



THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF REMOTE SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT (AARSE)

Summary Report:

Mapping Africa for Africa 14 August 2003

Durban, South Africa

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A workshop on "Mapping Africa for Africa" was organized on 14 August as part of the ICC 2003 conference in Durban, South Africa (see www.icc2003.gov.za) for information on the ICC. Hereunder are the resolutions/recommendations of the workshop. Derek Clarke (Surveyor General of South Africa) has been mandated to process the submission of the statement through official South African Govt. (as host country/organizers) channel to NEPAD secretariat, AU and other relevant organizations. Wilber Ottichilo, AARSE Treasurer and 5th AARSE Conference Director also attended the Workshop.

Durban Statement on Mapping Africa for Africa

Noting the commendable initiatives of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), aimed at rapid socio-economic development, poverty reduction, good governance, security and regional integration;

- Recognizing the pivotal role of Geoinformation in achieving the objectives of these initiatives;
- Further noting the paucity of relevant and accessible Geoinformation, especially at national and regional levels for achieving these regional and global initiatives;
- Recognizing the importance of mapping as the source and representation of Geoinformation;
- And further noting that in line with the objectives of NEPAD, there is a definite need for Mapping Africa for Africa;

Consequently, the meeting on "Mapping Africa for Africa", held in Durban, South Africa, on 14 August 2003, under the auspices of the International Cartographic Association and the Department of Land Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, hereby recommends and resolves as follows:

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), under the guidance of CODI-Geo, implements activities relating to the "Mapping Africa for Africa", in collaboration with the International Cartographic Association (ICA) and other institutions and organizations.
2. NEPAD Secretariat endorses and supports projects on "Mapping Africa for Africa"
3. ICA creates a Commission or Working Group on "Mapping Africa for Africa";
4. That mapping activities be prioritized in line with priority needs of NEPAD.

5. Promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP) to ensure that human capacity developed in the public sector that has moved to the private sector is still available in the overall national pool of human resources for mapping in the country.
6. That a minimum threshold be set for in-country execution of Geoinformation projects to ensure development of institutional and human capacity.
7. To implement the resolution of CODI that each country should have frequent national level CODI meetings for effective coordination at national and regional levels in mapping activities.
8. An inventory of existing geospatial data sets and resources in each country with associated metadata be undertaken as a matter of urgency.
9. That organizations and institutions working on mapping topics should ensure that documents are made available in major official languages, such as, English and French.
10. To use regional centers and institutions to link up with countries to facilitate regional coordination, communication and dissemination of information on relevant projects and initiatives.
11. That all countries participate in the Global Mapping Project and other relevant regional and international initiatives.
12. That every country develops a national spatial reference framework that should be part of African Reference Frame (AFREF), as a matter of urgency.
13. That every country identifies its fundamental data sets, from which the consistent regional fundamental data sets should be derived, including geodetic framework, topography, land cover, settlements, administrative boundaries and transportation, which are envisaged to be part of the regional data sets.
14. That awareness of available data sets and potential uses be created to develop a user base and ensure a demand-driven approach to Geoinformation development in general and mapping in particular.
15. That every development project proposal identifies, up front, programmatic arrangements for continuous maintenance of resulting data sets at the conclusion of the project.
16. That every country develops or adopts mapping standards consistent with international standards.

Countries are advised to take advantage of the free satellite imagery data sets, such as LANDSAT from USGS. Countries should also take advantage of GSDI/Global Mapping grant to develop capacity for mapping.