
WP23_25: African Group on Earth Observations

1220,202

Basic Information

Full title of the Regional GEO

African Group on Earth Observations

Short Title or Acronym

AfriGEO

Please list the key priorities of the Regional GEO.

- a) Continental, Regional and National Coordination;
- b) User Needs and Applications: Agriculture and Food Security, Land Cover and Land Degradation Neutrality, EO for Health, Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Urban Development, Water Resource Management while taking into account climate change impacts and Disaster risk reduction within these thematic areas of focus
- c) Data and Infrastructure;
- d) Human Capital Development;
- e) Resource Mobilization;
- f) Communication and Outreach.

Have these priorities changed since the 2020-2022 Implementation Plan?

No

Have these priorities been approved by the Regional Caucus?

Yes

Please indicate when they were approved.

In 2019

Points of Contact

First Name	Last/Family Name	Email
Phoebe	Oduor	
Anastasia	Wahome	awahome@rcmr.org
Samantha	Musinzi	smusinzi@rcmr.org

Engagement

For each member of the GEO Caucus listed below, please indicate their level of participation in the activities of the Regional GEO.

	Co-lead	Quite active	Somewhat active	Not very active	Does not participate
Algeria					X
Burkina Faso		X			
Cameroon				X	
Central African Republic					X
Congo, Republic of the					X
Cote d'Ivoire			X		
Egypt			X		
Ethiopia					
Gabon	X				
Ghana	X				
Guinea					X
Guinea-Bissau					X
Kenya	X				
Madagascar				X	
Mali					X
Mauritius				X	
Morocco	X				
Namibia	X				
Niger	X				
Nigeria	X				
Rwanda		X			
Senegal	X				
Seychelles, Republic of	X				
Sierra Leone				X	
Somalia					X
South Africa	X				
Sudan					X
Tunisia			X		

Uganda	X				
Zimbabwe		X			

Do any GEO Members from other Caucuses participate in this Regional GEO?

No

Do any non-GEO Member countries participate in the Regional GEO?

No

For those countries in the Region that are not involved in the Regional GEO or are not active, please identify the most important barriers.

- Prefer to engage through other international organizations
- Involved in GEO but do not see benefits of engagement with the Regional GEO
- Resource constraints

Has the Regional GEO identified specific countries to engage more actively in the Regional GEO?

Yes

Please list them.

Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Niger, Gabon, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Namibia

Are any Participating Organizations actively involved in this Regional GEO?

Yes

Please select them

- AARSE
- ACMAD
- AFRIGIST
- AGRHYMET
- ASREN
- Belmont Forum
- CEOS
- COMIFAC
- ECMWF
- FAO
- GEANT
- GODAN
- ICIMOD
- IIASA
- ISPRS
- ITC
- Mercator Ocean
- OSS
- Plan4all
- RCMRD
- UN Environment
- UNDRR
- UNECA
- UNOOSA

Please list any international organizations that are involved with the Regional GEO but

which are not GEO Participating Organizations.

- no answer given -

Please provide any further observations or comments you may have regarding engagement of international organizations.

- no answer given -

Has the Regional GEO identified specific international organizations (whether they are currently GEO POs or not) to engage more actively in the Regional GEO?

Yes

Please list them.

- no answer given -

Please describe the methods the Regional GEO intends to use to increase engagement.

- no answer given -

Are any commercial sector organizations (including GEO Associates) regularly involved in this Regional GEO?

No

Has the Regional GEO taken actions to increase engagement of the commercial sector in the activities of the Regional GEO?

No

Please identify the reasons for not taking actions to increase commercial sector (CS) engagement in the Regional GEO.

- Not clear how best to engage the CS

Coordination

Has the Regional GEO set thematic priorities (for example, biodiversity, disaster resilience, agriculture, etc.?)

Yes

Please list the priorities.

1. Sustainable Forest Management
2. Agriculture and Food Security
3. Water Resource Management
4. Sustainable urban development
5. Land Degradation Neutrality
6. Data and Infrastructure
7. EO4Health
8. Disaster Risk Reduction

How often does the Regional GEO review its priorities / work plan structure?

- Every 2 or 3 years

Which of the GEO engagement priorities does the Regional GEO address?

- Sustainable Development
- Climate Action
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Resilient Cities and Human Settlements

For each engagement priority checked, please describe the key activities/projects/actions the Regional GEO has put in place to address this priority.

1. Sustainable Development

Down-scaling of priority engagement activities such as GEOGLAM, GEO LDN, GFOI, DE Africa to national level, that respond to SDG action plans. This shall be collaborative efforts between member states, new and existing partnerships that foster mutual benefit and have aligned goals. Some of the activities are already being implemented through existing partnerships with partners like SERVIR, GMES & Africa. We also want to mobilize resources that shall facilitate pilot studies in some of the countries. Activities shall include: down-scaling, capacity building, data awareness and access

Contributing Partners: SANSA, RCMRD, SERVIR, UENR, AGEOS, GEO LDN, GEOGLAM, Digital Earth Africa, AUC

2. Climate action

We do not have a direct climate related activity but consider that this is a cross cutting issue that affects all our priority action areas. Focus on this is in the use of EO to address impacts of climate either through assessment of the impacts extreme events (droughts, floods) or in increases risk events. Further, mitigation actions related to climate shall be part of the action areas in EO4Health for instant when looking at air quality issues or addressing restoration actions within LDN activities. We also build capacity and awareness around use of EO tools for early warning tools on extreme events using tools such as EWX and also capacity to utilize such tools for planning purposes.

Contributing Partners: SERVIR, ICPAC, GEO LDN, UENR, AGEOS, GFOI,

3. Disaster Risk reduction

We contribute to DRR actions and capacity building activities. We have established partnerships with UNDRR and CEOS that shall support some of the planned capacity building activities, we shall also provide awareness around the DRR toolkit that was launched by GEO to support member states in addressing some of the challenges they may be facing. Further, we shall strengthen the capacity of member states at risk to be priority stakeholders for engagement activities related to case studies, tool and data sharing and participation in forums that articulate the urgent needs to address some of the challenges they are faced with. We have planned to have pre-symposium training on early warning tools that shall equip participants with necessary information in addressing some of the DRR challenges they face. Through DE Africa we shall prioritize the resources within to address challenges related to coastal erosion and floods.

contributing partners: Seychelles, SERVIR, DE Africa, CEOS, UN DRR, RCMRD

4. Resilient Cities and Human Settlement

The main activity for this thematic area is to assess the spatial extension of some of the major African cities and map the key patterns of urbanization through mapping of urban development using EO and sharing of methods and tools for building and geo-visualizing geographic urban infrastructure, extracting key urban features; and detecting patterns and trends. Specific activity include work through the coordination teams to engage with the appropriate urban development and planning authorities to fully understand user requirements and best mechanisms to develop fit-for-purpose products and services.

Contributors: SANSA, UN Habitat, Ghana (GSSTI), ARCSSTE-E and South Africa (The Housing Development Agency).

Please describe the key lessons learned from the Regional GEO experience in implementing actions to address the engagement priorities.

? There's a lot of value in having national engagements and pilot that address specific issues of their interest

in gaining better acceptance and adoption

? Strengthening and including relevant institutions in engagement activities

? Continuous capacity building

? Interoperability of data and tools is necessary for capacity retention

? Awareness creation on existing data and tools to avoid duplication of efforts and also to support informed decision making

? Partnerships enable reinforcement of reach and objectives

Please identify the GEO Initiatives that the Regional GEO interacts with regularly

- AMERIGEO - Americas Group on Earth Observations
- AQUAWATCH - AquaWatch
- AOGEO - Asia-Oceania Group on Earth Observations
- DE-AFRICA - Digital Earth Africa
- EO4HEALTH - Earth Observations for Health
- EUROGEO - European Group on Earth Observations
- GEOGLAM - GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
- GEOGLOWS - GEO Global Water Sustainability
- HUMAN-PLANET - GEO Human Planet
- GEO-LDN - GEO Land Degradation Neutrality
- GEO Secretariat Operations - GEO Secretariat Operations
- GEOSS Data, Information and Knowledge Resources - GEOSS Data, Information and Knowledge Resources
- GFOI - Global Forest Observation Initiative
- LAND-COVER - Global Land Cover
- GEO-MOUNTAINS - Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments
- GOS4M - Global Observation System for Mercury
- BLUE-PLANET - Oceans and Society: Blue Planet

For each GWP Initiatives checked, please describe the focus of these interactions (for example, topics, projects, localities, etc.)

1. Aqua Watch

We have been engaging with Aquawatch to exchange experiences on Water quality activities conducted in the region in the Lake Victoria and Lake Malawi. We have through these engagements seen opportunities for further engagement, that require much closer stakeholder engagement, sharing of methods and capacity building. We shall be exploring avenues for joint proposal submission to support some of these activities.

2. D E Africa

Given that RCMRD (AfriGEO Secretariat host) is one of the regional implementing partners of DE Africa we have a range of activities that include: Stakeholder engagements, Product and application development, Use case studies and pilots as well as Technical Advisory Board representation as RCMRD and also as AfriGEO. We also support gender related activities for the initiative as part of the GEDSI Working group.

3. EO4Health

We've conducted several engagement activities with the EO4Health , part of which included 2 joint Special Edition Sessions focuses on varied application on EO in Health and AfriGEO related to Heat, Environment, infectious diseases and air quality. These round of special editions done with other regional GEO as well, was fundamental to understanding the challenges in the different regions to respond to funding calls that were coming up.

6. EuroGEO

Regional GEOs Exchange.

Participation in AO GEO Week.

7. GEOGIOWS

Capacity building and integration of GEOGLOWS ECMWF forecast and in-situ data to improve forecast in Malawi Community Based Early Warning System (CBFEWS). We co- developed a Bog on CBFEWS during cyclone Anna in Feb, 2022.

8. GEO Secretariat Operations

We support the secretariat in regional engagements with member states, increasing GEO memberships, Work program evaluations, contribute to regional perspectives, success stories, shaping priority activities for the region. And through their guidance, engaging with partners that are interested to work in the region. We also contribute to the GEO Symposium, GEO Week and Industry track. Again through the secretariat we are able to access opportunities available for the region in terms of funding, access to data, access to tools and emerging activities. The regional GEO is key to Secretariat and the GEO Work Program achieving it's regional objectives.

9. Human Planet

We had a limited engagement with the Human Planet, particular to share findings of the activity they were doing in Karamoja in mapping the missing millions. We have also further established networks with HOTSM to see how we can further engage with them in supporting some of the volunteer mapping through our networks.

10. GFOI

Our engagement with GFOI has been particular to provide regional perspectives on challenges experience and share some of the activities undertaken. We contributed to the review of the open MRV Resource that is now available for public access to support in reporting MRV activities and further, GFOI supports several members states in the data and tools they create particularly related to monitoring forest activities.

11. Blue Planet

We have engaged with GEO Blue Planet in several activities from co-hosing Side events at the GEO Plenary, to contributing support during the Ocean Challenge in response to the Decade for the Ocean goals: providing technical advisory support, jury support and mentorship. We are current supporting planning for their symposium to take place Oct, 2022 and have direct support through the university of Ghana in supporting implementation of activities related to monitoring of illegal vessels.

12. AmeriGEO

Regional GEOs Exchange.

13. AOGEO

Regional GEOs Exchange.

Participation in AO GEO Week.

14. GEO LDN

We have been for a while been represented by University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Ghana, as one of the Co-Chairs for the Capacity building Working Group. Recently Germany provided funding to support the secretariat activities through GIZ. Part of the proposed activities shall include opportunities for Capacity building through UENR and RCMRD on Post graduate studies and MOOCS covering several elements of LDN. We have also established partnerships with African Union Commission (AUC) and part of the recommendations agreed upon in to support engagement activities and Capacity building activities through the GMES & Africa program and the Space program. We recently held a GEO LDN Principals meeting in Bonn to determine the work-plan for all 3 working groups (Capacity Building, Data Quality and Standards and Data Analytics) for the next 3 years, bt most critically, for the next year.

We are also working with the University of Free State to conduct a needs assessment for the LDN needs in the regions, based on existing tools, data need and the gaps and challenges being experienced. Findings from this assessment shall be shared with GEO LDN to help define the LDN framework that GEO LDN WG2 and WG3 shall be developing in the coming year

15. GEOSS

We use GEOSS to make data discoverable. RCMRD and AfriGEO have utilized this resource and there are several other institutions at national level and PO's making contributions to this effect.

16. Land Cover

We made contributions in validating the Global land cover for the region. And have participated in couple of stakeholder engagements through National Geomatics Centre of China.

17. GOS4M

We are working with them to establish a community of practice with regional researchers working on this subject matter.

Further to note, is that all these interactions made with other initiatives contribute at the the AfriGEO Symposium held annually

Please describe the key challenges the Regional GEO has experienced in working with GEO Work Programme activities?

National level engagement requires resources which are not available which makes engagements difficult. Engagements taking place at national level through other activities without inclusion of the Regional GEO makes it difficult for the regional GEO to be aware and report on the same. Voluntary nature of contribution, means we only get in kind contributions which is mostly limited, and also not sufficiently quantifiable, it's also non- committal to supporting implementation of activities because, contributions are made when members can be available.

Please identify the key benefits that have been realized for the Region through working with GEO Initiatives.

There has been more interest in the role of EO and access to the data by member states
Inter-national networks and partnerships have been formed
Opportunities for collaboration and funding across regions
Increased membership for GEO
Awareness of regional/national and local activities in EO through the GEO networks and AfriGEO Symposium
Regional exchanges
New areas of prioritization that EO can support. EO4Health priority for instance was inspired by COVID. Further, we now see a new GEO priority: Sustainable Cities, cases studies around this was driven by some of the work done by SANSA and UN Habitat to development of the EO4SDGs toolkit on sustainable cities.

Are there GEO Initiatives or other GEO groups (Working Groups, Foundational Tasks, etc.) that the Regional GEO would like to engage with more?

Yes

Please identify these Initiatives or other GEO bodies.

- Americas Group on Earth Observations
- AquaWatch
- Asia-Oceania Group on Earth Observations
- Copernicus Climate Change Service
- Digital Earth Africa
- Earth Observation and Copernicus in support of Sendai Monitoring
- Earth Observations for Disaster Risk Management
- Earth Observations for Health
- Earth Observations for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Enhancing Food Security in African Agricultural Systems with the Support of Remote Sensing
- European Group on Earth Observations
- Forest Biomass Reference System from Tree-by-Tree Inventory Data
- GEO Biodiversity Observation Network
- GEO Capacity Development Working Group
- GEO Data Working Group
- GEO Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group
- GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
- GEO Global Water Sustainability
- GEO Land Degradation Neutrality
- GEO Secretariat Test Regional Initiative
- GEO Wetlands
- Global Agricultural Drought Monitoring
- Global Drought Information System
- Global Flood Risk Monitoring

- Global Urban Observation and Information

Please describe the primary aims of this engagement.

The main aim of these engagements is to have activities within the continent being prioritized as part of the Work program. These national level engagements are very important in getting realization of the value of EO and the value of being members in GEO.

Does the Regional GEO see opportunities for other collaborations within GEO other than within the GEO Work Programme?

No

Lessons from the 2020-2022 Period

Please describe the key objectives of the Regional GEO for the 2020-2022 period.

1. Strengthen connection with the current GEO Principals in national government agencies in Africa, participating organizations and enlarge the GEO partnership in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs): ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), AMU(Arab Maghreb Union) , COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), CENSAD (Community for Sahel Saharan States) , EAC (East African Community), ECCAS (Economic Community for Central African States), IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), SADC(Southern African Development Community) and with the African Union;
2. Increase uptake of EO in Africa through the promotion of long-term Human Capital Development programmes;
3. Facilitate and drive programmes towards achieving the Global, RECs and Africa wide goals and objectives i.e., AU Agenda 2063, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement;
4. Support international collaboration by connecting national and regional institutions and programmes with GEO and Regional GEOs;
5. Foster creation of synergies to reduce duplication of efforts across Africa;
6. Liaise with the GEO secretariat to ensure synergic and streamlined operations;
7. Advocate for the uptake of EO in decision making and raise awareness on benefits of Earth observations for the continent;
8. Develop a strategy of access and dissemination of Earth observation data and information throughout Africa;
9. Ensure communication, outreach, awareness, user engagement, and mobilization of resources.

To what extent have these key objectives been achieved or are expected to be achieved?

- On track to being achieved by the end of 2022

What were the key challenges faced by the Initiative in the 2020-2022 period?

- Lack of funding to support some of the initiative activities
- Few scientists in the network and lack of capacity building in the mercury research aspect.
- The lack of tools and personnel to collect data on mercury research is also challenge.
- No clear channels of communication to non-member countries

What changes are proposed for the next planning period?

1. Future GWP activities should consider prioritizing thematic domains that entail cross-cutting EO activities between land and water, as well as leverage the strengths of existing water-related activities, to bring relevant initiatives together and capitalize on knowledge and products.
2. Existing and future GWP activities should aim at establishing collaboration with at least one specific national stakeholder for DRR, such as Sendai Framework national focal points and civil protection agencies.
3. Existing and future GWP activities should develop or improve tools, services and methodologies that contribute to specific Sendai Framework Targets and Indicators, notably on Early Warning (Target G) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reductions 2015-2030 (SFDRR)/ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) common indicators.

4. More mature GWP activities, and ideally all GWP activities, should have concrete targets for on-the ground implementation and collaboration with user communities for user uptake, particularly national governments as well as value chains and business sectors.
5. Existing and future GWP activities should seek opportunities for collaboration with other GWP activities, Regional GEOs, and the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR-WG) in nexus areas where they can develop an integrated approach to address increasingly systemic nature of disaster risk where events overlap and interplay with multiple risk drivers.
6. Future GWP activities should be delivering EO data, knowledge and products that directly support global policy agendas for Climate Action, DRR and Sustainable Development, as well as Sustainable Urban Development. This could be promoted through the revision of selection criteria of GWP activities to align more closely with global policy agendas and GEO engagement priorities.
7. The concept of “capacity sharing” and other more inclusive and culturally sensitive terminology and practices should be considered in recognition of the diversity of the GEO community. The Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG) should support events and other initiatives for sharing of current resources and good practices, as well as fostering diverse and inclusive engagement with under-represented user groups, such as Indigenous communities.
8. Existing and future GWP activities should aim at identifying and establishing collaboration with relevant UNFCCC and IPCC national focal points, especially through national and local GWP activity partners, to provide input to international climate policy and science processes.
9. Existing and future GWP activities should tailor tools and resources to their current target users and consider strategies for including and engaging with less targeted user groups, alongside strategies for strengthening effective dissemination and delivery. This includes clarifying and systematizing the resources ‘purpose and the users, with plans, templates, and good practice examples, and making use of existing dissemination channels and targeted community sharing opportunities.
10. The GWP can build on its strength in the area of resilience building which cuts across global Climate Action, DRR, and Sustainable Development agendas. Future GWP activities should develop or improve tools, services and methodologies that contribute to Adaptation and Loss and Damage, notably include knowledge products targeting support to developing countries for NAPs, while continuing to provide EO needed for climate science.
11. The GEO Secretariat should work with the CD-WG to make available an inventory of capacity development resources, potentially as a function of the GEO Knowledge Hub, whereby existing resources can either be modified or repurposed, or serve as an example of good practices.
12. Future GWP activities that address the use of EO in climate finance to implement the Paris Agreement should focus on supporting businesses and financial institutions in running climate risk assessments, as well as supporting LDCs and SIDS in improving the climate rationale of project proposals for adaptation and mitigation with EO data.
13. Existing and future GWP activities should seek opportunities for collaboration with other GWP activities, Regional GEOs and the Climate Change Working Group (CC-WG) in nexus areas where they can develop an integrated approach to address climate change impacts across key sectors, such as climate-health-cities, climate-energy-infrastructure, climate-ocean-biodiversity.

Capacity Development

Does the Regional GEO have a documented strategy for capacity development?

No

At which levels of capacity development does the Regional GEO develop specific actions?

- Individual (training, workshops, etc.)
- Organizational (provision of tools, services or information to enable better decision making within organizations)
- Institutional (facilitating cooperation and collaboration across institutions)

Please provide some examples of activities organized by the Regional GEO since 2019 to develop individual capacity.

1. Regional Trainings and workshops conducted.

2. ESRI partnership to create learning opportunities and data sharing through the Africa Geoportal and the AfriGEO page
3. Sharing of learning opportunities through NASA ARSET, EOTEC DEVNET, Copernicus,
4. Sharing learning opportunities available through regional initiatives such as Servir, E O Research and Development Facility by ESA through ITC, the Digital Earth Africa Training of Trainers and individual self paced training, GMES & Africa
5. Innovation Challenges: Open Datacube Women's Sprint, Ocean Challenge in Partnership with the GEO Blue-Planet, E O Africa Challenge 2021
6. Support and mentor-ship to youth and women through programs such as STEM, WISCI, ALC Youth Forum, Woman in Space, Nigeria, Woman in Science and Engineering, SA, Women in Geospatial and Space Challenge.
7. Pre-symposium face to face trainings
8. Champion for inclusion human capital development in as many funded programs for Africans.

Please provide some examples of activities organized by the Regional GEO since 2019 to develop organizational capacity.

1. The willing contributors offer capacity building through training of trainers and champion for programs to incorporate capacity building as a requirement for programmes implemented in the region.
2. GEO Working Group on Capacity Building and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) prioritize some to the capacity needs identified in Africa in their work programmes.
3. Capacity Building opportunities through GEO initiatives and regional programs that benefit members of the local and national institutions

Please provide some examples of activities organized by the Regional GEO since 2019 to develop institutional capacity.

1. We have established several partnership agreements with RIIS for instance for continuous engagement in support of the E O Challenge in successive years
2. Through engagements with GEOGLOWS we established capacity building for RCMRD and AGRHYMET.

Are there any lessons learned from its experience with capacity development that the Regional GEO would like to share?

Yes

Please describe these lessons learned or upload one or more relevant documents.

1. Partnerships are important to enhance capacity building
2. There's need to have an inventory of existing regional capacities
3. Integration and adoption of new tools and technology requires continuous capacity building

- no supporting documents provided -

Governance

Please describe the governance structure of the Regional GEO, including the relationship with the Regional Caucus and the mandates of steering/advisory/management committees, if applicable.

The governance structure include:

- Africa Caucus (AC) – Leads the Africa Caucus (GEO member states) in GEO and is a member of GEO Executive Committee;
- Steering Committee (SC): Provides guidance for AfriGEO Implementation on key issues, such as objectives, policy decisions, priority actions and resource allocation.
- The Secretariat (RCMRD): Execution of Implementation plan and coordination

2. Program Manager(CSIR, previously SANSA): Coordinate milestone of funds allocated by South Africa
The coordination of the Initiative is undertaken by the Secretariat, with guidance and leadership the host institution (RCMRD).

3. Steering committee

The Steering Committee (SC) provide policy and strategic guidance for the implementation of AfriGEO including priority actions, Coordination Team activities and resource allocation. The SC will meet at least once a year and or when needed. The SC decisions will be taken by consensus.

The Africa Caucus nominates the Members of the SC on the bases of:

- a) African country is a Member of GEO;
- b) Two Member State per geographical region (Northern, Western, Central, Eastern, Southern and Indian Ocean Countries (IOC));
- c) Member State representation at GEO Principal or Alternate level;

AfriGEO Current Steering Committee members are: South Africa (Caucus Chair), Kenya, Gabon, Senegal (Co-Chair), Seychelles, Mauritius, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana (Co-Chair), Uganda and PO: AGHRYMET, UN ECA, RCMRD

4: Thematic Leads: These are subject matter experts that lead the Priority action areas

Food Security and Agriculture: RCMRD

Water and Resource Management: UENR, Ghana

Sustainable forest Management: AGEOS, Gabon

Sustainable Urban Development: SANSA, South Africa

Land Cover for Africa& LDN: SANSA, South Africa

Data and Infrastructure: RCMRD, South Africa

Mercury: South Africa Weather Service

EO4Health: SANSA, South Africa

- no supporting documents provided -

How frequently does the Regional GEO steering committee (that is, the primary governance body of the Regional GEO other than the GEO Caucus) meet, including virtually

- Quarterly

What is the level of engagement of the Regional GEO steering committee?

- Very engaged

Please provide more detail on why you selected the above answer.

The steering committee hold quarterly meetings based on the request from the Caucus Chair, and adhoc meeting request based on need. The AfriGEO

Steering Committee provides strategic direction on the secretariat activities, it mobilizes GEO member countries support on priority issues and are champion voices of advocacy in

their regions. In the meetings held in FY 2020/2021, the only region that was not represented in all meeting was the North Africa region. The chair requested that we need to have alternate country regional representation.

Currently the representation is as: East Africa- Uganda, South Africa- South Africa, West Africa- Senegal and Ghana, North Africa- Egypt, Central Africa- Gabon, Oceania- Mauritius and Seychelles POs: UNECA, AGHRYMET and RCMRD

How frequently does the Regional GEO send communications to all GEO Principals in the Region?

- Quarterly

What methods are most frequently used for communications with GEO Principals in the Region?

- Individualized email

How frequently does the Regional GEO send communications other stakeholders in the Region?

- More often than monthly

What methods are most frequently used for communications with other stakeholders in the Region?

- Common/mass email/newsletter

Is there a Secretariat or similar body that supports the Regional GEO?

Yes

Please describe this body and its roles/functions, and upload related documents.

The Secretariat has presently been moved to the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) based in Nairobi. RCMRD was established in 1975 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union (AU) as a non-profit intergovernmental organization hosted in Kenya and presently has twenty (20) contracting member States in Eastern and Southern Africa; Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe though services portfolio cut across the whole African Region. RCMRD's mission is to strengthen the member States and our stakeholder's Capacity through Generation, Application and Dissemination of Geo-information and Allied Technologies for sustainable development. Ref: www.rcmrd.org
The points of contact for AfriGEO in the 2023-2025 timeframe will be Phoebe Oduor-poduor@rcmrd.org

- no supporting documents provided -

Participants

Please list the active individual participants in the Initiative

First name	Last name	Email address	Member	Org
Phoebe	Oduor	poduor@rcmrd.org	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Landing	Mane	lmane@osfrac.net	Congo, Republic of the	OSFAC - Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
Ayman	Mahmoud	ayman.mahmoud@narss.sci.eg	Egypt	NARSS - National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences
Islam	Abou El-Magd	imagd@narss.sci.eg	Egypt	NARSS - National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences
Aboubakar	Mambimba Ndjoungui	abmambimba@gmail.com	Gabon	AGEOS - Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations
Ghislain	Moussavou	ghislain.moussavou@ageos.ga	Gabon	AGEOS - Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations
Stéphane	Dzime	stephanedzime@gmail.com	Gabon	AGEOS - Gabonese Agency for Space Studies and Observations
Emmanuel	Osei Frimpong	osfremma@yahoo.com	Ghana	GSSTI - Ghana Space Science & Technology Institute
Amos	Kabo-Bah	amos.kabobah@uener.edu.gh	Ghana	UENR, Sunyani, Ghana - University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana
Caleb	Mensah	calnumic@gmail.com	Ghana	- UNER-OERIC
Martin	Domfeh	mardomfeh@gmail.com	Ghana	- UNER-OERIC
Abdallah	Siro	abdallahsir@gmail.com	Kenya	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Gildas	Dide	gildas.dide@mef.go	Madagascar	MEF - Ministre de

		v.mg		l'Economie et des Finances
Noasilalao	Rasolondraibe	noasilalao@meeft.gov.mg	Madagascar	MEEF - Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests
Solofo	Rakotondraompiana	srakotondraompiana@gmail.com	Madagascar	- University of Antananarivo
Kamal	Labbassi	labbassi@ucd.ac.ma	Morocco	- Chouaib Doukkali University
Ahmad	Halilu	drhalilu@yahoo.com	Nigeria	NASRDA - National Space Research and Development Agency
John	Nwagwu	mrnwagwujohn@gmail.com	Nigeria	NASRDA - National Space Research and Development Agency
Rakiya	Babamaaji	rakiya.babamaaji@gmail.com	Nigeria	NASRDA - National Space Research and Development Agency
Amadou	Dieye	dieye@cse.sn	Senegal	CSE - Centre de Suivi Ecologique
Souleye	Wade	wadesouleye@yahoo.fr	Senegal	- Min of HER
George	Chirima	chirimaj@arc.agric.za	South Africa	ARC - Agriculture Research Council
Terry	Newby	terry@arc.agric.za	South Africa	ARC - Agriculture Research Council
Bulelwa	Semoli	bulelwa.semoli@drdlr.gov.za	South Africa	DRDLR - Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
Humbulani	Mudau	humbulani.mudau@dst.gov.za	South Africa	DOST, Philippines - Department of Science and Technology, Philippines
Lerato	Senoko	lerato.senoko@dst.gov.za	South Africa	DOST, Philippines - Department of Science and Technology, Philippines
Tumisang	Sebitloane	tumisang.sebitloane@dst.gov.za	South Africa	DOST, Philippines - Department of Science and Technology,

				Philippines
Hadley	Remas	hadley.remas@thehda.co.za	South Africa	HDA - Housing Development Agency
Sias	Mostert	sias@scs-space.com	South Africa	SCS Aerospace Group - SCS Aerospace Group
Turcia	Busakwe	turcia@scshgroup.com	South Africa	SCS Aerospace Group - SCS Aerospace Group
Andiswa	Mlisa	amlisa@sansa.org.za	South Africa	SANSA - South African National Space Agency
Naledzani	Mudau	nmudau@sansa.org.za	South Africa	SANSA - South African National Space Agency
Tendani	Lavhengwa	tlavhengwa@sansa.org.za	South Africa	SANSA - South African National Space Agency
Mark	Majodina	majodina@weathersa.co.za	South Africa	SAWS - South African Weather Service
Nhlonipho	Nhlabatsi	nhlonipho.nhlabatsi@weathersa.co.za	South Africa	SAWS - South African Weather Service
Nico	Kroese	nico.kroese@weathersa.co.za	South Africa	SAWS - South African Weather Service
Jane	Bemigisha	bemigisha@yahoo.co.uk	Uganda	- ESIPPS Int. Ltd
Johnson	Owaro	johnson.owaro@gmail.com	Uganda	- Office of the Prime Minister
Paradzayi	Tagwireyi	tagwireyip@gmail.com	Zimbabwe	RCZ - Research Council of Zimbabwe
Yousef	Torman	torman@asrenorg.net	ASREN - Arab States Research and Education Network	ASREN - Arab States Research and Education Network
Florence	Palla	fpalla@observatoire-comifac.net	COMIFAC - Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale	COMIFAC - Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
Sives	Govender	sives.govender@gmail.com	EIS-AFRICA - Environmental Information Systems - AFRICA	EIS-AFRICA - Environmental Information Systems - AFRICA

Fatou	Mar	fatou.mar@oss.org.tn	OSS - Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel	OSS - Sahara and Sahel Observatory
Louis Blanc	Traoure	louisblanc.traore@oss.org.tn	OSS - Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel	OSS - Sahara and Sahel Observatory
Nabil	Benkhatra	nabil.benkhatra@oss.org.tn	OSS - Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel	OSS - Sahara and Sahel Observatory
John	Kiema	jbkkiema@rcmrd.org	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Michael	Ngugi Kimani	kngugi@rcmrd.org	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development	RCMRD - Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
Andre	Nonguierma	nonguierma@un.org	UNECA - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	UNECA - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Gofamodimo	Mashame	gmashame@gmail.com		- DSM
Mdumiseni	Dlamini	wdlamini@uniswa.sz		- SNTC
Steven	Ramage	sramage@geosec.org		
Ganiyu	Agbaje	gagbaje@arcsstee.org.ng	ARCSSTE-E - African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education	
Fulbert	Agbo	agbo@rectas.org	AGRHYMET - AGRHYMET Regional Centre	
Mofoluso	Fagbeja	mfagbee@gmail.com	ARCSSTE-E - African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education	

Data and Knowledge Sharing

Does the Regional GEO have its own policy regarding data sharing or data management (that is, other than the GEO Data Sharing Principles and Data

Management Principles), or has it developed practices regarding data sharing or data management to adapt the GEO Principles to Regional needs or circumstances?

No

Has the Regional GEO undertaken any assessments of the extent to which Regional GEO Members adhere to the GEO Data Sharing Principles and Data Management Principles?

No

Are any key datasets are managed by the Regional GEO?

Yes

Please identify these datasets and upload relevant documents.

We shall be working with DE Africa to start with on data discoverability through the GEO Knowledge hub on key priority packages.

We are looking to replicate these efforts with other willing partners.

- no supporting documents provided -

Please describe the strategy for longer-term preservation of data and information produced or compiled by the Regional GEO, and upload relevant documents.

- no answer given -

- no supporting documents provided -

Have any data/information/knowledge infrastructures been developed to support the Regional GEO and/or its Members?

Yes

Please identify the relevant infrastructure(s) and describe its purpose and scope, and upload relevant documents.

Through ESRI partnership we have an AfriGEO portal page that we are using to upload and share content
<https://www.africageoportal.com/pages/afrigeo>

We also utilize the RCMRD Webpage where we have integrated an independent page for AfriGEO:

<http://rcmrd.org/projects/afrigeo>

GEOSS

Geo Knowledge Hub

- no supporting documents provided -

List of co-editors for this initiative

First name	Last name	Email address
Samantha	Musinzi	smusinzi@rcmrd.org
Anastasia	Wahome	awahome@rcmrd.org
Tumisang	Modiole	tumisang.modiole@dst.gov.za
Amos	Kabo-Bah	amos.kabobah@uenr.edu.gh

Please describe how this infrastructure relates to the GEOSS Platform and/or other GEO infrastructural components, and upload relevant documents.

- no answer given -

- no supporting documents provided -