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Collaboration and Resource Sharing Among SADC Institutions: Are NRENs Supporting These Initiatives?

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Collaboration and resource sharing are essential components for enhancing research, education, and technological development across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) play a

critical role in facilitating these initiatives by providing high-speed, reliable, and cost-effective networking infrastructure for academic and research institutions.

This paper examines the extent to which NRENs in the SADC region are supporting collaborative efforts and resource-sharing initiatives among institutions. It explores how these networks enable access to shared resources such as digital repositories, educational content, collaborative platforms, and high-performance computing facilities. The study further assesses the challenges and opportunities associated with leveraging NRENs for fostering regional cooperation in research and development, as well as the alignment of NREN services with the broader objectives of SADC in terms of integration, sustainable development, and innovation.
Finally, the paper discusses the role of international partnerships and funding mechanisms in enhancing the capabilities of NRENs to support cross-border collaboration and resource sharing in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

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