

Behind the Scenes of Equitable International Research

Why Research Management Determines Equity

THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN



A Managerial Perspective From African International Collaboration.

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Equitable research goes beyond scientific discovery.

- Equitable research goes beyond scientific discovery and relies on intentional power structures and fair resource allocation shaped by skilled research managers and administrators.
- This presentation aims to spark dialogue on research support systems and highlight the crucial yet often inconsistently engaged role of research managers.

Equitable Research Fails Without Equitable Systems


A study under the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence found that African Principal Investigators achieve more equitable collaborations when they have autonomy over resource use, decision-making, and collaborator selection.

Why Research Management Matters:

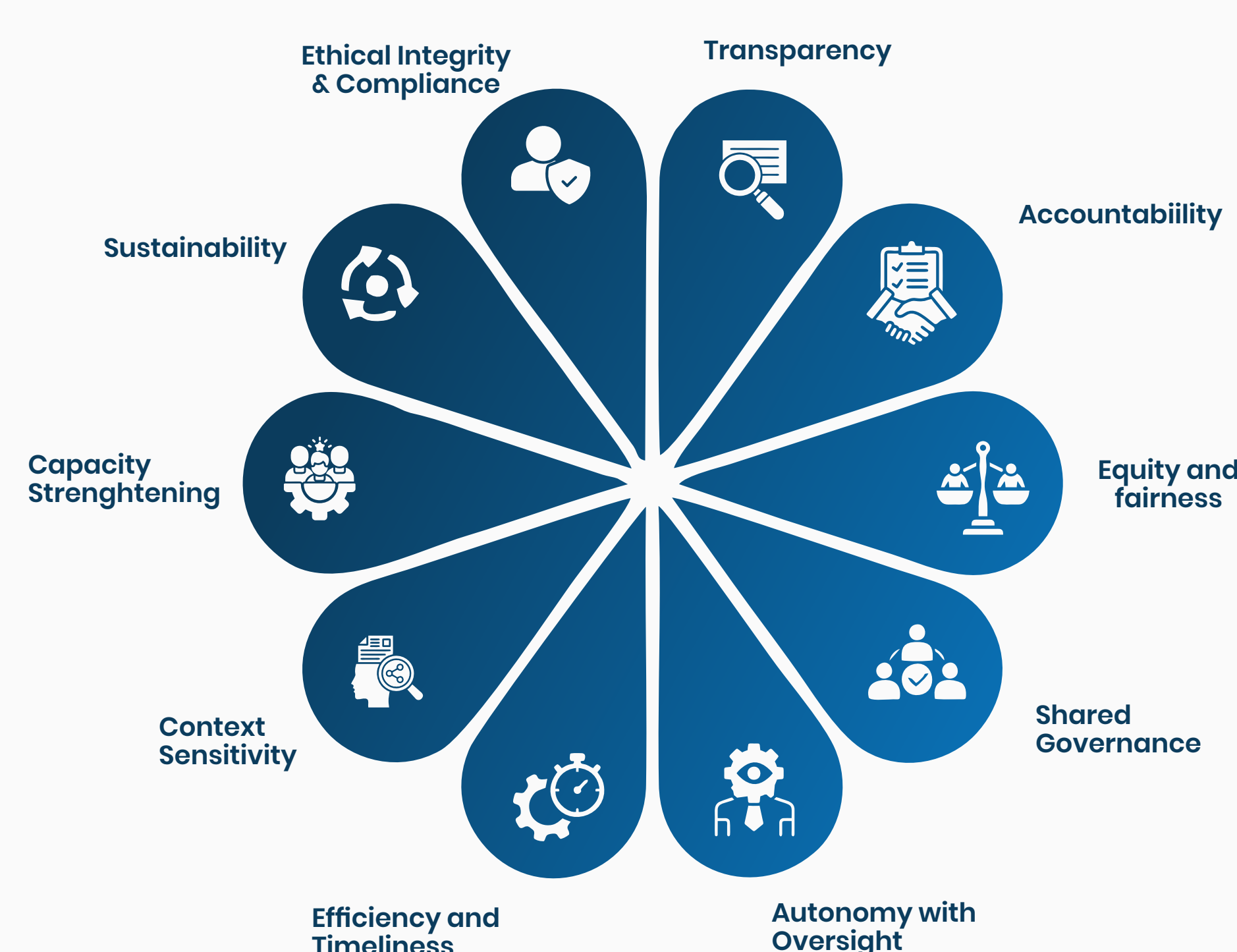
 Strong research management creates fair partnerships and impactful outcome.

What makes a research strong?

 **Policies**  **People**  **Processes**

 Skilled research administrators bridge inequities that can hinder sustainable, locally relevant research

Principles Of Research Management



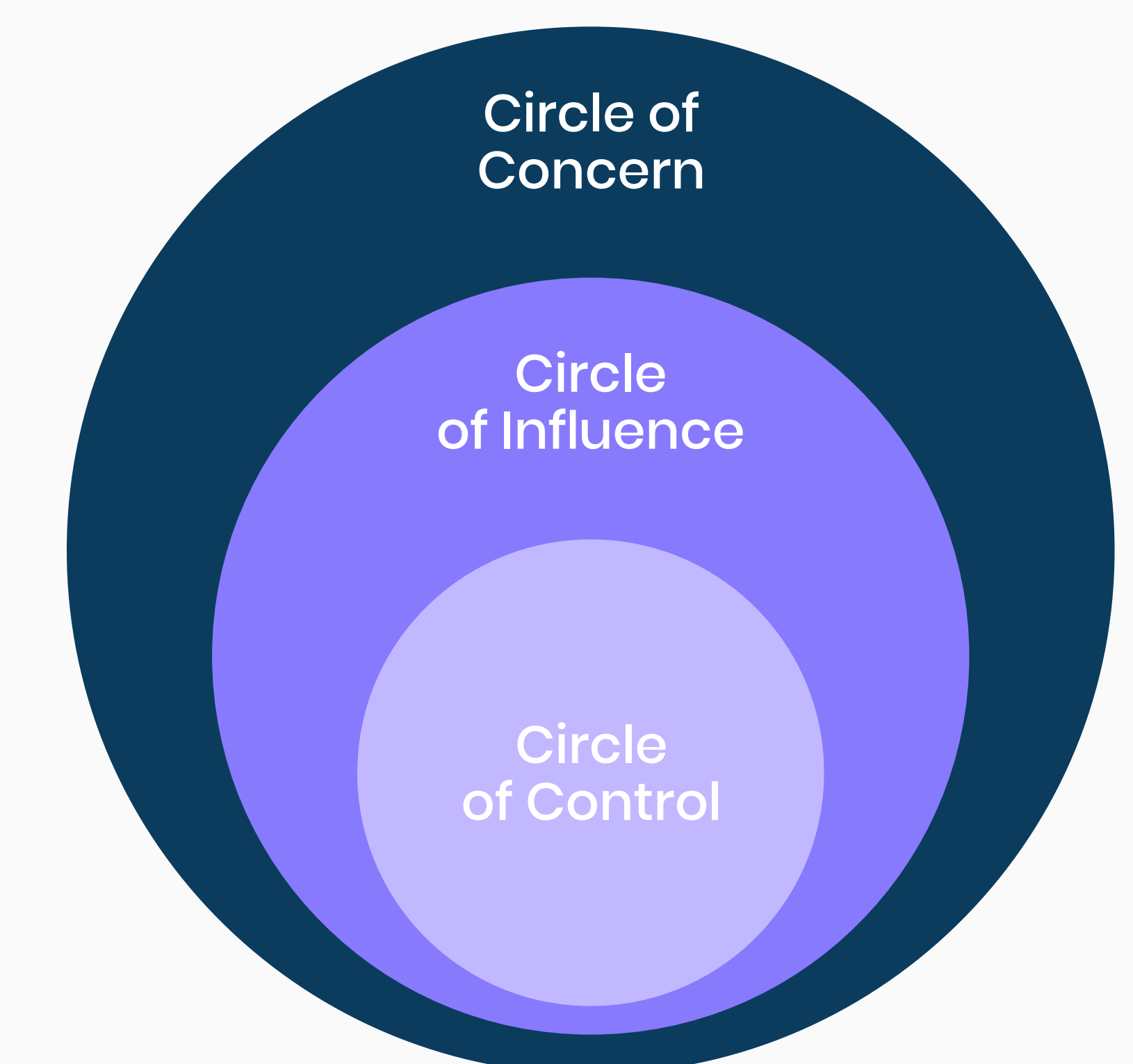
Equity improves when control expands and influence is used strategically.

What's holding us back?: A research management lens




- Complex Funding Without Matching Capacity
- Limited Managerial Autonomy
- Weak Administrative Systems

Consequences

 Delays  Budget Discrepancies
 Poor data  Late delivery



CALL TO ACTION

-  Research Partners
-  Universities & Research Institutions
-  Policy Makers & Funders

Capacity Building Is Not Just Training

- It is sustained by systems, leadership, and incentives.
- Research managers operationalize this capacity daily.

What Actually Works

Real impact comes from empowering people through:

- Structured mentorship.
- Strong research management systems.
- Reciprocal learning.
- Valuing research support work.

Conclusion

Research equity is built in systems and decisions not only in labs.

Research managers are key drivers of equitable international collaboration.