

AfriGEOSS Side Event
GEO-XII Plenary & Ministerial Summit Week
Tuesday, 10 November 2015, 14h00 – 18h00, Mexico City

Background:

The AfriGEOSS initiative, developed within the GEO framework, aims to enhance Africa's capacity for producing, managing and using Earth observations data and information and to strengthen the link between GEO activities and existing capabilities and initiatives in Africa. It provides the necessary framework for countries and organizations to access and leverage on-going national and international bilateral and multilateral EO-based initiatives across Africa, thereby creating synergies and minimizing duplication.

Objectives:

The side event will review progress made towards the implementation of AfriGEOSS since its launch, including progress on developing the concept for data access and dissemination in Africa. There are a number of activities contributing to AfriGEOSS that are undertaken by or with African partners. The participants of the side event are encouraged to share their on-going and planned activities. The shared activities will inform the required coordination and creation of synergies in order to strengthen efforts. In particular the side event will use the recently awarded PanAfGEO project to explore harmonization with existing efforts, especially in the area of mapping and training. PanAfGeo represents an opportunity for many African GEOSS stakeholders involved in the geosciences to have their concerns addressed. In this framework the session has the scope to initiate discussions on the involvement and role of non-Geological Survey stakeholders and the benefits to GEOSS. GEO has been formally listed as a key PanAfGeo stakeholder, and its opinion will be taken into consideration during the project development. Moreover PanAfGeo will partially continue the AEGOS (Africa-Europe Geoscientific Observation Network) Project, which was contributing to AfriGEOSS.

Organisers: AfriGEOSS and EuroGeoSurveys

Registration: Side event is open to all. Please register here
<https://www.earthobservations.org/geo12.php>

Please inform the Secretariat amlisa@geosec.org if you have active or planned project you would like to share with other participants during the *"Show and Tell"* session of the side event.

In addition AfriGEOSS will have an exhibition booth, pamphlets and brochures on your institutions' activities are welcome.

Draft Programme:

13.00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break and Registration</i>	
14:00 – 14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Welcome</i> • <i>Meet and Greet</i> 	<i>South Africa, GEO Co-Chair All Participants</i>
14:15 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AfriGEOSS Secretariat Report</i> • <i>Data & Infrastructure Coordination Team</i> • <i>WG Land Cover for Africa</i> 	<i>Secretariat Data & Infrastructure Team WGLCA IEB</i>
15:00 – 16:00	<i>Show and Tell</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National programs</i> • <i>Regional activities</i> • <i>Programs in Africa</i> 	<i>All participants (max 5 min each)</i>
16.00 – 16:30	<i>Tea Break</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	<i>AfriGEOSS in Practice: synergies with the PanAfGeo Project and harmonization with other initiatives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introducing the PanAfGEO Project</i> • <i>Cooperation mechanism with GEO and AfrigeOSS</i> 	<i>EuroGeoSurveys & Organisation of Geological Surveys of Africa</i>
17:30 – 17:45	<i>The unbanked, unconnected and the unaddressed: a solution for Africa</i>	<i>Steven Ramage, What3Words</i>
17:45 - 1800	<i>Wrap up and Closure</i>	