

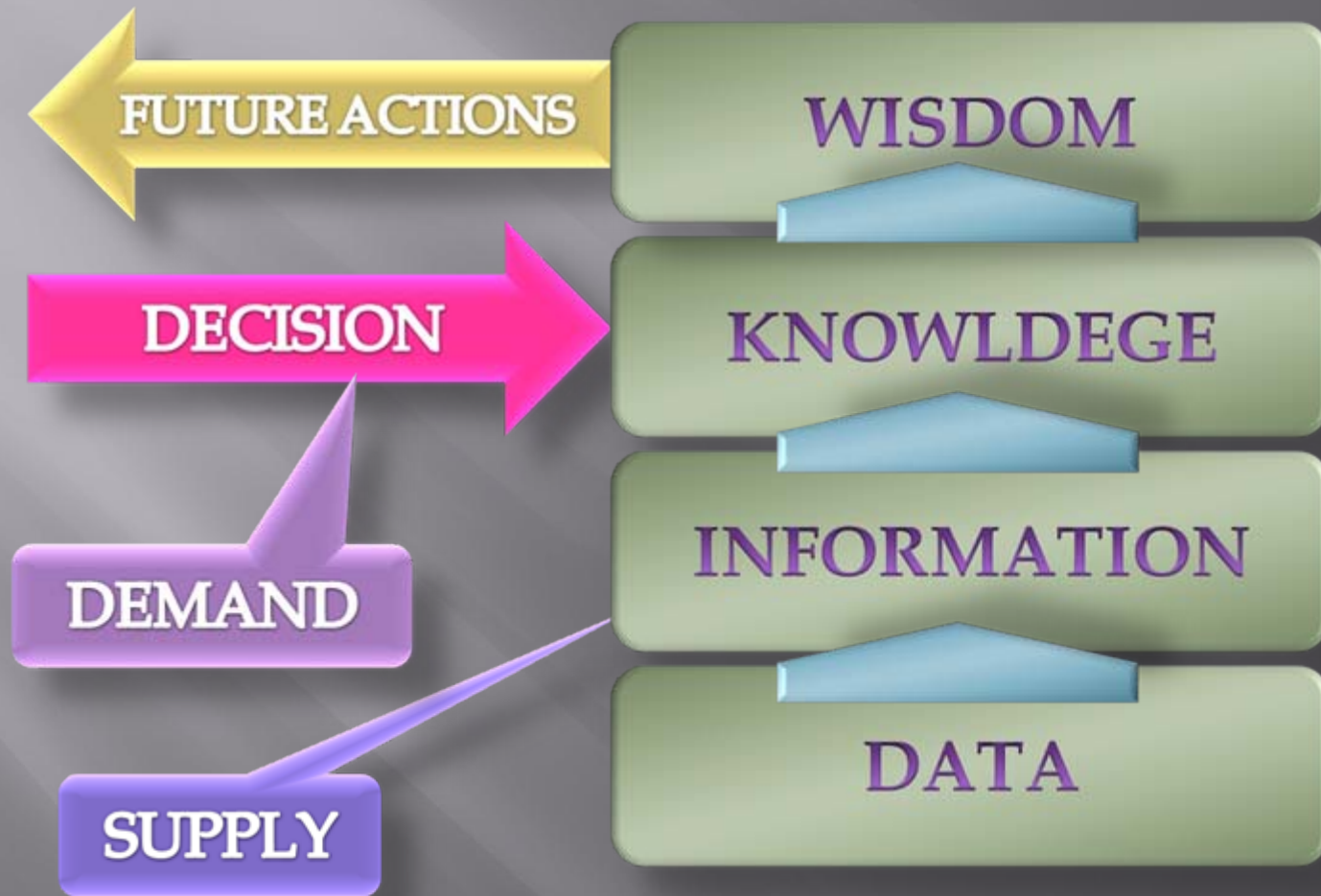


# LINKAGES FOR COLLABORATION

Paul Bartel

U.S. Department of State  
Humanitarian Information Unit

# Information to Decision-Making: Knowledge as a production function



Where is the wisdom we  
have lost in knowledge?

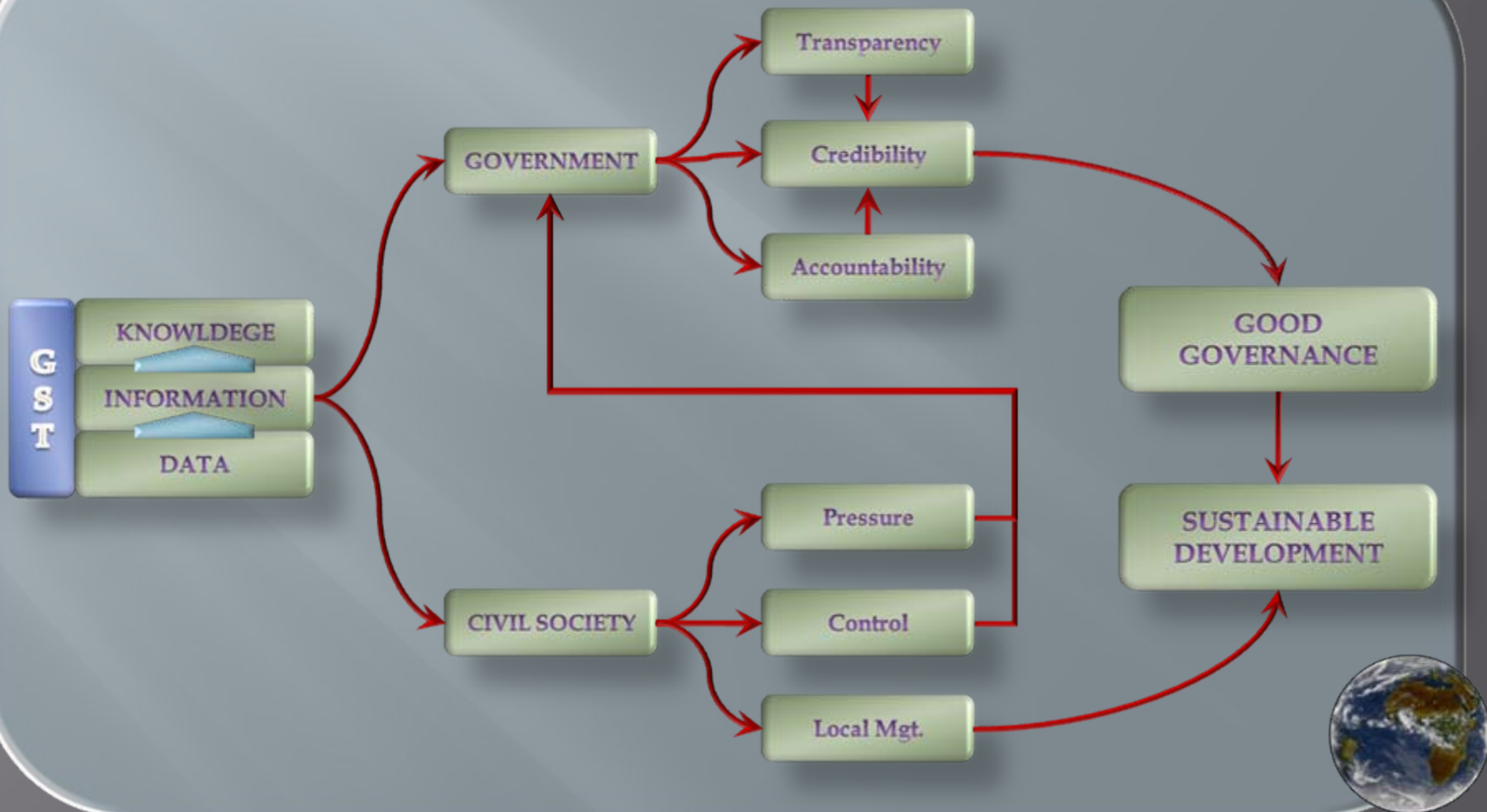
Where is the knowledge we  
have lost in information?

T. S. Eliot  
*The Rock*





# Role of Information in Governance



# GDEST Findings: A Summary

- Capabilities exist within Africa that can be enhanced;
- African scientists and practitioners expressed great enthusiasm for collaboration, particularly working with U.S. partners;
- There was a strong consensus that existing capacity should be built upon rather than creating new initiatives or institutional arrangements;



# What is this network?

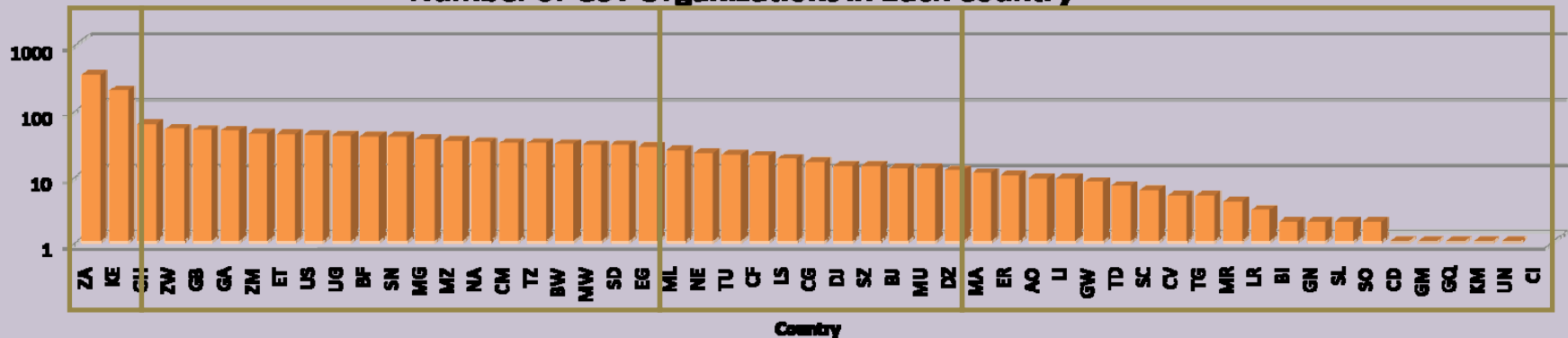
- A partial analysis—514 of 1,540 nodes
- Institutions identified from
  - EIS-Africa membership
  - Collaborative linkages from representative programs in Africa as outlined in the GDEST report and elsewhere



# WHERE IS THE EXPERTISE?

There are over 1,540 organizations using GS&T in Africa

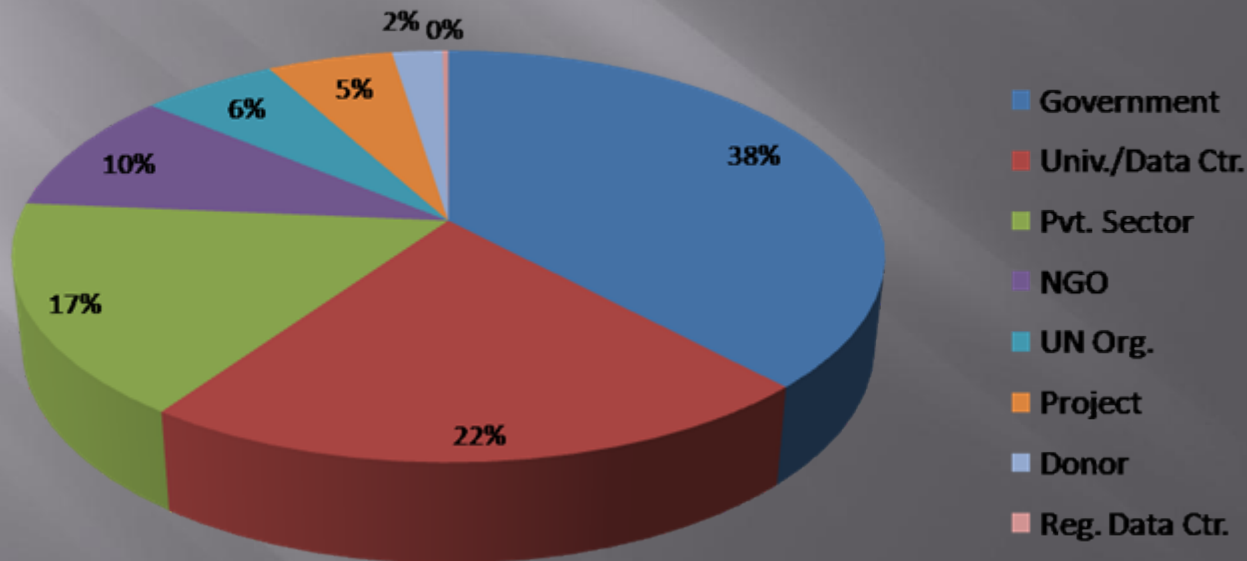
**Number of GST Organizations in Each Country**



# WHERE IS THE EXPERTISE?

There are over 1,540 organizations using GS&T in Africa

**Composition of Organizational Types in Africa**

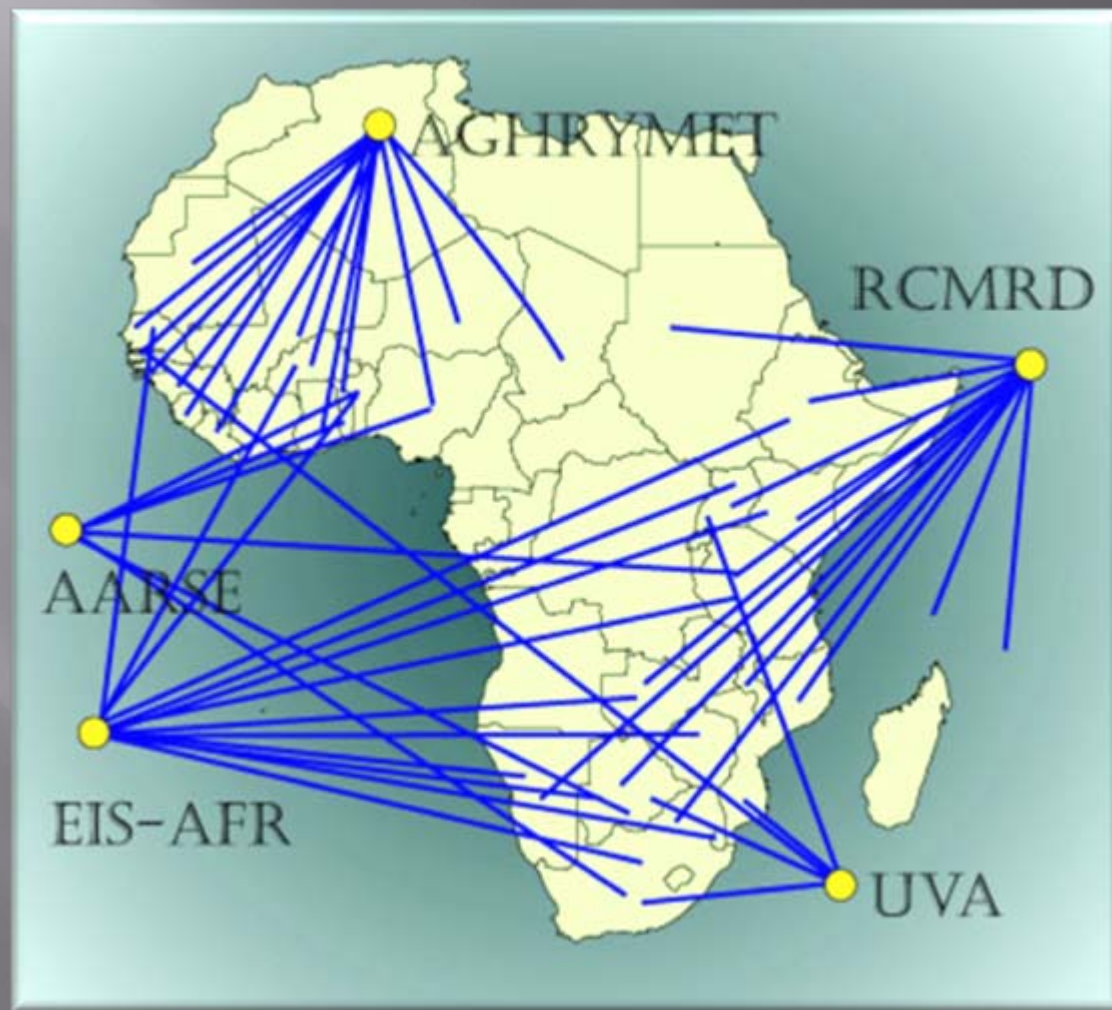


But how do these organizations interact?

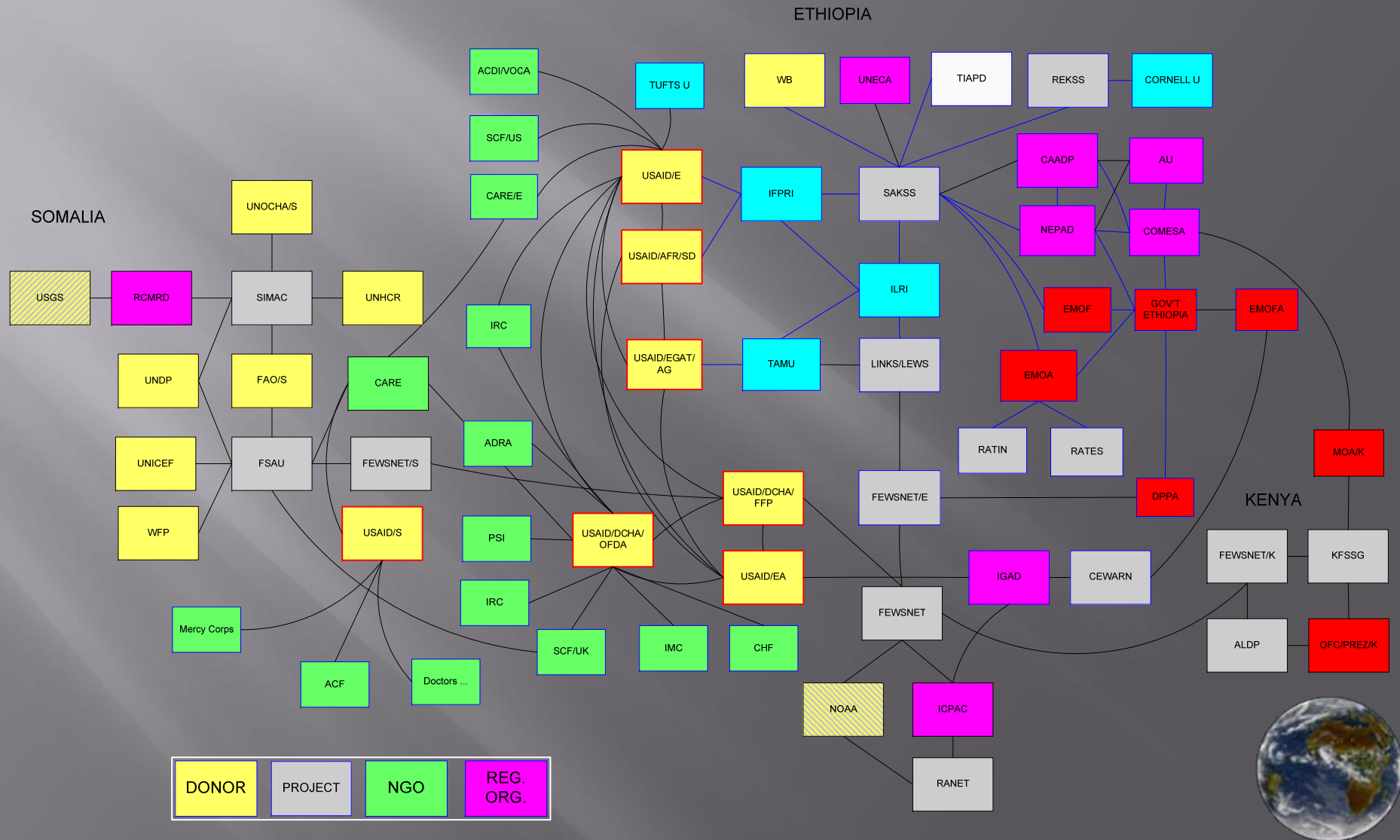




# How country expertise is connected across the region

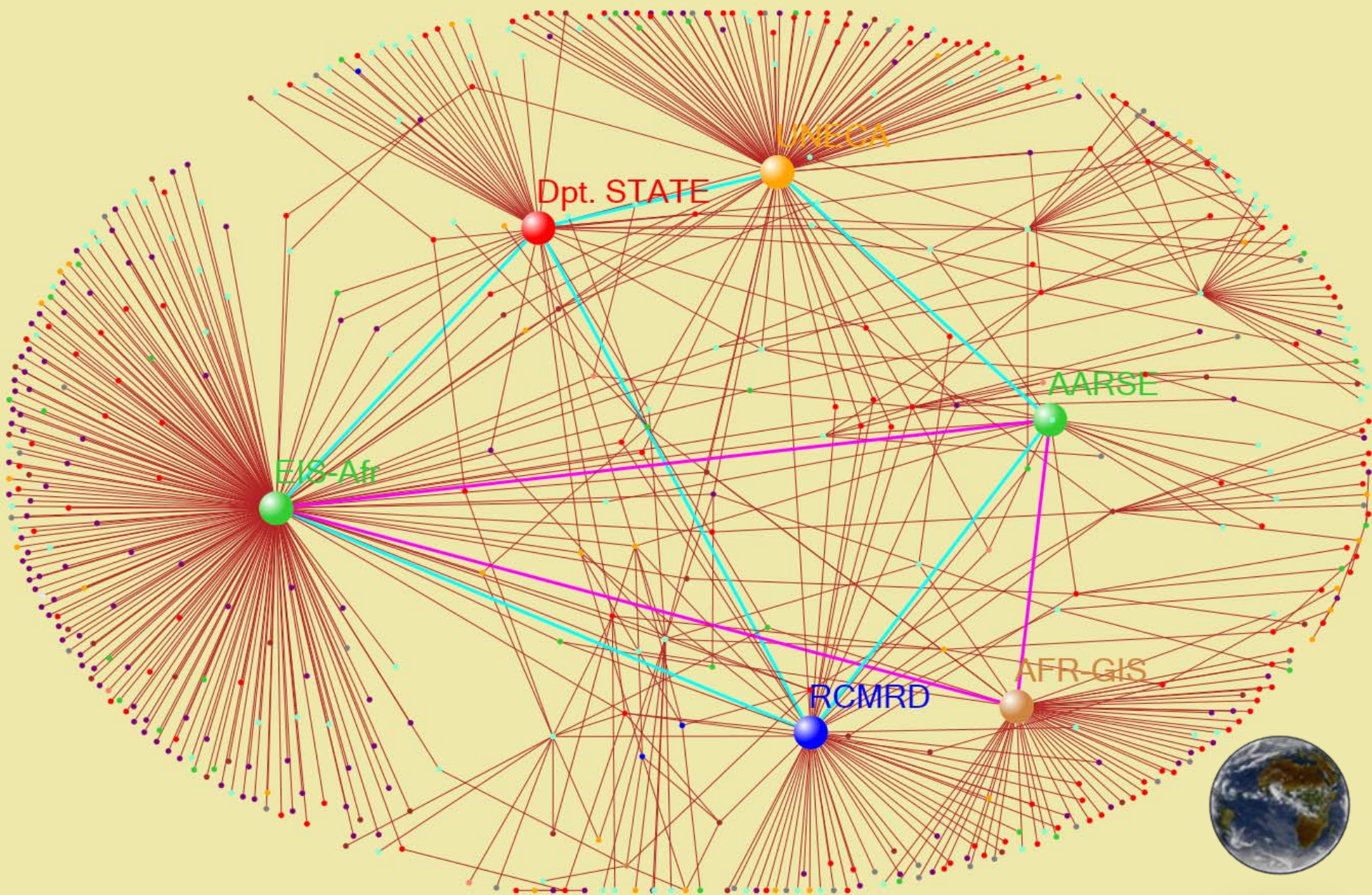


# Partial Network of Actors in HOA Pastoral Domain



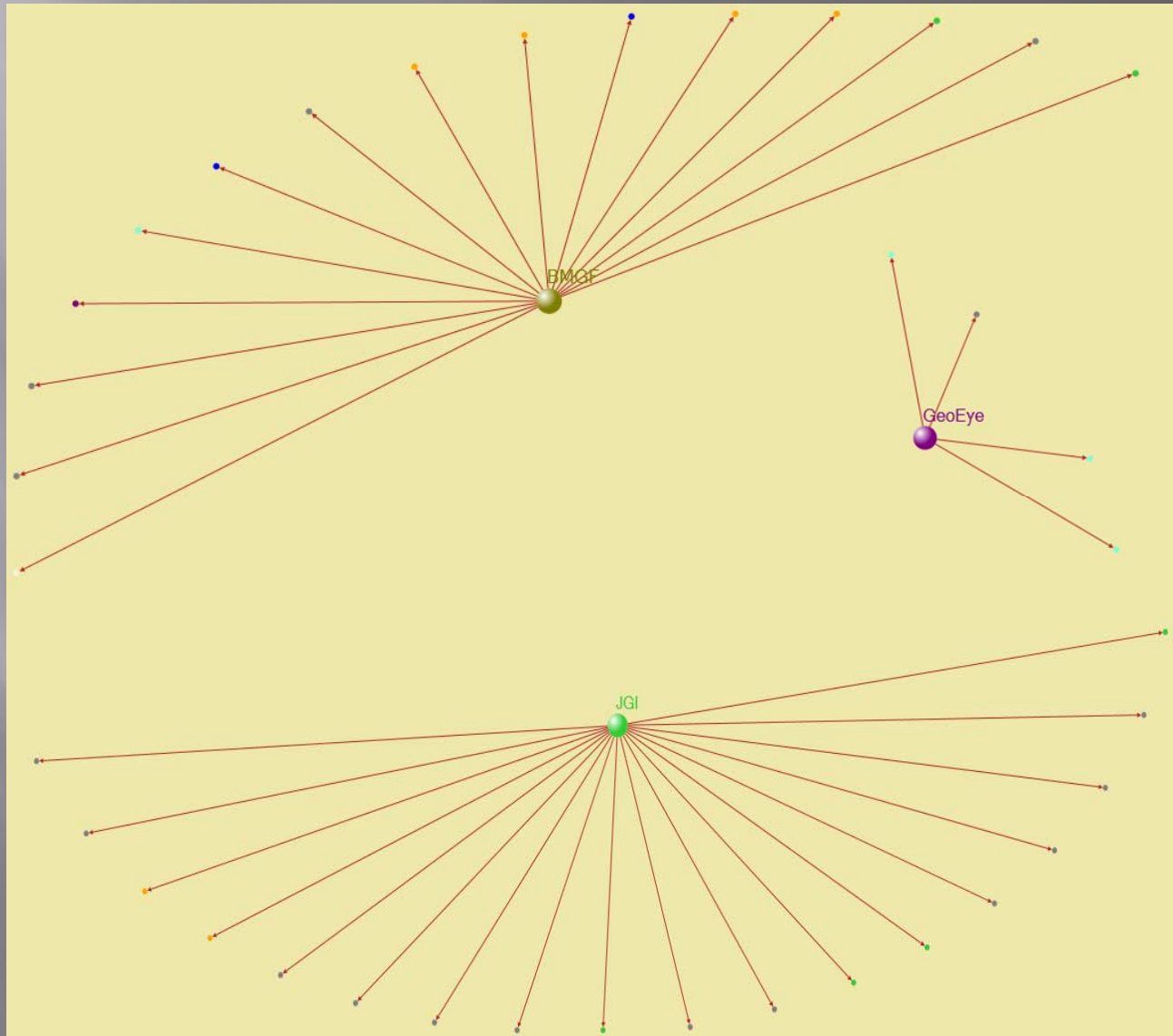


# Network of African Geospatial Science & Technology



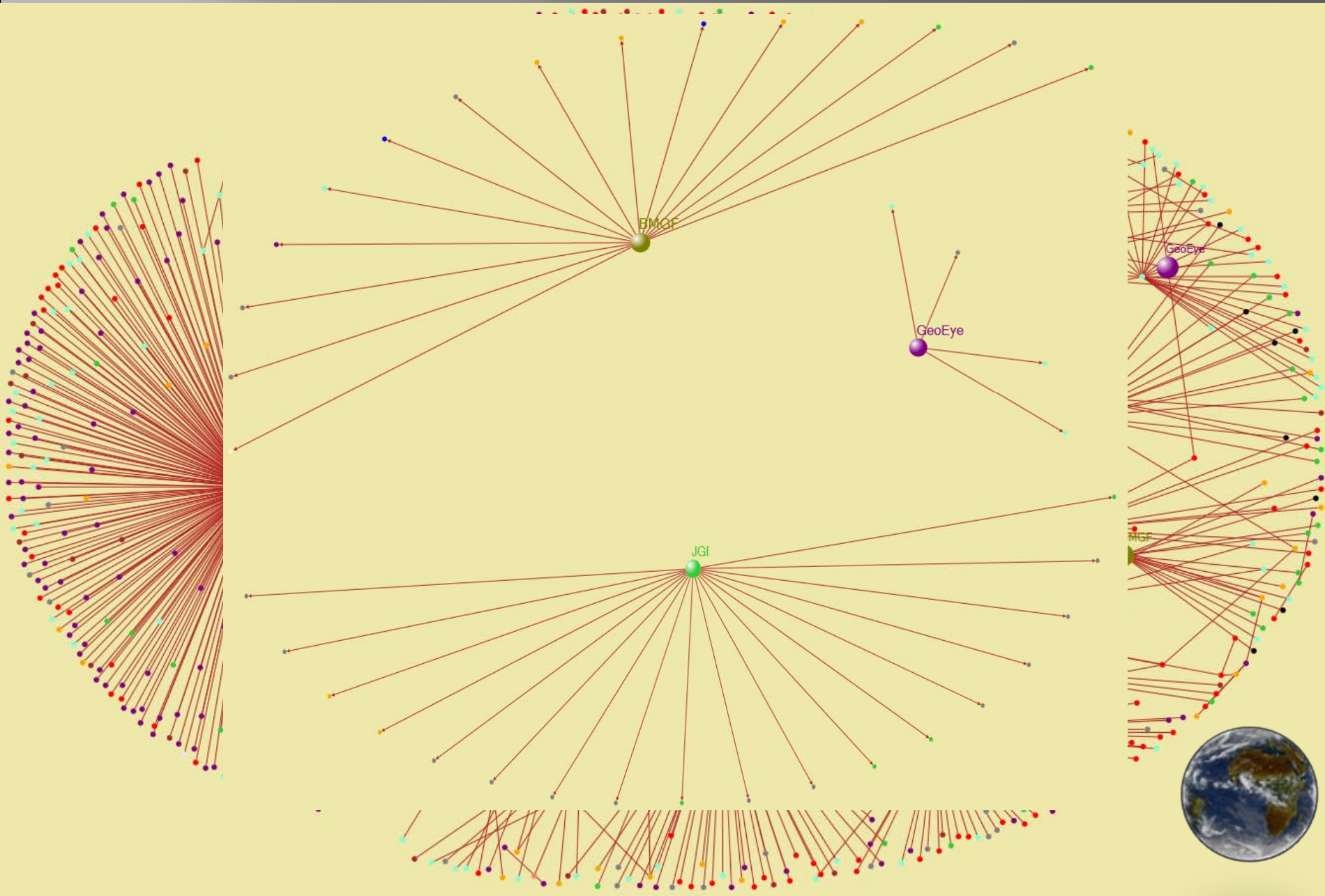


# Network Examples From This Conference





# Enhanced Network in Africa



# The nature of institutional linkages

- Institutional linkages tend to be between individuals
- Inter-governmental organizations focus on functional agencies; survey & mapping, met., etc.
- Linkages tend to be between like organizations



# Alternative Objectives

- Maximize existing clusters
  - Government—University—NGO linkages
  - Move beyond “ego-centric” to organic networks
  - Build upon existing capabilities
- Connect isolated nodes
  - Gov’t—Univ.—NGO
  - Enable exchange of data, information and approaches
- Extend the GST frontier to Central Africa



# The GST Frontier

- DRC
- CAR
- Chad
- Togo
- Congo
- Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- Equatorial Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guinea-Conakry
- Cameroon
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Somalia





# Conclusions

- There is an extensive network of GS&T scientists and organizations in Africa
- These are largely connected through four key organizations
- Linkages remain strong between Africa organizations, Europe and the U.S.
- The network can be strengthened by increasing linkages between key functional groups; universities, government, and NGOs.



# Functioning Networks

## ➤ Synchronization

- Knowing what others are doing
- Sharing of calendars and activities

## ➤ Coordination

- Coordinating efforts according to individual objectives
- Achieving economies of scale
- Sharing information and data

## ➤ Collaboration

- Joining forces to achieve shared goals
- Partnering on projects

## ➤ Organizations operate at various levels according to need



THANK  
YOU



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# Role of Information in Governance

