



OER Africa

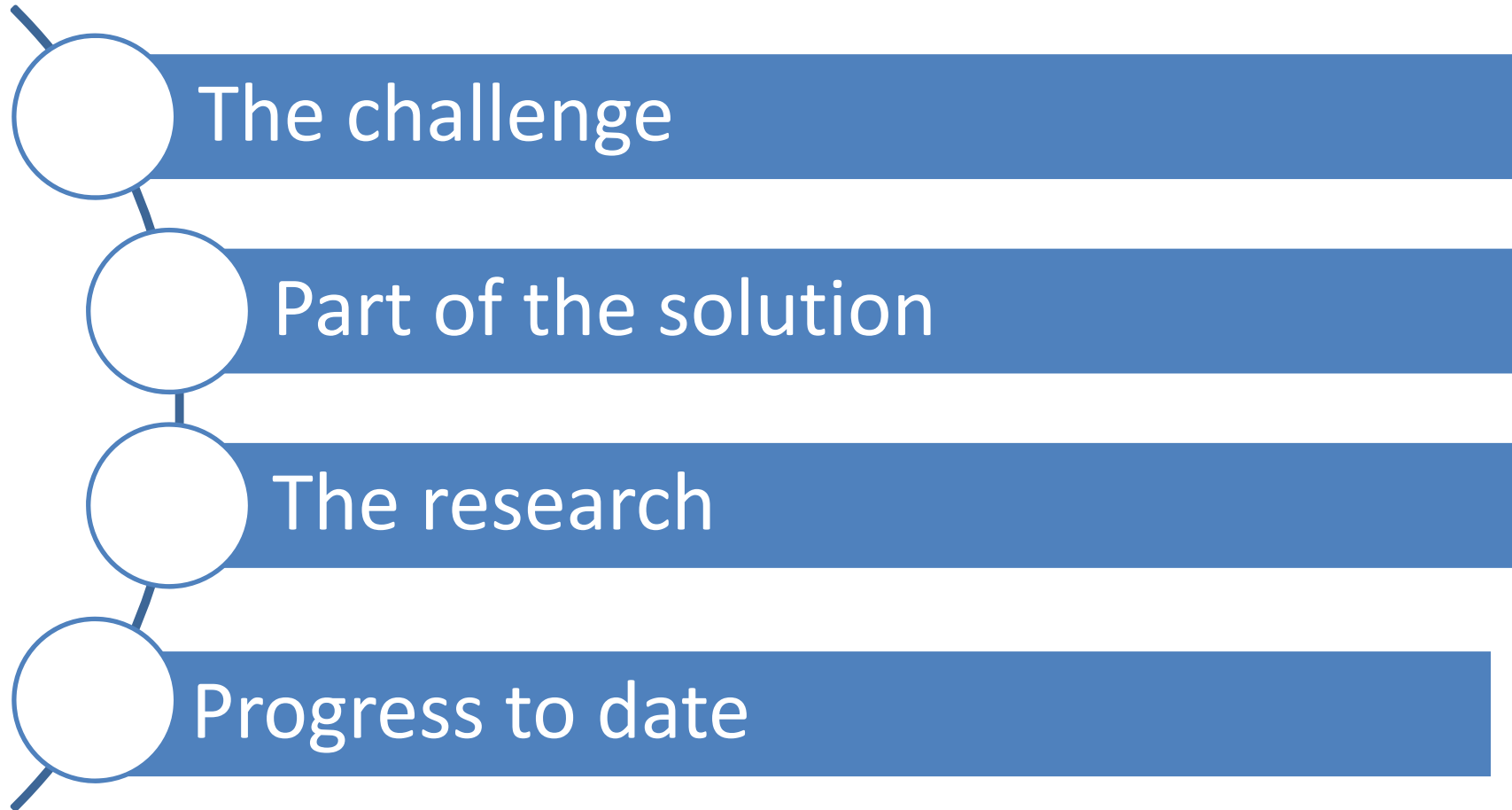


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Utilising Open Educational Resources (OER) in support of curriculum transformation at Africa Nazarene University: a participatory action research (PAR) approach

ALARA, 4-7 November 2015

Overview



Utilising OER ...

THE CHALLENGE



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The contextual challenge

- Participation rates in SSA (excl RSA), 6-7%
- But: Singapore 45% target to be competitive in a global knowledge economy
- Limited capacity for expansion of public HE
- Therefore growth in private HE
- Africa Nazarene University (ANU) first private charter

The institutional challenge



- Increasing demand for non-campus-based provision
 - Part-time
 - Workplace-based
 - Distance
- Centres: Ongata Rongai + Nairobi, Meru, Kisii, Machakos, Mwingi, Migori, Eldoret, Malawi, + diaspora

Utilising OER ...

PART OF THE SOLUTION



OER Definition

Open Educational Resources (OERs) are any type of educational materials that are in the public domain or introduced with an open license.

The nature of these open materials means that anyone can legally and freely copy, use, adapt and re-share them.

OERs range from textbooks to curricula, syllabi, lecture notes, assignments, tests, projects, audio, video and animation.

UNESCO

A resource



An educational resource



- What is the name of the bird in the foreground of the picture?
- Can you name 3 other varieties of this kind of bird?

An OER



- What is the name of the bird in the foreground of the picture?
- Can you name 3 other varieties of this kind of bird?



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Citation: Tony Mays 2011

A Remixed OER



- The yellow hornbill shown left is one of four varieties of hornbills common across sub-Saharan Africa. The other varieties are the grey- and red- hornbills and the much larger ground hornbill.
- As the name suggests, the large horny bill is the key characteristic of the species. What does this suggest about their typical diet?



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Citation: Jane Kamau 2012

Photo: Tony Mays 2011



OER



Developing a course



Utilising OER ...

THE RESEARCH



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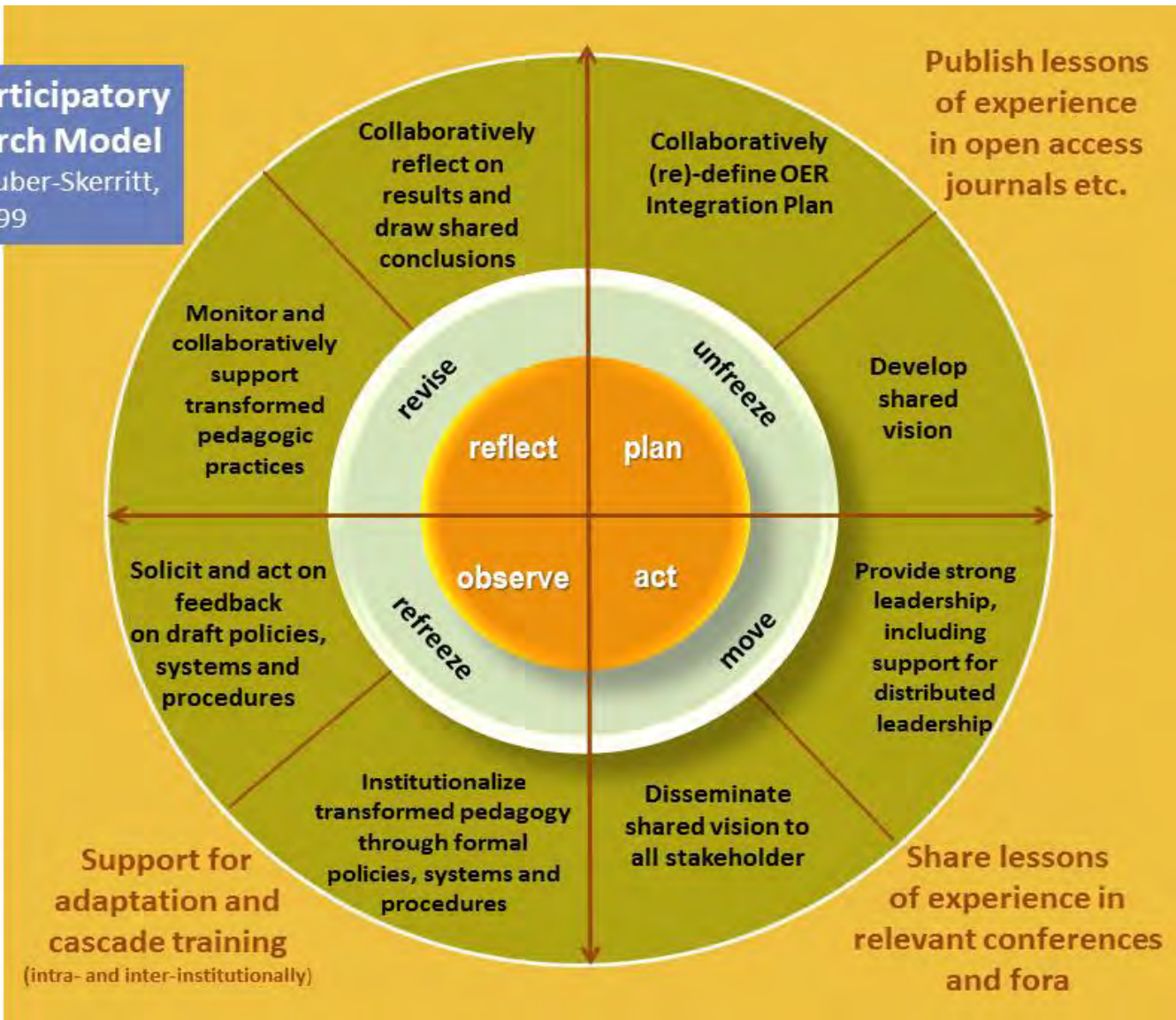
Transformative potential

1. Increased availability of high quality, relevant learning materials can contribute to more productive students and educators.
2. The principle of allowing adaptation of materials provides one mechanism amongst many for constructing roles for students as active participants in educational processes.
3. OER has potential to build capacity by providing institutions and educators access, at low or no cost, to the means of production to develop their competence in producing educational materials and carrying out the necessary instructional design.

(CoL 2011: 13)

OER Africa Participatory Action Research Model

Adapted from: Zuber-Skerritt, 1996: 99



	Maximising Impact Strategy
	Task Alignment Model
	Force Field Model
	Action Research Model

Long term goals

1. By end August 2017 have developed an ANU-specific case study/article and possibly M/D study which addresses the following questions:
 - What kinds of pedagogical transformation are envisaged at ANU and within what timeframes are these changes expected to be introduced? How does this align with the OER community's understanding of the transformative educational potential of OER?
 - To what extent can use of OER constitute an effective catalyst in driving or supporting these envisaged pedagogical changes?
 - In what ways can a focus on pedagogical transformation serve to embed effective OER practices into mainstream institutional activities and systems, rather than these practices operating parallel to the mainstream?
 - What opportunities already exist within universities that can be used to drive this kind of pedagogical transformation and how can these opportunities most effectively be harnessed?
 - What policy, procedural, systemic, cultural, and logistical challenges and barriers inhibit these changes within institutions?
 - What strategies need to be implemented to overcome these challenges?
 - What levels of institutional political support or championing are needed for changes made to become institutionalized?

Utilising OER ...

PROGRESS TO DATE



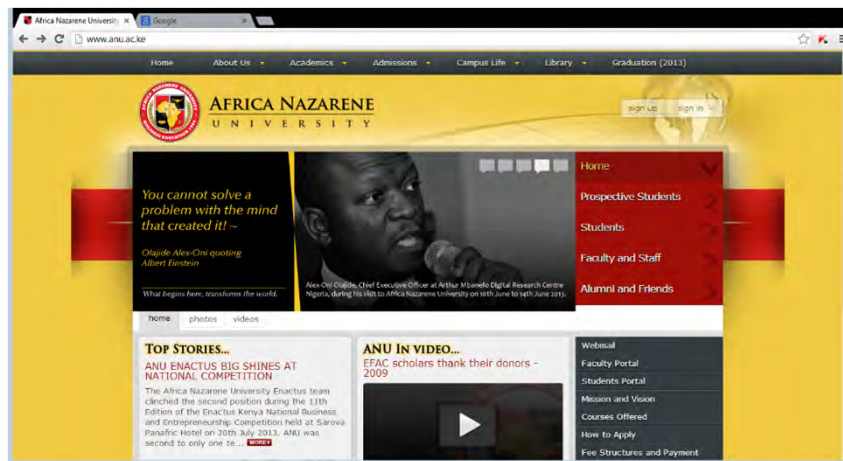
Materials published as OER

- OER policy
- Case study
- 7 ODL modules in process



OER research in process

- Doctoral study of process
- Doctoral study on take-up of OER by Kenyan universities
- Research on:
 - Readiness of departments
 - Readiness of centres
 - Impact of reworked materials



Extending the model to CPD

- Using an action research CPD process to develop a portfolio of learning resource review, improvement, review cycles...



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Thank you

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