Concept Note and Programme

Zimbabwe Open Science Stakeholder Convening

6th Biennial ZULC Conference 2026

📍 Manna Resorts, Harare

Convening Room: Pamusasa 3

📅 7th July 2026 (Afternoon Session)
🗓️ 7–9 July 2026 – ZULC Biennial Conference

Organized by: Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC), Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa), and Public Library of Science (PLOS)
With support from: Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development (MHTEISTD), Zimbabwe

Physical attendance RSVP: https://forms.gle/GEVZ2nkLoCwbNC5j9

Register here for Online attendance : https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/OGcXMjwSSUmq1Xkh_AG7xQ

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7TH JULY. 2026

2:00 PM CAT
3:00 PM EAT

ZIMBABWE OPEN SCIENCE STAKEHOLDER CONVENING

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1. Background

Open Science is increasingly shaping how research is conducted, shared, and assessed globally. Across Africa, countries are actively reforming research systems to improve openness, transparency, accessibility, and impact.

In Zimbabwe, there is growing interest in strengthening Open Science practices across research governance, scholarly communication, data management, and policy development. However, these efforts remain fragmented and require stronger coordination among key national stakeholders.

The Zimbabwe Open Science Stakeholder Convening will therefore serve as a targeted side event at the 6th ZULC Biennial Conference to bring together key actors to align national priorities and strengthen coordination for Open Science implementation.

2. Objective

The main objective of the convening is:

To bring together key national stakeholders to assess the current Open Science landscape in Zimbabwe and identify priority areas for coordinated national implementation.

3. Specific Objectives

The convening will:

- Review the current state of Open Science in Zimbabwe across key thematic areas
- Discuss findings from the national Open Science needs assessment
- Identify national priorities for Open Science implementation
- Explore policy pathways for integrating Open Science into existing frameworks
- Strengthen coordination among key stakeholders involved in research governance and scholarly communication

4. Thematic Areas

Discussions will focus on:

- Research assessment reform
- Open access publishing
- Research data management and data sharing
- Institutional and national Open Science policy development

5. Expected Outcomes

- Clear mapping of Zimbabwe's current Open Science landscape
- Identified national priorities for Open Science implementation
- Agreed policy entry points for integrating Open Science principles
- Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration framework
- Inputs to support future national Open Science strategy development

6. Format

Blended: Both Online and Physical attendance.

The convening will be a **policy-focused dialogue session**, not a training workshop. It will emphasize:

- Interactive discussions
- Structured policy dialogue
- Review of national needs assessment findings
- Strategic prioritization exercises
- Collaborative identification of next steps

7. Programme

Zimbabwe Open Science Stakeholder Convening

📅 7th July 2026
🕐 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM CAT (ZIMBABWE TIME)
📍 Manna Resorts, Harare

Convening Moderator: Joy Owango , Executive Director Training Centre in Communication

Time	Session	Presenter/Speaker	Organization/Institution	Description
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	***Physical attendees arrival to the venue*** ***Online attendees admission to the meeting room and systems check for Online presenters***			
2:00 PM - 2:10 PM	Session orientation Regional & National Open Science Context	Ms.Joy Owango Executive Director ,Training Centre in Communication	Training Centre in Communication (TCC AFRICA) **[in person]**	Overview of African Open Science developments, policy momentum, and strategic relevance for Zimbabwe.

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Opening & Welcome Remarks	Dr. Blessing Chiparausha Chairperson, Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC)	Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC),**[in person]**	Opening of the convening and overview of objectives
2:15 PM - 2:25 PM	Open Science in East Africa and why it should matter in Zimbabwe	Dr Sylvance Okoth Executive Secretary of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO),**[online]**	Open Science developments in East Africa and key lessons applicable to Zimbabwe's policy and implementation landscape.

2:25 PM - 2:40 PM	Higher Education & Open Science Leadership	Professor Kuzvinetsa P. Dzvimbo CEO Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education	Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education,**[online]**	Examine the strategic role of higher education leadership in embedding Open Science within institutional governance, research quality assurance, academic culture, and national development priorities.
2:40 PM - 2:55 PM	Open Science Publishing & Global Trends	Roheena Anand Executive Director, Global Publishing Development and Sales	PLOS,**[online]**	Increasing Equitable Participation in Open Science

2:55 PM - 3:15 PM	Strengthening Institutional Readiness for Open Science: Lessons from the Association of African Universities (AAU)	Dr. Felicia Nkrumah Kuagbedzi Acting Coordinator for ICT, Communications and Knowledge Management	Association of African Universities (AAU),**[online]**	Sharing AAU's experience in strengthening institutional readiness for Open Science across Africa, including governance, policy, capacity building, and regional collaboration to support sustainable implementation.
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Presentation of Survey Findings	Dr.Blessing Chiparausha Chairperson, Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC)	Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC),**[in person]**	Presentation of Open Science stakeholder survey analysis findings
3:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Strategic Infrastructure Perspective: Role of ZIMREN	Mrs Miriam Chahuruva Zimbabwe Research and Education Network (ZIMREN) CEO	Zimbabwe Research and Education Network (ZIMREN),**[in person]**	Enabling infrastructure for Open Science in Zimbabwe

3:45 PM- 4:00 PM		Professor Innocent Chirisa Vice Chancellor, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University (ZEGU)	Vice Chancellor, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University (ZEGU)	
4:00 PM- 4:15 PM	Advancing Open Science in Africa: AUDA-NEPAD's Role in Supporting Continental Research and Innovation Ecosystems.	Maria Stella Namyalo Programme Officer- Science Technology Innovation	AUDA NEPAD,**[online]**	
4:15 PM - 4:45 PM	Discussion: National Open Science Policy Dialogue: Priorities & Implementation Pathways **Guiding Discussion Themes:** ● Key findings from the national Open Science survey and their implications ● National priorities: policy development, infrastructure, and incentives ● Embedding Open Science principles into national and institutional policies **Expected Outcome:** Agreed national priorities, policy entry points, and a coordinated implementation and governance framework for Open Science in Zimbabwe.			

	Online contributions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bZPAft8yWl5rddVPJ9KwaNIo1MSc56ANPI9IIKFmknc/edit?usp=sharing		
4:30 PM - 4:40 PM	Closing Remarks & Next Steps	Co-presenting. Ms.Joy Owango Executive Director,Training Centre in Communication Dr. Blessing Chiparausha Chairperson, Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC)	Summary of outcomes and agreement on next steps

8. Conclusion

The Zimbabwe Open Science Stakeholder Convening represents a strategic opportunity to align national efforts toward building a coherent, inclusive, and sustainable Open Science ecosystem. By convening key stakeholders, the session will support the development of shared priorities and practical policy pathways for advancing Open Science in Zimbabwe.


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