



Online training in 1st world science in a developing country

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Access to the genome in developing countries is limited

- Lack of internet access
- Lack of skills in interpretation
- Lack of infrastructure to exploit genome information
- Disparity between the genome sequenced and its relevance to 'local genomes'



Bioinformatics training in Africa

Apart from SANBI...

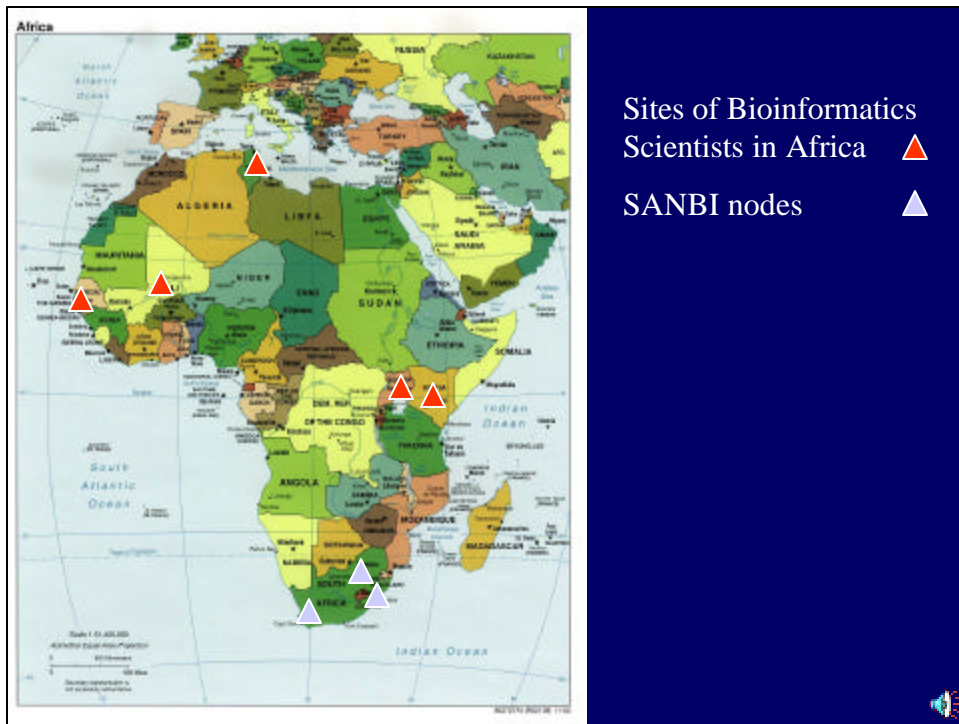
- Strongly needs driven
- 'Aware' scientists tend to apply
- Training in local region is usually non-existent
- Access to materials is almost totally internet based
- Links between students are poor



Laboratory at SANBI

- Faculty of Science Thintana labs for graduate education are at SANBI.
- 10 workstations
- Headsets are available for loan
- Good internet access to the S* mirror site
- Bioinformatics aware students in vicinity





Average African site

- Extremely poor internet access
- No local experts
- CD rom based education
- Lack of access to support persons for course in Africa
- Intermittent access to media

Setting up 2001 Course

- Instructions to lecturers and standard submission formats should be established
- Standard delivery media
- JPEG + audio preferable to streaming media/PPT in Africa
- Participants must be given instructions on which software to have available as well, and where to get it and how to use it.



Course development

- More warning to mirror sites so that they can be available
- High quality, low quality, voice only.
- 56kb modem links not enough to deliver course.
- CD couriering costs money and time



Significant dropout rate

- Worried about not completing course
- Intermittent internet/email access leaves student very isolated
- More time provided in advance to complete assignments
- Testing procedure assumes constant link



+ves

- Groups worked well together all over the world to get the problems solved
- many people worked extra hours during the night
- The organisers were always available and tried their best to help
- People who would never have been in contact with one another, were joined in posting / email conversations



Africa Regional Training Course: S* viewers

