

AI4D Africa Webinar Series

Making NLP Work In Africa

A legal perspective on sharing language data in Africa

Webinar

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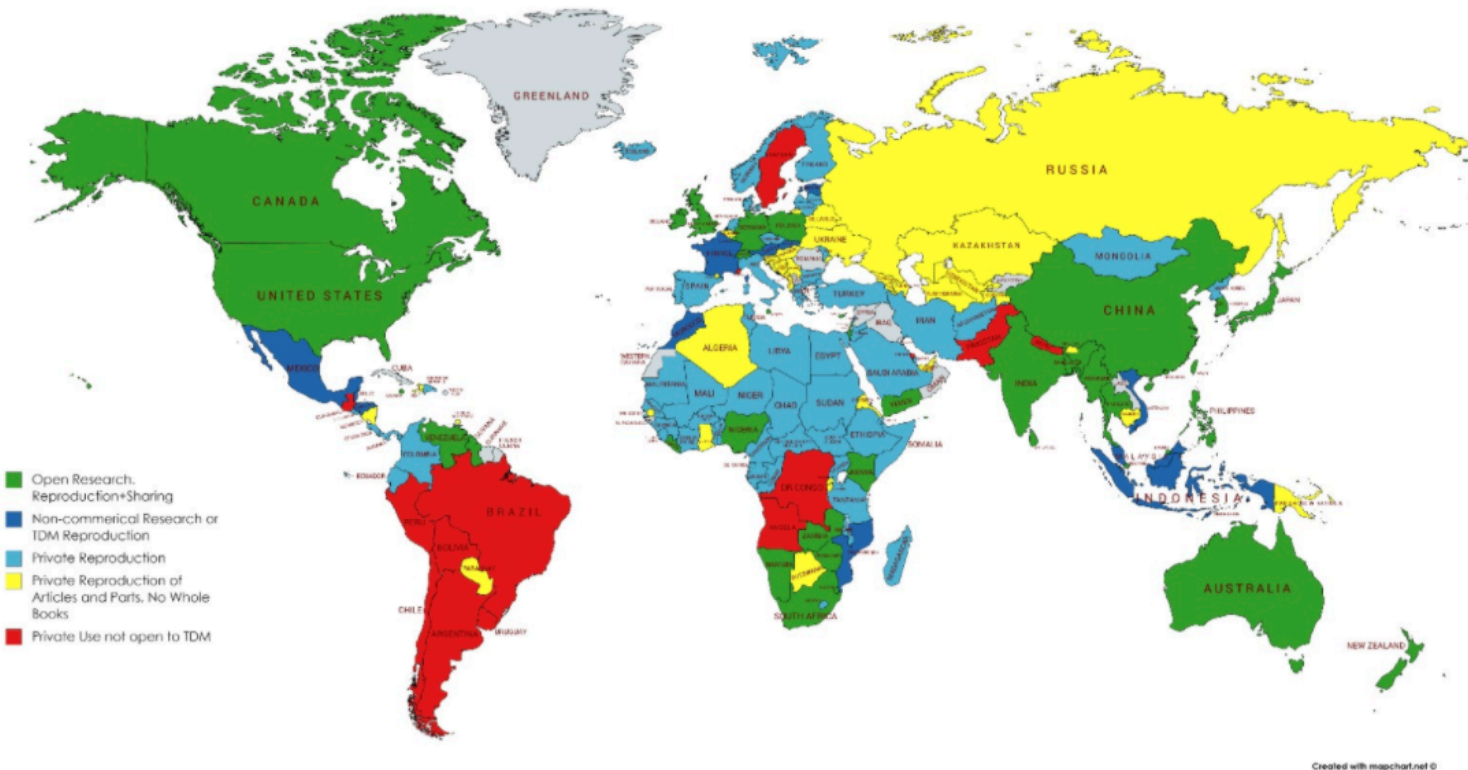
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What is allowed in one country in Africa may or may not be allowed in other countries in Africa – and it all depends on what domestic laws say.

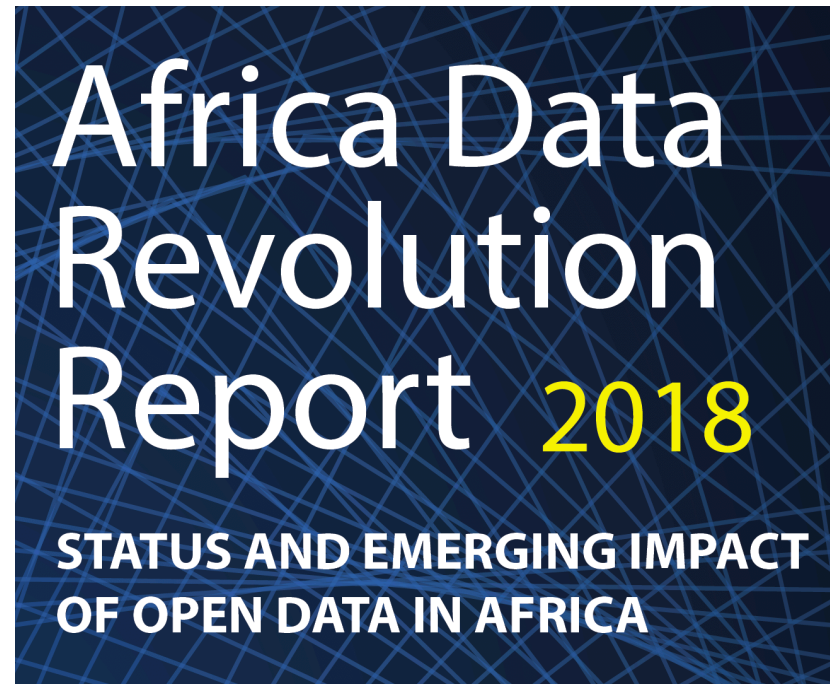
We need to **better map what is and what isn't allowed** in the different countries in Africa.



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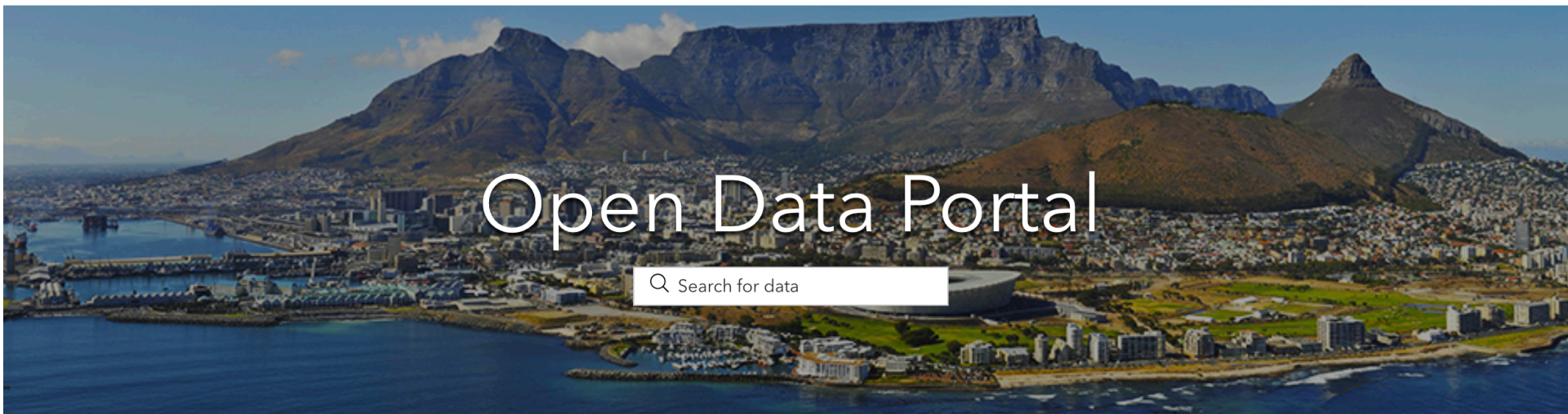
- Just because something is on the Internet or otherwise easily **accessible doesn't mean that it can freely be used**
- A lot of (but not all!) (language) data will, for instance, be **protected by domestic © laws**
 - **Permission** needs to be sought– unless a **© exception** applies (eg for research or educational purposes or through specific ***text and data mining exceptions***) or because permission is granted upfront (eg when the data is disseminated under an **open licence** such as CC)
- And even if © is not or no longer a stumbling block for access, the **collection, use and storage may still be subject to other laws**, including **data protection / privacy laws**, (like here in SA the Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act which more or less fully commenced earlier this week.)

And...



"[Broadly,] Open data is not yet entrenched in law in the continent and the legal frameworks supporting it are either incomplete or directly absent. Implementation and resourcing are also very weak."

<http://webfoundation.org/docs/2019/03/Africa-data-revolution-report.pdf>



- Using public sector / government data may be still be the lowest hanging fruit. Several governments in Africa have now started to share their data (more) freely – as a result of Open Science or Open Government Data policy initiatives, or because newer laws actually prescribe this..
- And an increasing amount of private sector players have also begun to make their data openly available.

- ✓ **Map** legal frameworks re open data / data use
- ✓ **Harmonise** legal frameworks and **update** copyright/ data protection / right to information laws in Africa to facilitate data use
- ✓ Hold governments to their open data commitments / policies and remind them that **data produced with tax payers money should belong to the public**
- ✓ **Make your own data findable, accessible and usable**, especially through applying standard open licences
 - ✓ **Use data that is clearly marked as open**
 - ✓ Read the **Africa Data Revolution Report** 😊

Thank you!

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