

AfriGEOSS WORKING GROUP WORKSHOP
13 – 14 March 2014, RCMRD, Nairobi, Kenya

Summary Outcomes

1. Introduction

The attendance list to the Working Group Workshop is as follows:

Name	Institution	Region	Email
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Andiswa Mlisa	GEO Secretarial	GEO	amlisa@geosec.org

Apologies received from Egypt (Ayman Mahmoud, NARSS), Ghana (Amos Kabo-bah, UENR), South Africa (Imraan Saloojee, SANSA).

2. Implementation Plan – Roadmaps

AfriGEOSS implementation approach is deemed to be both a top-down and bottom-up as it is about downscaling global initiatives to regional and national level and well as national to regional to global initiatives.

This session focused on sharing national and sub-regional activities to start the development of an inventory and contribute to the development of the AfrigeOSS Implementation Plan.

The sub-regions were requested to provide information along these areas:

- Objectives of the sub-region – aligned and respond to political objectives and priorities,
- Existing Activities (past and present),
- Future activities (e.g. GMES & Africa),
- Existing institutions using and developing EO products & services,
- Gaps and needs,
- Overall planning (two and five-year horizon),

- Focus areas
 - Coordination frameworks,
 - Priority applications – thematic areas,
 - Cross-cutting products and services for thematic area,
 - Observation requirements,
 - Data management and Infrastructure,
 - Capacity building institutions,
- Resource providers / sources of funding
- References (source material, website links etc. = to build a catalogue)

The presentations were given by the Sub-regional focal point, member of the working group and responsible for the sub-region. Summary of the presentations and discussions is given per sub-region below <ftp://ftp.earthobservations.org/AfriGEOSS/>

2.1. Summary of Opportunities

The sub-regions were noted to have various capabilities at different scales from each other. These can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ African Space Policy and Strategy being drafted which countries aim to use to develop national instruments;
- ✓ Space institutions / agencies with ground station capabilities (AGEOS (Sept 2014), GSSTI, NASRDA and SANS), e.g. catalogue of the stations include Landsat 8 and radar data;
- ✓ Various data licence available for the countries (e.g. SPOT data through REDD initiative in central African region);
- ✓ Regional centres (UNECA, RCMRD, RECTAS, ECCAS (CEEAC linked to CEMAC), AGRYMET;
- ✓ Universities with EO training (UENR);
- ✓ GEONETCast stations;
- ✓ Coordination framework for existing projects in place in some sub-regions such as SADC & IOC for MESA;
- ✓ RECTAS submitted application for Participating Organization of GEO.

2.2. Current activities and priority areas

- ✓ Cubesat programme (Ghana and South Africa);
- ✓ Fire monitoring (AFIS) available for SADC now extending to Ghana. Ghana looking for funding
 - Central Africa: Forest monitoring, coastal (maritime surveillance), environmental and water resource management, urban dynamic;
 - Eastern Africa: food security, climate change, disasters, energy and infrastructure development;
 - IOC: marine & coastal management, climate change and agriculture.
- ✓ Gabon highlighted issue of land use management as 88% of the land is forest then mining and nature reserves with no land for agriculture;
- ✓ Possible the Central region will feature on hydro-power project;
- ✓ MAFA, TIGER (UNECA in Steering Committee), MESA, UNGGIM, EOPower.

2.3. Summary of Challenges and suggestions for AfrigeOSS

The following were noted as challenges faced by the sub-regions:

- National focal points required, not all countries were represented in the sub-regional presentations;
- Few students register for remote sensing, rather for GIS. (e.g. at RECTAS);
- Develop an AfrigeOSS portal (continental to national resources);

- Radar data needed for coastal countries due to cloud cover;
- Landsat data not sufficient resolution for forest monitoring and particularly in forest degradation mapping;
- Most EO initiatives in Africa are led by international partners with an exception of few countries with space programs (e.g. Egypt);
- Access to African EO satellites, most of them are operated by DMC;
- Africa to contribute to GFCS, not to just receive;
- Infrastructure
 - bandwidth & hardware,
 - project specific installed infrastructure has no maintenance plans especially after the end of the project.
- Lack of fit for use data and where data is hugely available there are no services being development, especially at local level instead of depending on global initiatives, development of operational systems from research results;
- Improve connectivity and data sharing between African stakeholders;
- Training programs for capacity building to focus on qualification rather than mainly on 1 – 2 weeks courses;
- EO advocacy by political leaders e.g. Wilber Ottichilo;
- Foster intra-African cooperation prior to international partnerships including joint partnerships with private sector.

2.4. Summary Coordination Framework

- *Gabon and UNECA nominated as co-chairs of the Working Group;*
- *Ghana will organise a workshop for all stakeholders to work on contributions to AfrigeOSS;*
- *Congo will establish a “SA GA-EO” network in support of GMES & Africa;*
- *Engagement with ARMC and DMC to access African EO Satellite data;*
- *Bring onboard regional implementation centres (RICS), (Mauritius Oceanographic Institute (IOC), Botswana (SADC), ICPAC (East), ECCAS (Central)); North Africa?*
- *Overall AfrigeOSS planning to include communication and outreach roadmaps;*
- *Build demonstrations for*
 - *social benefit of EO (link with IEEE – economic value of EO),*
 - *value of ownership,*
- *For sub-regional workshop to leverage planned event, PoCs to alert the Secretariat on upcoming events.*

3. Summary Actions

The key action is the outcome of discussions on the presented Annotated Table of Contents Implementation Plan document. The WG will provide the Secretariat with additional comments 2 weeks after the meeting.

4. Next meeting

Secretariat has no budget to organize face-to-face meetings. The next opportunity to meet will be during the upcoming GEO WP Symposium, 28 – 30 April 2014, Geneva. In addition the WGLCA may have a meeting in July-August 2014, Nigeria or Senegal, if it happens it will provide an opportunity for AfrigeOSS WG to meet.