

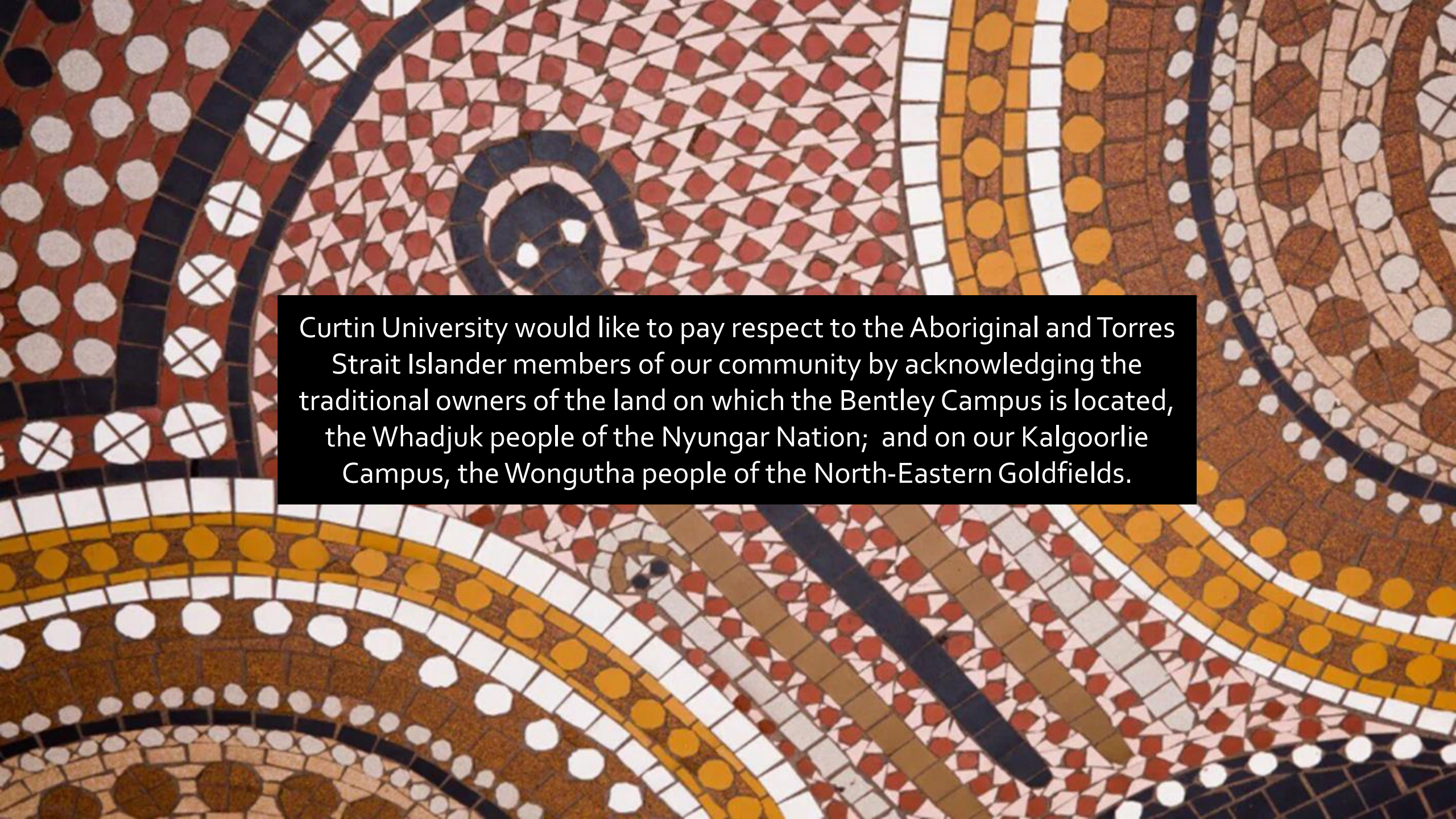


Building the Infrastructure for Deepening and Sustaining Australia-Africa Relations

AMPAA Symposium, Perth, 5 Aug 2023

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Curtin University



Curtin University would like to pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of our community by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the Bentley Campus is located, the Whadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation; and on our Kalgoorlie Campus, the Wongutha people of the North-Eastern Goldfields.



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In Australia

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In the World

For Minerals and Mining
Engineering

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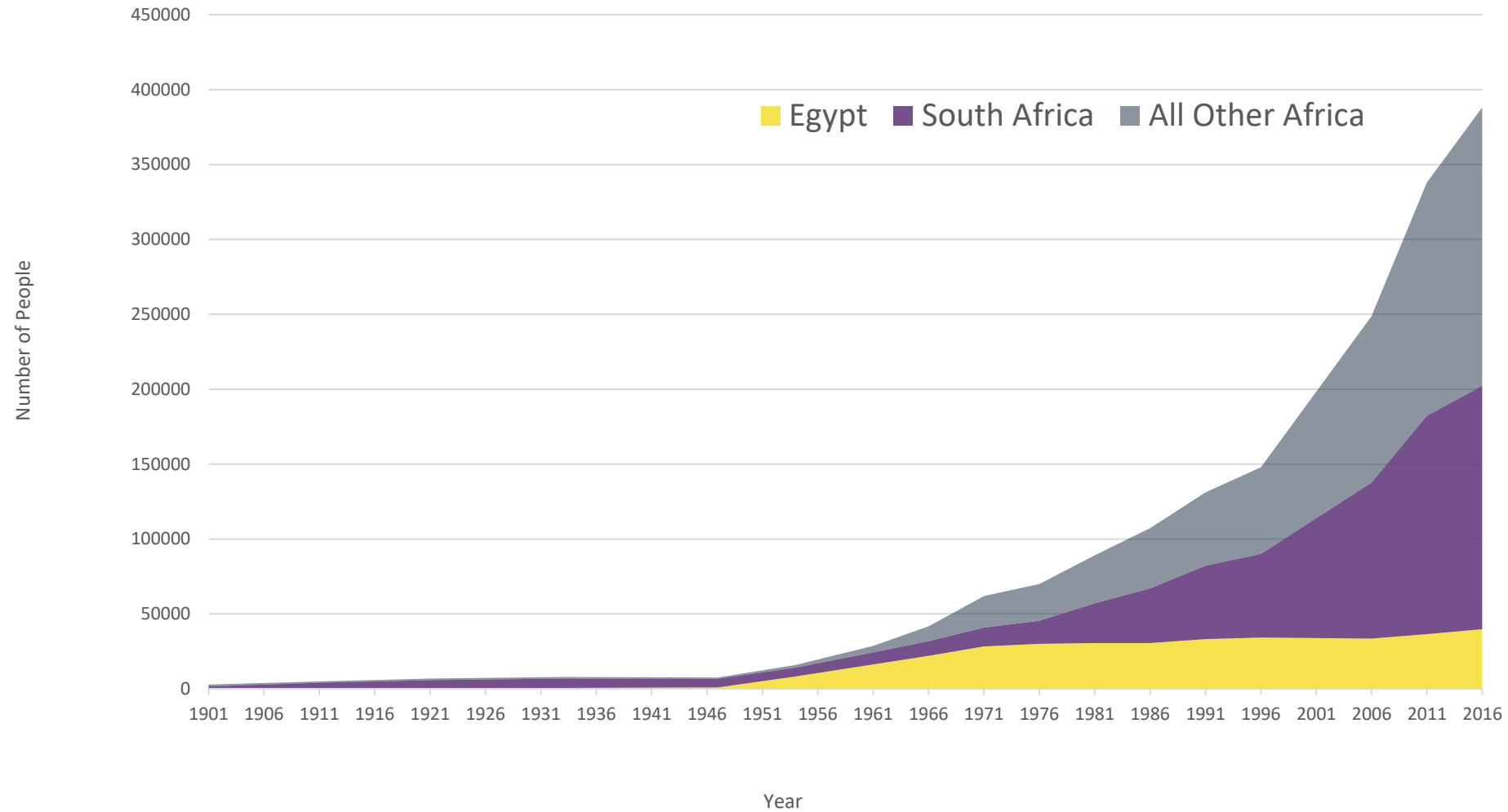




Outline

- Snapshots: African diaspora in Australia; Australian mining presence in Africa; Australian diplomatic presence in Africa
- Deepening Australia-Africa literacy: The need for national knowledge and policy infrastructure
- Practical examples from Curtin University's Africa engagement
- Proposed National Australia-Africa Council

Number of African-born people living in Australia, 1901-2016



Source data: ABS (2016 and 2019)

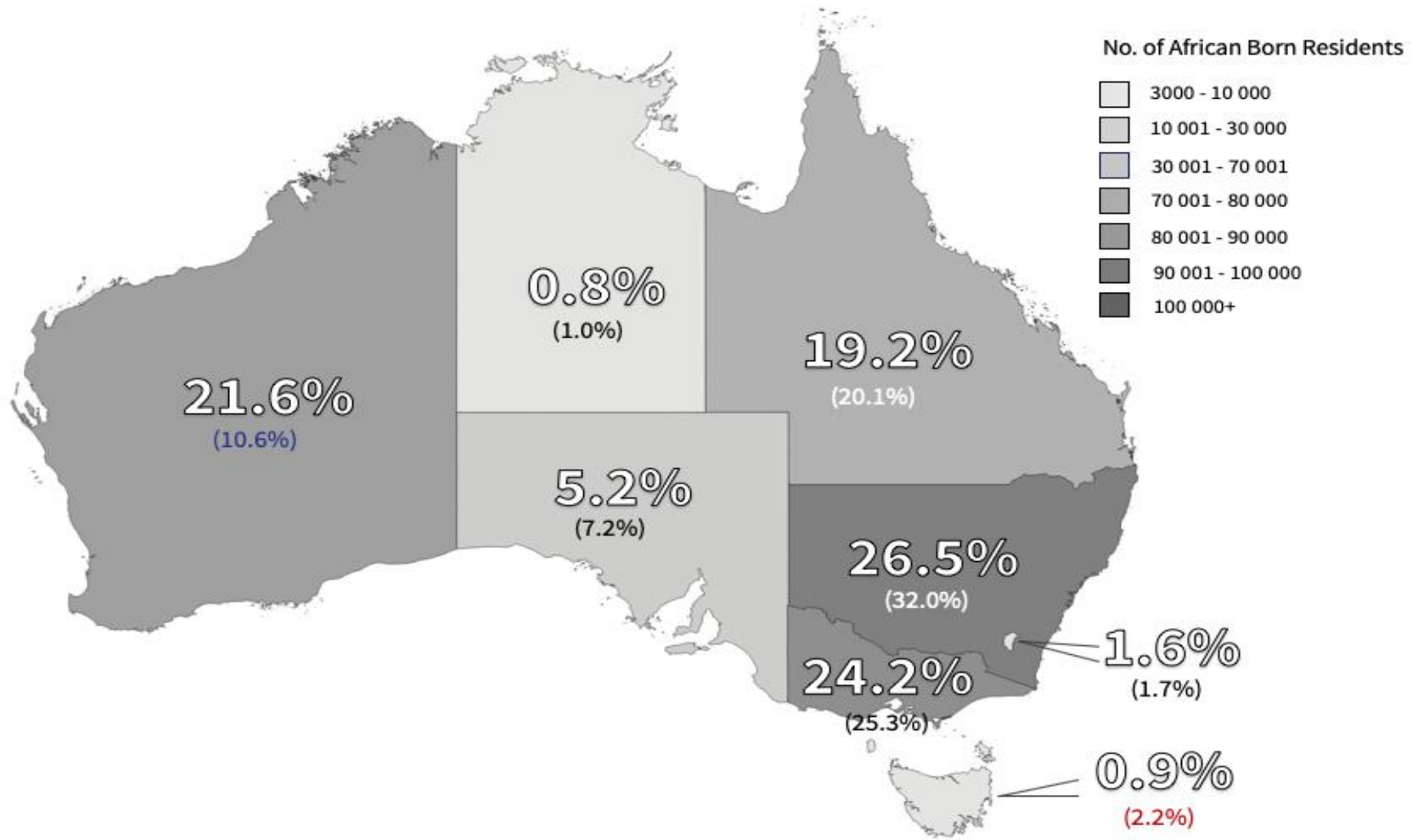
Top 20 countries of birth for the African born pop. in Aust (2016)



Country of Birth	No. of People	% of Total African Born
South Africa	162 417	41.9
Egypt	39 777	10.3
Zimbabwe	34 784	9.0
Mauritius	24 330	6.3
Kenya	17 651	4.6
Sudan	17 013	4.4
Ethiopia	11 792	3.0
Nigeria	8 487	2.2
South Sudan	7 697	2.0
Somalia	7 668	2.0
Zambia	6 237	1.6
Ghana	5 284	1.4
Eritrea	4 301	1.1
Democratic Republic of Congo	4 095	1.1
Tanzania	3 831	1.0
Sierra Leone	3 410	0.9
Uganda	3 368	0.9
Liberia	3 023	0.8
Libya	2 533	0.7
Seychelles	2 515	0.6

Source data: ABS (2016)

Distribution of African-born population in Australia, 2016



Highest qualification level by African region of birth, 2016

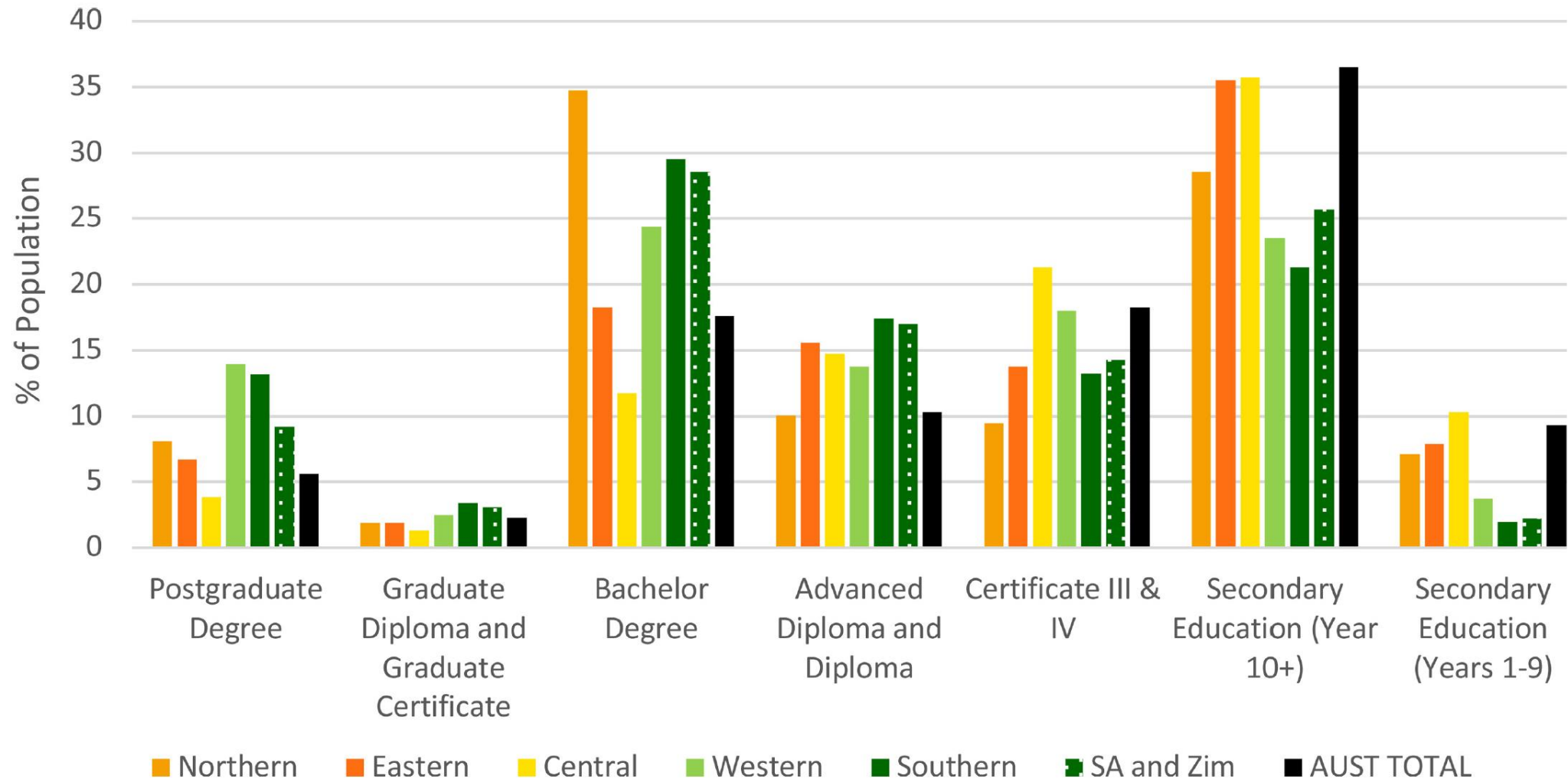


FIGURE 3 Highest qualification level by African region of birth, 2016
 SOURCE: ABS (2016)



Australia's diplomatic presence in Africa

Source:
Pijovic 2019

Map of Australian Embassies and High Commissions in Africa, 2018.



The need to deepen 'Australia-Africa literacy'

- ❖ **Cultural literacy is critical to building and sustaining peaceful multicultural societies; better knowledge about 'the other' is also fundamental to widening and deepening Australia-Africa relations**
- ❖ **Yet such 'Australia-Africa literacy' is currently limited: Outside of the mining industry, people in Australia and Africa know very little about each other or rely on stereotypes**
- ❖ **In Australia, Africa has been a low strategic priority for governments relative to their other international relations: the 'constituency' for Africa is not strong and needs to be built through knowledge and public engagement**
- ❖ **Consider the instruments and results of Australia's 40-year national project to engage and integrate with Asia and to make Australians 'Asia literate'**
- ❖ **Have we yet commenced a similar long-term Australia-Africa process? The education sector can lead it by developing the infrastructure to deepen 'Australia-Africa literacy'**



Deepening 'Australia-Africa literacy': Knowledge and Policy Infrastructure

- 1) Australian universities should create dedicated *Africa engagement strategies*
- 2) Create more *African content* in the Australian curriculum (all levels) including Africa-focused units/modules and move towards an African Studies degree
- 3) Create more/dedicated opportunities for *reciprocal* student and academic staff exchanges between Australia-Africa: scholarships and fellowships, travel funding, collaborative short courses, joint degrees
- 4) Create *career pathways and incentives* for Australia-based academics and researchers to become African regional/country specialists



Deepening 'Australia-Africa literacy': Knowledge and Policy Infrastructure (cont'd)

- 5) Create opportunities for the *general public* to learn about and engage with Africa: public lectures, short courses on Africa for the media, business, government; promote African languages and cultures
- 6) Better *support and resource existing Australia-Africa networks, African diaspora community organisations and African professional associations*
- 7) Deepen and institutionalise *relationships* between Australian governments, universities, industry and African-Australian diaspora communities
- 8) Create and resource *new national institutions*: Proposed Australia-Africa Council

Curtin in Africa

Curtin University is Australia's innovative global university with campuses located around the Indian Ocean region linking Africa, Asia and Australia.

Curtin Mauritius, the only Australian university campus in Africa, represents Curtin's enduring commitment to higher education partnerships in the region.



- **Curtin Mauritius campus**, the only Australian university campus in Africa
- **Centre for Australia-Africa Relations (CAAR)**, launched May 2023)
- **Curtin Africa Engagement Group** and **Curtin African Students Association (CASA)**
- **Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN)** and bilateral partnerships with African institutions
- **Emerging Leaders in Australia-Africa Diplomacy (ELAAD)** Program
- **African Women's Leadership, Empowerment & Development (A-LEAD)** Program
- **ARC Research Project:** "The Political and Economic Agency of Africans in Australia" (2023-26)
- **African diaspora community engagement** programs and events, e.g. Africa Day Festival, WAACA
- **Curtin Africa public lecture series**, book launches, film screenings
- **Africa-focused units, short course training, exploring an Africa-focused degree**



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