatives in the region, such as COMTEL, SRII, and the EASSy cable, into a cohesive plan for progressing the development of the basic infrastructure.
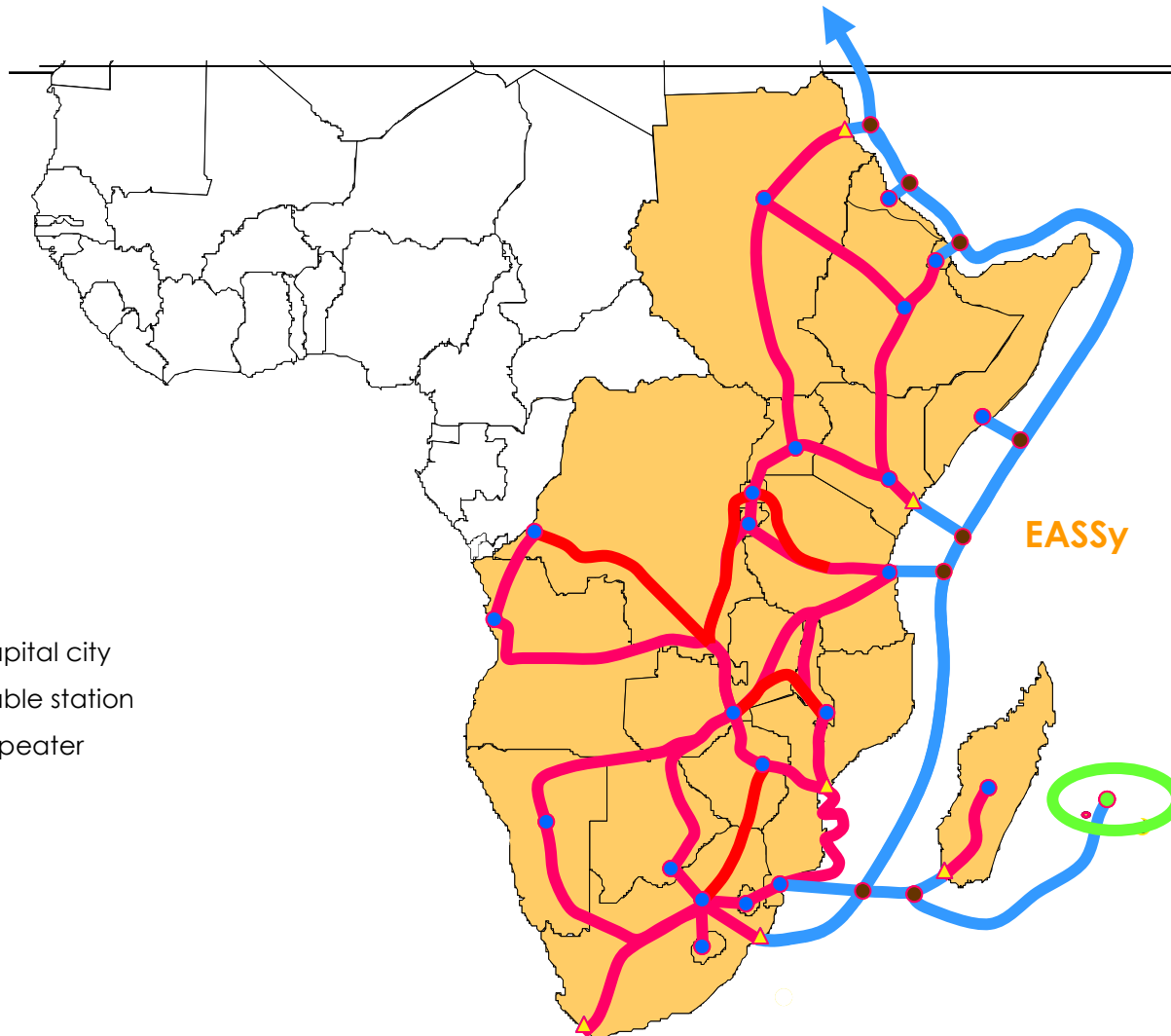
November 2004 - The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) adopted the regional network for Eastern and Southern Africa as a NEPAD flagship project.

The agreed NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network
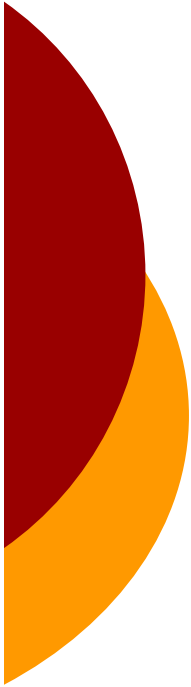## for
Eastern and Southern Africa

EASSy

- Capital city
- Cable station
- Repeater

July 2004

The NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network
for
Eastern and Southern Africa

EASSy

Capital city

Cable station

Repeater

June 2007

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The development of a transparent policy and regulatory environment was needed to remove regulatory barriers to the establishment of the network and to encourage private sector investment in the network.

- NEPAD e-Africa Commission requested governments of the regions to nominate experts who deliberated and proposed 5 policy principles

- **November 2005** - A meeting of ICT Policy Advisors and Regulators from Eastern and Southern Africa agreed on the principles developed by the Group of Experts.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The policy principles were:

1. The application of open, non-discriminatory and affordable access to these networks.

2. Acceptance that cross-border terrestrial and submarine cable segments of these networks can be developed, owned, and maintained by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs).

3. Broadband Infrastructure viewed as "public good"

4. Application of the principle of public private partnerships (PPP) to these networks.

5. Protocol should be signed by countries of the region to underpin their collaboration in developing the network.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The protocol was developed after extensive consultations amongst stakeholders and was first signed in Kigali, Rwanda, on 29 August 2006. It is now commonly known as the **Kigali Protocol**.

By November 30, 2006, 12 countries had signed the protocol and are currently in the process of ratifying it.

Botswana	Lesotho	South Africa	Mauritius
Rwanda	Malawi	Zambia	Madagascar
Uganda	Tanzania	Zimbabwe	
Democratic Republic of Congo			

Countries that were unable to sign the protocol within agreed timeframe, may accede to it once it comes into force: i.e. it has been ratified by more than half of the signatories.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The protocol provides for:

The SPVs - Special Purpose Vehicles – to build, own, operate and maintain the networks.

The IGA – Inter-Governmental Assembly – to oversee the policy and regulatory framework.

NEPAD e-Africa Commission is the Secretariat of the IGA, and is the implementing agency of the protocol.

RECs REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR THE PROTOCOL

- Meeting of SADC ICT Ministers in Harare, November 22-24, 2006, reaffirmed their support for the Kigali Protocol and urged SADC countries that had not signed the Protocol to do so, or prepare to accede to it when it comes into effect.

- Meeting of EAC ICT Ministers in Arusha, February 15, 2007:

  - Took note of the progress made on the signing and ratification of the NEPAD Protocol on ICT Broadband Infrastructure and the EASSy Project;

  - Urged Kenya to review her position on the NEPAD Protocol on the ICT Broadband Infrastructure with a view to acceding to the Protocol after its ratification; and

  - Urged Uganda and Tanzania to speed up ratification of the NEPAD Protocol in view of (b) above.

KIGALI PROTOCOL
Key provisions on Policy, Legal & Regulatory Aspects

- The principle of Open Access should be applied on terms that are transparent and affordable.

- The principle of non-discrimination should be applied in relation to Authorised Service Providers getting open access to the regional network

- Governments of the region are urged to facilitate the licensing of the SPVs that will own, operate and maintain the regional network.

- Governments of the region are urged to amend, where necessary, their existing legal, policy and regulatory frameworks to be consistent with the Protocol

- Governments of the region are urged to consider license fees for the SPVs that will cover only the administration costs incurred by regulators

- The charges for wholesale bandwidth should be independent of distance

- The charges for services offered by the SPVs should be uniform, and denominated in an international currency.

The NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network for Eastern and Southern Africa: Next Steps

- Finalise network configuration – terrestrial and submarine segments.
- Shareholders' meeting - submarine SPVs.
- Raise Equity & Debt - submarine SPVs.
- Establish SPVs.
- Consider tender for the submarine supply contract.
- Sign submarine supply contract.
- Lay the submarine cable.
- Shareholders' Meeting – Terrestrial SPV
- Raise Equity & Debt – Terrestrial SPV
- Construct missing links of terrestrial segment.
- Commission the submarine and terrestrial segments of the network.

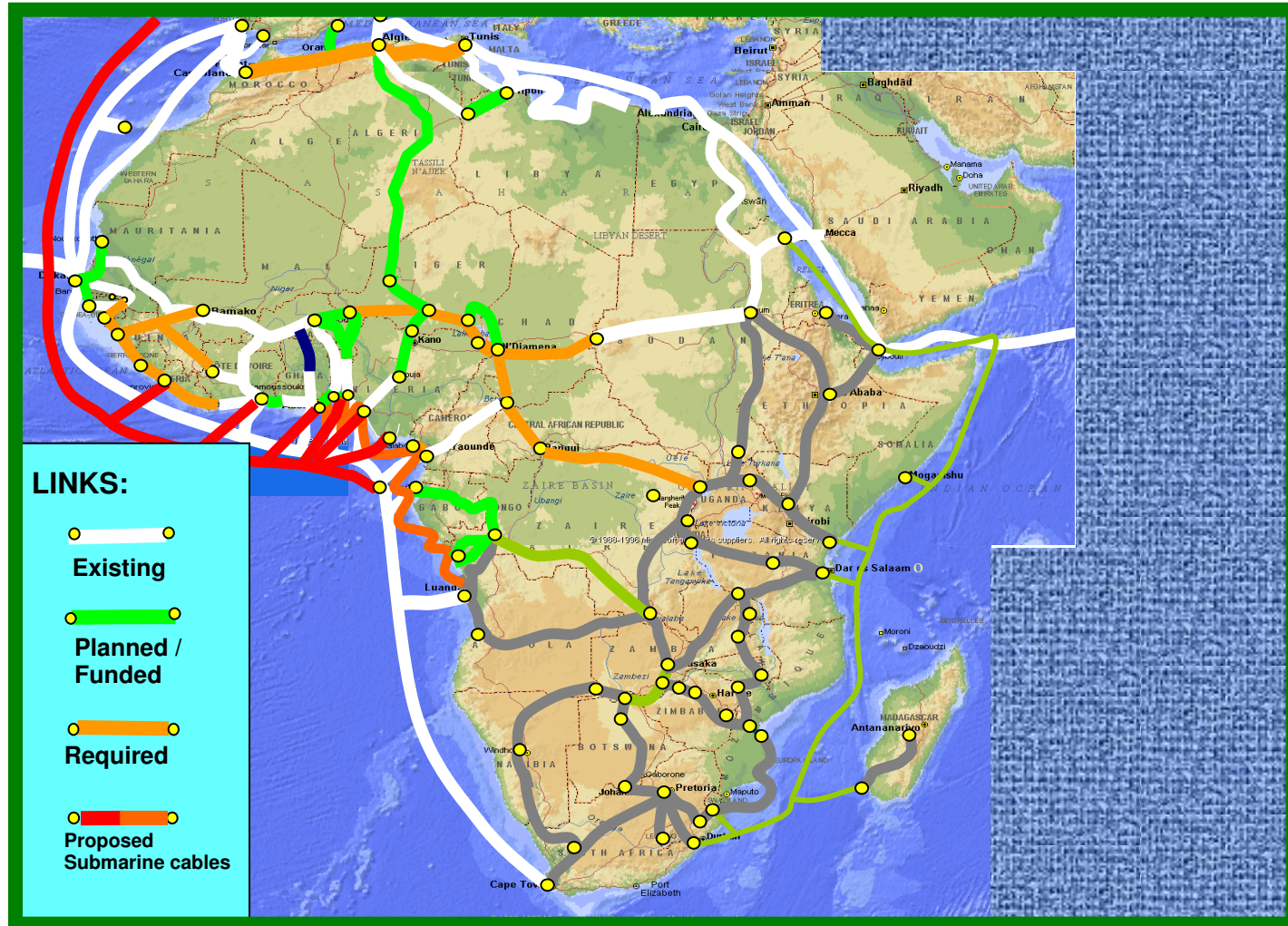# DEVELOPMENT OF NEPAD ICT BROADBAND NETWORK FOR WESTERN, CENTRAL and NORTH AFRICA

July 2005 - A workshop of stakeholders was held in Dakar, Senegal, to promote the establishment of a rationalised broadband optical fibre network for West, Central, and North Africa. The outcome was an agreed basic broadband ICT network for the region.

Next Steps:

- Commission has engaged a consultant to validate existing and planned ICT infrastructure projects in this region. This will be completed in July 2007.

- Detailed Feasibility Study will be carried out that will determine cost of network

- Policy and Regulatory Framework will be developed

- Vehicle's) will be set up to own, develop, operate and maintain the network

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The proposed NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Network for West, Central, and North Africa.

LINKS:

Existing

Planned / Funded

Required

Proposed Submarine cables

NEPAD e-School Satellite Project

- Will provide e-Schools with high capacity connectivity to the Internet

- Will connect e-Schools to each other and to a centralised pool of educational resources

- Will use existing operational satellites networks in order to build a "Network of Networks".

- Will serve other NEPAD projects such as e-Health, e-Governance, etc
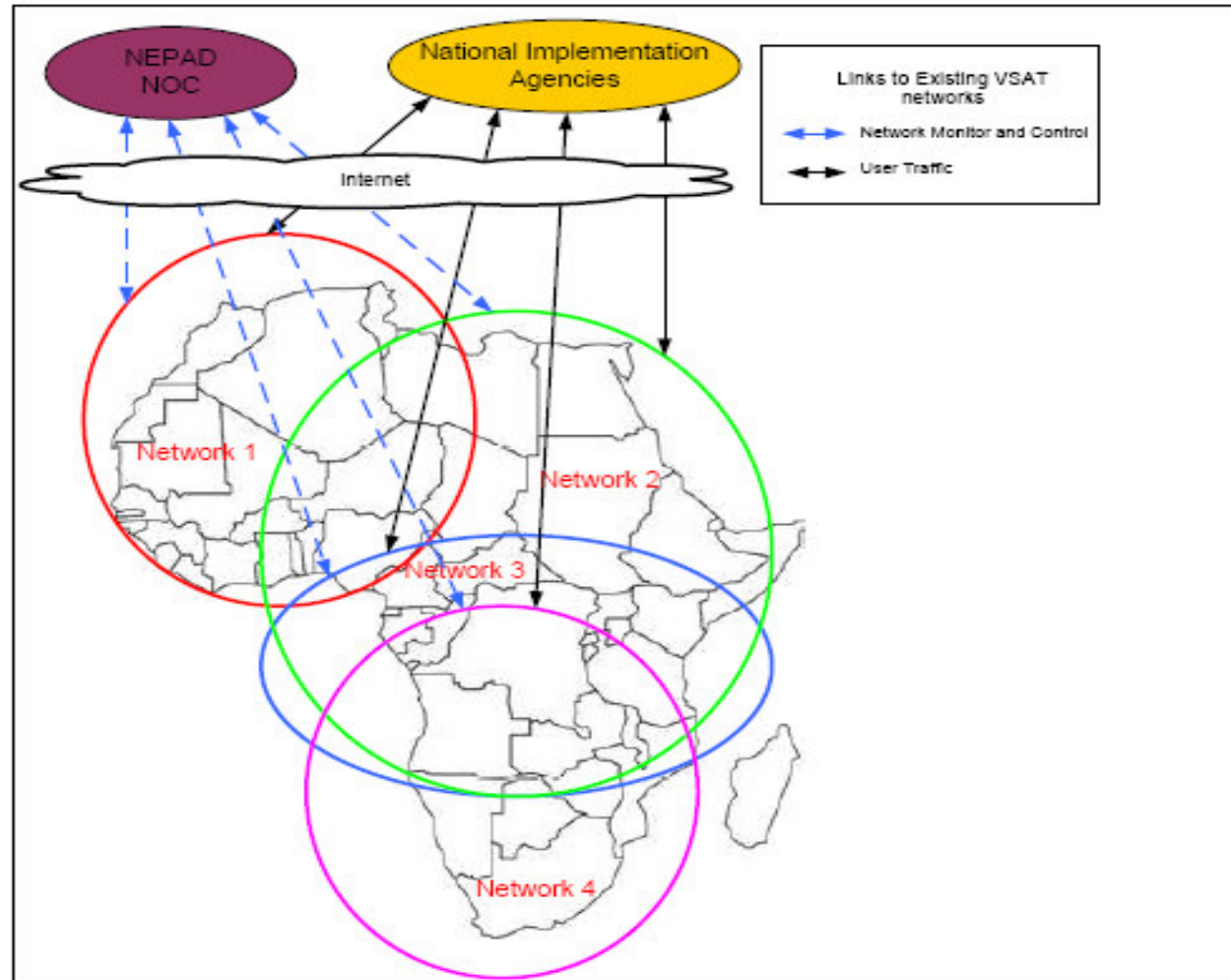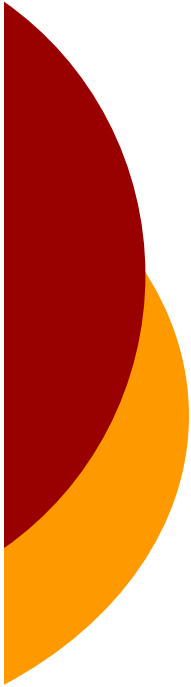
NEPAD e-School Satellite Project

Figure 1: NEPAD's network of networks

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Benefits for End-users

- Abundant broadband capacity will enable all forms of communication within and out of Africa
- Higher quality regional and international connectivity
- Cheaper regional and international communications services
- Communications affordable and accessible to more people
- IP networks will be very reliable as they will provide multiple paths to multiple destinations within and outside Africa.

Thank You