

Role and relevance of Research in Africa with special reference to Tanzania

Presenter

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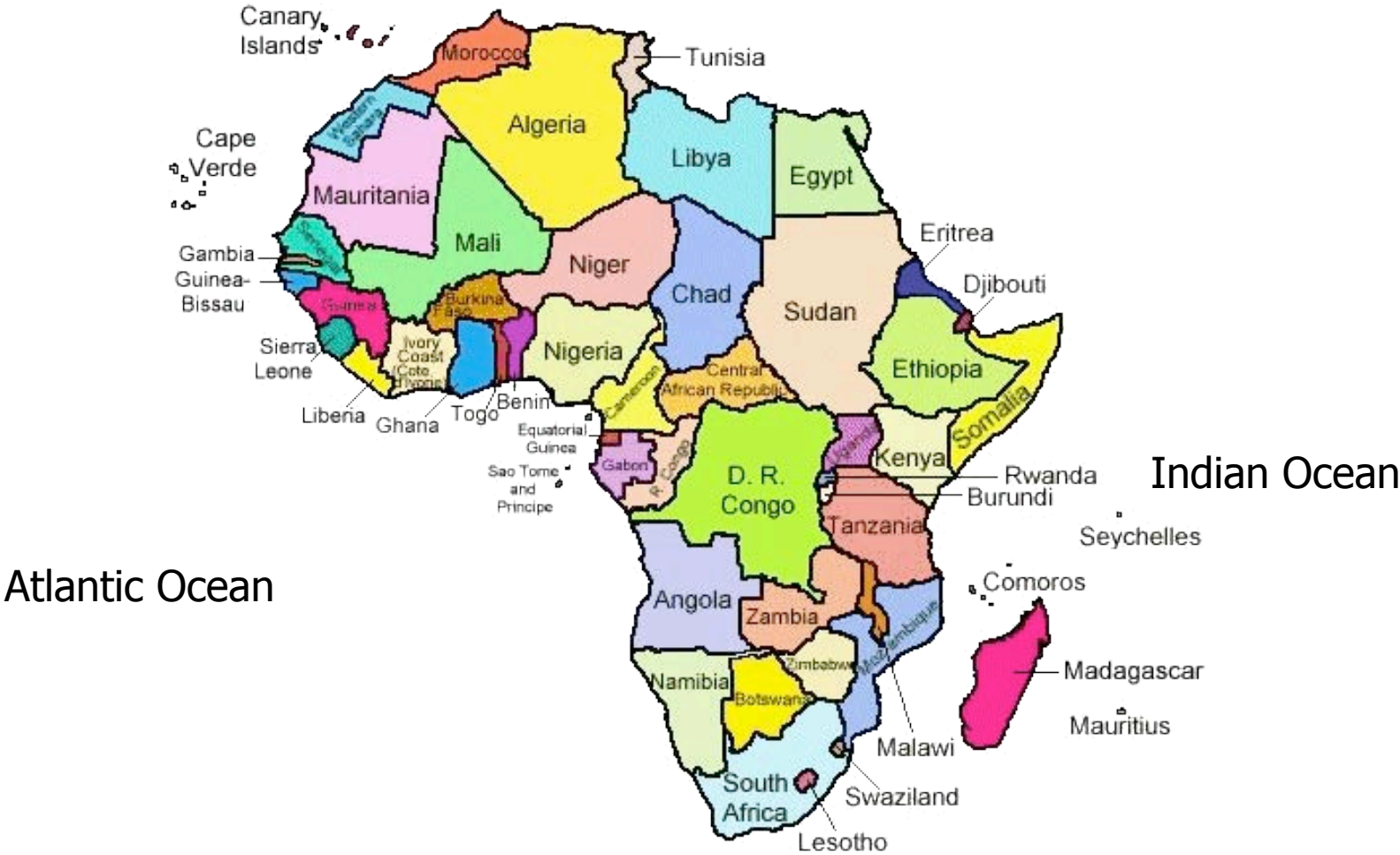
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and

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Continent of Africa







INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- ❖ Tanzania population is 34.6 Million based on the national population census held in August 2002.
- ❖ Average Household size is 4.9

Kilimanjaro region (Where KCMC is situated)

- ❖ Total population 1,381,149
 - Male population 667,865
 - Female population 713,284
- ❖ Annual average population growth 1.6%

Tanzania human resources in Health Care (Selected indices)

- About 2,000 Doctors in a population of 35,000,000
- 1 doctor to 22,000 people
- 1 nurse to 12,000 people
- 1 medical specialist to 100,000 people



**Health issues in
developing versus
developed Countries**

Developing countries

1. Malaria
2. Pulmonary tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea diseases
4. HIV/AIDS
5. Respiratory diseases
6. Parasitic Diseases

Cont.....

7. Micronutrient deficiencies

- Vitamins
- Proteins
- Iron
- Iodine

8. Sexually transmitted infections (STI)

9. Ophthalmic Diseases – Cataract, glaucoma

10. Obstetric manifestations

Developed Countries

- 1) Cardio vascular system diseases including hypertension, cardiomyopathy etc.
- 2) Diabetes
- 3) Nutritional - Obesity
- 4) Cancer – Lungs
 - Cervix
 - Liver
 - Breast



Cont.....

5) Substance and Drug abuse

6) Old age diseases

Research focus in Developed countries – Why?

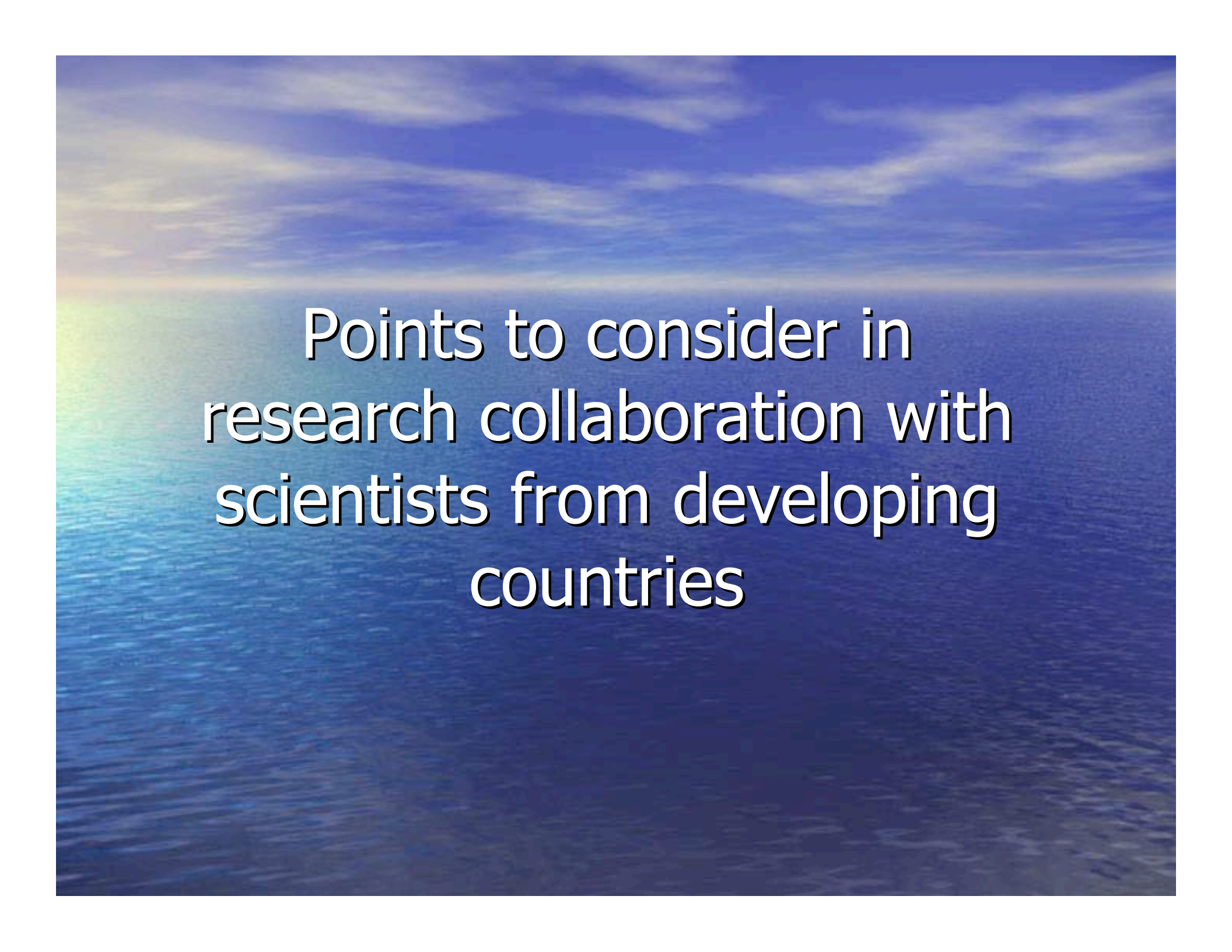
- i. Provide new research opportunity
 - Obtain data on a particular research topic of interest
 - Generate experience in the research topic
 - provide opportunity to publish new data
- Enrich one's curriculum vitae
- Leads to academic promotions

ii) Open new opportunities for

- Institutions
- Individual Researchers
- New job opportunities within or outside research institution
- Recognition for consultancy work/ appointments on specific issues by international organizations e.g. WHO, CDC, etc.

iii) Increase academic environmental and social knowledge of prevalent health issues in the selected region.

iv) Stimulate academic interest by acquisition of knowledge skills leading into appropriate management and intervention measures of researched diseases



Points to consider in
research collaboration with
scientists from developing
countries

1. Research topics should be mutually identified.
2. Research should focus on the major health problems/ issues in the area.
3. Research should focus on population at most risk and vulnerable for identified research topic.
4. Generated research information/ skills should provide new measures to apply in the intervention of diseases researched in the population.

Cont.....

- 5 Capacity building for the collaborating institutions and scientists with benefits to all sides involved should be built in
- 6 Institutional support to all institutions involved – Equipment, software etc.
- 7 Transfer of technology to less privileged institutions within the collaboration agreement
- 8 Formation of institutional ethical clearance committees for all parties involved

Cont.....

- 9 Joint Research protocol write up for submission to the financiers.
- 10 Collective ownership of data and dissemination of research findings to appropriate consumers.

Conclusion

- Research focus in Africa should be of mutual interest among researchers involved.
- Researched topic (s) should be mutually identified from the prevailing priority health issues.
- Research should as much as possible provide equal research benefits to individuals, institutions involved.

Cont..

- Research focus should be based on sound planning in order to ensure future progressive research on other health issues of common interest.
- Research focus should lead into long-lasting research friendship among involved scientists and institutions.
- Researchers and institutions involved should be transparent and accountable to the institutions and organizations which provide financial/ material support.

I once more take this opportunity to thank
all of you for your attention.



Welcome to KCMC

Karibuni