



African Economic Research Consortium

Research Meets Policy in Africa

Presented by Lemma W. Senbet, Executive Director

October 2014

Birth of AERC



- ❑ Founded in 1988 as a not-for-profit organization
 - *Governed by US and Kenya laws*
- ❑ Evolved into a premier capacity building policy research and training organization based in Africa with a global reach
- ❑ Supported by a Consortium of global partners
 - North American and European partners since inception

Our Vision and Mission

3

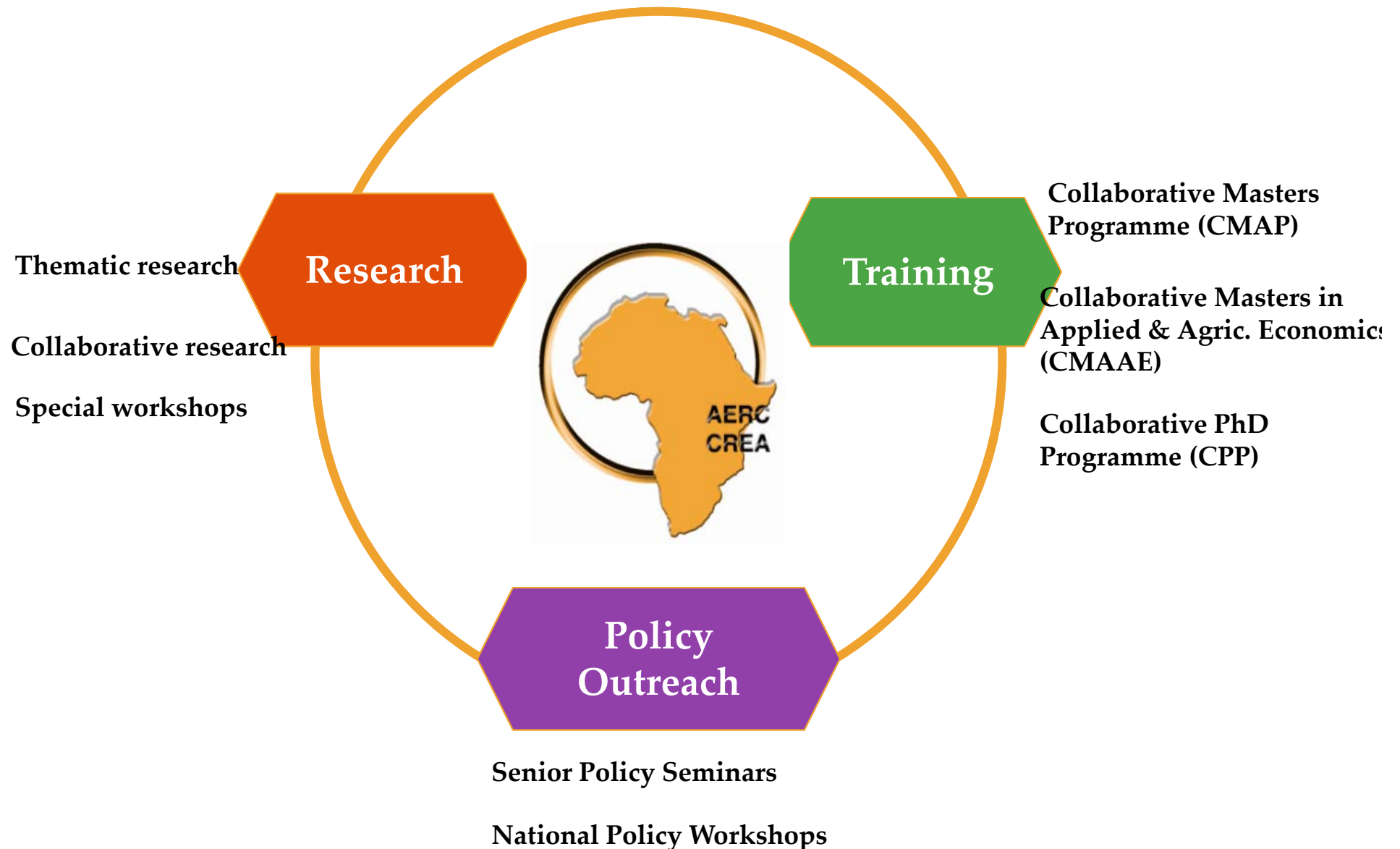
Vision

*Sustained development in
sub-Saharan Africa grounded
in sound economic
management and an
informed society*

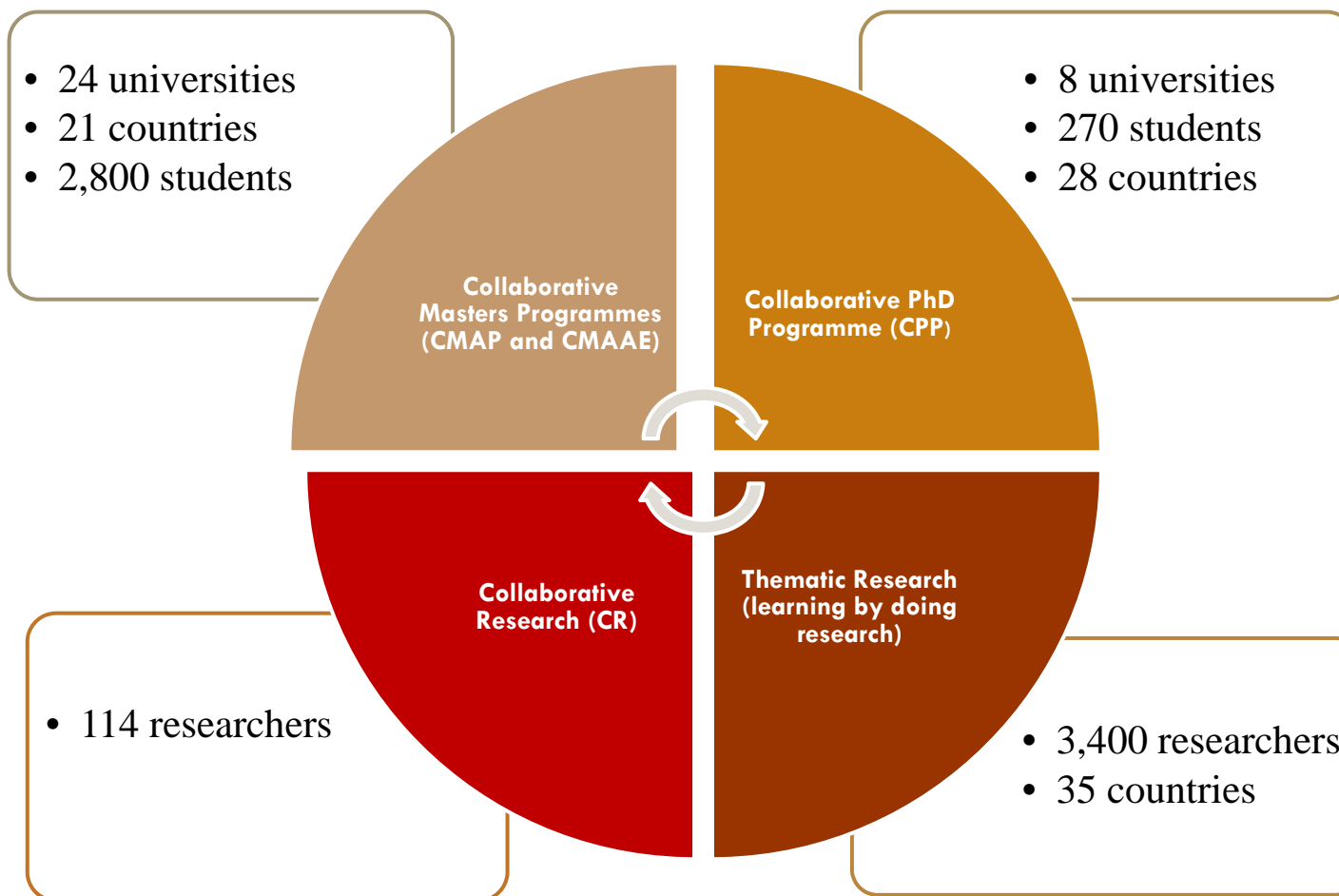
Mission

*To strengthen local capacity for
conducting independent, rigorous inquiry
into problems pertinent to the management
of economies,
through a synergetic programme
combining research with post graduate
training in economics*

AERC Capacity Building Framework



AERC Integrated Research & Training Programme



The Research Programme



Motivated by:

Lack of an African-specific evidence base for policy making and the research capacity to build such a base

Thematic Research



- ❑ **A learning by doing research** - geared towards the building of research capacity of African economists and policy analysts to undertake high quality and policy relevant economic research.
- ❑ **5 Thematic Research Themes (current):**
 - ✓ Poverty, income distribution and food security
 - ✓ Macroeconomic policies, investment and growth
 - ✓ Finance and resource mobilization
 - ✓ Trade and regional integration
 - ✓ Political economy, natural resource management & agricultural policies
- ❑ **Biannual Research Workshops** - control quality of thematic research through peer review and consultation with international resource persons

Supported about 3,400 African researchers from 35 Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone countries

Collaborative Research



- ❑ **Addresses topical policy relevant issues:**
 - Teams senior researchers from SSA and elsewhere for in-depth investigation and country case studies

- ❑ **Among the most impactful AERC collaborative projects are:**
 - ✓ *Poverty, Income Distribution and Labour Market Issues in SSA* -has been a cornerstone of African governments' Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
 - ✓ *Institutions and Service Delivery (ISD) Project* - was the basis of the current World Bank Service *Delivery Indicators* (SDI) project
 - ✓ *Africa and the World Trading System* – informed the African Positions for for the 4th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Doha in 2001)
 - ✓ *Reproductive Health, Growth and Poverty Reduction*

Other Research Activities



❑ **Technical Research Workshops:**

- For equipping researchers with existing and current analytical tools and software in order to develop capability to be able to carry out policy research analysis using the tools learnt.

❑ **Institutional Partnerships**

- For strengthening and enhancing the link between research and policy at national, regional and global levels

❑ **Visiting Scholars Programme**

- In partnership with with the International Monetary Fund and the *Journal of African Economies*, University of Oxford, to further capacity building efforts of its researchers.
- A special AERC/World Bank (WB) Robert McNamara Women's Fellowship Programme initiated to enhance women participation in research

The Training Programme



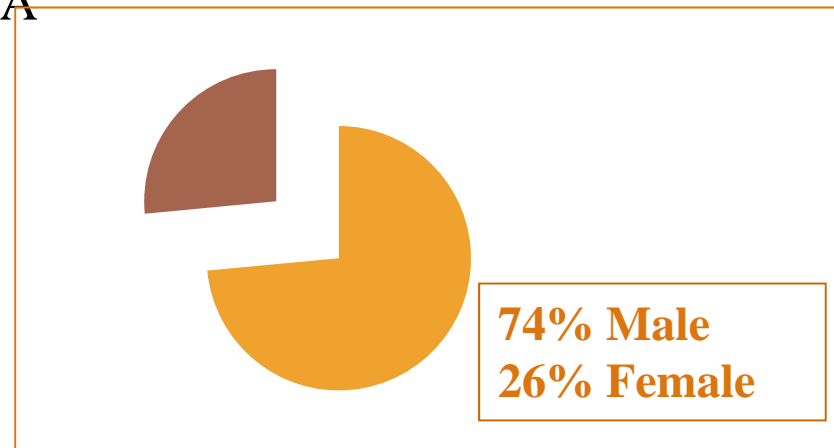
Motivated by:

Severe shortage of economists to conduct economic policy research and graduate-level teaching at universities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Collaborative Master's Programme (CMAP)



- ❑ Established in 1993
- ❑ Comprises 25 universities from Anglophone sub-Saharan African Universities (excluding Nigeria and South Africa), collaborating in the postgraduate training in Economics
- ❑ Uniqueness of CMAP - JFE, Networking, Quality control & monitoring by the Academic Boards
- ❑ **25 universities** from Anglophone SSA
- ❑ **2,111 supported** to date,
 - ❑ 1,608 male
 - ❑ 503 female



CMAP Architecture



Category A

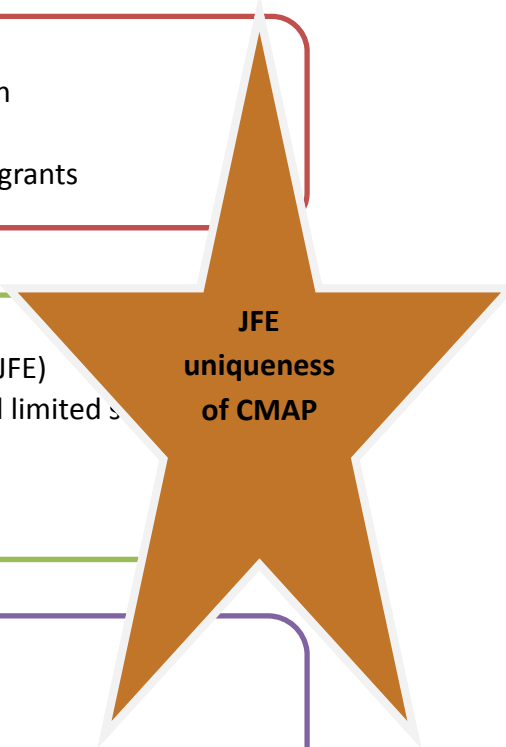
- Have inadequate pre-requisite capacity to teach
- Send students to Category B universities
- Receive institutional grant and faculty research grants

Category B

- Teach Core courses only
- Students taught at a Joint Facility for Electives (JFE)
- Receive tuition fees for students sponsored and limited s local students
- Receive operating grants
- Receive visiting scholars to boost faculty staff

Category C

- Teach both Core and Electives courses
- Receive visiting scholars
- Receive institutional grants



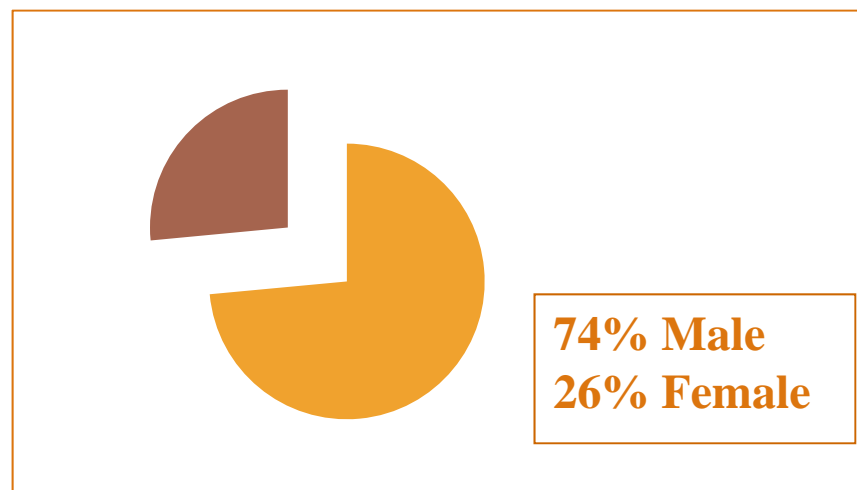
Quality Control

- Academic Board
- Curriculum review
- Retooling
- External Examiners

Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP)



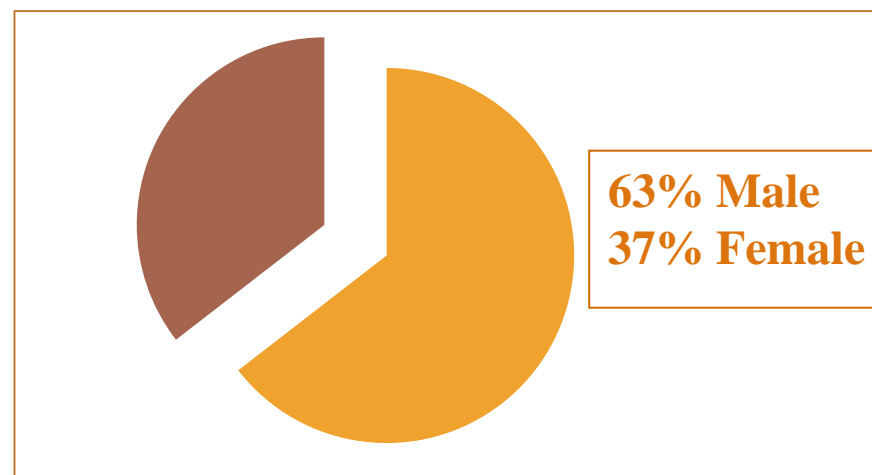
- ❑ Established in 2002
- ❑ Expected outcome: Increased availability of high quality policy professionals, researchers and research products for enhancing economic policy formulation and management in Africa
- ❑ **8 degree-awarding universities**
- ❑ **269 supported** to date
 - 198 male
 - 71 female
- ❑ 118 graduated to-date



Collaborative Master's in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE)



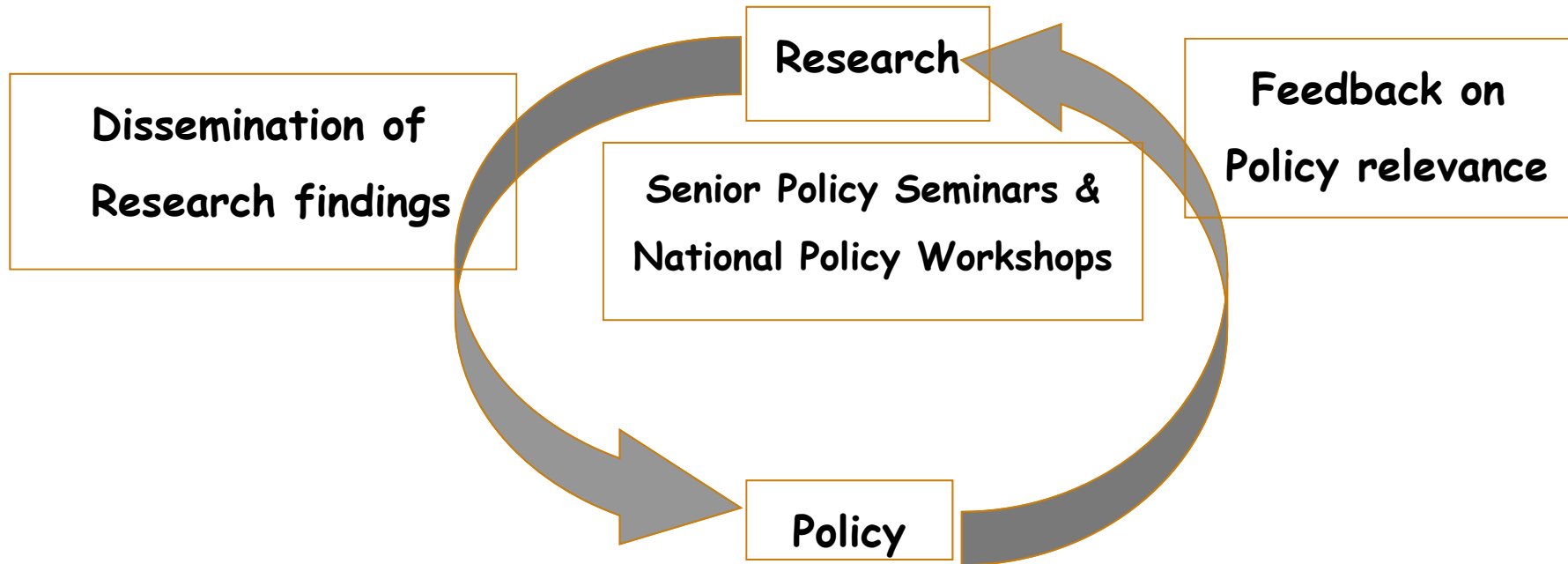
- ❑ Overall goal: To build capacity for agricultural and applied economics education in Africa
- ❑ Network of 17 public universities in 13 countries of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa
- ❑ 631 supported to date
 - 398 male (63%)
 - 233 female (37%)
- Graduates: 317
- 80% progressed to employment
- 20% progressed to PhD
- Supported 15 faculty research
- 11 theses dissemination workshops



AERC Research and Training Network Coverage



Research Meets Policy



Research Meets Policy



❑ **Regional Senior Policy Seminars**

- Senior African Policy makers at the level of Ministers, Governors of Central Banks, Advisers to Presidents, Permanent Secretaries, Directors of government departments
- Share and deliberate on research findings
- Evidence-based policy making.
- Recent SPS: *Capital Flight (with UNECA and AfDB, Addis Ababa, 2014); Small holder farmers (with WFP-UN, Lusaka, 2015)*

❑ **National Policy Workshops**

- Showcasing AERC research findings
- Informing policy making
- Obtaining feedback on the policy relevance of AERC research
- Identifying policy research issues of interest to the policy makers.

Research meets Policy (cont)



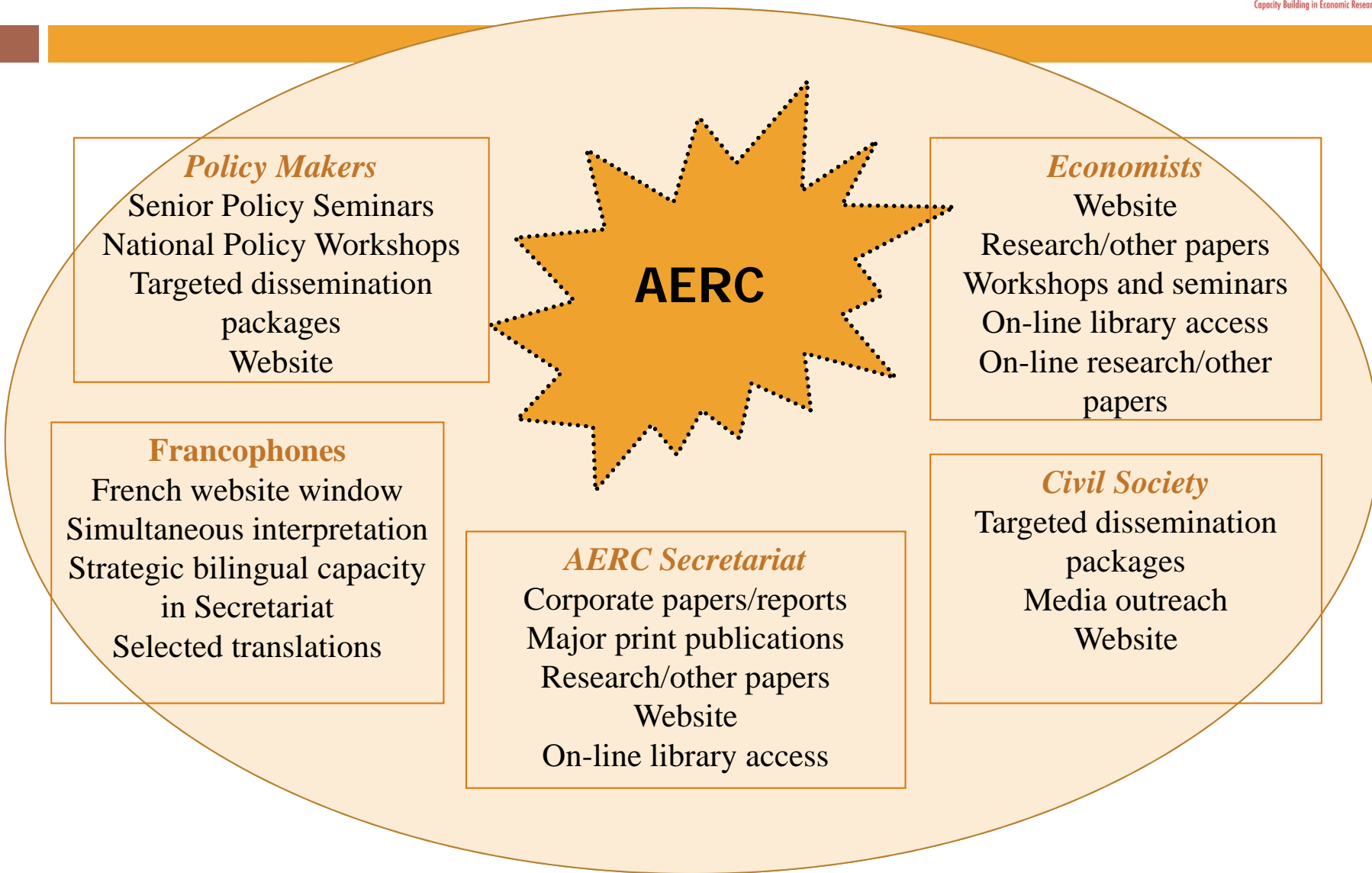
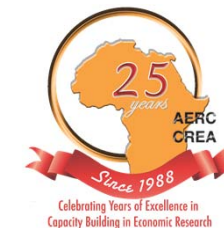
18

- ❑ Biannual Research workshops plenary sessions
 - ❑ *Financial inclusion (Nairobi, 2013); Public Finance and Tax Reform (Accra, June 2014), Youth Employment (Lusaka, December 2014).*

- ❑ Regular dissemination workshops at the conclusion of AERC collaborative research projects.
 - A recent example on a collaborative research project, the World Bank/AERC partnership on Service Delivery Indicators (SDI)
 - ✓ Initiated by AERC in 2007
 - ✓ Currently being piloted on a project in 3 African countries, to be extended to others

- ❑ CMAAE Theses dissemination workshops

Communication and Outreach



Policy Makers

Senior Policy Seminars
National Policy Workshops
Targeted dissemination packages
Website

AERC

Economists

Website
Research/other papers
Workshops and seminars
On-line library access
On-line research/other papers

Francophones

French website window
Simultaneous interpretation
Strategic bilingual capacity in Secretariat
Selected translations

AERC Secretariat

Corporate papers/reports
Major print publications
Research/other papers
Website
On-line library access

Civil Society

Targeted dissemination packages
Media outreach
Website

AERC is a True African Success Story

Key Success Pillars



- ❑ A networking approach
 - ❑ Researchers, resource persons, policy makers, institutions
- ❑ An enduring and integrated capacity building framework
 - ❑ Diverse yet integrated products: *research, training, policy outreach*
- ❑ The collaborative model
 - 35 collaborative public universities for training programmes
 - Collaborative research partners
 - UNU-WIDER, World Bank, IMF, AfDB, UNECA, etc.
 - National, regional and international research institutes
- ❑ Governance structure and financing model

Accomplishments

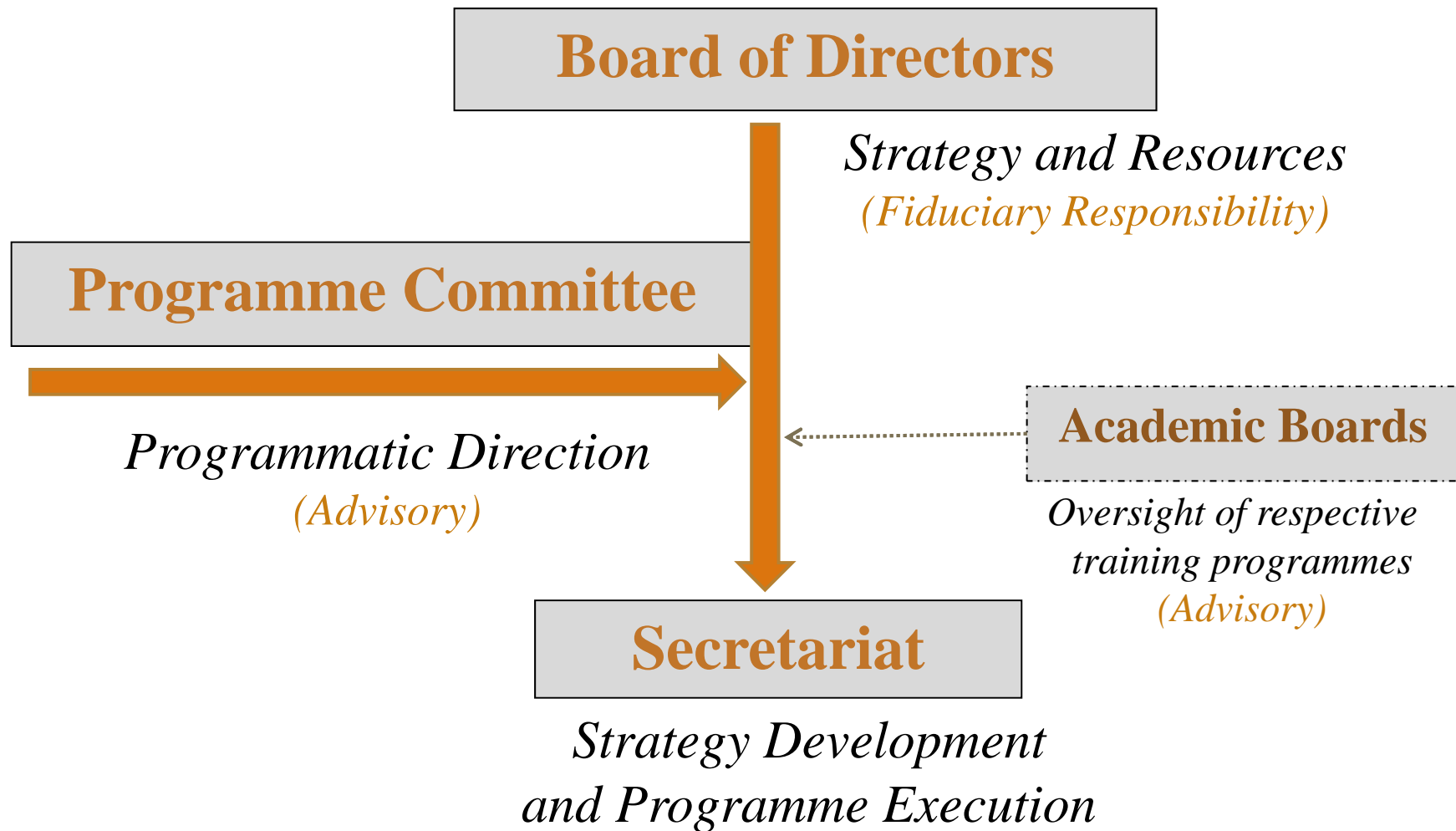
Research Meets Policy



21

- ❑ Building capacity for policy oriented research
- ❑ Building capacity and delivering policy oriented graduate training
- ❑ Conducting collaborative research that informs policy and dialoguing with senior policy makers
- ❑ Institutional capacity building
- ❑ Vast alumni and network: informed policy making

AERC Governance



Accomplishments (cont)



23

- ❑ **Individual Capacity Building**
 - Supported over **3,400 researchers**
 - Supported over **2,800** masters graduates
 - ✓ Working in government ministries, central banks, national policy research institutes, universities, international organizations, etc
 - Supported over **400 through the PhD Programme**
 - ✓ Nearly all retained in Africa
 - ✓ **Majority (71%)** have become faculty members in universities.

- ❑ Over **1,200 Senior African policy makers** are in AERC's high-level policy network

Payoff to Capacity Building

AERC Alumni as Senior Policy Makers



24

- AERC Alumni - currently senior policy makers at:
 - Ministries of Finance/Treasury, Economy and Planning Commissions of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda
 - Central Banks of Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Mozambique, Rwanda, Namibia, Lesotho, etc.
 - African Development Bank
 - Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)
 - East African Community (EAC)

Payoff to Capacity Building

AERC Alumni (Cont)



25

- ❑ *AERC Alumni (continued):*
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

 - African Union

 - World Bank

 - International Monetary Fund

 - Universities and research institutes across sub-Saharan Africa

Payoff to Capacity Building

AERC Alumni Policy Makers



26

Some examples of AERC Alumni Policy makers:

- ❑ Adelaide Matlanyane, Governor, Central Bank of Lesotho;
- ❑ Njuguna Ndung'u, Governor, Central Bank of Kenya;
- ❑ Benno Ndulu, Governor, Bank of Tanzania;
- ❑ Charles Soludo, former Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria;
- ❑ Ernesto Gouveia Gove, Governor, Bank of Mozambique;
- ❑ Caleb Fundanga, former Governor, Bank of Zambia;
- ❑ Louis Kasekende, Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda;
- ❑ Kupukile Mlambo, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe;
- ❑ Yohannes Ayalew Birru, Deputy Governor, National Bank of Ethiopia;
- ❑ Bioma S. Kamara, Deputy Governor for Research, Policy and Planning, Bank of Liberia;

Payoff to Capacity Building

AERC Alumni Policy Makers



27

Some examples of AERC Alumni Policy makers (cont):

- ❑ Jean Razafindravonona, Minister for Finance, Madagascar;
- ❑ Pedro Couto, Vice Minister for Finance, Mozambique;
- ❑ Cyrril Chami, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Trade, Tanzania;
- ❑ Mthuli Ncube, Vice President and Chief Economist, AfDB;
- ❑ Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana;
- ❑ John Ddumba Ssentamu, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University;
- ❑ Adam Mugume, Director of Research, Central Bank of Uganda;
- ❑ Geoffrey Mwau, Economic Secretary at the National Treasury, Kenya;
- ❑ Arsene Balihuta, Senior Presidential Advisor, Uganda, and former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN in Switzerland;
- ❑ Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, former AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs

The Future of AERC *and* *African Imperatives*



□ Longstanding and emerging challenges confronting Africa

– threatening decades of development gains:

- Non-inclusive growth
- Lack of financial inclusion
- Curse of youthful population (can also be blessing!)
- Prevalence of informality and underemployment
- Smallholder farming: low productivity and subsistence
- Food insecurity
- Climate change
- Extreme and persistent poverty
- Curse of natural resources (can also be blessing!)

Inadequate research and training capacity to inform policy

AERC Positioning for the Future

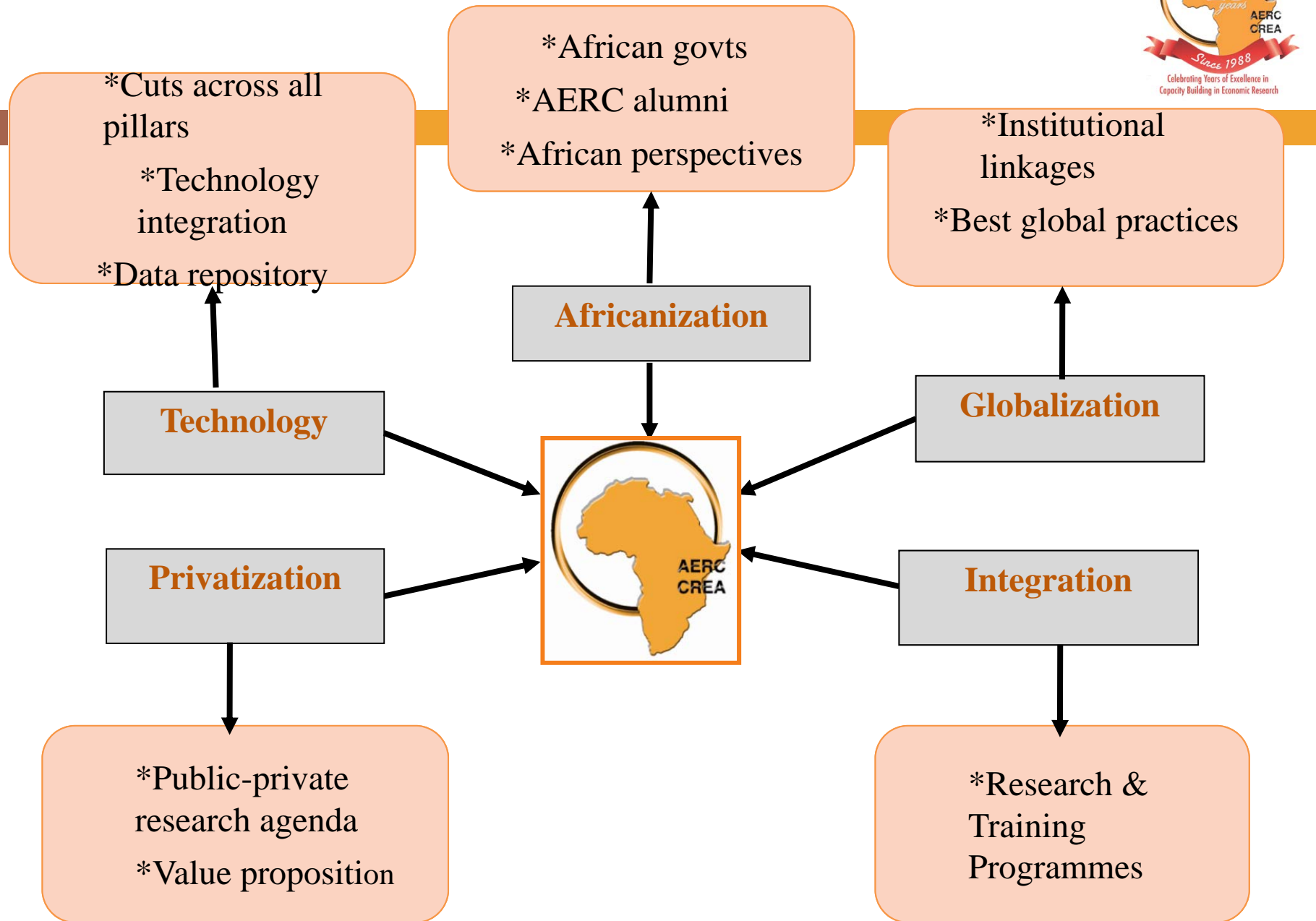


- ❑ A new AERC strategic plan 2015-2020
- ❑ Priorities emerging
 - Inclusiveness
 - Improved strategies for underrepresented groups
 - Partnerships and linkages
 - ✓ National, regional and global
 - Private sector engagement
 - ✓ Mutually beneficial research and training
 - Enhancing diversity of resources and African stakeholdership
 - Sustainability and viability
 - AERC Governors of Central Banks Forum, Zanzibar, August 2014 (cohosted by Bank of Tanzania)
 - Enhancing AERC visibility, outreach and policy engagement
 - Maximizing uptake of AERC products in policy

AERC Positioning for the Future: *Key Pillars*



30



THANK YOU

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