

# The Role of Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in developing local content

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# AfREN

- Forum on research and education networking in Africa
- Convened annually by AAU as part of the Africa Internet Summit (AIS)
- First meeting hosted by AfNOG at AfNOG 2006 in Nairobi
- Focus:
  - Collaboration
  - Sharing of best practices
  - Policy development
  - New and innovative applications and services
- Vision: interconnection of the 3 regional RENs that cover the continent: UbuntuNet Alliance, WACREN, ASREN

# ASREN, UA, WACREN

## ■ ASREN

- 22 potential members in the Middle East and North Africa
- Some countries have joined; ASREN reaching out to the others

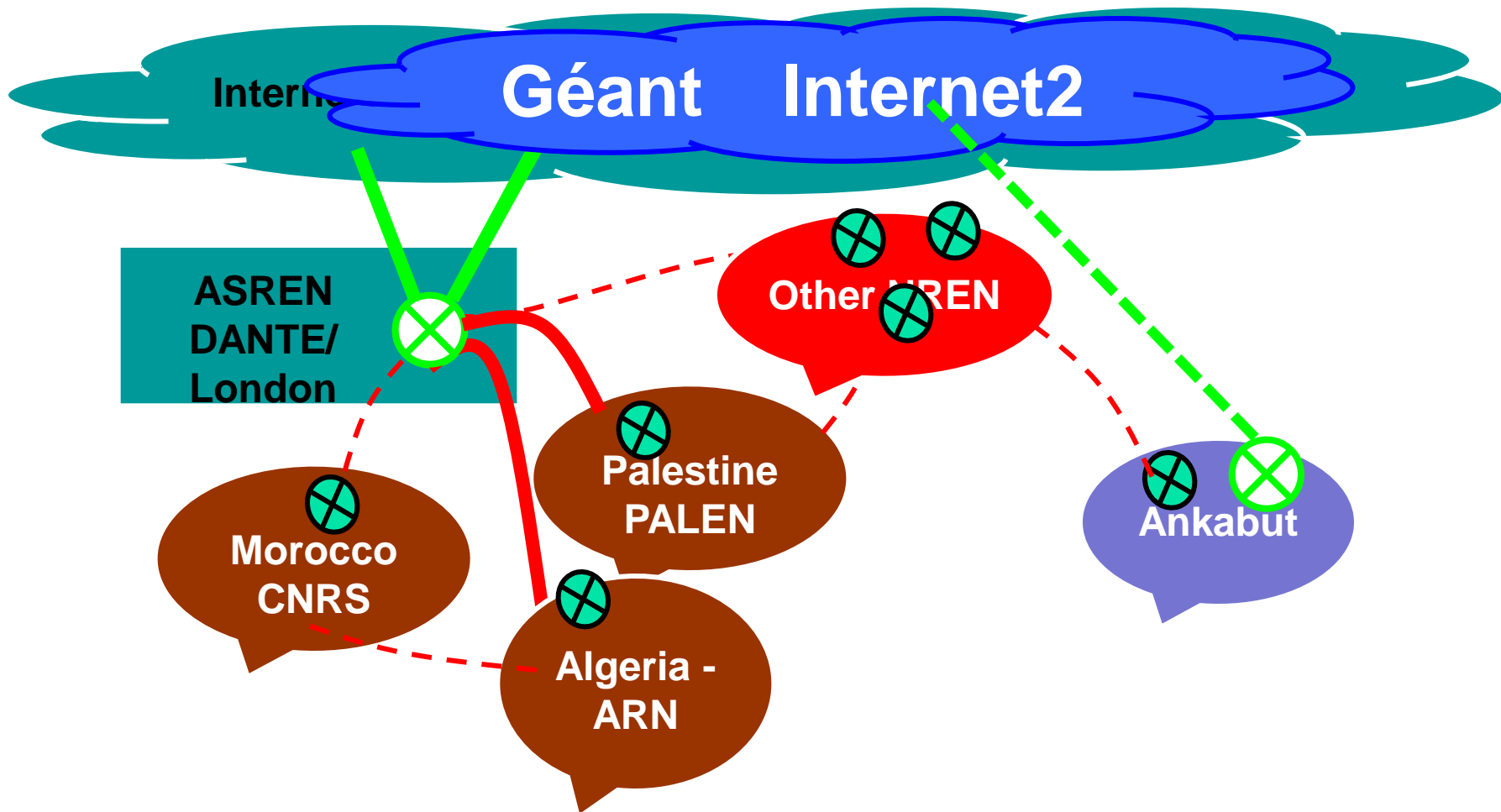
## ■ UbuntuNet Alliance

- 14 members
- Many operational NRENs
- Connected to GEANT
- Implementation of AfricaConnect

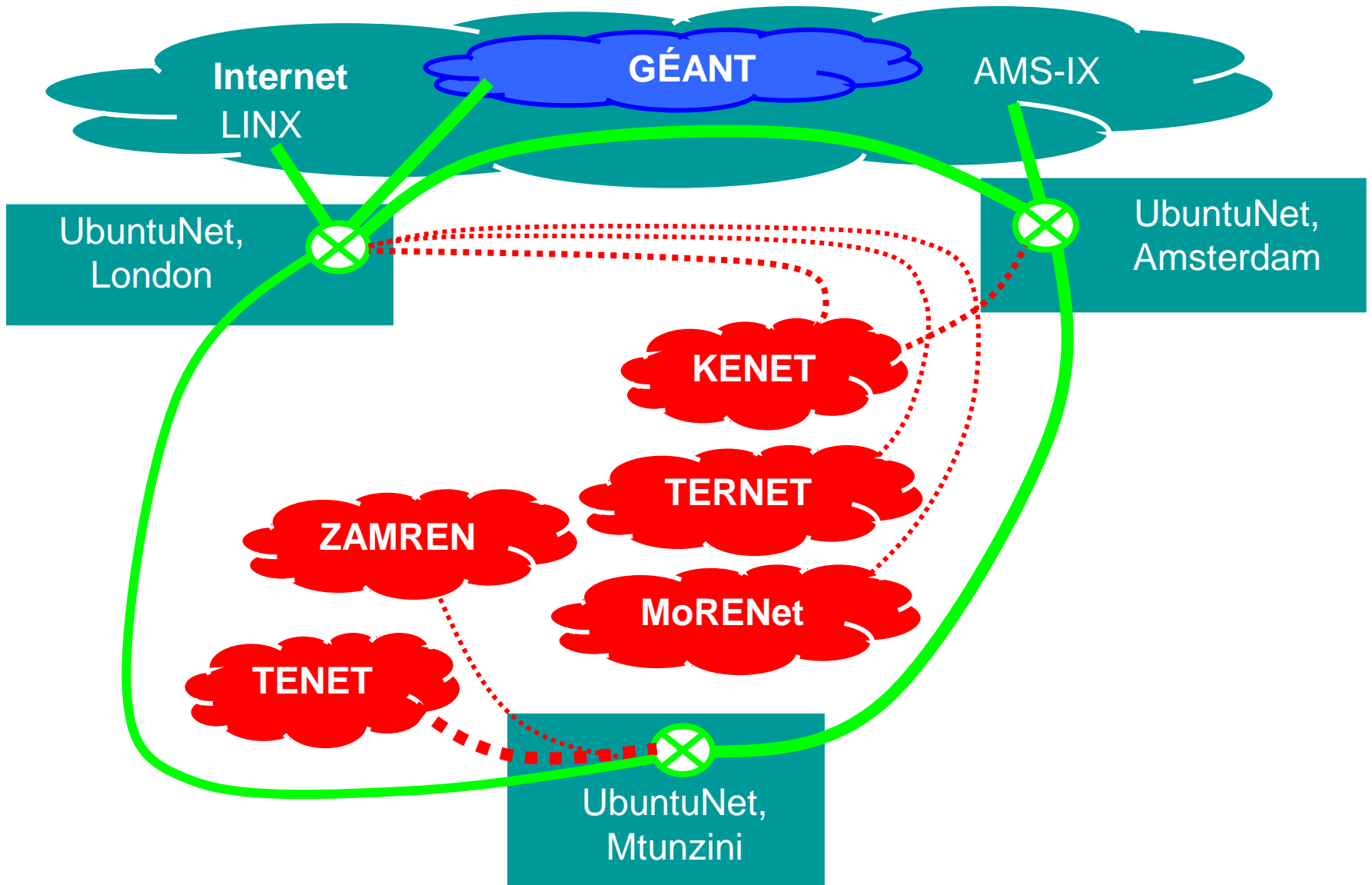
## ■ WACREN

- 22 potential members
- 8 established NRENs
- 3 NRENs close to operation: GARNET, NgREN, snRER

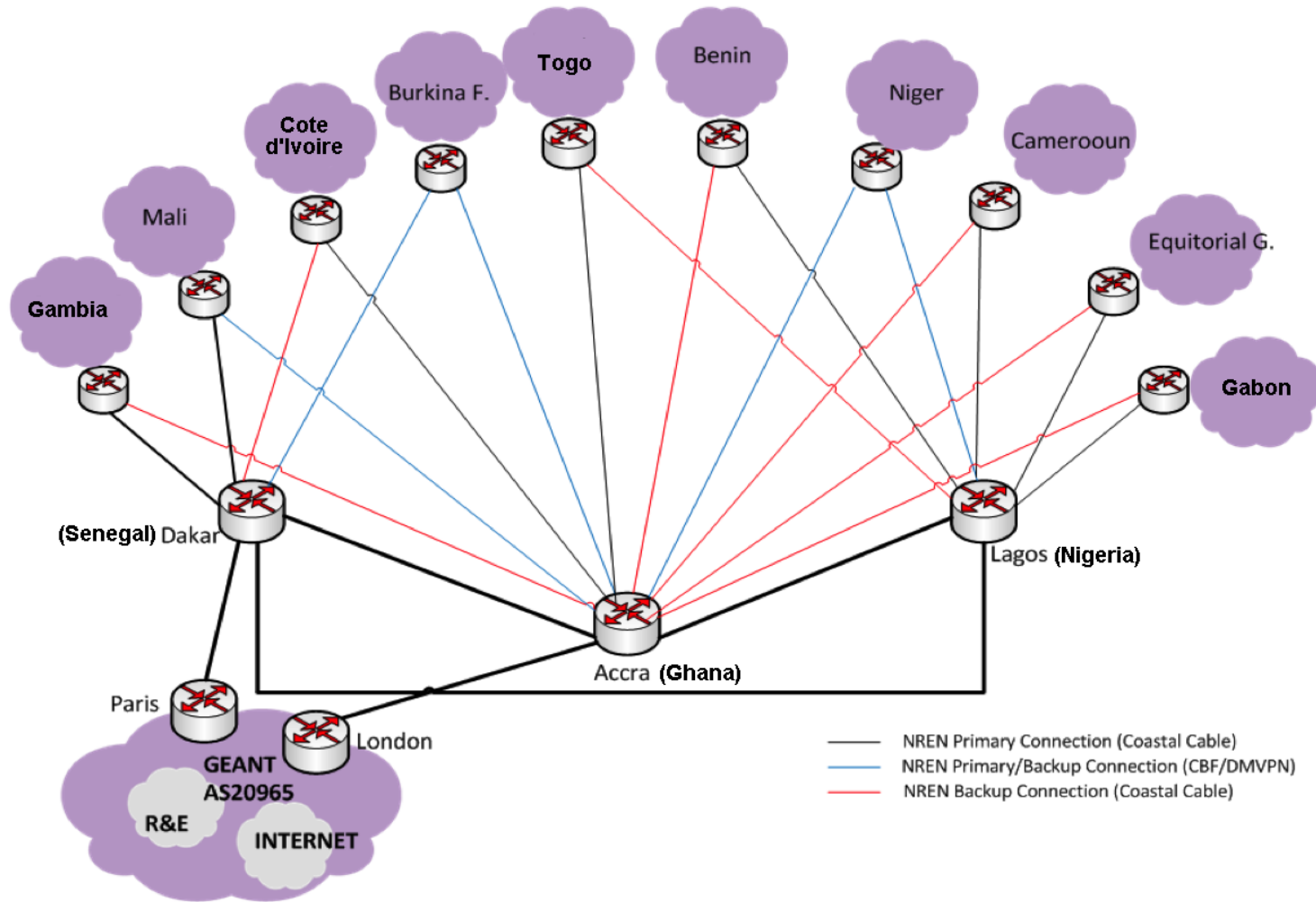
# ASREN proposed topology



# UA topology



# WACREN proposed topology



# RENs and content development

- Universities and research centers are traditional content developers
  - Books
  - Lecture notes
  - Theses
  - Research reports
  - Publications
- NRENs are to provide high performance networks for:
  - Access, creation and dissemination of knowledge
  - Sharing of resources
  - Collaboration
- Important for RENs to include non-academic content providers such as museums, public/community libraries, etc.

# Examples of current initiatives

- eI4Africa
  - Objective: to boost research, technological development and innovation of African e-Infrastructures
  - Africa Grid Science Gateway as demonstrative platform to show lighthouse applications (<http://sgw.africa-grid.org>)
- CHAIN-REDS
  - Objective: support scientific collaboration across different e-Infrastructures to allow virtual research communities to access and use worldwide distributed resources (computing, storage, data, tools, applications, services, etc.) - <http://www.chain-project.eu>
- DATAD
  - Objective: dissemination of African research output through a database of theses and dissertations. Over 100,000 entries – <http://www.aau.org/datad>



**THANK YOU!**

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