

EAMNet

Europe Africa Marine Network

MONITORING THE COASTS OF AFRICA

The African Union (AU) and the European Union have developed an ambitious agenda to extend benefits of Europe's GMES monitoring system for environment and security to Africa. EAMNet takes on this challenge in the area of coastal and oceanic monitoring.

Whilst Africa is the continent that has contributed least to climate change, it suffers significantly from global warming. By monitoring the environment and creating a foundation for improved evidence-based policy making, GMES helps in dealing with the effects of climate change. Therefore, its extension to Africa is of paramount importance and this is why it is a key element in the political cooperation expressed forcefully in the 2007 AU-EU declaration on GMES for Africa.

EAMNet aims at constructing a network linking providers of Earth Observation (EO) data based in Cape Town, South Africa and Plymouth, UK, research centres of ex-

cellence in Zanzibar, Tanzania and Lisbon, Portugal, and regional and national users of such information from Europe and Africa in the coastal and oceanic domain.

To achieve this EAMNet will undertake capacity building, including developing a specific EO module within the courses of three African universities and helping maintain existing infrastructure and building expertise in Africa. This will involve targeted exchanges of personnel and open fellowships for wider Europe-Africa interaction. Improvement of the dissemination and exploitation of EO data in Africa supports the development of an Africa-wide ocean observation system (GOOS-Africa). EAMNet is intended to create an interface between European GMES services, African initiatives such as AMESD, thereby strengthening the AU-EU GMES-Africa initiative.



STEVE GROOM
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



Val Byfield, NERC, UK helping students at the JRC Ocean Colour Course, (Zanzibar, Tanzania, 12-23 October 2009) process Earth Observation data for their mini-projects. © EAMNet

EAMNet seeks to create an EU-Africa Marine Earth Observation Network, in support of an Africa-wide Earth Observation system.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

EAMNet aims to improve the interaction between EO scientists in Africa and Europe, both within the project and the wider community, to engage with national monitoring agencies and to leave a legacy of infrastructure, cooperation and training.

Why is this project important for Europe?

Africa and Europe share seas and oceans, so improved monitoring and understanding of the African marine environment will benefit both. EAMNet will provide a platform to highlight European GMES activities to an African audience and African EO activities to a European audience.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

EO data are widely used to initialise or update environmental models. Extending GMES to Africa should improve the interpretation and validation of regional EO data and this could lead to improved model based forecasts (e.g. of sea state) that are needed by European citizens.

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LIST OF PARTNERS

- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- IMAR- Instituto do Mar, Portugal
- Danmarks Meteorologiske Institut, Denmark
- The European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, Germany
- Natural Environment Research Council, United Kingdom
- University Of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (United Republic Of)
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- Meteo-France, France
- National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Egypt

COORDINATOR

Plymouth Marine Laboratory, United Kingdom

CONTACT

Steve GROOM

Tel: +44 (1752) 633150

E-mail: SBG@pml.ac.uk

PROJECT INFORMATION

Europe Africa Marine Network (EAMNet)

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EU Contribution: € 997.067

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