

AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016: Session 9(a) and 9(b) Description

When Session 9 (a) and 9(b) (Day 3, 29-April): 09.00 – 12.30

Session Title Contribution to the Implementation of the African Space Programme: EO Data and Infrastructure

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

Africa has recently developed its own space policy and strategy, calling for the integration of its efforts and infrastructure all over the continent and the use of space science and technology for improved quality of life for its entire people.

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) vision, for a world where Earth observations is used to support all decisions for the better of all humankind, is fully aligned with the principles of the African space policy. GEO recognises that Earth observation is inclusive of both space and in-situ.

The session will share and highlight the aspects of the African space policy and strategy relevant to the Earth observations community and how the community may contribute to its implementation. The contribution of the EO community to the implementation of the African space programme and GEO objectives may be viewed in two ways 1) the space segment as well as the necessary in-situ observations that covers the observation requirements and 2) the ground segment which focuses on the infrastructure for data access, archiving, processing and dissemination to support better decision making and ensure EO programmes are user driven.

Two questions will therefore be addressed 1) where are the major gaps in observational requirements, considering the existing national space programmes in the Africa and the availability of data from international space programmes and 2) what is the ground infrastructure needed to ensure available observations / data are accessible, processed and readily available to respond timely to user needs and requirements. The session aims to accelerate community engagement towards the implementation of the African space programme.

2) Key questions to be addressed in the session

- What are the main observational gaps to be filled in order to meet user needs?
- What is the current status of EO infrastructure and major gaps in Africa?
- What strategy and plans should be in place to fully exploit the complementarity of existing and planned infrastructure at regional level to achieve a continental capability?
- How to implement the concept of “bring the people to the data instead of data to the people”?
- How can the EO community leverage infrastructure (including ICT) from other

domains such as research networks and SKA?

- How to strengthen coordination at continental level through AfriGEOSS?

3) Expected outcomes from the session

- Recommendations on key architectural and functional aspects of the required infrastructure to meet user needs.
- Outline of an action plan towards the implementation of the African space policy and strategy.
- Strengthened capacity and increased participation to the AfriGEOSS Data & Infrastructure Coordination Team.

4) Format of the session and expected audience

The 3.5 hours session will consist of speaker remarks / presentations responding to the above questions followed by a panel discussion to frame the recommendations and follow-up actions.

5) Speakers (Invited)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Mahama Ouedraogo	AUC
Pascal Waniha	AMCOMET Task Force
Ayman Mahmoud	NARSS
Tendani Lavhengwa	SANSA
Benjamin Koetz	ESA
Sias Mostert,	CSC Aerospace Group
Giovanni Rum	GEO Secretariat
Aboubakar Mambimba Ndjoungui	AGEOS
Tendani Lavhengwa	SANSA
Stuart Minchin	Geoscience Australia
John Kiema	RCMRD
Bruce Becker	CSIR
Oma Oaiya, Yousef Torman and Bonny Khunga	WACREN, ASREN, ZAMREN
Isaac Kusane	MESA SADC

6) Moderators and Rapporteurs (Proposed)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
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Imraan Saloojee (9a)	SANSA
Erick Khamala (9b)	LocateIT Pty Ltd
Andre Nonguierma (Rapporteur, 9a)	UNECA
Ayman Mahmoud (Rapporteur, 9b)	NARSS

7) Schedule

- The first part, Session 9(a), will focus on the available and required observations (space and in-situ). Opening with an introduction of the session by the Moderator, Imraan Saloojee) (**5 min**)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (**5 min each**)
 - Mahama Ouedraogo, Head of Division, Human Resources, Science and Technology Department, African Union Commission
 - Ayman Mahmoud, System Engineer, Head of Business Development Unit National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Science, Egypt
 - Pascal Waniha, African Regional Space Programme Task Force, AMCOMET
 - Tendani Lavhengwa, Data Systems Manager, South African National Space Agency
 - Benjamin Koetz (and Bruno Greco), Exploitation & Services Division, European Space Agency
 - Sias Mostert, Space Commercial Services Aerospace Group, South Africa
- 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

- The second part, Session 9(b), will focus on required ground infrastructure for data access, processing, archiving and dissemination. Opening with an introduction of the session by the Moderator, Erick Khamala) (**5 min**)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (**5 min each**)
 - Giovanni Rum, GEO Secretariat
 - Aboubakar Mambimba Ndjoungui, Deputy General Manager, Technical Division Gabon Studies and Observations Space Agency (AGEOS), Gabon
 - Tendani Lavhengwa, Data Systems Manager, Earth Observations, South African National Space Agency
 - Stuart Minchin, Chief, Environmental Geoscience Division, Geoscience Australia
 - Bruce Becker, Coordinator, South African National Grid, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa
 - Oma Oaiya, Chief Technology Officer, West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN), Yousef Torman, CEO, Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) and Bonny Khunga, CEO, Zambia Research and education Network (ZAMREN - on behalf of Ubuntunet Alliance) Isaac Kusane,

Botswana Department of Meteorological Services (MESA SADC) with contributions from EUMETSAT on GEONETCast-Africa

- John Kiema, Director Remote Sensing, GIS and Mapping, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- 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