

AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016: Session-5 Description

When Session 5 (Day-2, Thur. 28-Apr): 09.00 – 10.30

Session Title Towards a Harmonised Land Cover for Africa in Support of Environmental Management

1) Purpose: background, topic and objectives of the session

a) Background: Explain the purpose

Land cover is one of the identified fundamental datasets for Africa. Land cover products provide information to help managers best understand the current landscape and also useful tools for monitoring change over time. With land cover information managers can evaluate past management decisions as well as gain insight into the possible effects of their current decisions before they are implemented.

The Working Group on Land Cover for Africa (WGLCA) aims to contribute to the development of medium and high resolution land cover products for Africa, including the standardization of the process and the validation of the final products in Africa; promote collaboration and raises awareness of the availability of land use/land cover data, tools, applications, and land cover change dynamics among decision makers at multiple levels within the continent.

b) What is the session mainly about (topic)?

- The session will present the formulation of the WGLCA as a contribution to AfriGEOSS and the global land cover efforts.
- Progress on activities of the WGLCA, such as the land cover inventory.
- Review of how land cover products are used to support policy implementation and how to ensure the EO community develops fit for purpose land cover products.
- The session will provide an opportunity to showcase available land cover products for Africa
- Standardization of Land Cover Classes and the use of Land Cover Classification System 3 (also Known as Land Cover Meta Language LCML) to enable regional and continental products

2) Key questions to be addressed in the session

- Are the available land cover and landuse products meeting the user needs (including implementation of government policies) and how do providers engage with users in developing these data sets?
- What are the required mechanisms to reach land cover standardisation and harmonisation in the continent?
- How are the continental land cover initiative connected to the global land cover

initiatives?

- How can the WGLCA contribute to validation of regional and global products?
- How do we strengthen the WGLCA into a continental Community of Practise (COP)?

3) *Expected outcomes from the session*

- Raising awareness on the WGLCA and applications of land cover products
- Roadmap towards establishing national and continental Community of Practice Plans in achieving harmonization and standardisation on land cover data and classes.

4) *Format of the session*

Panel discussion: Introduction by session Chair followed by opening remarks / presentations by the panel addressing appropriate elements of the outlined session questions.

5) *Speakers*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Souleye Wade	UCAD
Pheobe Odour	RCMRD
Tobias Landmann	ICIPE
Andreas Brink	JRC
Stuart Martin	GTI
(TBD)	EMA

6) *Moderators and Rapporteurs*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Bulelwa Semoli (TBC)	DRDLR, South Africa
Gofamodimo Mashame (Rapporteur)	Department of Surveys & Mapping, Botswana

7) *Schedule*

- Introduction of the session and overview of the Working Group on Land Cover for Africa (Bulelwa Semoli, DRDLR) (5 min)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (5 min each)
 - Online inventory of available land cover products in Africa (Souleye Wade, UCAD on behalf of CSE)

- Showcasing available land cover products in the continent (Stuart Martin, Geoterraimage)
- Supporting countries on greenhouse gases (Pheobe Odour, RCMRD)
- Copernicus's contribution to land cover mapping in Africa (Andreas Brink, JRC)
- Use of land cover products in West Africa; why and how to obtain standardisation and harmonisation of land cover classes (Tobias Landmann, ICIPE)
- TBD (TBD, EMA)
- 30 minute moderated panel discussion – converge on issues of collaboration (*see key questions to be addressed in the session*)
- 20 minutes moderated discussion with audience
- Summary of session by moderator