

## **Development of a Curriculum for The African Geospatial Sciences Institute (AGSI)**

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The primary objective of this project is to support capacity building in North Africa. North Africa has been subject to severe disruption in recent years and there is an urgent need for the construction of infrastructure and for the services of trained geospatial professionals and technicians. The African Geospatial Sciences Institute (AGSI) is a non-profit organisation registered in Germany which is supported by industry, government and academia. The objective of AGSI is to accelerate the geospatial capacity development in North Africa by providing the facilities for geospatial projects and management training to regional government employees, university graduates, private individuals and companies.

Funds from the ISPRS Scientific Initiative would be used to develop a curriculum for AGSI based on the requirements of the region and using the expertise of ISPRS working groups. ISPRS could make a significant contribution to developing the curriculum which could then be used in similar initiatives elsewhere. The project involves ISPRS Working Groups, ISPRS Regional Members, cognate societies and local organisations.

The project will last for six months and will involve a survey of potential stakeholders in North Africa, drafting a curriculum on the basis of the returns from the survey and then discussing this at a workshop to be held in Tunis in May 2014.

The initial curriculum will concentrate on vocational geospatial training, emphasizing practical, project-based work. Learning-by-doing is the priority and whilst all participants will be encouraged to continue with a more formal education, there will also be support for anyone who wants to start his own business. The curriculum will take account of the resources available and particularly look at how low cost equipment such as UAVs and low cost or open source software can be used. The emphasis will be on training and education which is fit for purpose in the region and which will allow those completing the course to work efficiently and effectively.

ISPRS will benefit from enhancement of the international standing and from the opportunity to contribute significantly to the development of geospatial science in North Africa. The project will also bring together ISPRS members in the region to work on a substantive regional project.