

The Evolving Role of Think Tanks in
International Relations and Diplomacy

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SRI is a think tank that conducts applied social science research

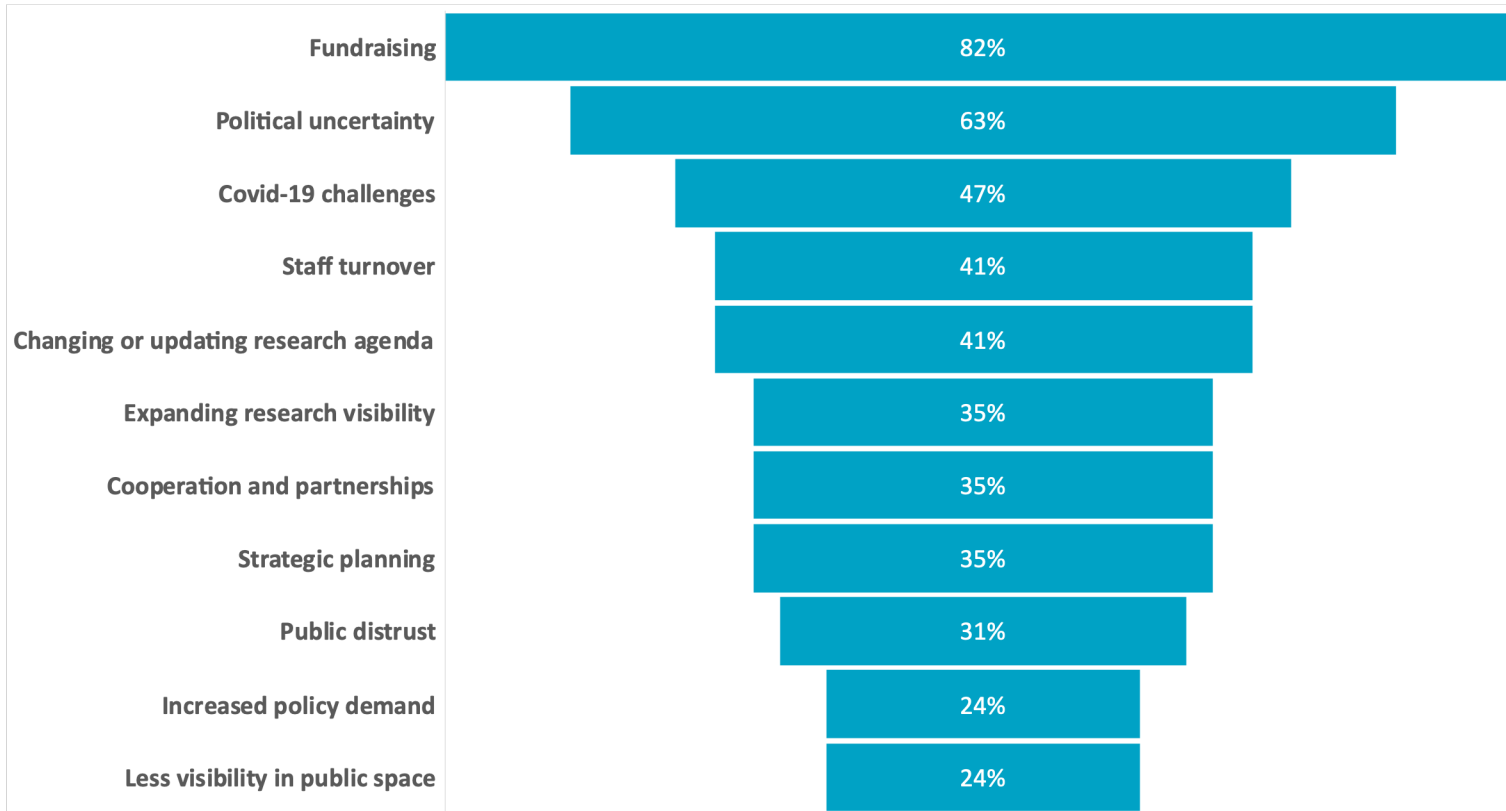


The number of African think tanks increased by 24% in the last 5 years

Region	2016	2020	% Change
Southern Africa	122	142	16%
Eastern Africa	223	266	19%
Western Africa	181	222	23%
Central Africa	42	53	26%
Northern Africa	81	120	48%
Total	649	803	24%

Source: “Global Go To Think Tank Index Report” – University of Pennsylvania

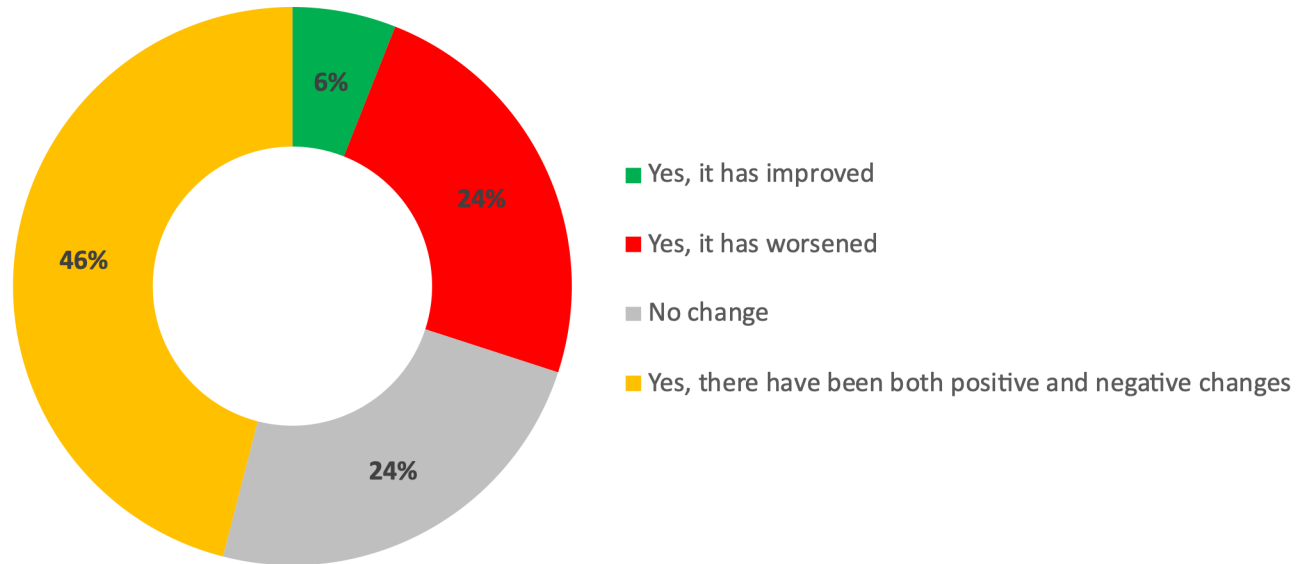
African think tanks face many challenges



Source: "Think tank state of the sector 2022" – Open Think Tank Directory

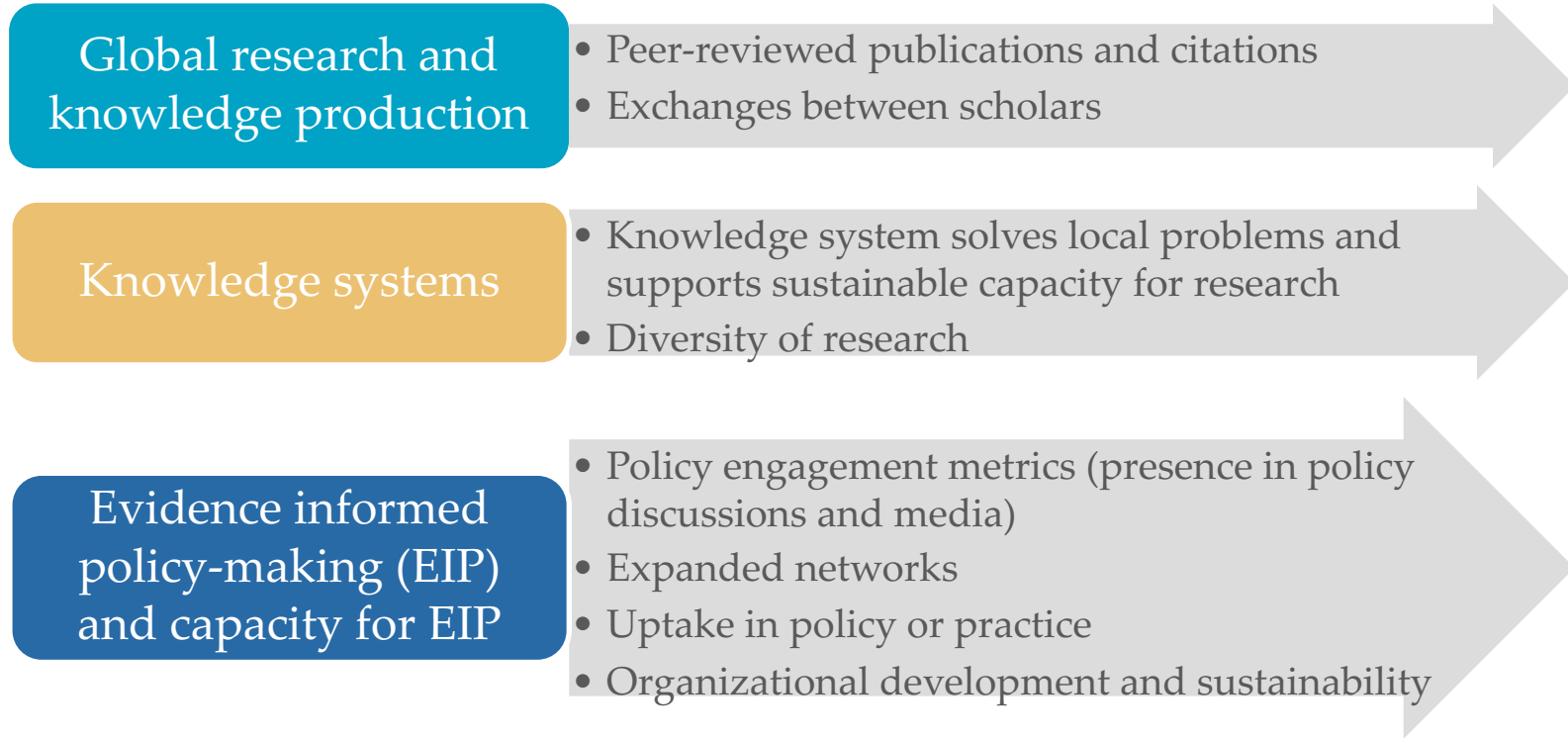
The funding context for African think tanks remains mixed

Q: Reflecting on the last year (2021-2022), did the funding context in your country change?



Source: "Think tank state of the sector 2022" – Open Think Tank Directory

Think tanks have a key role in knowledge creation and dissemination



Source: "Think Tank Funding in Developing Countries" - Hewlett Foundation and Initiative Think Tank

Possible Roadmap



Research

- Increase opportunities & collaborations for independent researchers and scholars
- Stay away from entitlement agendas and benefits to narrow interest groups



Knowledge Management

- Greater involvement of public in knowledge dissemination
- Create knowledge products that governments can consume to improve policy making



Funding

- Diversify funding sources to pursue local & regional paradigms and agendas
- Convince "enlightened individuals" to become funders
- Create programs with accessible funding amounts that offer greater equality for applicants and partnership opportunities



Thank You

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