This project relied on sequence data and associated metadata publicly shared by the GISAID data repository and adhere to the terms and conditions laid out by GISAID [(*16*)](https://sciwheel.com/work/citation?ids=4634667&pre=&suf=&sa=0). The African samples processed in this study were obtained anonymously from material exceeding the routine diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 in African public and private health laboratories. Individual institutional review board (IRB) references or material transfer agreements (MTAs) for countries are listed below.

Angola - (MTA - CON8260), Botswana - Genomic surveillance in Botswana was approved by the Health Research and Development Committee (Protocol HPDME 13/18/1), Egypt - Surveillance in Egypt was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the National Research Centre (Egypt) (protocol number 14 155, dated March 22, 2020), Kenya - samples were collected under the Ministry of Health protocols as part of the national COVID-19 public health response. The whole genome sequencing study protocol was reviewed and approved by the Scientific and Ethics Review Committee (SERU) at Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Nairobi, Kenya (SERU protocol #4035), Nigeria – (NHREC/01/01/2007), Mali - study of the sequence of SARS-CoV-2 isolates in Mali - Letter of Ethical Committee (N0-2020 /201/CE/FMPOS/FAPH of 09/17/2020), Mozambique - (MTA - CON7800), Malawi - (MTA - CON8265), South Africa - The use of South African samples for sequencing and genomic surveillance were approved by University of KwaZulu-Natal Biomedical Research Ethics Committee (ref. BREC/00001510/2020); the University of the Witwatersrand Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) (ref. M180832); Stellenbosch University HREC (ref. N20/04/008\_COVID-19); the University of the Free State Research Ethics Committee (ref. UFS-HSD2020/1860/2710) and the University of Cape Town HREC (ref. 383/2020), University of Pretoria human ethics committee (ref: HS100/2017) Tunisia - for sequences derived from sampling in Tunisia, all patients provided their informed consent to use their samples for sequencing of the viral genomes. The ethical agreement was provided to the research project ADAGE (PRFCOVID19GP2) by the Committee of protection of persons (Tunisian Ministry of Health) under the reference (CPP SUD N 0265/2020), Uganda - The use of samples and sequences from Uganda were approved by the Uganda Virus Research Institute - Research and Ethics Committee UVRI-REC Federalwide Assurance [FWA] FWA No. 00001354, study reference - GC/127/20/04/771 and by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, reference number - HS936ES) and Zimbabwe (MTA - CON8271).