

FROM INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO GLOBAL HEALTH INNOVATION

Unlocking Africa's Potential through Science, Evidence and Trust

Presented by:

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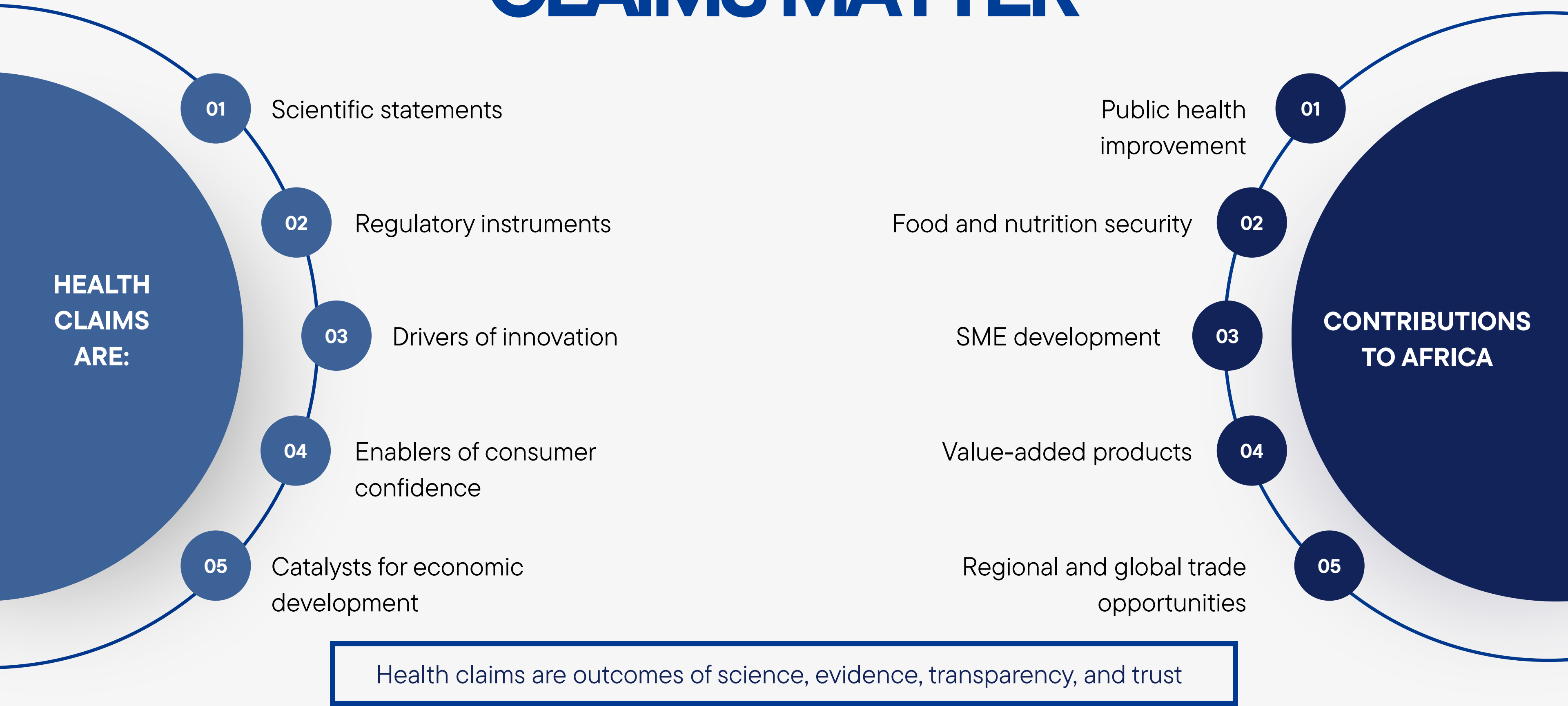
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WHY AFRICAN HEALTH CLAIMS MATTER



AFRICA'S UNTAPPED WEALTH

Africa's Strategic Assets

01

~25%
of global biodiversity

02

45,000+
plant species

03

5,000+
indigenous food
species

04

Rich medicinal plant
heritage

High-Potential Examples

- Baobab
- Moringa
- Rooibos
- Hibiscus
- Fonio
- Teff

Opportunity

- Every species = potential research question
- Every traditional practice = potential scientific hypothesis
- Every indigenous food = potential innovation opportunity



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AS A LIVING INNOVATION SYSTEM

Indigenous Knowledge



- Dynamic, not static
- Living, not historical
- Continuously evolving through generations

EVIDENCE

Up to

80%

of Africans rely partly on traditional medicine for primary healthcare

■ Observation

01

Experimentation ■

02

Innovation Cycle

04

03

Adaptation ■

■ Improvement

CHALLENGE

- Understand
- Document
- Validate
- Build scientific evidence

AFRICA'S LIVING HERITAGE OF FOOD KNOWLEDGE

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Related to Food and Culinary Traditions in Africa



FROM HERITAGE TO SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Heritage Is Not the Destination
Heritage Is the Starting Point

Rooibos

Traditional beverage
→ Global product

01



Baobab

Indigenous food →
International ingredient

02



Moringa

Traditional plant →
Functional ingredient

03



SCIENCE AS THE BRIDGE

Science Connects:



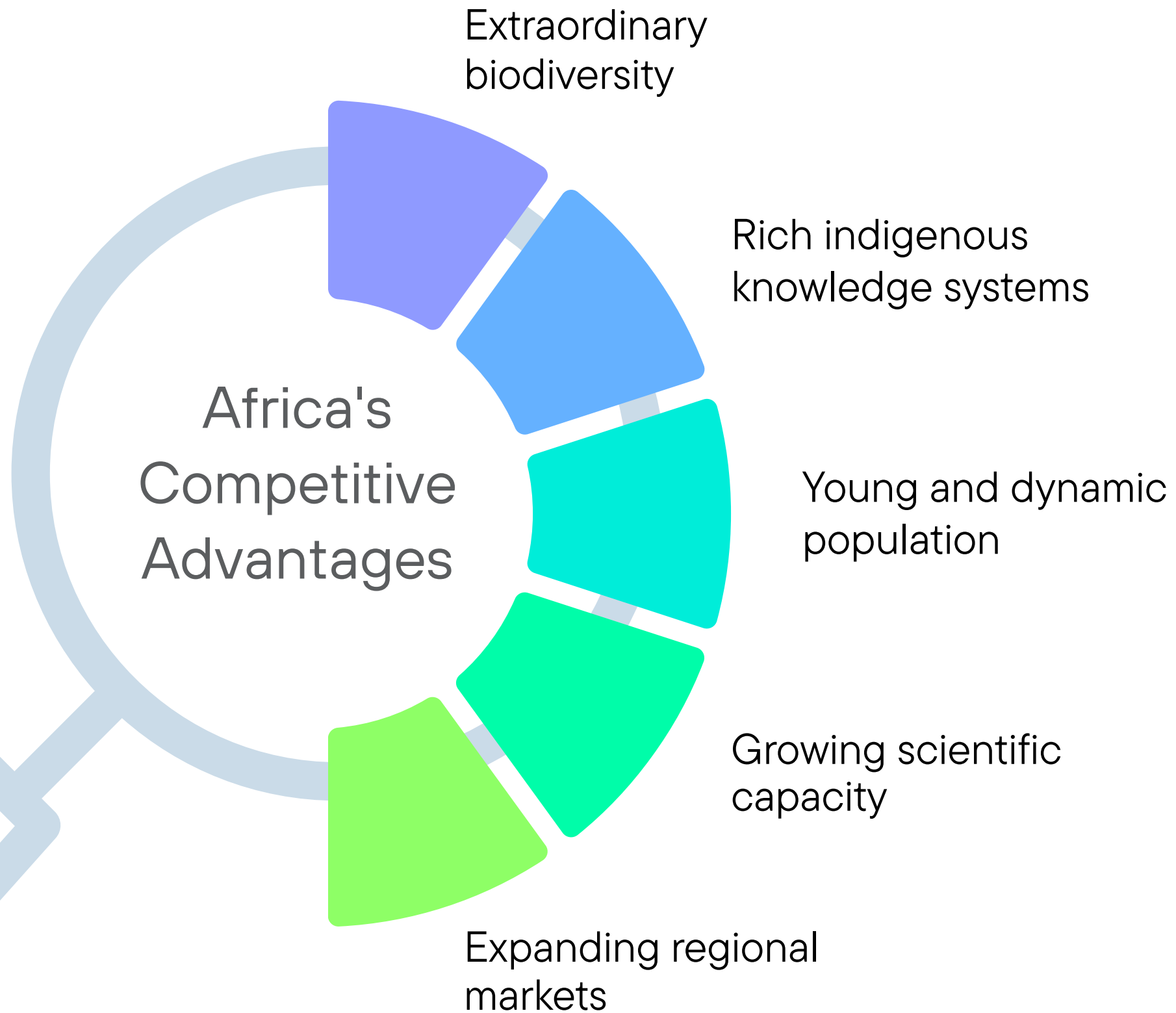
Why Science Matters

- Validates traditional knowledge
- Generates credibility
- Supports innovation
- Enables health claims
- Builds public trust



Science strengthens traditional knowledge through evidence

WHY AFRICA CAN LEAD



Africa's Opportunity

- Develop an authentic innovation model
- Combine culture with science
- Transform local knowledge into global value

Vision

- Innovation with identity
- Science with purpose
- Growth with inclusion



INNOVATION, TRADE AND PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Critical Questions

- Who owns the knowledge?
- Who benefits from innovation?
- How do we prevent misappropriation?
- How do we ensure equitable benefit sharing?

Innovation must reward discovery while respecting communities



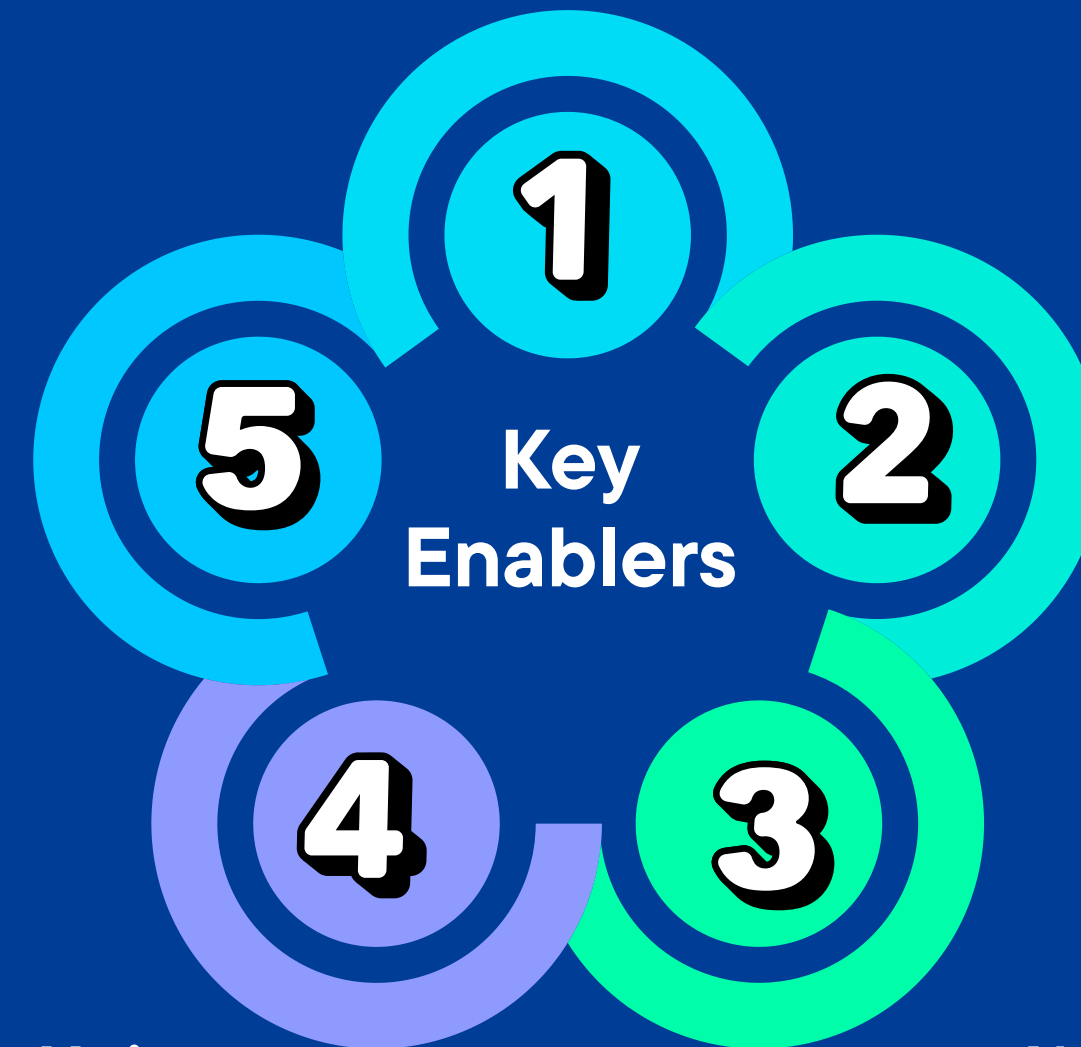
AfCFTA
Market integration

African Union
Innovation policy

UNESCO
Safeguard heritage

WIPO
Protect knowledge

WTO
Enable fair trade



BUILDING THE AFRICAN HEALTH INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



Essential Components

- Biodiversity
- Indigenous knowledge
- Research institutions
- Regulatory science
- Innovation
- Investment
- SMEs
- Communities
- Consumers
- Regional markets

Success Requires

- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Scientific excellence
- ✓ Regulatory trust
- ✓ Sustainable commercialization

Goal

A thriving African Health
Innovation Ecosystem



FROM BIODIVERSITY TO PROSPERITY

Transformation Pathway



Future Vision

- Export science, not only raw materials
- Export innovation, not only commodities
- Export trusted health solutions

Call to Action

- Transform knowledge into evidence
- Transform evidence into innovation
- Transform innovation into prosperity

ACTION





Indigenous Knowledge Inspires Discovery
Science Creates Evidence
Innovation Creates Prosperity
Regulation Builds Trust



Africa's Future: From Heritage → Science → Innovation

THANK YOU