



The use of regionally owned space infrastructure for disaster management in West and North Africa – status quo and prospects

Abuja, Nigeria

15-16 October 2007



Objectives

Several African countries have recently developed Earth observation satellites, aiming at providing better means to mitigate and manage the manmade and natural disasters that affect the regions. The objective of this meeting is to assess the current status of space infrastructure owned and operated by Northern & Western African countries with disaster management as principal objective, current developments and future plans, achievements to date, but also limitations and deficiencies in data quality, availability and use. We will explore how enhanced capacity building, regional networking, and learning from extra-regional experiences can lead to better use of available technology with a benefit for the region as a whole.

Target Group

Directors and senior managers of space agencies, national emergency management agencies, national mapping and planning agencies, and NGOs and companies focused on the disaster management sector.

Date & Venue

15-16 October, 2007, NASRDA Abuja, Nigeria.

Tentative workshop programme:

15 October:

Workshop and training course opening

Session 1: Regionally owned space infrastructure in Northern and Western Africa for disaster management

- The Nigeriasat-1 infrastructure – developments, prospects, data use
- AlSat-1 infrastructure – developments, prospects, data use
- Other space programmes in Northern and Western Africa

Session 2: Geoinformation and disaster management in Northern and Western Africa

- Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA): the use of geodata in disaster management in Nigeria
- Dealing with both manmade and natural disasters (e.g. related to climate change or industrial activities, and landslides or drought, respectively)
- Data availability and sharing – prospects for improved automation and access
- Production of fundamental datasets for SDI
- Insight from other disaster management stakeholders

Session 3: Regional and international support and best practice

- The role of OOSA and the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"
- The United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) initiative
- Intra-regional support

Workshop dinner

16 October

Session 4: Improving disaster management capacity in Western Africa

- Training achievements and prospects at RECTAS
- Prospects for an extended university network for Western Africa (UNEDRA)
- Role of the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU_EHS)

Session 5: Breakout discussion sessions

- meetings in smaller groups to discuss
- Ways to improve data sharing and collaboration between countries and organisations
 - New applications for disaster management for DMC and other spatial data
 - Ways to benefit from the GEOSS and GMES initiatives
 - Organisation and prospects of an extended university network

Session 6: Summary and conclusions

Workshop closing at 3:00

Participation in this workshop is free. Participants are expected to arrange their own accommodation. For more information please contact Dr. Norman Kerle (kerle@itc.nl), for registration and assistance with accommodation Mr Joseph Oloukoi at RECTAS (chabijos@yahoo.fr, oloukoi@rectas.org).



Profile of organising institutes



The **Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS)**, located on the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Campus, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, was established in 1972 under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Its mandate covers training, research, consultancy and advisory services in geoinformatics. The Centre is a joint project of (currently) eight African countries.

For more information:

www.rectas.org/ or www.uneca.org/rectas



The **National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA)** was established in May 1999 to implement Nigerian national space policy and programmes. The major objective of this space policy is to develop, through appropriate research and development, a sustainable capability in relevant areas of space science and technology, such as earth observation, communication, global positioning satellite systems, transportation and propulsion, and their application in the socio-economic development of the nation.

For more information:

www.nasrda.org

The School for Disaster Geo-information Management has been established by the **International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)**. Within the context of the UNU-ITC Joint Programme on Capacity Building in Disaster Management, the School aims to provide



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support in this area through education and capacity building, research, advisory services, and expert meetings. The School is an integral part of ITC, the largest institute for international higher education in the Netherlands. The aim of ITC's activities is the international exchange of knowledge, focusing on capacity building and institutional development.

For more information:

www.itc.nl/unu/dgim/default.asp



NEMA transformed from National Emergency Relief Agency (NERA) to **National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)** in 2000 through 1999 Establishment Act. Since then the Agency has been engaged in emergency management from preparation to response and rehabilitation. The primary mandate of the Agency is to coordinate and facilitate disaster management efforts. This is done through collaboration with so many stakeholders in various communities, states and countries.

For more information:

www.nema.gov.ng



This workshop is also an activity of ISPRS TC VII working group 7 (www.commission7.isprs.org/wg7/)



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2

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