DE Africa Senior Advisor

Duration: 9 months
Start: 1 October 2021
End: 30 June 2022

Application submission date: Sunday 15th August.

About Us

Digital Earth Africa (DE Africa) is a new and world-leading program that will build the world’s largest operational platform for accessing and analysing decades of satellite imagery specific to Africa’s land and seas. DE Africa will translate data from the world’s free Earth observation satellites into ready-to-use insights about the continent’s environmental conditions. Such insights will enable African governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals to make more informed decisions about soil and coastal erosion, agriculture, deforestation, desertification, water quality, and changes in human settlements.

DE Africa is a GEO initiative, closely aligned with other major GEO activities, initiatives and flagships, including GEOGLAM, EO4SDG and GFOI. GEO supports the DE Africa governance and program delivery framework through representation on the DE Africa governing board and provision of fiduciary and administrative support, including management of the DE Africa Trust Fund.

DE Africa values diversity in gender, backgrounds, culture, and the experiences of our employees and is committed to providing an inclusive workplace culture that ensures everyone has equal opportunity to contribute, participate and progress.

The Opportunity

Digital Earth Africa is looking for a high-calibre senior leader to support the transition of program activities to Africa and ensure long term program sustainability.

The DE Africa Senior Advisor will report administratively to the GEO Secretariat and programmatically to the DE Africa Establishment team and will be responsible for the following activities.

- Apply highly developed strategic thinking knowledge and skills to initiate, shape and drive the strategic directions of Digital Earth Africa’s innovative science and technical program.
- Provide strategic advice and support on program governance, including support for convening the DE Africa Technical Advisory Committee and Governing Board.
- Proactively engage, manage and balance the needs of diverse stakeholders including African Implementing Partners, key international partners, African governments, World
Economic Forum and businesses, and the program’s funders, to deliver program outcomes with maximum impact.

- Lead sustainment activities including engagement with additional potential funding partners.
- High level advocacy and engagement with the international EO community, including groups like CEOS, USGS, Open Earth Alliance and ESA, supporting the benefits of DE Africa and analysis-ready data.
- Promote the value and benefit of DE Africa by representing the program at key international stakeholder events, and connect DE Africa to similar efforts on other continents.
- Other duties as required.

Requirements

To be successful in this role, you will have the ability to:

- Inspire and support the leadership of Digital Earth Africa by exercising your executive leadership and management skills and judgement in support of program priorities.
- Provide exceptional scientific and technology leadership that responds to future trends and enables strategic leadership of programs.
- Create and maintain a working environment that enables optimum results, including motivating and inspiring high performance, diversity and inclusion, morale and team cohesion.
- Represent DE Africa professionally and effectively in various public forums to promote program value and benefits
- Work in a diverse, uncertain and rapidly changing international development context.
- Communicate effectively and within the context of international cultural sensitivities. Be self-aware, inclusive and resilient.

Required skills, knowledge, experience and/or qualifications

- Post-graduate qualifications and/or experience in a relevant geoscience discipline.
- Extensive skills and experience in leading large and complex program delivery in an international context.
- Demonstrated experience with Open Data Cube Community and similar type of activities is highly desirable.