

## ***AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016: Session-6Description***

**When** Session 6 (Day-2, Thur. 28-Apr): 11.00 – 13.00

**Session Title** Earth Observations Response to Societal Challenges

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

#### **a) Background:**

The value of Earth observations in enhancing informed decision-making has been proven.

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

- The session will provide an opportunity to showcase current in activities in various societal benefit areas such as water, biodiversity, disasters and capacity building.
- Discuss how to strengthen coordination in the various societal benefit areas.

### **2) Key questions to be addressed in the session**

- What are the current developments and activities on promoting the use of EO in addressing societal challenges?
- How are the continental initiatives in these societal benefit areas connected to the global initiatives?
- How do we strengthen the WGLCA into a continental Community of Practise (COP)?

### **3) Expected outcomes from the session**

- Showcase of current activities in the various societal benefit areas.
- Recommendations towards establishing continental Community of Practices.

### **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>
Farai Marumbwa	SADC MESA
John Kiema	RCMRD

Asiphe Sahula	SAEON
Andreas Brink	JRC
Marcelin Sanou	APGMV
Joerg Helmschrot	SASSCAL
Benjamin Koetz	ESA
Ben Maathuis	ITC-UT
Dewald Lloyd	CSC-GI
(TBD)	ZINWA, UZ, GZU, NUST, CPU

## 6) Moderators and Rapporteurs

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Foster Mensah	CERGIS
Pascal Waniha (Rapporteur)	TMA

## 7) Schedule

- Introduction of the session by Moderator (Foster Mensah, CERGIS) (**5 min**)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (**10 min each**)
  - Drought Monitoring System (Farai Marumbwa, BDMS - SADC MESA)
  - SERVIR (John Kiema, RCMRD)
  - The Role of SAEON in local, regional, and global research data infrastructure (Asiphe Sahula, SAEON)
  - BIOPAMA (Andreas Brink, JRC)
  - The Great Green Wall Initiative (Marcelin SANOU, APGMV)
  - SASSCAL and WASCAL contributions to improve the implementation of EO technologies in Africa (Joerg Helmschrot, SASSCAL)
  - Earth Observations for Sustainable Development - the water case (Benjamin Koetz, ESA)
  - The MESA Training Programme (Ben Maathuis, ITC-UTwente)
  - TBD (TBD, ZINWA, UZ, GZU, NUST, CPU)
  - Registered statements
- 20 minutes moderated discussion with audience
- Summary of session by moderator