

SAGA-EO

Support Action to GMES-Africa on Earth Observation

BUILDING GMES IN AFRICA

It is time to strengthen the foundation for GMES in Africa. By means of a comprehensive feasibility study, the project SAGA-EO takes on the drafting of one dimension of a possible future framework for African GMES.

Whilst each African nation has a primary interest in the security of its own citizens and the state of its environment, continent wide cooperation is needed to successfully implement the ambitious goals of the EU-AU Lisbon declaration on GMES for Africa.

However, implementing GMES capabilities in Africa, drawing the maximum benefit from European experience, there is a need to improve the capacity to use information based on Earth Observation (EO) data. The main finding driving the concept is that no project tackles the EO field as a global approach. The way to implement this EO capacity building challenge is to set-up dedicated EO networks of users belonging to the same African country and to link them with

existing initiatives in Africa and Europe. In SAGA-EO, the African national EO user network in each country will constitute the ground from where to build the thematic networks developed at continental, regional or national scales.

The main purpose and objectives of SAGA-EO is to study this organisational model and its associated technology, and to prove that the concept is viable in five African countries.

The strategic guidance of the GMES Africa Coordination Team will provide the global project orientations according to the GMES Africa action plan findings. Deploying GMES services to Africa is an immense task, yet its potential is equally enormous, and SAGA-EO is committed to contributing to bring about a solid foundation for GMES in Africa.



JEAN-GUY PLANÈS
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



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SAGA-EO facilitates the establishment of national Earth Observation networks in Africa with a view to supporting the joint EU-AU Strategic action plan.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

We want to prepare the African policy makers and thematic communities at national level, to receive, to share and to better use Earth Observation data and associated technology and expertise for the management of a wide range of thematic applications.

Why is this project important for Europe?

In the frame of the EC international cooperation programme, one of the objectives of the project consists in preparing the docking of the GMES services and the European centres of excellence to the African thematic communities in order to exchange not only data but also know how and expertise.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

In preparing GMES Africa, SAGA-EO will help Africa manage its environment. Particularly the African rain forest is one the largest carbon sink on the planet. So, preserving this forest is mandatory to limit the impacts of climate change.

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LIST OF PARTNERS

- Thales Alenia Space France, France
- Geosat Technology SARL, France
- GAF AG, Germany
- AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA METEOROLOGIE DU SENEGAL, Senegal
- Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement / Centre de Cartographie et de Télédétection, Cote d'Ivoire
- INAM (National Institute of Meteorology), Mozambique
- Ghana Meteorological Agency, Ghana
- Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile, Republique du Congo
- Comafrique, Ivory Coast

COORDINATOR

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Support Action to GMES-Africa on Earth Observation
(SAGA-EO)

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