

MALAREO

EO in Malaria Vector Control and Management

STRIKING MALARIA FROM SPACE, BEFORE MALARIA STRIKES PEOPLE ON EARTH

Every year in Africa, more than 600 million people are at risk from malaria. Yet this deadly disease is preventable, and African nations are committed to halving mortality. Remote sensing technologies from satellites provide important tools in this respect. The MALAREO project is set to explore this potential.

Malaria is a heavy burden, which is most unevenly distributed. From the approximately 225 million annual cases of malaria, some 212 million happen in Africa, killing close to 800,000 people every year. Within Africa, 90 percent of these cases happen in the sub-Saharan part of the continent.

While the climate is largely determining the malaria territory, anthropogenic factors like deforestation, irrigation, urbanization, movements of populations and economic changes determine where it eventually emerges. Carefully monitoring these features in the affected areas may therefore be part of the solution to winning the fight against this deadly killer.

Indeed, one can not see mosquitoes from satellites, but from space it is possible to observe vast landscapes,

monitor the areas that are under vector control and identify where conditions are prone for malaria to occur.

The MALAREO project supports African efforts to halve malaria mortality on the continent, by developing technologies, and implementing Earth observation (EO) capacities within malaria vector control and management programs in southern Africa.

Detailed monitoring of malaria risk areas from space may feed into malaria vector control and management programmes, increasing their impact, range and efficiency.

MALAREO seeks both to facilitate capacity development in Africa with a view to applying EO insights within a permanent EO monitoring cell supporting the daily work of existing national malaria control programmes, and further refine the parameters used to identify the localisation of the optimal breathing conditions for malaria.



IDES BAUWENS
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

MALAREO wants to integrate EO techniques and knowhow in the malaria control programmes in Southern Africa, because we believe that this can increase their efficiency, effect and range. We are combining European GMES EO capacity with African malaria experience to achieve this.

Why is this project important for Europe?

MALAREO aligns with the Lisbon process on "GMES and Africa" and the Strategic Partnership between South Africa and the EU. The project stimulates the movement from political dialogue to active cooperation towards a strong and sustainable cooperation in health and space areas.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

MALAREO supports the control and elimination of malaria. Reducing malaria will benefit European citizens. Not only in the case where we are travelling to malaria-risk areas, but also because malaria is hampering African sustainable development, which would benefit us all.



People from the South-Africa Malaria Vector Control Programme are preparing for IRS (Indoor Residual Spraying). IRS is a proven and highly effective malaria control measure that involves the coordinated, timely spraying of the interior walls of homes with insecticides. In 2009, IRS protected 75 million people in sub-saharan Africa. © South-African Medical Research Council.

MALAREO will implement Earth Observation (EO) capacities within malaria vector control and management programs in southern Africa.

MALAREO

EO in Malaria Vector Control and Management



LIST OF PARTNERS

- Eurosense, Belgium
- South African Medical Research Council, South Africa
- Ministry of Health, Swaziland
- Remote Sensing Solutions GmbH, Germany
- University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
- Schweizerisches Tropen- und Public Health-Institut, Switzerland

COORDINATOR

Eurosense, Belgium

CONTACT

Ides BAUWENS

Tel: +32 (0) 2 460 70 00

E-mail: ides.bauwens@eurosense.com

PROJECT INFORMATION

EO in Malaria Vector Control and Management
(MALAREO)

Contract no: 262887

Starting date: 01/02/2011

Duration: 24 months

EU Contribution: € 497.326

Estimated total cost: € 580.279

