



Unmasking the Digital Divide

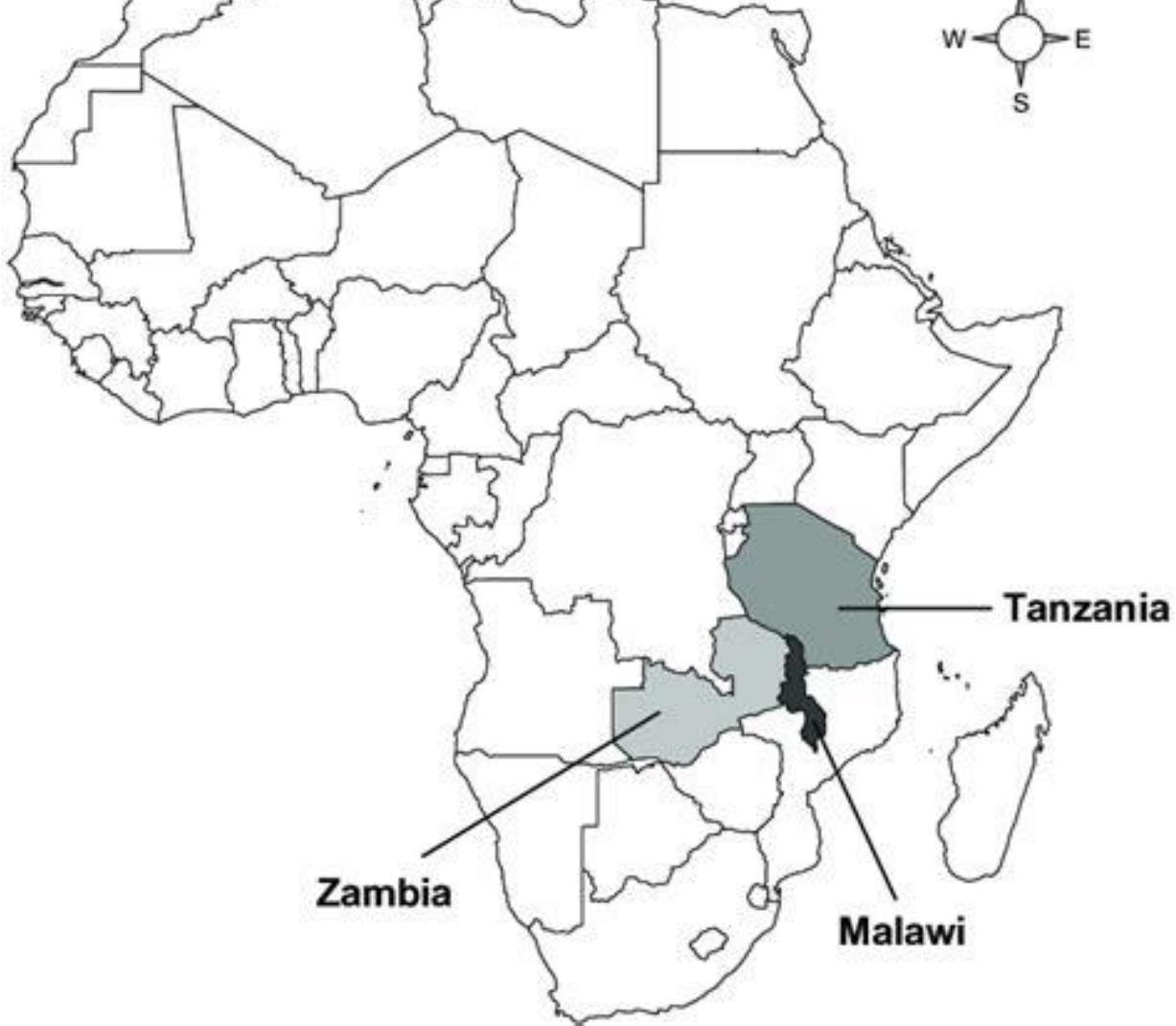
Factors that Influence Affordability and Cost of Internet in Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Major Disparities in International Bandwidth Cost

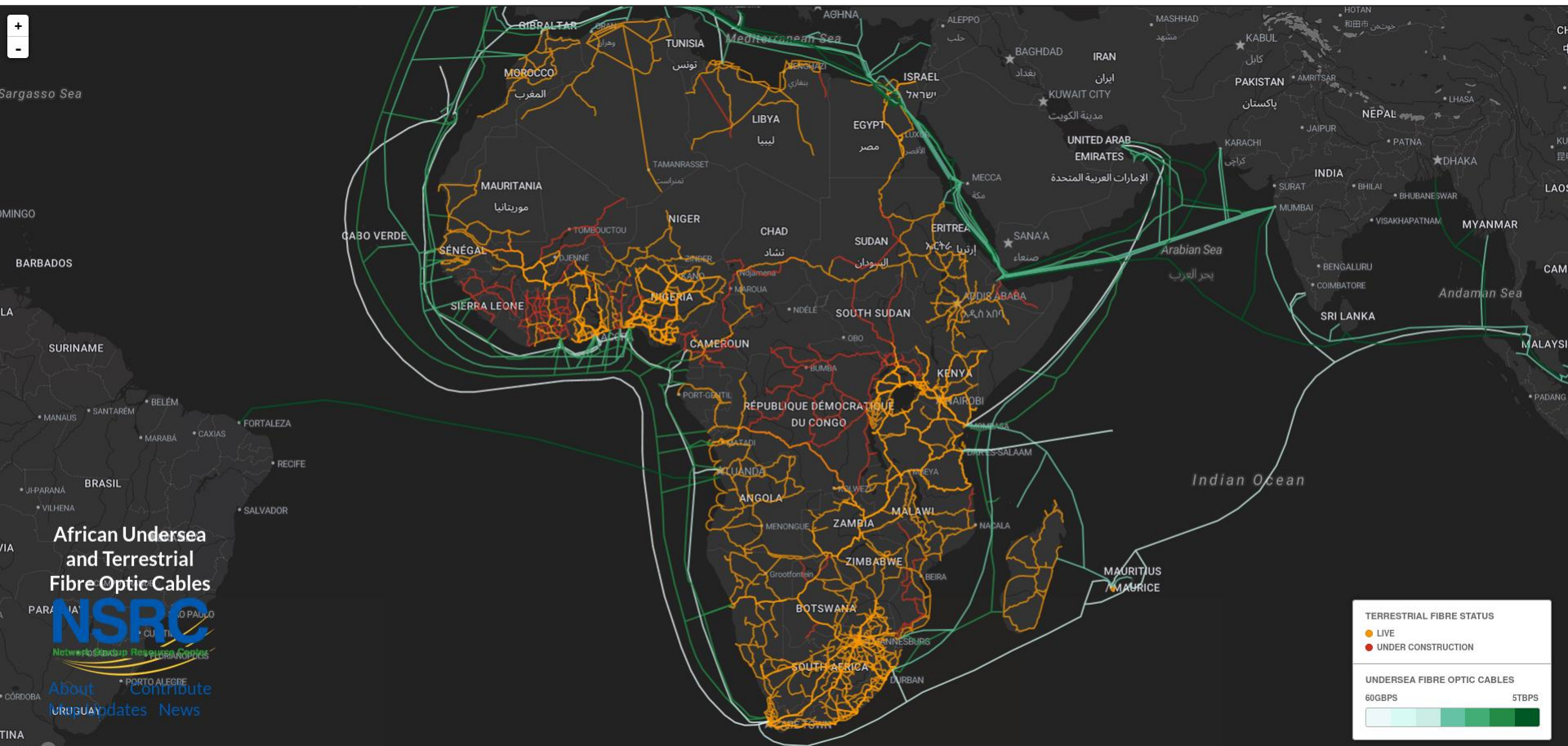
Tanzania:
<\$1/mbps

Zambia: <\$3/mbps

Malawi:
<\$30/mbps!



AfterFiber: African Terrestrial Fiber Networks



African Undersea and Terrestrial Fibre Optic Cables

NSRC
Network Solutions Research Center

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The problem

Access

Lack of Access to
Subsea Cables

Dependence on 3rd Party
Transit “Brokers”

Markets

Small and often
fragmented

Little or no competition

Large, dominant
operators

Critical Infrastructure

Insufficient or
inadequate Internet
Exchange Points

Few or no Content
Delivery Networks

Challenges deep-dive

Policy Frameworks

The road to hell...

Failure to act on policy imperatives

Refurbished
“copy/paste” approaches
which do not go deeper
than the surface

Legislation

Disabling

Majority of legislation is
not “tech friendly”

Regulations

Two Extremes

Absent

Overactive

Solution

Policy & Strategy Formulation
& Implementation

“When digital transformation is done right, it’s like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, but when done wrong, all you have is a really fast caterpillar.”

George Westerman

Challenges deep-dive

Policy Framework

Bold & Meaningful

Must speak to realities
“on the ground” and not
be idealistic and/or
“copy/paste”

Strategies

Meaningful & Relevant

Bottom-Up
Customized to local
conditions

Disruptors

Courageous

Shatter cross-border
barriers
Transcend
geographical/regional
constructs



SADC Digital Transformation Strategy

Policy Framework for DTS

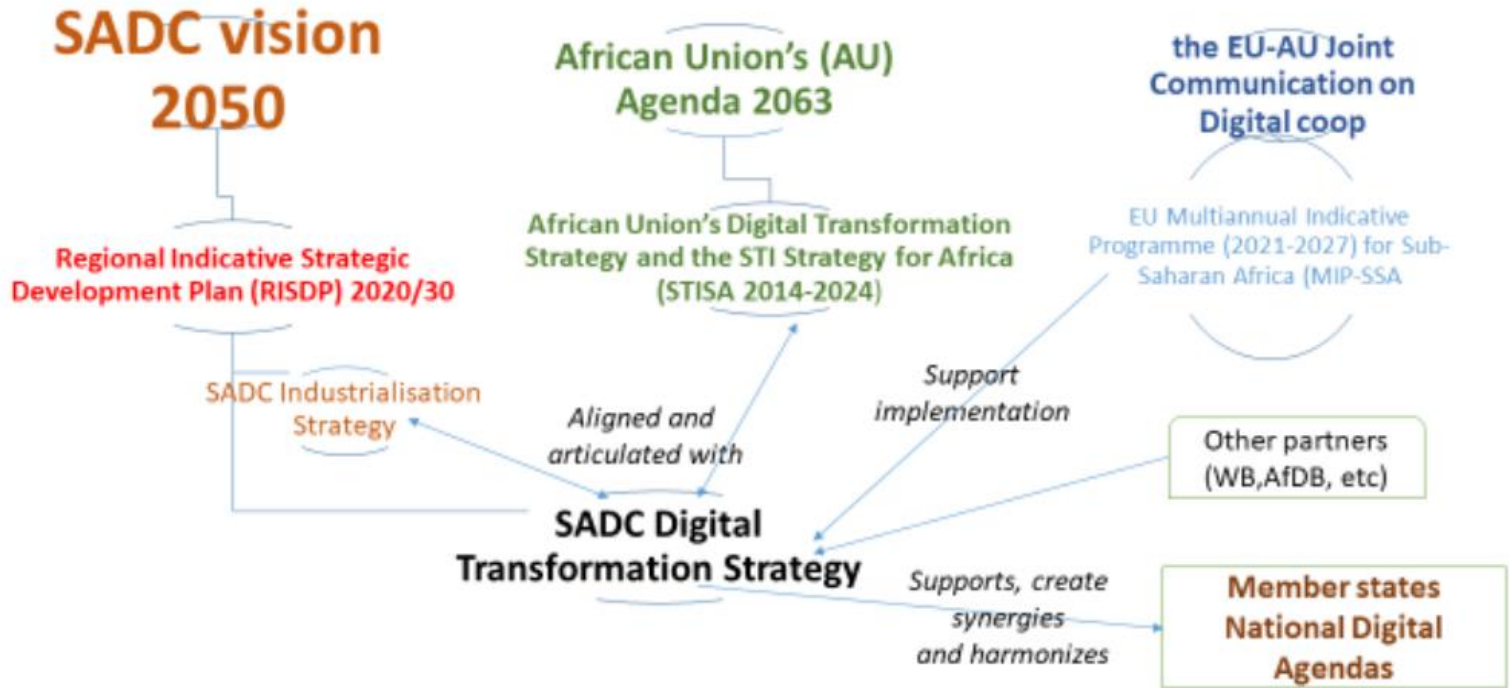
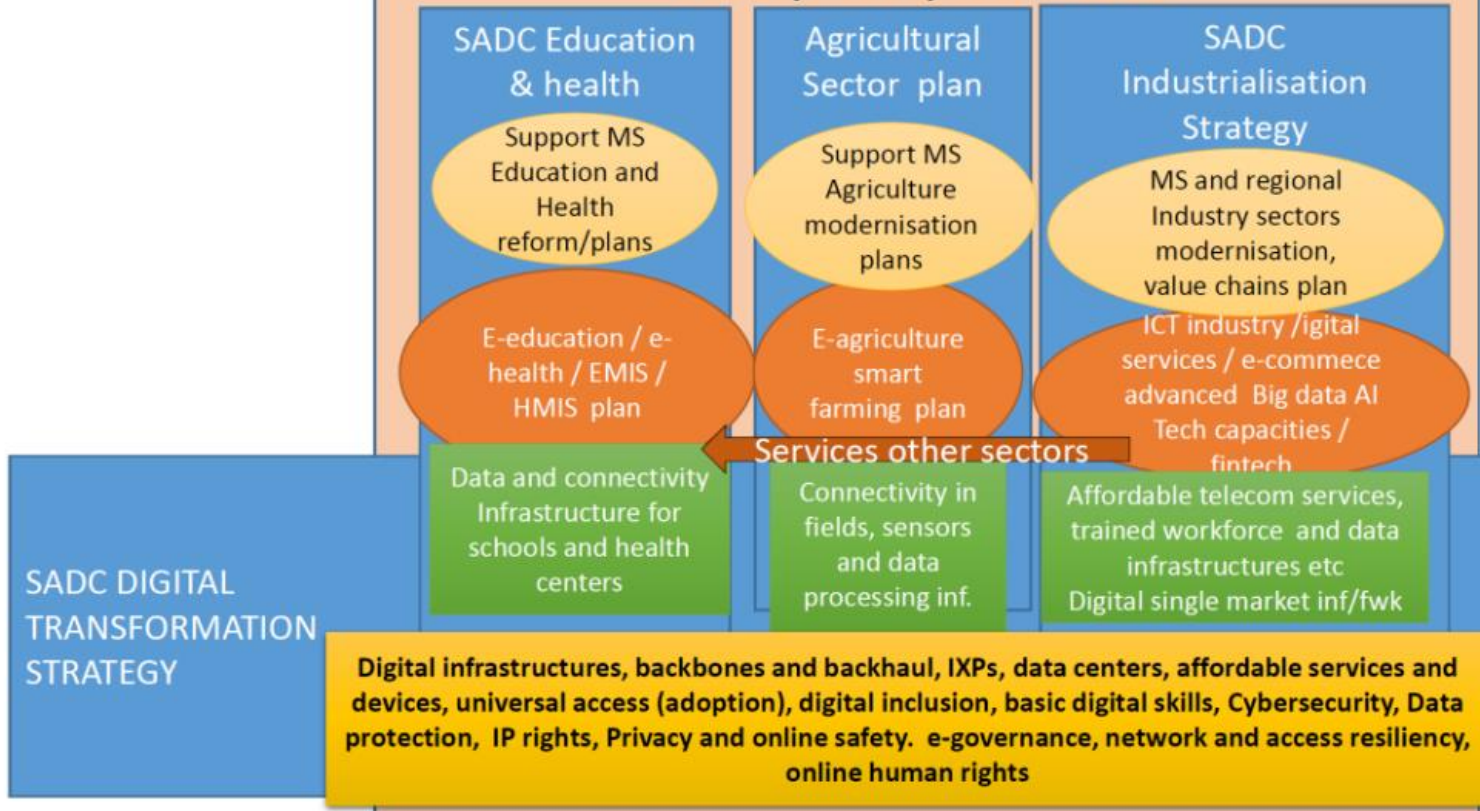


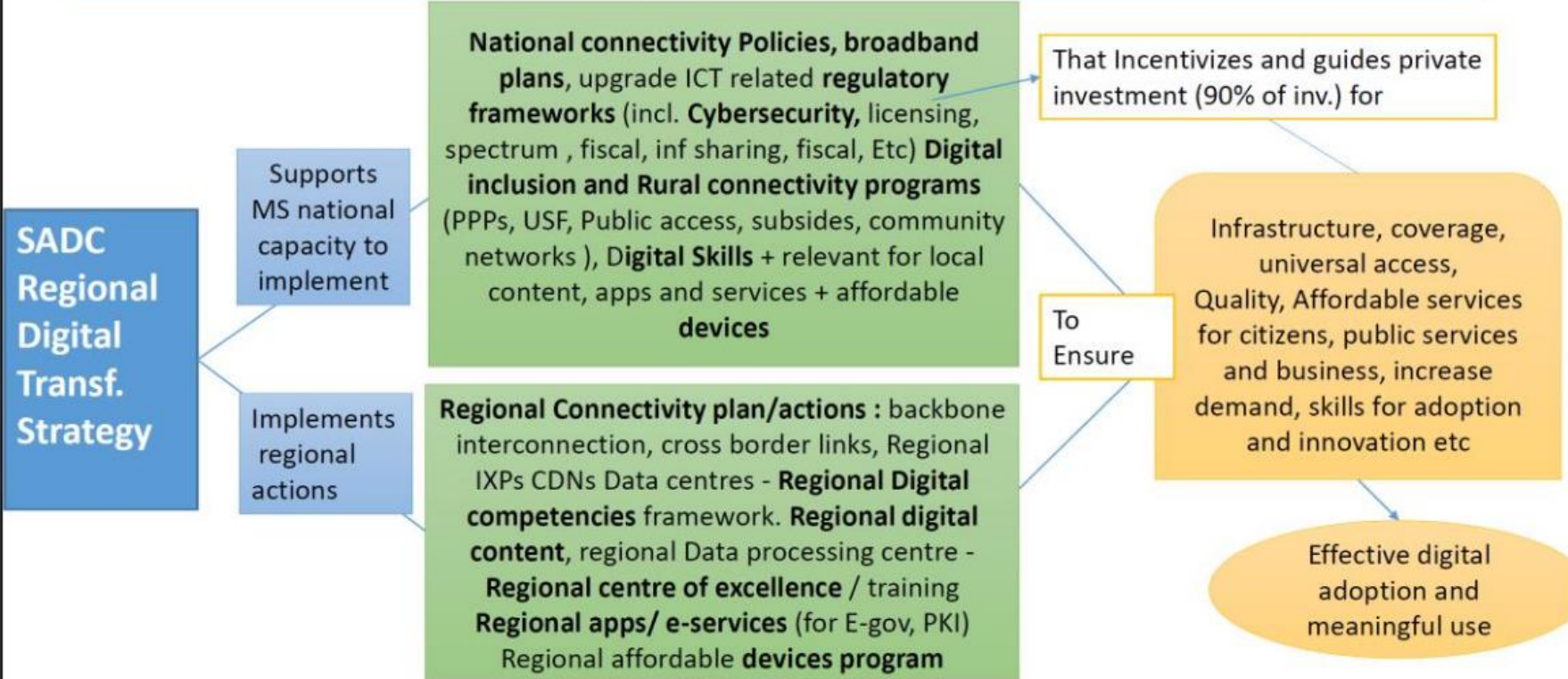
Figure 1: DTS policy alignments

SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030



SADC DTS type of interventions (1)

example for connectivity, universal access and digital inclusion





Country Level Initiatives: Malawi

CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MINING



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X Post

Malawi launches Diplomatic Data Corridors project

06 March 2023

Malawi has launched the Diplomatic Data Corridors project to address the high cost of internet and data services, as well as the country's low internet penetration.

Malawi's government has entered negotiations with Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia to consider directing their internet traffic into Malawi.

Daud Suleman, director general of the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (Macra), said that the country wants to double the current internet penetration rate to 40% in three years and leverage connections from undersea cables into Malawi to ensure a reduction in the cost of data services.

He cited Malawi's geographical position as a major challenge and said this has resulted in high IP-transit and international bandwidth costs. "We are ready to sign agreements that will give us cheaper data through fibre networks," said Suleman.

In addition to the data corridors, the increase in competition in local telecommunications will help to drive down data costs, and the licensing of StarLink will usher in affordable broadband through satellite services.

Hansford Chaaba, corporate communications manager at the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), said that "ZICTA welcomes the initiative by Macra and is committed to a continued spirit of mutually beneficial co-operation and collaboration between the two regulators."



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Policy Driven Initiatives

Diplomatic Data Corridors

- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Botswana
- Namibia
- Mozambique
- Angola
- Major Subsea Cable Operators

Community Broadband Operators

- District-Based
- Special License
- Cooperative Union Model
- Specially Structured Funding
- Universal Service Fund support

Critical Infrastructure

Internet Exchange Points

Push for Content Delivery Networks

Aluta Continua Thank You!

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