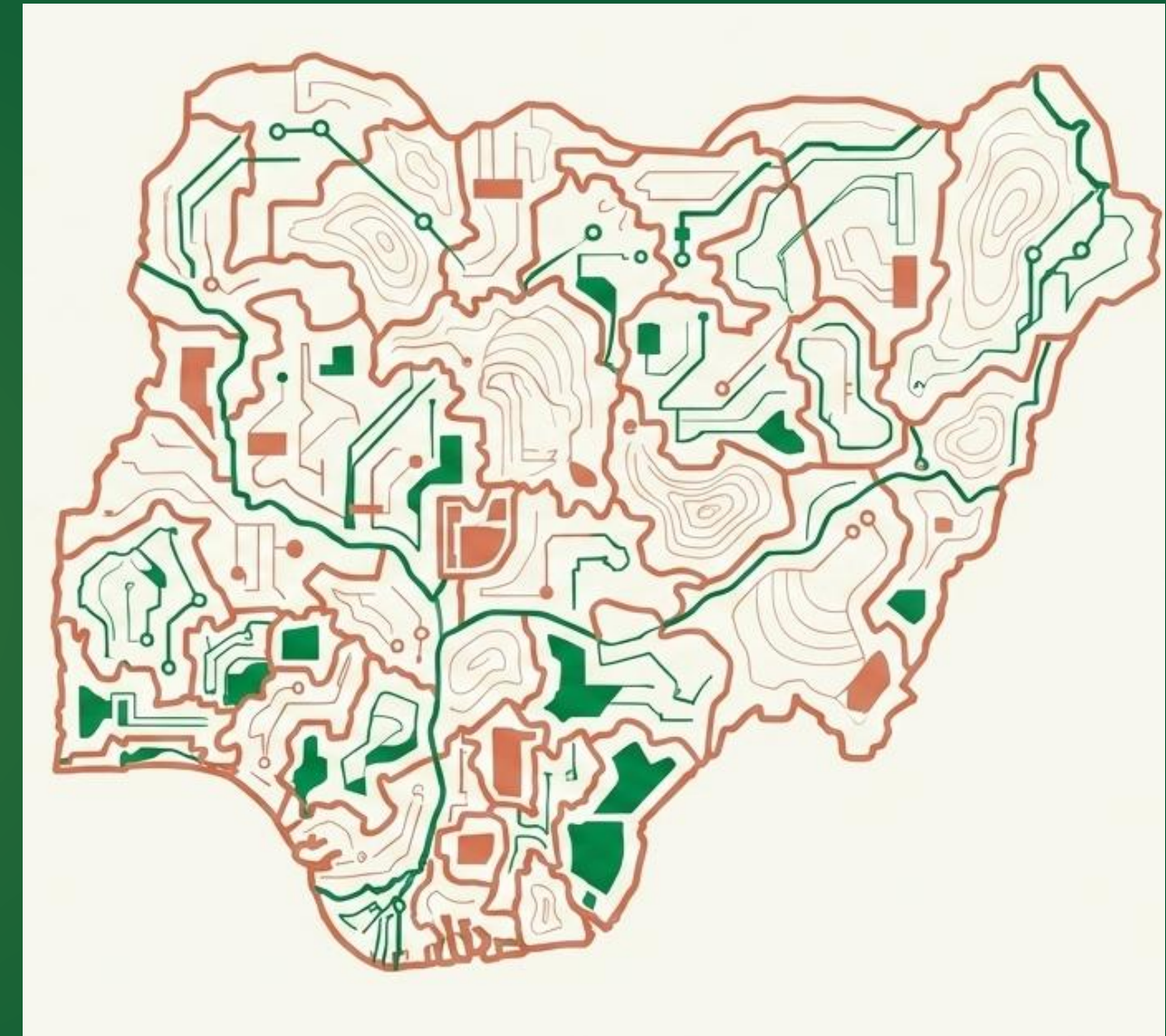




# Innovative Strategies for Growing AI in Nigeria



*Moving from AI consumption to Foundational AI creation in Africa's largest tech ecosystem*

**Blessing Oladeji**

Founder, Octave AI Technologies Limited

# ABOUT OCTAVE ANALYTICS

## WHO WE ARE

Octave Analytics & Insights Limited is data and analytics firm specialising in descriptive and predictive modelling, revenue assurance, and data-driven business intelligence across West Africa's enterprise landscape.

## WHAT WE DO

We help enterprises appreciate the strategic value of their customer and business data assets through tailored analytics interventions — from CVM and churn prediction to credit scoring, revenue assurance, and AI-powered intelligence platforms.

## WHY THIS MATTERS FOR DATA PROTECTION



### Data-Centric Operations

Our work sits at the intersection of large-scale data processing and business outcomes — the exact environment where data protection obligations are most consequential.



### Compliance as a Business Enabler

We embed privacy-by-design thinking into analytics pipelines, helping clients meet NDPR, GDPR alignment, and sector-specific data governance requirements.



### Empowering Your AI and Data Roles

Our training equips Data and AI Professionals with the frameworks, tools, and regulatory intelligence to govern data assets with confidence and authority.



WHERE WE'RE GOING

# The roadmap

01

## The Moment

Why Nigeria, and why now

02

## The Blueprint

The national plan already in motion

03

## The Strategies

Innovative moves to grow AI here

04

## Your Move

Career, business & community

PART 01

# 01



# The Moment

A global wave, a young nation, and a window that won't stay open forever.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

# A trillion-dollar wave

# \$15.7T

AI's projected boost to the global economy by 2030. Source: PwC

AI is the fastest-adopted technology in human history — rewriting every sector at once.

The real risk for Nigeria is not moving too fast. It is being a **consumer** of AI when we could be a **producer**.

## WHY NIGERIA

# Nigeria's unfair advantage

240M

people — the largest market and talent pool in Africa

18

median age — 70% of Nigerians are under 30

#1

tech & startup hub on the continent, from fintech to AI

## THE HONEST PICTURE

---

# The gaps we must close

### 01 Power

Unstable grid and costly diesel choke AI-grade data centers.

### 02 Compute affordability

Dollar-priced cloud is out of reach for many local builders.

### 03 Skills supply

Demand for AI talent far outpaces today's training pipelines.

### 04 Research & funding

R&D and local capital remain thin against the scale of ambition.

PART 02

02



# The National Blueprint

A strategy, flagship initiatives, and real money already on the table.

## THE PLAN

# The National AI Strategy

A 2025–2029 roadmap from the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy with NITDA & NCAIR — co-created with experts from government, academia, industry and the diaspora.

## Our National Vision

“To be a global leader in AI, leveraging ethical and inclusive innovation, local talent, and strategic collaboration to drive sustainable development”

### Economic growth

Build globally competitive AI companies and high-value jobs.

### Social development

Use AI for health, education, agriculture and inclusion.

### Responsible leadership

Position Nigeria as Africa's exemplar for ethical AI with indigenous expertise

STRUCTURE

# Five strategic pillars



1

**Infrastructure**  
Compute, data & clean-energy AI clusters

2

**Ecosystem**  
World-class talent, research & startups

3

**Adoption**  
AI across health, farming, finance & gov

4

**Responsible AI**  
Ethics, safety & inclusion by design

5

**Governance**  
Clear rules, standards & oversight

## THE AMBITION

# Bold national targets

70%

of the young workforce (16–35) equipped with AI skills

50%

of those trained are women — inclusion built in, not bolted on

–5pt

targeted drop in unemployment as AI creates new work

# The AI Scaling Hub

# \$7.5M

committed over 3 years with the **Gates Foundation** & **Lagos Business School**.

Scales **mature, proven** AI solutions — not isolated pilots — across three sectors:

Health

Agriculture

Education

Provides innovators with resources, mentorship and the institutional support to turn ideas into national impact.

# Compute power is rising

## ~\$1B

invested in next-gen AI data centers —  
Equinix, Microsoft, MTN, Airtel & more

## 5x

capacity growth — ~70MW (2024)  
toward 330–340MW by 2026

## \$2.7B

projected data-center market by  
2035, up from \$1.4B in 2025

**The catch:** reliable, affordable power is the make-or-break factor — and a real opportunity for clean-energy builders.

# Funding & building the builders

**3M****3MTT Programme**

Training 3 million technical talents in digital & AI skills.

**NCAIR****Experiment & learn**

National Centre for AI & Robotics — labs, training, mentorship.

**R&D****AI Research Fund**

Grants backing local researchers, teams & early-stage startups.

**FATE****FATE × Google**

Foundation & partner programmes accelerating AI founders.

PART 03

03



# Innovative Strategies

Five moves that turn a national plan into a living ecosystem.

## THE FRAMEWORK

# Five moves to grow AI

**01 Solve Nigerian problems first** Local languages, local sectors, local context — sovereign AI.

**02 Build talent & community** Train at scale, learn in public, mentor the next builder.

**03 Own our compute & data** Local, affordable infrastructure and clean power.

**04 Coordinate the ecosystem** Government, capital, academia & founders — the fintech playbook.

**05 Be responsible by design** Ethics, inclusion and trust built in from day one.

# Solve Nigerian problems first

- ▶ **Speak our languages.** Models and voice tools for Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo & Pidgin.
- ▶ **Target real sectors.** Farming yields, clinic diagnostics, SME finance, public services.
- ▶ **Design for constraints.** Offline-first, low-bandwidth, mobile-native by default
- ▶ **Own the data.** Local datasets are a moat global models simply don't have.

**"This isn't about  
deploying Western AI —  
it's about creating  
African AI capabilities ."**

— Nigerian data-centre operator

## MOVE 02 • DEEP DIVE

# Talent & community at scale

Our fintech success came from a coordinated ecosystem — not lone founders. AI grows the same way.

### Train widely

Tap 3MTT, NCAIR and free global courses — start where you are.

### Build in public

Ship projects, share your work — a portfolio beats a CV.

### Mentor & be mentored

Communities like PAIDeF turn isolated learners into a movement.

### Bridge the divide

Reach women, rural talent & the underserved — inclusion is strategy.

## PILLAR 01 • INFRASTRUCTURE

# Power the engine room

Compute, data and clean-energy clusters engineered for Nigerian conditions — turning constraints into advantages.

### 01 Clean-energy micro centers

Solar & gas-hybrid data hubs make the power gap a green-build edge.

### 02 Naira-priced shared GPUs

Compute co-ops let local builders rent power they can actually afford.

### 03 Open Nigerian datasets

Language, health & agriculture corpora treated as public infrastructure.

### 04 Edge & offline-first

Models that run on the phones people already carry, no hyperscale needed.

## PILLAR 02 • ECOSYSTEM

# Grow world-class builders

A coordinated pipeline of talent, research and startups — the same recipe that made Nigeria a fintech leader.

### 01 Train, then specialize

3MTT builds the base; layer deep AI tracks on top of the pipeline.

### 02 University–industry AI labs

Research tied to NCAIR & firms that ships products, not just papers.

### 03 Founder accelerators

FATE × Google & the AI Scaling Hub turn ideas into real companies.

### 04 Diaspora bridge

Pull global Nigerian AI talent back into local teams and mentorship.

## PILLAR 03 • ADOPTION

# Put AI to work everywhere

Driving AI into the sectors that move the most lives — health, agriculture, finance and public services.

### 01 AI for smallholder farms

Yield, pest & price advice delivered in local languages by voice.

### 02 Clinic-grade diagnostics

Triage & imaging support that extends scarce medical expertise.

### 03 SME automation-as-a-service

Package AI ops for the millions of businesses that need the help.

### 04 Smarter public services

Faster service delivery, fraud detection and stronger revenue for gov.

## PILLAR 04 • RESPONSIBLE AI

# Build trust by design

Ethics, safety and inclusion engineered in from day one — not bolted on after launch.

### 01 Bias audits on local data

Test fairness across languages, gender and region before shipping.

### 02 Inclusion by design

50% women trained; rural and low-bandwidth users designed for first.

### 03 Safety & transparency

Explainable, accountable systems people and regulators can trust.

### 04 Protect people's data

Consent and privacy upheld under the NDPA as adoption scales.

## PILLAR 05 • GOVERNANCE

# Set the rules of the game

Clear rules, standards and oversight that make innovation safe to scale — and put Nigeria out front.

### 01 A clear national framework

NITDA-led rules — light-touch but real — so builders know the lines.

### 02 Standards & sandboxes

Test AI safely in high-stakes sectors like health and finance.

### 03 Multi-stakeholder oversight

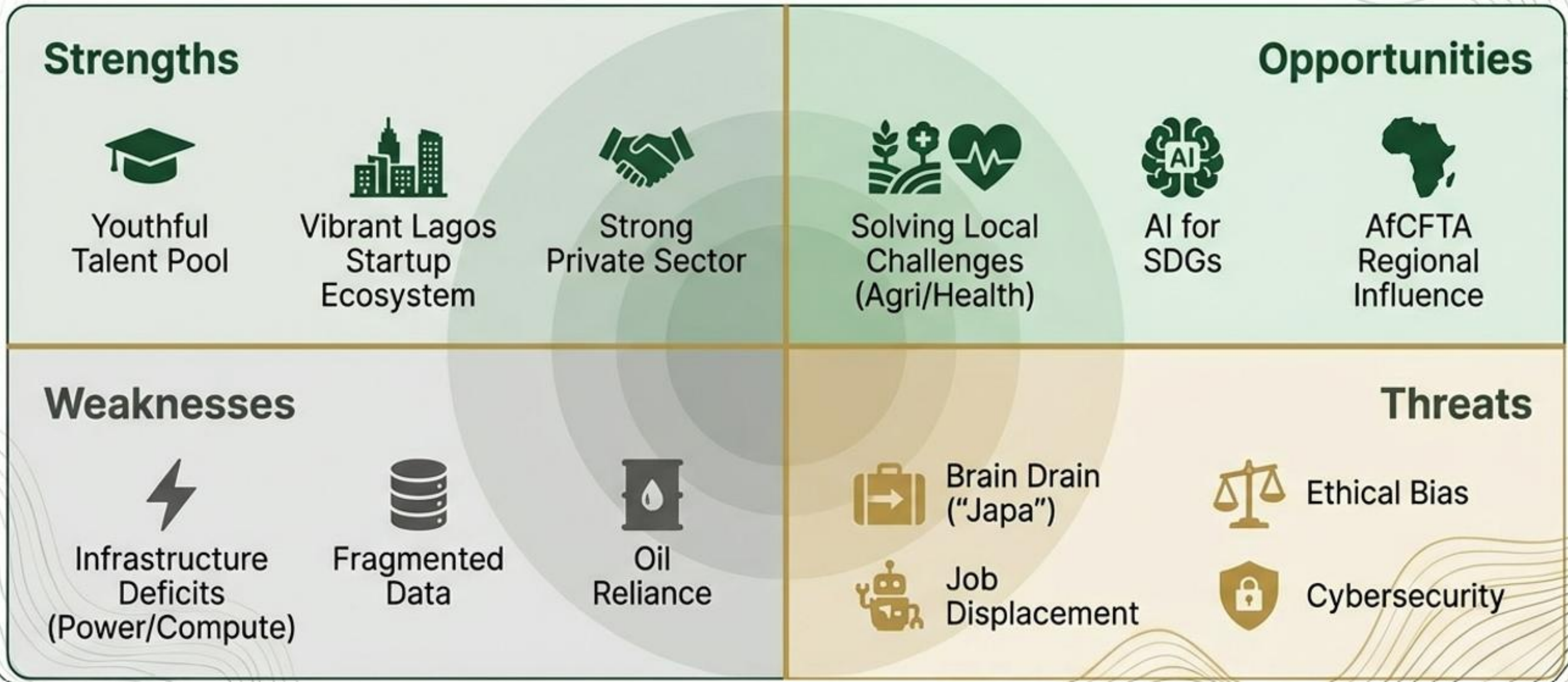
Government, industry, academia & civil society sharing the wheel.

### 04 Lead the continent

Get this right and Nigeria sets the pace for ethical AI in Africa.

STRUCTURE

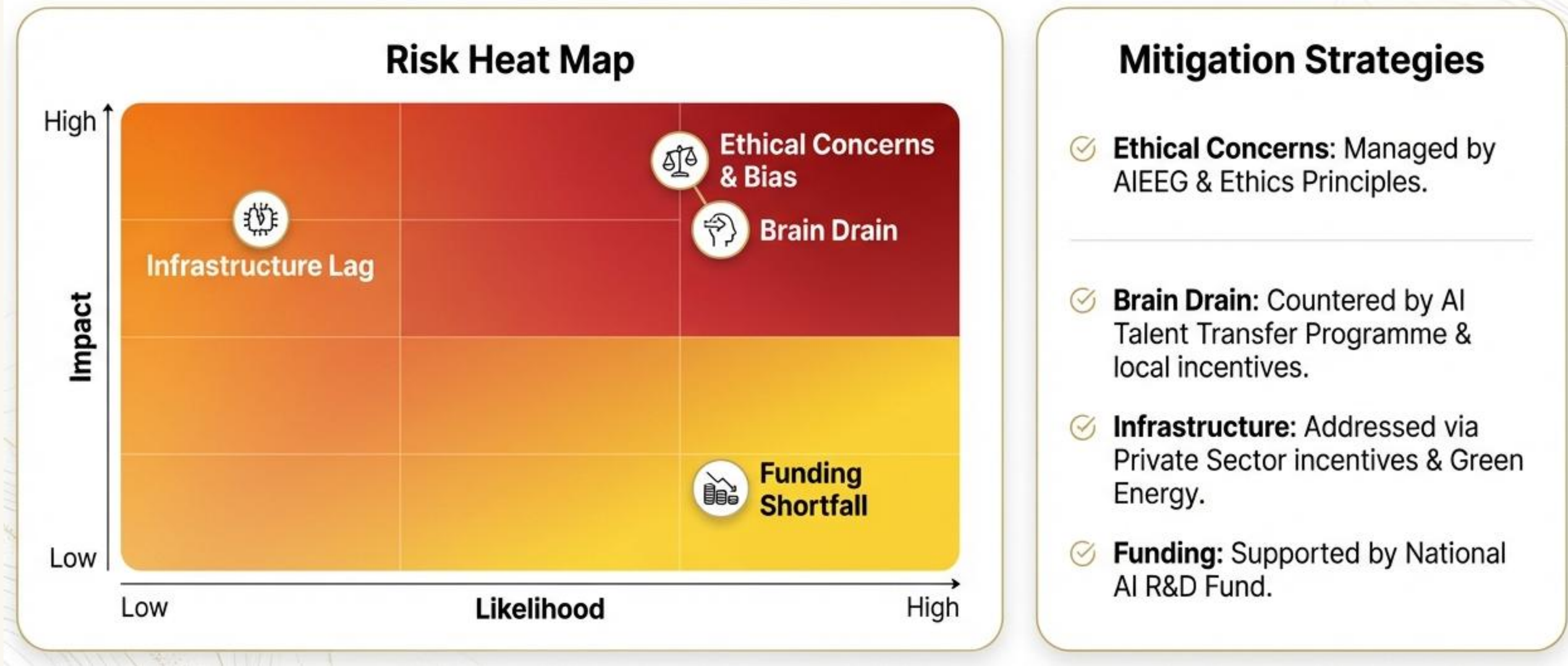
# SWOT Analysis



STRUCTURE

# Risk Management Strategy

Focus: Identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential challenges.



PART 04

# 04



## Your Move

Grow your career, your business and your money — then plug into the community.

# Grow your career with AI

## 01

### Become AI-fluent

Use AI daily as a co-worker. Fluency is the new literacy.

## 02

### Pick a lane

**Build** AI · **Apply** it to your field · **Govern** its use.

## 03

### Build in public

Ship projects, share results, get credentialed via 3MTT.

FOR YOU • BUSINESS & MONEY

# Grow your business & money

## › Automate the boring 80%

Support, content, admin & ops — reclaim time and cut cost.

## › Sell AI to SMEs

Millions of businesses need AI help — that's your market.

## › Decide with data

Forecasting, pricing & credit insight once reserved for big firms.

## › Start lean

One founder can now do what took a team of ten. Begin today.

## CONNECT

# Plug into the community

**PAIDeF**

This community — keep showing up to AI Stellars.

**NCAIR • NITDA**

National labs, training & the AI strategy itself.

**Nigeria AI Collective**

Builders, researchers & advocates moving the field.

**FATE × Google**

Programmes & funding for early AI founders.

**Data Science Nigeria**

Bootcamps, AI Saturdays & nationwide chapters.

Pick one. Attend, build, contribute, connect — **this week.**

TAKE THIS WITH YOU

---

# What to take away

1

**Nigeria's AI moment is real — and funded.**

The strategy, the hubs and the money are here. What it needs now is builders.

2

**You don't need permission.**

Learn it, build with it, ship something, connect with the community — starting today.

LET'S BUILD IT TOGETHER

# Thank you.



Questions are welcome — let's talk about how you grow AI, and how AI grows you.

---

**Blessing Oladeji**

Founder, Octave AI Technologies Limited

PAIDeF · AI Stellars 4.0

Register — [bit.ly/AIStellars4](https://bit.ly/AIStellars4)