



This is Africa!

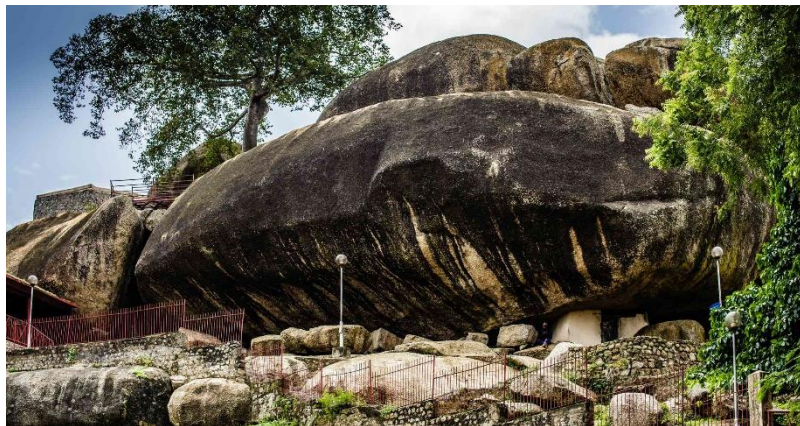
Innovation and Technology Transfer in West Africa

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<https://warima.org>



GREETINGS FROM WEST AFRICA

West Africa Research and Innovation Managers Association (WARIMA)

- Established 2006.

- **Mandate**

To develop capacity and promote best research and innovation management practices in the sub region.

- **Vision**

To establish strong and effective institutions with necessary manpower to manage research and innovation of relevance to our people.

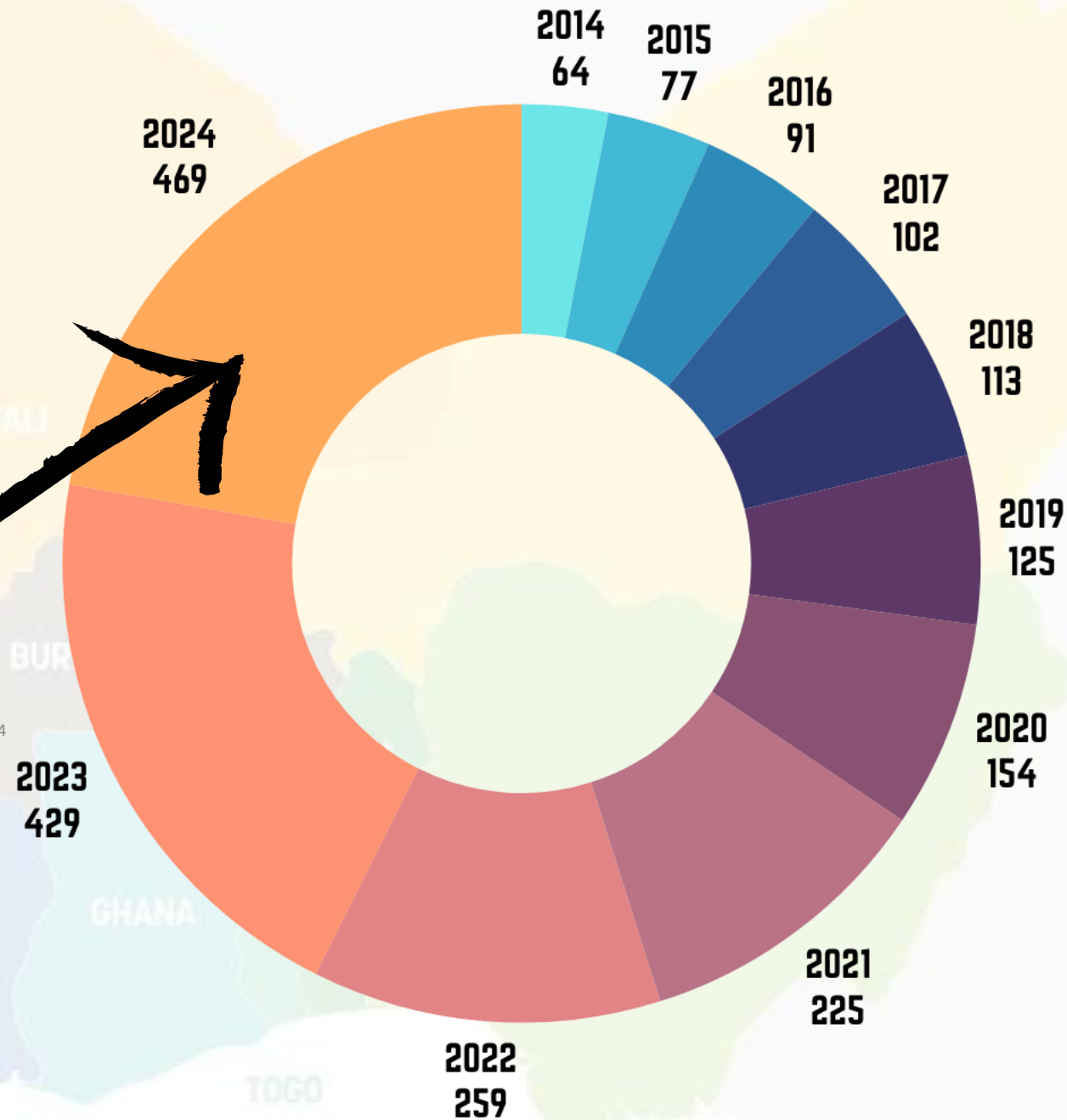
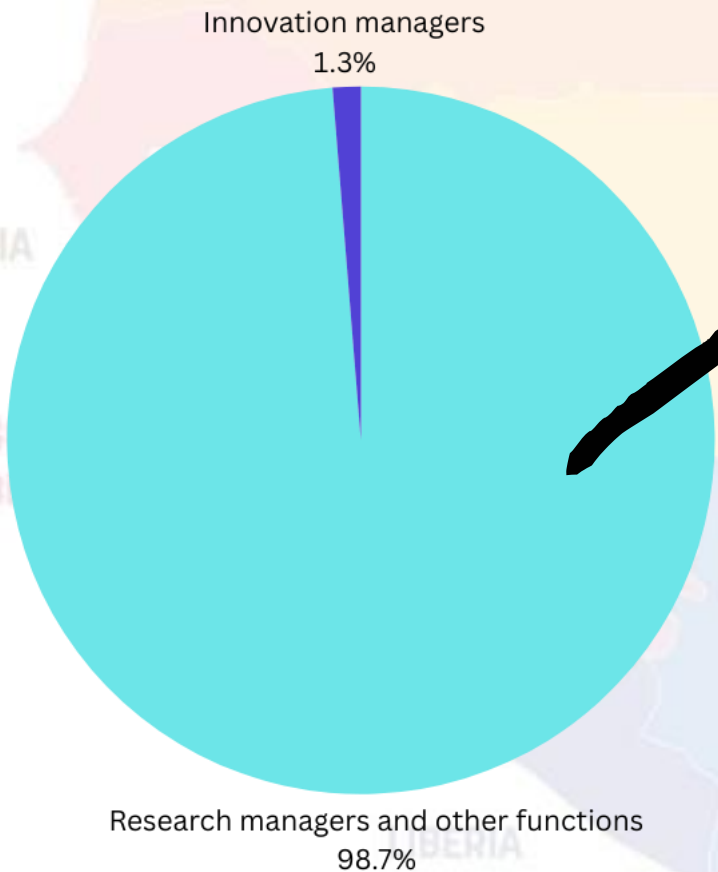
- **Mission**

To be the foremost regional leader in research and innovation management in the West African sub-region through global engagements, capacity building and collaborations.

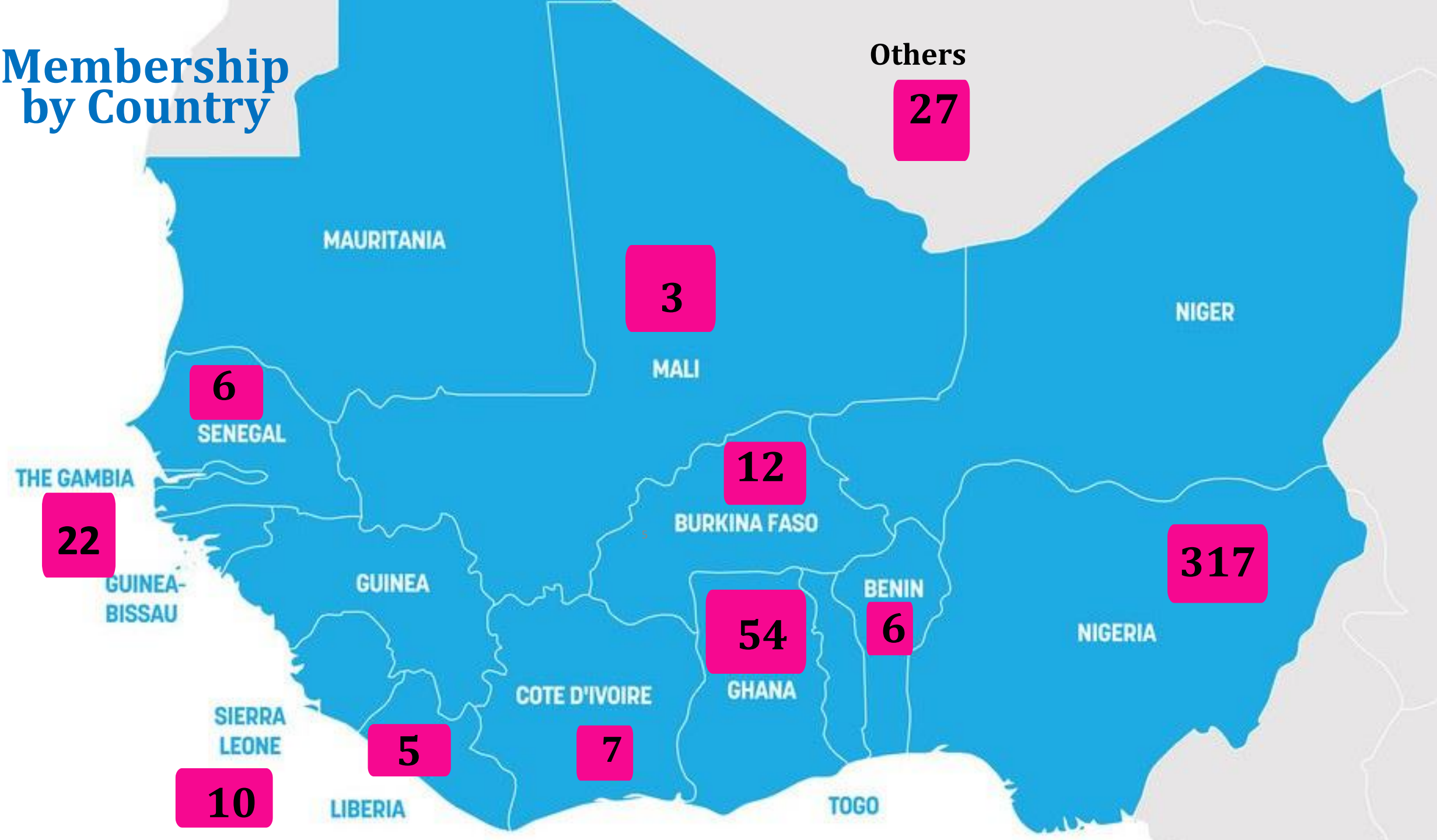
- **Strategic Objectives (2023 – 2028)**

- ✓ Research and Innovation Management Professionalism
- ✓ Researcher Development and Leadership
- ✓ Engagement and Partnerships
- ✓ Organisational Efficiency and Management
- ✓ Research Governance
- ✓ Visibility and Communication

Membership (2014 – 2024)



Membership by Country



Membership, Partners, Linkages and Supporters

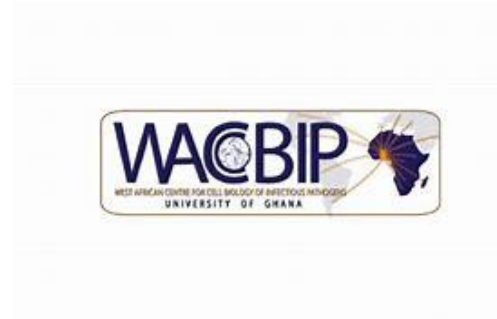
Membership



Partners, Collaborators, Linkages



Sponsors/Donors



Open Labs



Overview of Research and Innovation Ecosystem in West Africa

- **Diverse and evolving ecosystem.**
- **Key actors: Academia, government agencies, private sector, funding agencies, financial institutions, venture funds, innovation hubs, civil society, incubators and accelerators, media.**
- **Institutional policies and frameworks to promote research and partnerships.**
- **Significant research funding from donor agencies, development partners, collaborative research projects.**
- **Limited research funding from governments.**
- **Research and Development (R&D) investments by the private sector remains low.**
- **Some universities and research institutions have established in-house research grant schemes.**
- **Growing recognition of academia's role in driving research, innovation, knowledge exchange.**
- **Research management function relatively well developed.**



Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Aspects

- Established national and institutional Intellectual Property (IP) Policies.
- Implementational challenges at national and institutional levels.
- Limited understanding but growing recognition of IPRs, technology transfer and associated benefits among researchers, entrepreneurs, local businesses (MSMEs).
- Government agencies embarking on IP awareness programmes for MSMEs, researchers.
- WARIMA/Many TTOs conduct IP & TT awareness creation programmes for universities.
- Several cutting -edge research, yet low number of disclosures.
- Understaffed and under-resourced TTOs.
- Inadequate skills in innovation management and technology transfer.
- Limited funding to support lab to market activities.
- Low patent filings by universities and businesses. Some trademark registrations by businesses.
- Small number of patent attorneys, but relatively large number of patent agents.
- Slow and bureaucratic patent registration process.
- Weak IP enforcement mechanisms.



University of Ibadan - Nigeria

**Centre for Intellectual
Property Protection and
Commercialization**

**Awarded 2nd Best
Intellectual Property and
Technology Transfer
Office in 2018 for its
contribution in
promoting IP awareness.**

**Innovations Portal
showcasing technologies
available for licensing**

African Centre of Excellence in Biotechnological Innovations for the Elimination of Vector Borne Diseases; Nazi Boni University - Burkina Faso

Background

Nov. 2022 - TTIPS, UG organised a 3-day training workshop to set up and operationalise a TTO.

Training Aspects

- Functions/role of Technology Transfer Offices
- Negotiation of research contracts
- IPRs, Technology Transfer and commercialisation
- Financing options and support for business incubation
- Dissemination of research outcomes
- Developing and maintaining toolkits for a TTO.

Feedback

- “This training was very interactive and exciting.”
- “Presentations were clear and easy to understand”
- “I really enjoyed the presentations, and the ways to answer the questions.”
- All women training team.

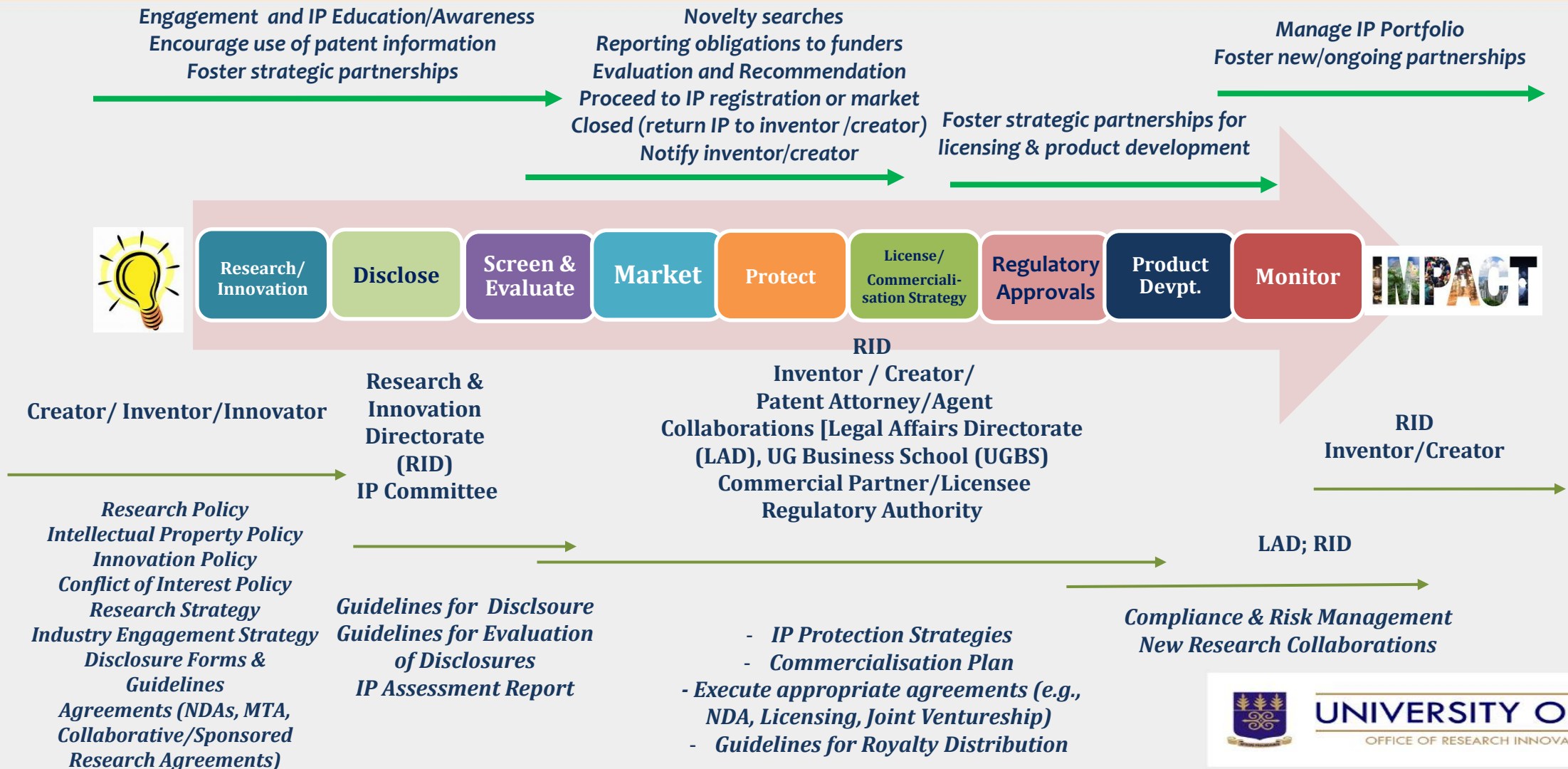
Progress Report – August 2024

- Set up an incubator (2nd cohort of incubatees on board)
- Launched calls for projects
- Organised conferences on entrepreneurship for startups
- Marked Innovation Week
- Organised IP training workshop for lecturers
- Drafted TTO operational manual
- Signed partnership agreements with some private sector companies.
- TTO staff yet to be appointed.
- Business Development Unit underway.



University of Ghana

Major Activities to Support Innovation & Technology Transfer





Support for Student Ventures

Innovation for African Universities (IAU) Programme

Phase I: Aug 2021- Dec 2021

Phase II: Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

Phase III: Feb 2023 - July 2023

Phase IV: Feb 2024 – July 2024

- Launched 2021, British Council
- Supported by Imperial College
- To strengthen the capacity of universities to participate and provide meaningful contributions as key players within the entrepreneurship ecosystem in their respective regions.



University of Ghana (2022 – 2024)



303
Total number of
applicants

85
Teams Selected

26
Teams Final
Stages

Student Venture **Support Programme**

81%
Post programme
mentorship support
including industry immersion
(cohort 1 & 2)

33%
Post programme
IP/ Funding support
(cohort 1 & 2)

151
Est. no. of ventures in the
network (2029)

Youth Creative Potential for Job Creation through Arts (“Artify Project”)

- Launched in 2024 in partnership with Nubuke Foundation and funding from KGL Foundation
- To strengthen the capacity of creatives within U and surrounding communities to express their artistry and build their entrepreneurial skills.
 - Develop entrepreneurial and business development skills.
 - Knowledge to protect and monetize their creative works.
 - Set up an art studio.
 - Promote diversity and inclusivity through art.





Levers of Change

University of Ghana

Strategic Plan (2024 – 2029)

- Strategic Priority 2 - Impactful Research
- Strategic Priority 4 – Engagement & Partnerships
- Principle 5 of Research Strategy
 - Ensure IP from research is beneficial to society
 - KPIs established
- A relook at faculty promotion criteria
- Strengthen capacity of TTO
- Increase visibility of TTO
- Streamline/simplify TTO processes
- Document and showcase success stories
- Innovation Hubs, Makerspace



Table 2. List, Definitions and Maximum Points for Scoring Acceptable Exhibits for Promotion of Academic Staff at the University of Ghana

Exhibit	Description	Points
<i>Book</i>	A scholarly book resulting from primary research and published by a recognized academic publisher	20
<i>Patent</i>	Any invention for which a patent has been obtained	20
<i>Journal Article</i>	A published peer-reviewed article in a non-predatory journal	10
<i>Published or Documented Creative work</i>	A public production of pieces such as drama, plays, dance, choreography or music composition and musical pieces with accompanying background write-up and which have been independently reviewed; a novel, poetry, drama peer reviewed and published by a recognised publisher.	8
<i>Engineering Innovation</i>	Design, development of systems, processes and products with demonstrated commercial value but has not reached the patent stage	8
<i>Book Chapter</i>	A chapter based on original research, peer reviewed, contributed to an edited book published by a recognized academic publisher	6
<i>Edited Book</i>	A collection of chapters written by different contributors around a common theme and edited by the applicant either as a sole editor or part of an editorial team and published by a recognized academic publisher	5

Major projects in the sub region to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship, support technology transfer.

- **WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Nigeria. TISC Workshop in Ghana**
- **Startup Nigeria: Provides seed fund, mentorship, training programmes for startups to catalyse growth, create value and build a foundation to export tech-enabled services.**
- **Nigerian Innovation and Technology Transfer Programme promotes technology transfer and IP awareness through workshops, seminars, and entrepreneurship programs.**
- **Ghana**
 - **Framework for Technology Transfer developed.**
 - **Innovate Ghana – An annual competition that challenges high school students and graduates to develop innovative solutions to national developmental issues.**
- **iSpace Foundation: Supports startups globally from the ideation to incubation stages (working spaces, networks, mentoring, training)**
- **University Administration Support Programmes [International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and ARUA]**



Boosting Innovation and Tech Transfer in West Africa

- Policy measures [similar to Bayh-Dole Act 1980, IPR Act from Publicly Funded Research]
- Intentional effort to improve research funding.
- Incentives to encourage collaboration between academia and local businesses.
- Foster an innovation culture to encourage creativity and experimentation.
- Strengthen IP awareness and entrepreneurship education.
- Incentives for technology transfer.
- Sharing of specialised research facilities/equipment (Facilities/Equipment Catalogue)
- Strengthen national IP offices.
- Gap funding to support early-stage technologies to transition to a point where technical viability is established to boost investor confidence for further development.
- Advocacy
- Recognition and awards – outstanding IP disclosures, successful commercialisation efforts
- Develop/enhance soft skills of TTO staff



Thank You

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