

# The Story of (my journey with) the Carpentries in Africa

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SciDataCon, Gaborone  
7 November 2018



**THE  
CARPENTRIES**



Non-profit organization that:

- Trains people in software development and data science skills for more effective work and career development
- Builds community and local capacity for teaching and learning these skills and perspectives



# Workshops

- Core skills for effective research computing
- Collaboratively developed, openly licensed lesson materials
- 2-days, active learning
- Trained instructors (volunteers), with 'helpers'
- Feedback to learners throughout the workshop
- Creating & supporting communities



<https://twitter.com/aneldavdw/status/864022343567454209>



Software Carpentry



Data Carpentry

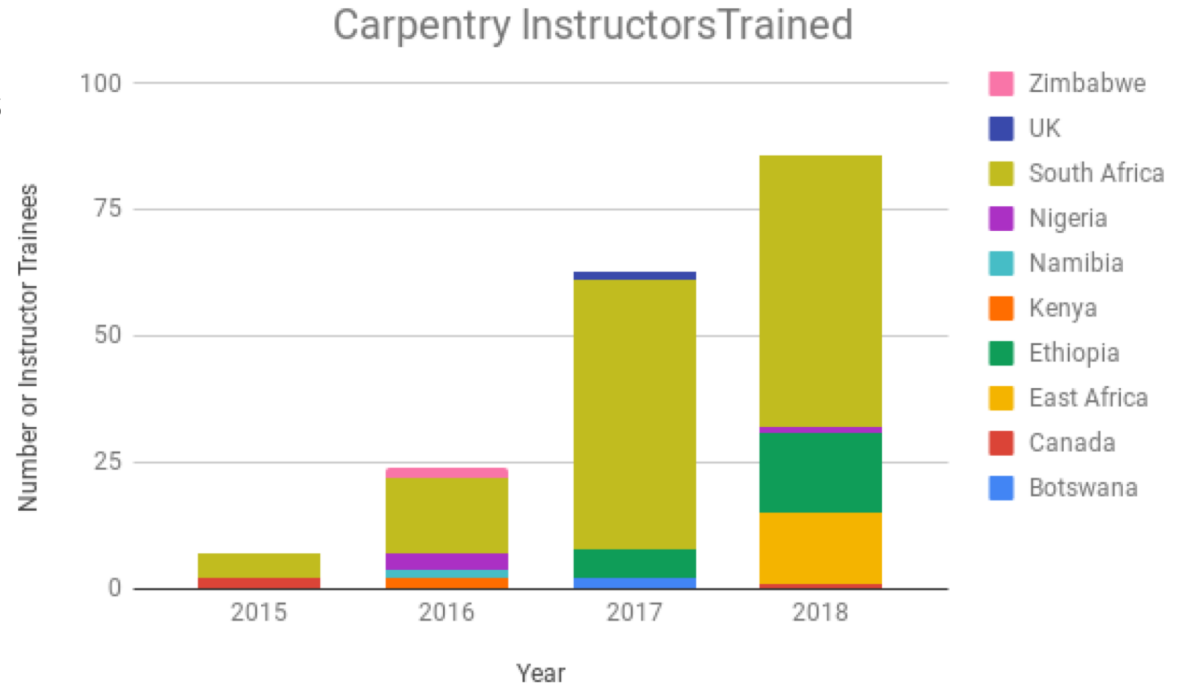


Library Carpentry



# The Carpentries in Africa

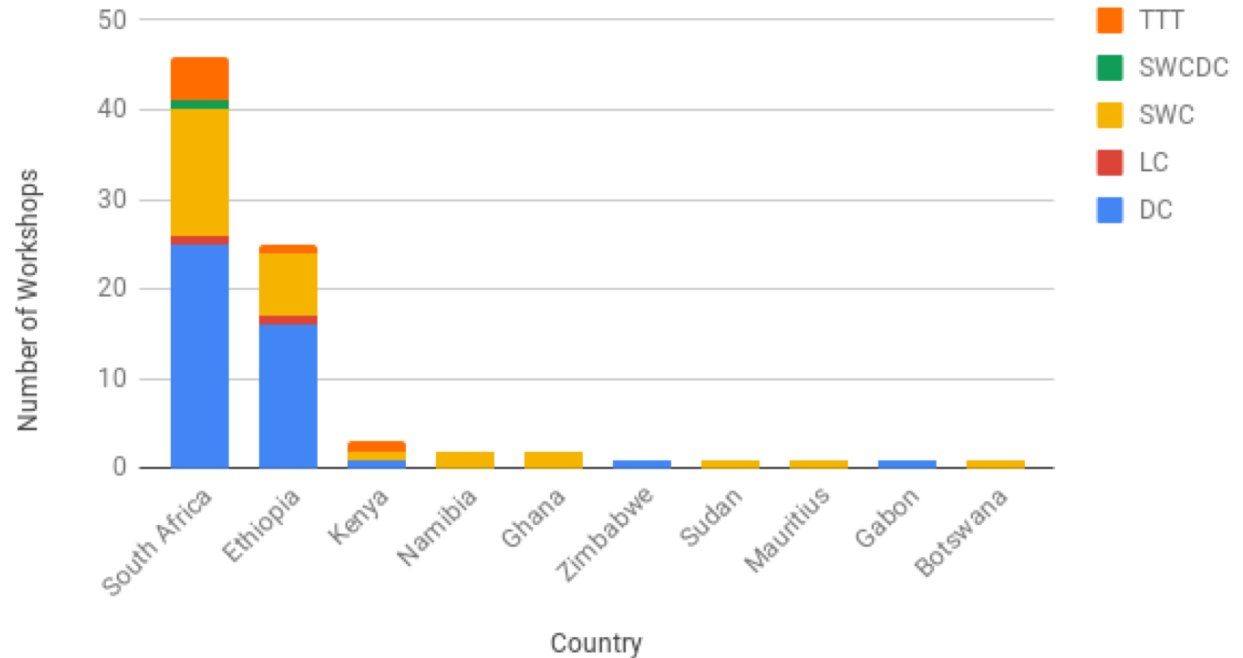
- Instructors
  - +/- 180 trained
  - 51 qualified
  - 7 African countries



# The Carpentries in Africa

- Workshops
  - at least 83
  - in 10 countries

Carpentry Workshops per African Country Since 2013



# The Carpentries in Africa

- Participants
  - Researchers, students, librarians, IT staff, industry... anybody!
- Curricula
  - Mixing lessons to suit context
- Funding
  - Pooling funding from different places
  - Carpentries' established feedback processes makes it easy to report



# Funders of Carpentries in Africa



higher education  
& training

Department:  
Higher Education and Training  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DIRISA**

Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa



**SANBI**  
South African National  
Bioinformatics Institute



**SADiLaR**



UNIVERSITEIT  
STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY



University of Venda



*And more...*



**SAEON**  
South African Environmental  
Observation Network



**DHASA**

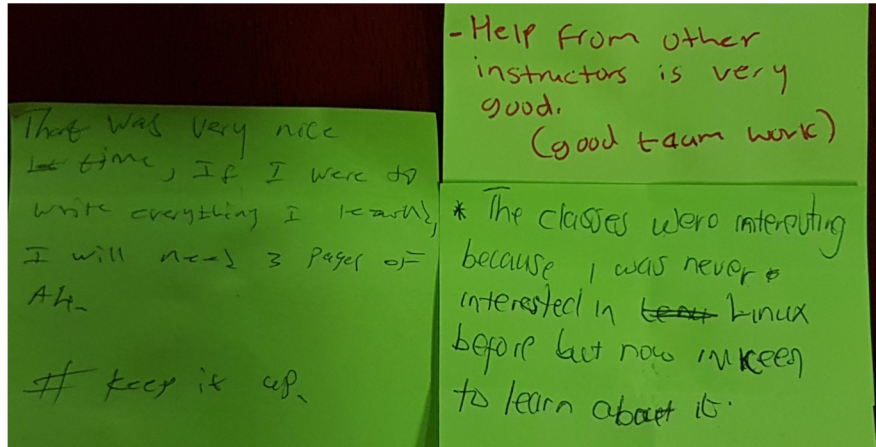
# The Carpentries in Africa

- African Task Force
  - Mentoring and support
  - Building community
  - Shaping the curriculum for the African context
- Use of LC resources in my work with RDS at UCT
  - [Use and adaptation of Carpentry lessons in RDM training at an academic library](#)
- Carpentries' influence on my work at Figshare

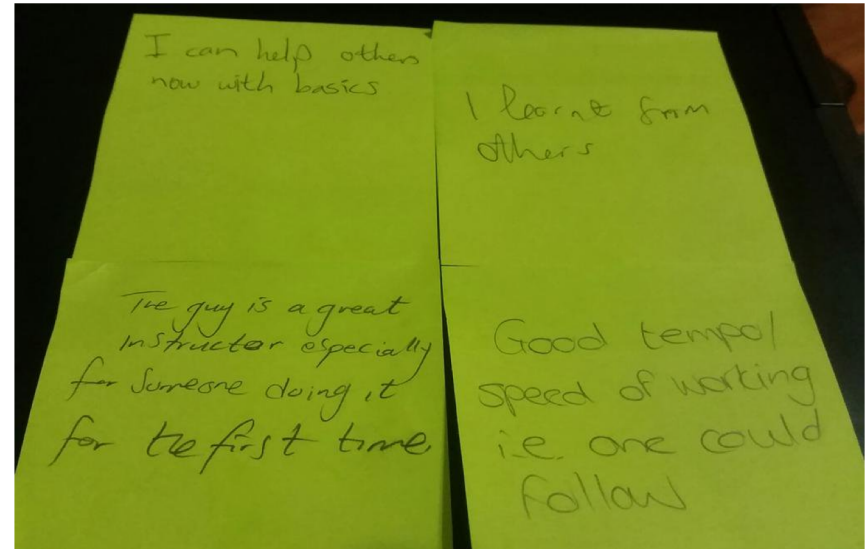


# Outcomes

Short and long term surveys show that people are learning the skills, putting them into practice in their work and have more confidence in their ability to do computational work.



<https://twitter.com/aneldavdw/status/909857347820032002>



<https://twitter.com/aneldavdw/status/640596757114671104>



*If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.*



# Thank you!

Contact me: [Kay@figshare.com](mailto:Kay@figshare.com)

[Carpentries.org](https://Carpentries.org)



**THE  
CARPENTRIES**