



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST AARSE CONFERENCE

The **African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)** invites expressions of interest from national institutional members and/or other organizations/agencies in Africa for the hosting/organization of the 16th Conference of the Association in 2028. Bids can also be received for the 17th edition (2030). The conference is usually held in the month of October (of every even-number year).

The expression of interest should clearly indicate the following points:

- Name of championing organization including history of the organization and statement of previous hosting of international conference(s) of similar magnitude;
- Names, affiliations and contact details of the lead person and members of the team making the proposal;
- Names of supporting government organizations, universities, national geospatial associations, UN agencies, NGO/Civil society organizations and other organizations in the country supported by letters of intent from such organizations;
- Suggested main theme of the conference;
- Indication of city and proposed venue(s) for the conference, including capacities of main hall, breakout rooms and exhibition space and internet access capability. Where available, academic institutions are the preferred venue;
- Name(s) of nearest airport(s) and airlines plying the route;
- Availability and types of hotels and tourism locations;
Indication of ease of visa processing (presence of embassies in most African countries);
- Indication of the strength of AARSE membership and potential for membership growth, as well as geo-information activities in the country;
- Other useful information, such as strength of the commercial geospatial sector, number of universities offering geospatial training, geospatial infrastructure such as satellite receiving stations, laboratories, etc.

For the 2028 edition, first preference will be given to applicants from the Central Africa sub-region followed by northern Africa sub-region in line with the AARSE principle of rotational hosting. It should be noted that AARSE does not provide funds for the hosting organization. Still, the Association can and will solicit international funding on behalf of the organization towards a successful hosting of the conference and guide the Local Organizing Committee on soliciting sponsorships and commercial exhibitors within the host country.

You are encouraged to address any further inquiries to either Solomon Tesfamichael or Kamal Labbassi (see contact details below) regarding a possible bid. This solicitation of a conference host is an open process and may be discussed with any of the AARSE Council members. We plan to reach a decision

on a host country and organization at the AARSE 2026 conference taking place in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 26th to 30th October 2026; therefore, each applicant will be expected to attend and make a presentation to the AARSE Executive Council during the conference. However, discussions will be ongoing until suitable hosting arrangements have been finalized.

The expression of interest should be sent latest by October 20, 2026 to:

Solomon Tesfamichael
Secretary General, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)
Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies
Faculty of Science
University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Tel.: +27 11 559 3927
Email: sgtesfamichael@uj.ac.za
Alt email: secretary-general@africanremotesensing.org

With a copy to:

Prof. Joseph Oloukoi
Communications officer, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)
African Regional Institute of Geospatial Information Sciences and Technologies (AFRIGIST)
Obafemi Awolowo University Campus, Ile Ife, Nigeria
Tel: +2348064042198
Email: oloukoi@afrigist.org
Alt email: communications@africanremotesensing.org

Previous AARSE Conferences:

To achieve its objectives, AARSE conducts a biennial (once every two years) international conference in Africa in addition to other awareness, research and capacity building activities. Up to 2018, AARSE, with the support of local and international organizations, has organized ten (12) of such conferences in Harare (Zimbabwe) in 1996, Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) in 1998, Cape Town (South Africa) in 2000, Abuja (Nigeria) in 2002, Nairobi (Kenya) in 2004, Cairo (Egypt) in 2006, Accra (Ghana) in 2008, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2010, El Jadida (Morocco) in 2012, Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2014, Kampala (Uganda) in 2016 and Alexandria (Egypt) in 2018, Kigali (Rwanda) in 2022 and Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in 2024. The next one will be in Harare (Zimbabwe).

The conference usually takes place in the last week of October. The attendance at each of these conferences is in the order of 300 international participants and exhibitors. The 15th conference will take place from 26th to 28th October 2026 in Harare, Zimbabwe (see <https://www.aarse2026.org/>) on the theme *"Smart Earth, Smart Africa - Harnessing Space Technologies for a Resilient and Sustainable Future"*.

About AARSE:

The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) was founded in 1992 and was incorporated as an international NGO under Section 21 of the South African Companies Act (Act 61 of 1973). AARSE is a partner of many international organizations such as the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) and the IEEE Geosciences and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS), and a participating organization of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). As a member of the erstwhile UN-ECA's Executive Working Group on Geoinformation, AARSE also participated in and contributed to the activities of the UN-ECA Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST), sub-Committee on Geoinformation. AARSE is actively participating in the UN-GGIM: Africa and AfriGEOSS activities.

The goal of AARSE is to promote socio-economic development through increased awareness of African governments and their institutions, the private sector and the society at large, about the empowering and enhancing benefits of developing, applying and utilizing responsibly the products and services of Earth Observation Systems and Geo-information Technology.

For further information on AARSE, including the benefits of membership and how to become a member, please visit www.africanremotesensing.org.