

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> AfriGEOSS Symposium 2017: Session-7 Land Cover***

<b>When</b>	Session 7 (Day-2, Wed. 14-June): 16.00 – 18.00
<b>Session Title</b>	Land Cover for Africa

### **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. Information on land cover information plays a critical role in supporting policy and decision making at local level and is an essential input to many multilateral environmental agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Stakeholders include environmental agencies, science communities, national mapping agencies, commercial users, and UN Conventions.

The Working Group on Land Cover for Africa (WGLCA), implements the land cover activities in AfriGEOSS. The Working Group coordinates and contributes to the development of land cover products and the establishment of national and regional Africa-focused Communities of Practice for Land Use and Land Cover to facilitate networking among stakeholders.

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

- The session will follow on the outcomes of the land cover session at the 1<sup>st</sup> AfriGEOSS Symposium where the following issues were defined: a) standardisation/harmonisation, b) communication of quality/reliability, c) policy engagement, d) national and regional coordination.
- All issues are linked to the activities of the WGLCA, in particular to the development of a land cover inventory and the assessment of user needs and in-country capabilities.
- The session will review the development of national and regional land cover products by the national and regional institutions in AfriGEOSS, showcase the existing products and provide information on best practices and lessons learned.

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

- How do land cover products support policy implementation? What is the role in international reporting (e.g. GHG inventories)?
- Are the available products meeting the user needs and what is the role of the regional entities in developing land cover data of usage at the national level?

- What are the required mechanisms to reach land cover standardisation and harmonisation in the continent?
- How do we establish national and regional Communities of Practise?
- What is the role of National Spatial Data Infrastructures to reduce duplication and leverage on limited resources?

### 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>
Daniel Benefor	EPA (Ghana)
Issifou Alfari	AGRHYMET
Nabil Ben Khatra (TBC)	OSS
Phoebe Oduor	RCMRD
Landing Mane (TBC)	OSFAC
Foster Mensah	CERGIS (Ghana)
Bulelwa Semoli	NGI (South Africa)
Andreas Brink	JRC (European Commission)
Kwame Hackman	Tsinghua Univ. (China)

### 6) *Moderators and Rapporteurs*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
John Kiema (Moderator)	RCMRD
Andre Obregon (Rapporteur)	GEO Secretariat

### 7) *Schedule*

- Introduction of the session and overview of the Working Group on Land Cover for Africa (Moderator) (5 min)

- Speaker remarks / presentations (5 min each)
  - National environmental policy and need for land cover / land use data products, Daniel Benefor, EPA, Ghana
  - Meeting user requirements, land cover products for West Africa, an AGRHYMET-USAID-USGS Product, Issifou Alfari, AGRHYMET
  - Meeting user requirements, land cover products for East and Southern Africa, Phoebe Oduor, RCMRD
  - Meeting user requirements, land cover products for Central Africa, Landing Mane, OSFAC
  - Meeting user requirements at national level, land cover products for Ghana, Foster Mensah, CERSGIS, Ghana
  - The value of a national land cover community of practise, an example of South Africa, and the need for regional land cover community of practise, Bulelwa Semoli, NGI, South Africa
  - Copernicus Global Land Service with a particular focus on the 100m continental product and the High Resolution Hot Spot Monitoring Service (JRC)
  - Towards automated land cover processing and in-country collaborations, Kwame Hackman (on-behalf of Dr Peng Gong), Tsinghua University, China
- 40 minute moderated panel discussion – converge on issues of collaboration (*see key questions to be addressed in the session*)
- Summary of session by moderator