

The Teacher Crisis

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UNESCO Mobile Learning Week

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- Teacher **crisis opportunity**
? challenge
 - Mobile
 - Double

Education for All (EFA)

- Goal 1: Early childhood education.
- Goal 2: Primary education of good quality.
- Goal 3: Life-skills programmes.
- Goal 4: Adult literacy and basic and continuing education for all adults.
- Goal 5: Gender equality.
- **Goal 6: Quality of education.**

Progress, but ...

- Sub-Saharan Africa has made **significant progress** since the Education for All goals were adopted.
- But ... overall the region lacks education **access, quality and effectiveness.**

Quality of education

- The average student in Botswana and Ghana stands alongside or below the poorest-performing 10% of students in higher-performing countries.
- Teacher **qualifications** and teaching **quality** below global standards.

- Teachers are the **single most important education resource**. In many countries, shortages of trained teachers pose a major barrier, at all education levels, to achieving Education for All.

Chronic teacher shortage

- 2 million new teachers needed by 2015
- Attrition: **5.4 million** teachers needed
- Sub-Saharan Africa: needs **350 000** primary-level teachers per year until 2015
- **Gender balance** is crucial
- Shortage of secondary school graduates

Context

- One of the most important requirements for sustained progress towards better quality in education is an improved **learning environment**, encompassing school infrastructure, textbook availability, the learning process and the interaction between children and teachers.

Context

- Differences in performance across schools are linked to the **teaching environment**, often marked by large variations in class size, availability of books and teaching materials, teacher quality and school building standards. In the 2000–2002 SACMEQ countries, differences among schools accounted for 37% of the variation in student reading performance.

Issues to address

- **Attracting** and **retaining** well-qualified candidates
- **Training** teachers
- Improving teacher **morale**
- How can they be **supported**? (Madagascar, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Togo: 80 pupils to 1 trained teacher)
- How can we **support schools** if (when?) the required teachers aren't found?



The mobile revolution



90% of world's population is
covered by a mobile network



Including 80% of the
population living in rural areas



200 million text
messages sent every second



Africa: Second largest and
fastest growing mobile market



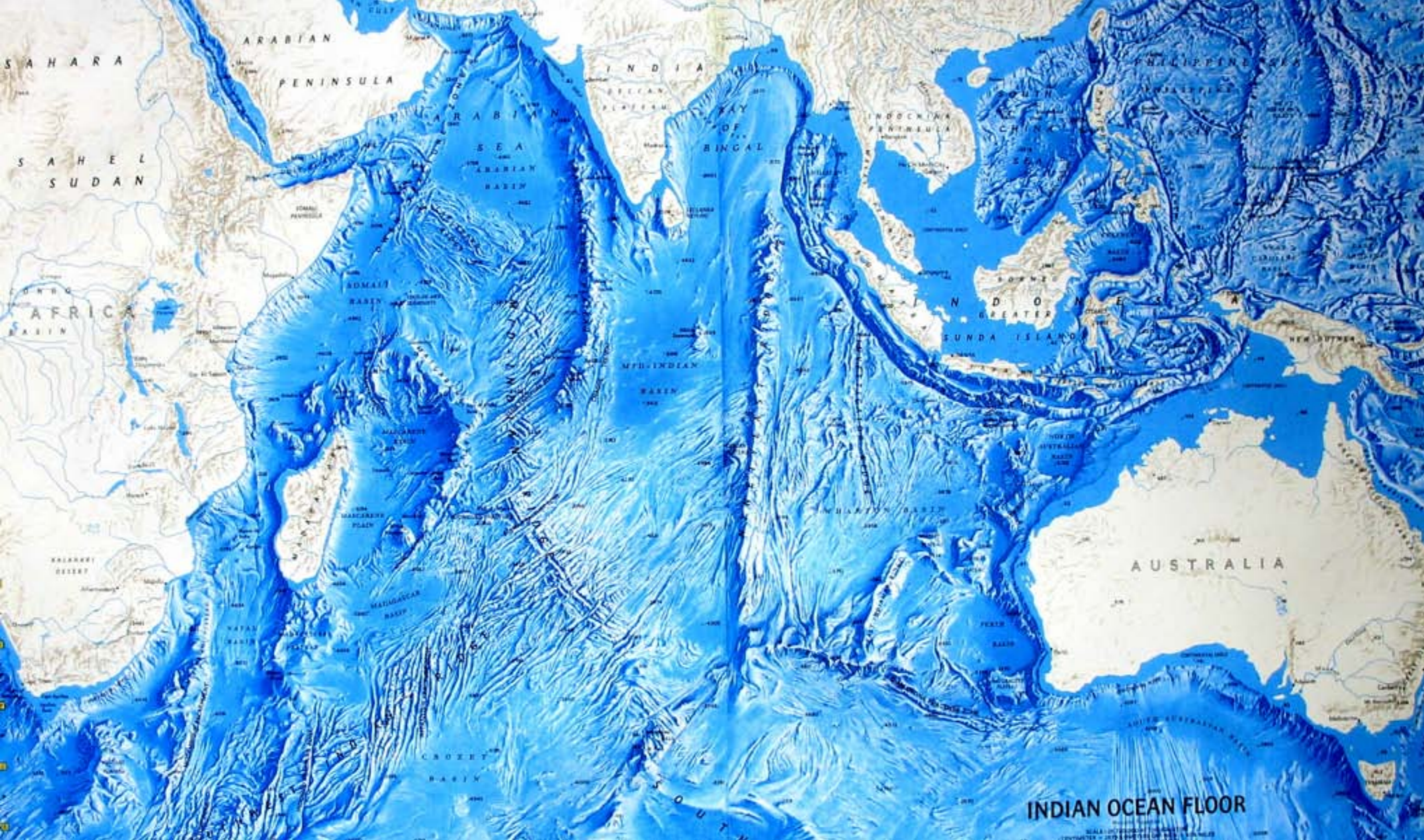
>50% of Africans
are mobile subscribers

A high-angle, wide shot of the ocean's surface. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, with numerous small, rhythmic ripples and waves that catch the light, creating a textured, shimmering effect. The horizon is visible in the upper right corner, where the blue of the water meets a slightly lighter, hazy blue of the sky.

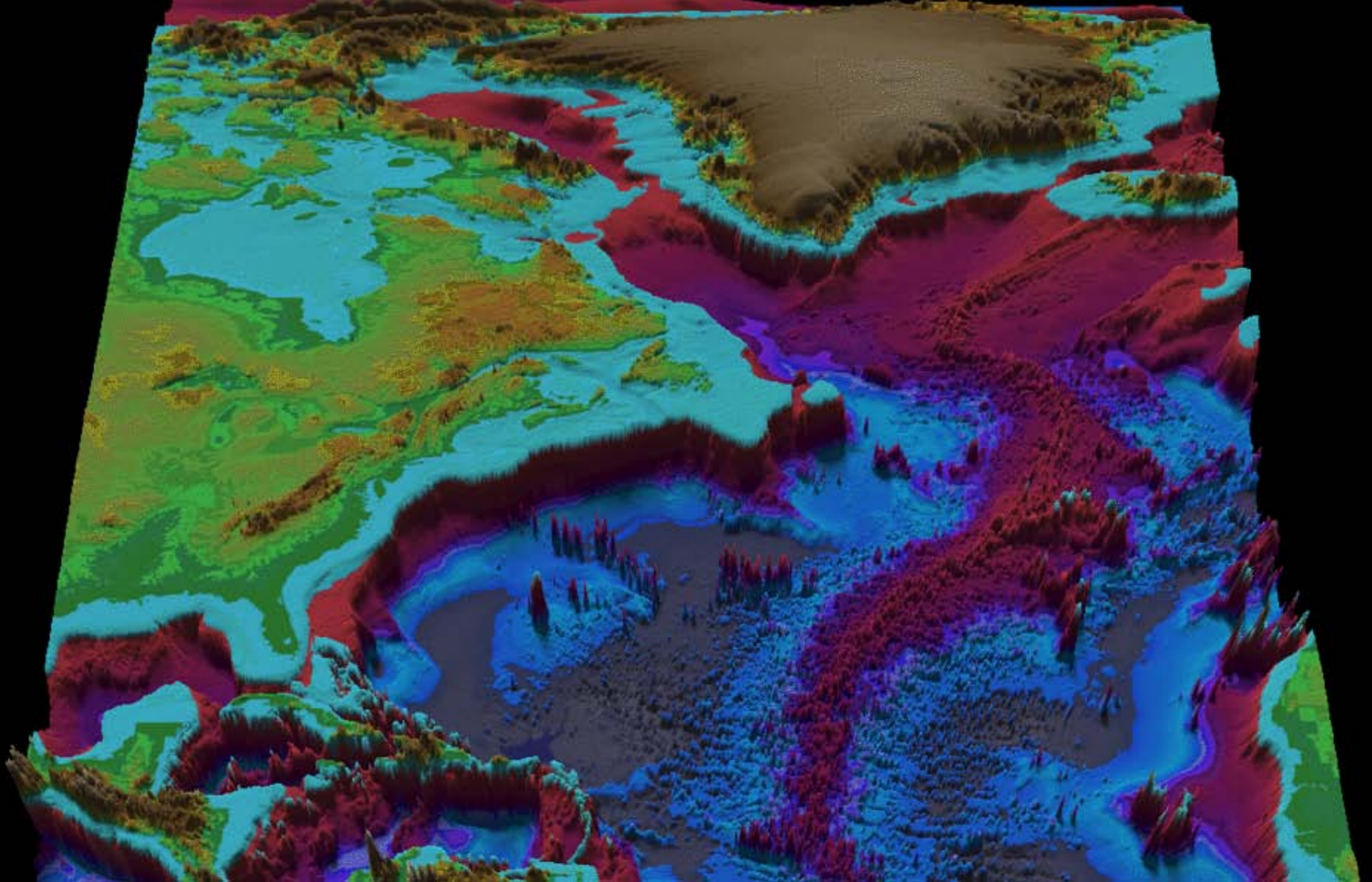
Mobile is an enabling
blanket covering the world

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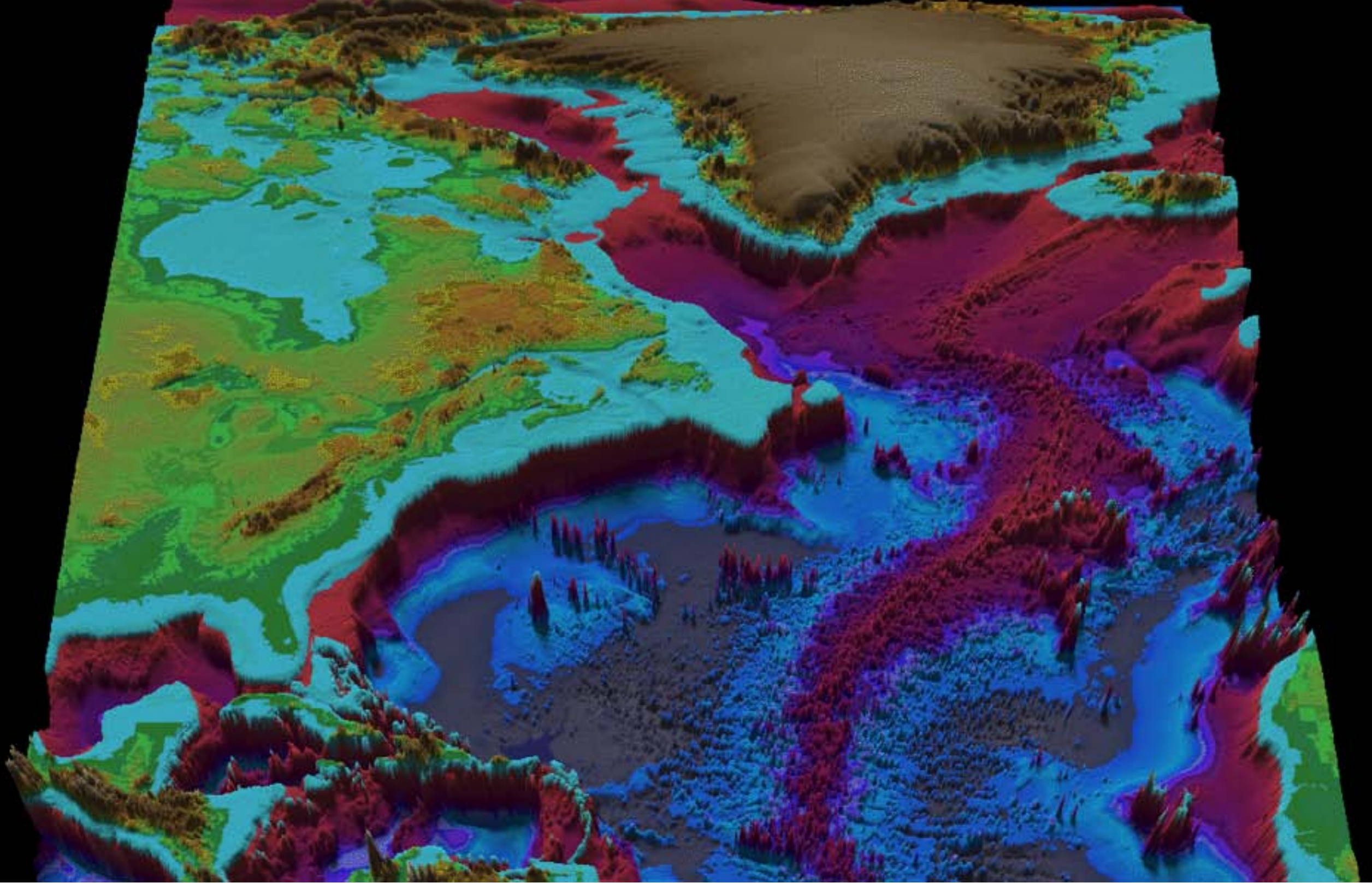
But, under the water ...



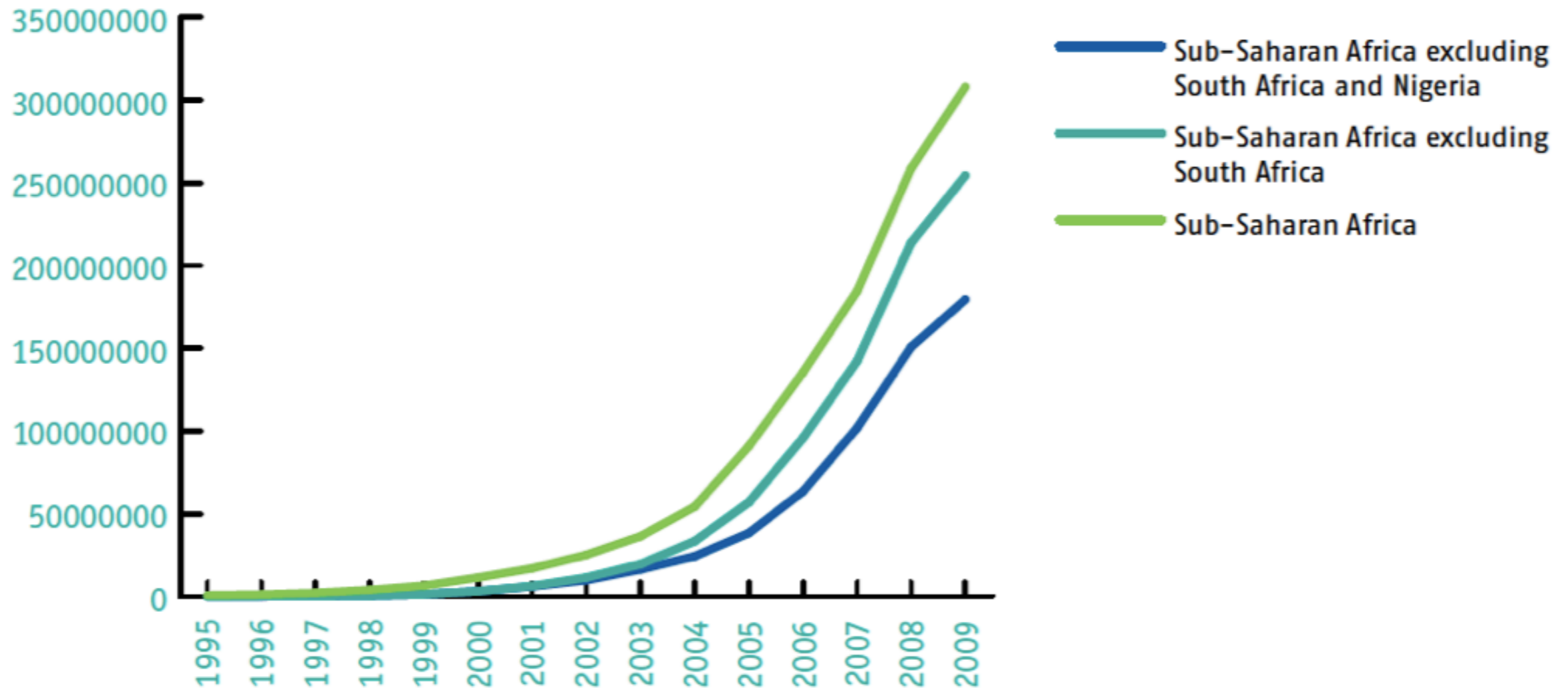
Highly uneven landscape



Varying factors: cost of usage, spending power, handsets, technologies, mobile infrastructure, literacy levels, political censorship, social attitudes, and cultural norms



Varying factors: across and within countries,
age groups, social groups



Africa's *mobile revolution?*

"Most phones are very cheap or secondhand devices, which hardly ever have usable airtime loaded on them. The primary purpose is to be reachable and not to be able to call others."

Jasper Grosskurth, Futures of Technology in Africa

Africa's mobile revolution?



Double challenge:
mobiles and teachers

Mobile challenge

- How to leverage the potential of mobile in such a -- technologically and socially -- varied landscape?
- We need to be as specific as possible to a particular audience, but plan for scaling up and for possibly including additional audiences, all in a space that is very dynamic and constantly changing.

Teacher challenge

- **Perceptions** (disruptive, addictive, too much screen time, anti-social, harmful to health, access to undesirable content, traditional vs new approach)
- **Training** training training
- **Demonstration** of support



“I’ve learned that cellphones are as powerful to use as computers.”
Teacher from Zambia

“It is quicker to access information on the internet through cellphones than on PCs.”



Support comes in many forms

- mLearning is not just delivering content.
- Conversation.
 - Tutoring.
 - Testing.
 - Support and motivation.
 - “System strengthening”/administration.

Complementary services

The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the Teaching Biology Project. The page header includes the Facebook logo, a search bar, and the user's name 'Steve Vosloo' with navigation links for 'Find Friends' and 'Home'. The page title is 'Teaching Biology Project', identified as a 'Non-Profit Organization' based in 'Claremont, Western Cape, South Africa'. The page features a cover photo showing several people in a classroom setting. The main content area displays a post from the page about the 2012 conferences, with a text input field for comments. The right sidebar contains various page management tools such as 'Admins (5)', 'Use Facebook as Teaching Biology Project', 'Notifications (4)', 'Promote with an Ad', 'View old Insights', and 'Invite Friends'. The left sidebar shows engagement statistics: 156 likes, 6 people talking about this, and 2 people who were here, along with options to add or remove the page from favorites and get updates via RSS.

facebook 21 8 6 Search Steve Vosloo Find Friends Home

TBP | TEACHING BIOLOGY PROJECT

Teaching Biology Project

Non-Profit Organization · Claremont, Western Cape, South Africa · Edit Info

Wall Teaching Biology Project · Everyone (Top Posts)

Share: Status Photo Link Video Question

Write something...

Teaching Biology Project
Here are the dates of the 2012 conferences:

Conference 1:
Saturday 24 - Tuesday 27 March
This conference will cover evolutionary biology (grades 10-12) and aspects of Gr 10 CAPs
...
See More

21 People Reached · 1 Person Talking About This
Unlike · Comment · Share · December 7 at 11:05am ·

You and Simbongile Mvinjelwa like this.

Write a comment...

Admins (5) [?] See All

Use Facebook as Teaching Biology Project

Notifications 4

Promote with an Ad

View old Insights

Invite Friends

You and Teaching Biology Project

Mark Horner likes this.

Recommendations (2) See All

Ursula Carsten Everything cool at the moment 1

Branton Treurnicht Use this for networking

Write a recommendation

156 like this

6 talking about this

2 were here

Add to My Page's Favorites

Remove from My Page's Favorites

Get Updates via RSS

Unlike

Share