

The 1st AfrigeOSS Symposium Summary Report

Outcomes, Actions and Recommendations

In order to meet the AfrigeOSS objectives, and enable its progressive implementation, the 1st AfrigeOSS Symposium held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 27-29 April 2016, endorsed the following outcomes, actions and recommendations:

➤ **Establishing National GEO Coordination Mechanisms**

The member states are strongly encouraged to establish **national GEO** mechanisms that will ensure the following:

- Leveraging on existing local EO investments
- Mobilizing additional funding for local and regional EO initiatives and projects
- Improving the use and uptake of EO for evidence based policy formulation and decision making
- Engagement of all stakeholders in developing national mapping requirements and standards
- Strengthening regional coordination
- Active participation in AfrigeOSS
- Increased contribution to GEO and GEOSS
- Improving EO communication and outreach to the broader society (resulting in society appreciating EO)
- Sharing of national GEO lessons learnt
- Sharing of lessons learnt from international partners

➤ **Strengthen the AfrigeOSS Governance Structure**

The objectives are to enable and facilitate Members commitment, to improve the information flow, and to establish close linkages with the national, regional and global structures. AfrigeOSS member states will work together to define and set up the appropriate governance structures that will improve information flows from the GEO Executive Committee, Programme Board, AfrigeOSS Steering Committee to Coordination Teams, Working Groups and the broader EO community. In addition:

- Define functional and temporal links and coordination mechanisms with the GEO Governance (Ministerial, Plenary, Executive Committee and Programme Board) as well as with GEO process, main events (including the Work Programme Symposium) and Planning Documents (GEO Work Programme)
- Increase the membership of the AfrigeOSS Steering Committee (2 members per the region)
- Members of the Steering Committee to undertake regional coordination,

promotion and participation in AfriGEOSS

➤ **Bring AfriGEOSS into political discussions to inform and influence policy formulation**

The connections and linkages of EO activities with national, regional and global policy and strategic frameworks are critical for the success of AfriGEOSS. This will be achieved through:

- Continued engagement with regional and continental Ministerial structures such as SADC, AMCOMET and AU and extend engagement to other regional structures.
- Enabling and supporting the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy.
- Ensuring alignment with and response to UN SDGs, including addressing SDGs goals, targets and indicators.

➤ **Promote and Ensure the use of EO Data and Information in decision-making**

- Develop a dedicated AfriGEOSS Communication and Outreach Plan to continue to demonstrate the relevance and importance of EO by showcasing applications, information products and services that respond to societal challenges, particularly in the proposed priority areas, namely, forest management, food security, urban planning and water resource management whilst also contributing to the SDGs and other SBAs. *Lead coordinator, Secretariat*

- Based on lessons learned, develop the AfriGEOSS concept on how to support Capacity development. *Lead Coordinator, RCMRD*

➤ **Confirm the mandate of the Data & Infrastructure Coordination Team and consolidate its working plans (Develop the framework for a 'Coordinated Data Acquisition Strategy')**

Complete Report to be issued *Lead Coordinator, Egypt (NARSS)*

Ensure that these activities address the following issues:

- ✓ Implementation of open and free data policies
- ✓ Improvement (densification, gap closure) of the in-situ measurement networks, fostering their coordination and ensure/facilitate actual access to the generated datasets
- ✓ Promote the integration of space based and ground based EO data for better information products
- ✓ Assess the use of emerging technologies such cloud computing and define architectural options for their implementation
- ✓ Involve academic and training institutions, particularly the youth generation

➤ **Establishment of thematic coordination mechanisms within AfrigeOSS**

• **AfriGAM**

Develop a concept for the implementation of a continental level initiative on Food Security and Agriculture (AfriGAM), based on coordination and harmonization of the on-going projects/initiatives and addressing the national and continental needs as well as the contributions to global processes/commitments.

AfriGAM concept *Lead Coordinator, South Africa (ARC)*

- Include links with GEOGLAM
- Address climate adaptation issues and tools to support medium/long term planning
- Consideration of the food-water-energy nexus

• **Sustainable Forest Management**

Develop a community of practice for forest management in Africa, bringing together all the existing initiatives in Africa and strengthen linkages with global initiatives such as GFOI.

Concept note for the establishment of the Coordination Team

Lead Coordinator, Gabon (AGEOS) and COMIFAC

• **Continue engagements with the private sector and industry (AARSC)**

➤ **Contribution to the GEO Work Programme**

The proposed actions and activities will be formulated as contributions to the 2017 – 2019 GEO Work Programme. These activities will also include the development of an inventory of existing activities / projects in the continent as a reference document to support coordination and awareness of current activities.

Community is encouraged to engage with the GEO Strategic Plan and formulate Community Activities, GEO Initiatives and GEO Flagships as contributions to the GEO Work Programme 2017 - 2019.

AfrigeOSS Implementation Plan (a requirement of all GEO Initiatives) to be submitted to the GEO Programme Board for review by **end May 2016**.

Lead Coordinator (Secretariat)