

**AfriGEOSS at GEO-XII Plenary and Ministerial Summit, Mexico City**

**9 – 13 November 2015**

The GEO Week 2015, 9 – 13 November 2015, included Implementation Boards meetings, side events, exhibition, Caucus meetings, 35<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee, GEO-XII Plenary and Ministerial Summit. In all event categories African participants could be found.

**AfriGEOSS Side Event**

The side event was held on afternoon of 10 November. Participation at the side event peaked at about 30 participants from China, (TU), Chile (AIP-CBWG), Guinea (NM), Madagascar (MEF), Mexico (UNAM), Nigeria (NARSDA), Senegal (CSE), South Africa (ARC, DEA, DRDLR, DST, SANSA), United States (NASA, NS, USGS), EuroGeoSurveys, EUMETSAT, GRSS, RCMRD and What3Words.



The side event, moderated by Bryron Anangwe of RCMRD, received opening remarks from Dr Mjwara who highlighted the importance of collaboration in Africa in order to use Earth Observation to address societal needs. Progress report on AfriGEOSS was provided by the Secretariat, Ms Andiswa Mlisa, stressing the need to focus on building national capacities to strengthen regional programmes. Ms Bulelwa Mohammed presented an overview and work progress of the Working Group on Land Cover for Africa. During the “Show and Tell” session, participants provided feedback on projects and initiatives they are undertaking in Africa. These included a presentation by European Commission on the Horizon2020 proposal call focusing on food security in Africa; the land cover for Africa by Tsinghua University; the NASA SERVIR Africa programme; EUMETSAT – MESA related activities and Africa User Forum in 2016; GRSS caravan programme for capacity building and SANSA making CBERS 4 data available to the SADC region. Next the participants received presentations from EuroGeosurveys delivered by Luca Demicheli on Geological knowledge and skills in African Geological Surveys, Patrick Wall who introduced the PanAfGeo project, and Gerardo Herrera on mining and post mining Earth Observations applied research and technology. The last presentation of the session was received from Steven Ramage of What3Words, illustrating an innovative way of providing an address system to the most vulnerable and unaddressed communities.

The presentations of the side event will be made available in the GEO website

In addition to the AfriGEOSS side event, Africa was represented in other side events such as the Data Sharing (Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa), GEOGLAM (South Africa), Land Cover (South Africa), WIGOS (Guinea) and Spectrum Management organized by Secure World Foundation in which Dr Halilu Shaba Ahmed delivered remarks and was a panel member <http://swfound.org/events/2015/broadcasting-geoss-key-issues-in-spectrum-management-and-earth-observations>

### AfriGEOSS Exhibition



The exhibition promoted AfriGEOSS activities and the use of Earth Observations in Africa. Over 1500 promotion materials were distributed and engagement done with both the GEO Plenary and Latin America Geospatial Forum participants. The exhibition booth proved a convenient meeting space for advancing bilateral and multi-lateral interests.

### GEO-XII Plenary and Ministerial Summit

The 12<sup>th</sup> GEO Plenary welcomed Kenya, Somalia and Zimbabwe as Members in GEO. Plenary and Ministers endorsed the GEO Strategic Plan 2016 – 2025: Implementing GEOSS and Mexico City Ministerial Declaration was adopted. Statements made by Africa countries at the Plenary and Ministerial Summit as well as full proceedings can be accessed online: [www.earthobservation.org/geo12.php](http://www.earthobservation.org/geo12.php). African representation in the GEO Executive Committee is by Egypt, Senegal and South Africa (Co-Chair).

### Africa Caucus

The Africa Membership in GEO currently consists of 27 African countries and 7 Participating Organisation based in Africa. Represented during the GEO Week 2015 were Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe and RCMRD. During the week the Caucus held two meeting, afternoon on 9 November and evening of 11 November 2015.



Africa Caucus with Minister Naledi Pandor, Science and Technology, South Africa

For more coverage on the GEO Week 2015 visit <http://www.iisd.ca/geo/12/about.html>