



12.1 Report of the African Regional Representative

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The major activities during the reporting period were organizing and attending ISPRS events, workshops and conferences that support the objectives of ISPRS and membership drive. The details of the activities are as follows:

10th ISPRS WGVI/5 and Student Consortium Summer School

The 10th ISPRS Student Consortium & WG VI/5 Summer School was successfully held from 29 October to 2 November, 2013, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The local organizing committee composed of personnel from the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA) and UNECA.

The summer School brought together 30 young scholars and scientists from 10 Countries; Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Turkey, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The main theme focused on 'Geospatial Science for Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development' and the following topics were covered:

- Change Detection
- Food Security
- Agriculture Monitoring
- Land Cover / Use
- Disasters Monitoring

The training schedule comprised of lectures and practical sessions on the use of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data for various application, ENVI software for change detection and disaster monitoring using earth observation.

Participants enjoyed a technical visit to EMA, a visit to the National Museum of Ethiopia and a cultural night of Ethiopian delicacies and dances.

GSDI 14/AfricaGIS Conference

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure and AfricaGIS (GSDI 14/AfricaGIS2013) conferences were jointly held in Addis Ababa from 30 October to 4 November, 2013. The Secretary General of ISPRS and the ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa attended the conference.

During the AfricaGIS2013/GSDI14, AfriGEOSS was launched. AfriGEOSS is an initiative by the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) aimed at building infrastructural capacities in Africa to benefit from geospatial data for sustainable development. AfriGEOSS is designed to support the continent's efforts to bridge the digital divide and build a knowledge-based economy, by enhancing Africa's capabilities for producing, managing and using earth observation data and information. The ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa is also the regional coordinator for AfriGEOSS in Eastern Africa.

The GEO Working Group on Land Cover for Africa was also launched during the Conference. The ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa was elected as the Chair of the executive board of the

working group. The purpose of the working group is to contribute to the development of a land cover data product for the entire African continent at a 30 meter resolution for the African element of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (AfriGEOSS). This will be established by building mutually beneficial partnerships with national and regional institutions to assess and develop their land cover needs, including products, while increasing their involvement in the Global Land Cover Database.

AARSE Conference 2014

The African Association of Remote Sensing of Environment (AARSE) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 27 to 31 October, 2014. The AARSE2014 conference focused on “Space Technologies for Societal Benefits in Africa”. This event is the largest and premier forum in the African continent for researchers on remote sensing technologies and geospatial information science, gathering leading scholars from the remote sensing and related communities.

The Second Vice President of ISPRS, Prof. Marguerite Madden gave a key note address titled Remote Sensing in a Changing World: Can we Serve Society from Local to Global Scales? The ISPRS Regional representative for Africa attended the conference and promoted the objectives and activities of ISPRS.

ISPRS Technical Commissions and Working Groups events

ISPRS Technical Commissions and Working Groups are hereby encouraged to organize events (seminars, workshops, special sessions) in Africa. These are best organized as special sessions, pre-conference or post-conference events during the biennial conference of the African Association of the Environment (AARSE) (October of even numbered years) or that of AfricaGIS (around October of odd numbered years). For more information, please contact the ISPRS Regional Representative for Africa.

International Workshop on Advanced Land Cover Information Technology and Applications

In order to assist in capacity building on land related geospatial information and applications in developing countries, particularly in Africa, this 11/2 day workshop was held in Addis Ababa on 18-19 April 2016, as a side event of the Fourth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). The workshop presented advanced land cover information technology and applications, and shared the latest development with the participants. Some advanced land cover information technologies developed from the production and application of GlobeLand30 and other land cover data products were presented. Thirty eight participants from twenty African countries participated in the workshop. The workshop was organized jointly by:

- Secretariat of the UN-GGIM
- National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China (NASG)
- International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
- GEO Global Land Cover Working Group

Planned Events in 2016

RCMRD, together with its partners is organizing two training events on the use of SAR data and its applications in environmental monitoring and food security in Kenya and Rwanda. The objectives of the two events are to:

Expose university students and faculty to remote sensing applications

Impart more knowledge on remote sensing technology and applications

Develop professional connections and a platform to meet and interact with international and local experts in the field of remote sensing.

The Kenya event will be held at Kenyatta University from 22 to 26 August. The Rwanda event will be held from 25 to 29 September, 2016, at National University of Rwanda, Butare.