afrimapr
Community News

afrimapr to give a keynote at useR!2022 conference

It is a pleasure to announce that afrimapr has been invited to give a keynote at the useR!2022 conference taking place from 20 - 23 June 2022. Our keynote slot is **22 June, 16:00 - 17:15 CAT.**

Keynote title:
Perspectives of doing R stuff* in an emerging region
*stuff <- c("coding", "community", "capacity")

Speakers

| Dr. Andy South LTMS, UK | Prof Ghislain Nono Gueye Louisiana Tech University, USA | Dr. Anne Tressure Talarify, South Africa | Clinton Nkolakosa Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, Malawi | Anelda van der Walt Talarify, South Africa |

» REGISTER NOW ! Read more about the the conference here
Register for the conference here

Due to the keynote talk, we will not run the regular afrimapr community meetup in June. We'll resume in July with a presentation by Ghislain Nono Gueye. More information and registration for this meetup will be available shortly.

afrimapr's monthly virtual meetups aim to support the development of an active African R mapping community. It offers you a chance to learn about new resources, ask questions, showcase your work, and grow your R mapping network. Recordings of previous talks are available on the afrimapr YouTube channel.

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Abstract - Keynote useR!2022

Perspectives of doing R stuff* in an emerging region
stuff <- c("coding", "community", "capacity")

In 2020, the afrimapr project team set out to support analysts in Africa with open-source R approaches for mapping and visualising data. afrimapr aimed to develop open-source code components and open-access training materials and to support the development of a community of practice. The project was initially funded through Wellcome.

Over the past 30 months, we created several R packages, including {afrilearndata} with training datasets and {afrihealthsites} for health facility data, and we published a paper about the use of open health facility data in Africa. We developed and delivered a 4-hour online workshop with materials in English and French and developed related {learnr} tutorials. We prototyped interactive Shiny apps as demonstration tools of what is possible and started an online open textbook. Our learning materials have been used in various workshops, most notably at useR! 2021 and by Public Health England as part of training for the African Centre for Disease Control in 2021 and 2022. We run monthly community meetups online where community members or invited speakers do code-walkthrough sessions or share experiences related to mapping, data, and more. We've also partnered with the R for Data Science Online Learning Community, where we hosting the #chat-africa-maps channel.

This presentation will give a brief overview of the project to date. One of our Malawian community members will also showcase his mapping work using R and share how it is helping to shape policy in public health and providing a better understanding to help combat vector-borne diseases in Malawi. The most significant part of the presentation will, however, focus on the collective experiences of team members around growing an active and inclusive community of practice on the African continent.