

Outcome 2: Stakeholder Map

Concept: Mapping the ecosystem of Research Funding in Abuja.

The Map Layers

1. Caretakers (The Support System)

People who hold the system together despite the challenges.

- **Department Heads (HODs):** Often use personal networks to secure small opportunities for students.
- **Peer Review Groups:** Informal WhatsApp groups where researchers share calls for proposals.
- **Lab Technicians:** Managing scarce resources to keep experiments running.

2. Stakeholders (The Institutions)

The powerful players who control resources.

- **TETFund (Tertiary Education Trust Fund):** The primary government funding body (HQ in Abuja).
- **National Universities Commission (NUC):** Regulatory body setting standards.
- **University Administrations:** The gatekeepers of institutional grants.
- **Foreign Embassies/Donors:** USAID, DFID, etc., offering competitive but limited grants.

3. Emerging Leaders (The Disrupters)

New actors trying to change the narrative.

- **StemTrust Team:** Introducing blockchain transparency.
- **Tech Hubs (e.g., Ventures Park):** Beginning to look at "Deep Tech" beyond just software.
- **Student Research Associations:** Demanding more transparency in how fees/funds are used.
- **Diaspora Nigerian Scientists:** Looking for trustworthy ways to give back.
- **Cardano Community (Abuja Chapter):** promoting decentralized governance tools.

4. Affected Groups (The Victims)

- **Early-Career Researchers:** Most vulnerable to "The Waiting Game."
- **Post-Graduate Students:** Often delayed for years due to funding-related pauses.
- **The Nigerian Public:** Denied local solutions to local problems (e.g., local agricultural, health innovations).

Flow of Influence

```
graph TD
    Government[Government/TETFund] -- Funds --> Admin[University Admin]
    Admin -- "Opaque Allocation" --> Researcher[Researcher]
    Donor[Foreign Donors] -- "Strict Conditions" --> Researcher
    Diaspora[Diaspora/Private Sector] -. "Trust Gap" .-> Researcher

    Researcher -- "Exit/Japa" --> BrainDrain[Brain Drain]
    Researcher -- "Success (Rare)" --> Innovation[Local Innovation]

    subgraph "The Opportunity"
        StemTrust[StemTrust Platform] -->|Transparency| Diaspora
        StemTrust -->|Direct Funding| Researcher
    end
end
```