



FROM THE DG'S DESK

Welcome to our second e-newsletter this year in which we highlight activities during the April to June period. We were honoured to receive the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Tshome who toured our exhibition booth during the UN-Global Geospatial Management meeting held in Ethiopia. He was also briefed on the activities of the Centre.

We are pleased to announce that we signed an agreement with the Republic of Rwanda to host the RCMRD Conference of Ministers meeting to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in November, 2016. The meeting is expected to give strategic direction to the Centre in the coming two years. We report on our support to supply satellite imagery and technical mapping support to Malawi National Statistical Office in preparation for the 2018 National Census of Malawi.

Other news items include land cover mapping regional workshop we conducted for Member States and training and workshop programmes for Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi and Mauritius.

Dr. Hussein O. Farah

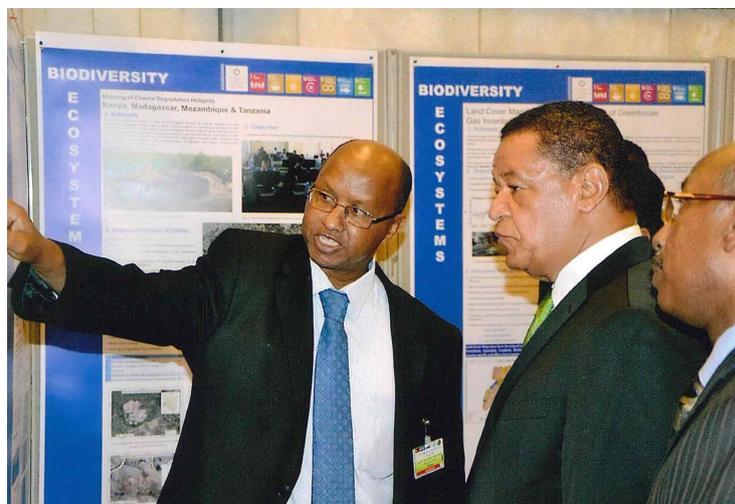
Wishing you a happy reading...

President of Ethiopia visits RCMRD Exhibition

The President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome toured the booth of RCMRD during the 4th High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-22nd, April 2016.

The president was briefed on the various activities of RCMRD which were showcased, such as application of geo-information for national development, capacity development, project implementation, advisory services, and research and development.

His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome praised the work of RCMRD and urged African countries to support and strengthen Centers of excellences such as RCMRD in order to achieve sustainable development. He pledged the support of Government of Ethiopia to RCMRD and UN-GGIM.



Dr. Farah and His Excellency Dr. Mulatu Teshome at the RCMRD booth.

Rwanda to Host RCMRD Conference of Ministers Meeting

On 29th April, 2016, the Republic of Rwanda signed an agreement with RCMRD to host the 10th Conference of Ministers meeting in November, 2016 in Kigali. Twenty Ministers from RCMRD member States in-charge of Geospatial Management and Mapping are expected to attend the meeting.

The Conference of Ministers is the highest organ of RCMRD which offers political leadership and strategic direction. The agreement was signed by Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza, Director General, Rwanda Natural Resources Authority (RNRA) on behalf of the Republic of Rwanda.



Signing of the agreement to host 10th Conference of Ministers.

During the signing, Dr. Nkurunziza said it was an honor to host the Conference meeting.

The signing was witnessed by Eng. Sultan Mohamed Alya, the Chairman of RCMRD Governing Council and

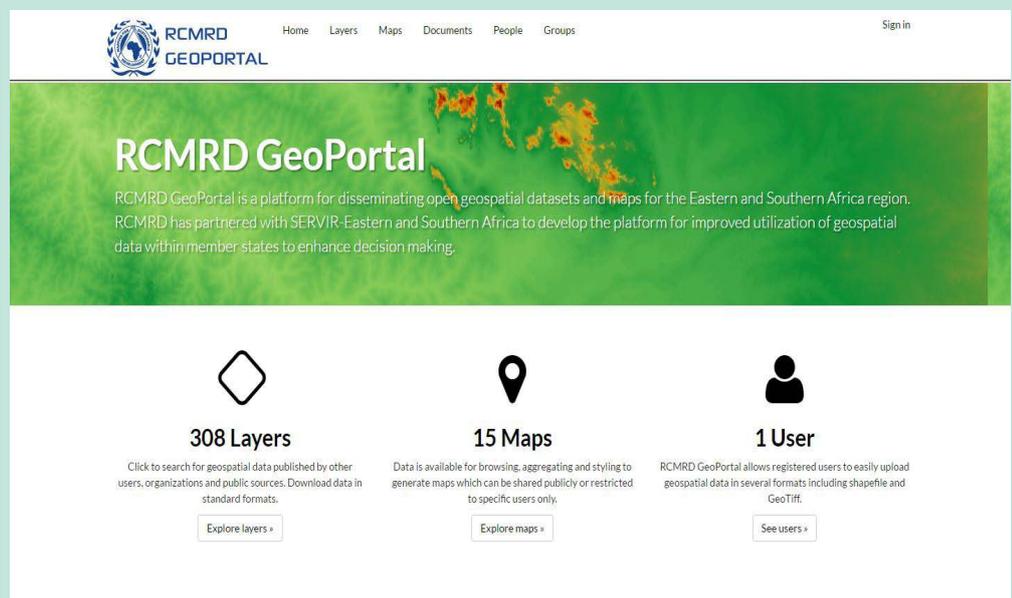
Director General of Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA).

RCMRD Geoportal added in Earth Observation Catalog of the GEOSS Portal

RCMRD data publishing and sharing Geoportal accessible at <http://geoportal.rcmr.org> has achieved a major milestone after it was recently added in Earth Observation Catalog of the GEOSS Portal (<http://www.geoportal.org>) that is owned by Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

The GEOSS Portal is the main entry point to Earth Observation data from all over the world and will allow RCMRD datasets residing on RCMRD's Geoportal to be Searchable and Discoverable from the GEOSS Portal.

Thus, GEOSS increases our understanding of Earth processes and enhances predictive capabilities that underpin sound decision-making: It provides access to data, information and knowledge to a wide variety of users.



RCMRD Geoportal which has been added in Earth Observation Catalog of the GEOSS Portal.

It connects users to existing data bases and portals and provides reliable, up-to-date and user friendly information – vital for the work of decision makers, planners and emergency managers.

See also **APPS PORTAL** on our **Website**.

RCMRD to Supply Satellite Data and offer Technical Support to Malawi National Statistical Office



RCMRD sign agreement to supply satellite data and offer technical support to Malawi National Statistical Office.

RCMRD signed an agreement to supply satellite data and offer technical support to Malawi National Statistical Office on 9th June, 2016 in Malawi.

This agreement will entail undertaking a countrywide mapping of

households and coming up with enumeration areas to be used during the Population and Housing Census in 2018.

Prof. John Kiema (Director- RS, GIS and Mapping) and Mrs. Mercy Kanyuka (Commissioner of Statis

-tics, Malawi) signed the agreement on behalf of the two organizations.

UN-GGIM Pre-Conference Workshop on Land Use and Land Cover

In preparation for the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) commencing on 20th April, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, RCMRD in partnership with the National Geomatics Center of China (NGCC) hosted a two-day pre-conference workshop for RCMRD Mapping Agencies and other African stakeholders on Advanced Land Cover Information Technology and Applications.

In the month of September, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated 17 targets. NGCC has launched GlobeLand30, the world’s first 30m global land cover data product in response to the SDGs and their indicators.

Discussions at the pre-conference workshop focused on the use of the GlobeLand30 and localization to in country scenarios as well as support that could be extended to RCMRD to build capacity in member States on Land Use Land Cover.



Members of RCMRD Mapping Agencies and other African stakeholders during pre-conference workshop on Advanced Land Cover Information Technology and Applications in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

RCMRD is also an active supporter of AfriGEO through the stewardship of the Africa Land Use and Land Cover Working Group.

Dr. Hussein Farah, RCMRD’s Director General made a presentation on RCMRD initiatives with regard to

developing capacities in member States.

Phoebe Oduor made a presentation on Land Cover Change Mapping Program for System Land Based Emissions Estimation.

Water Tracking using Satellites

By 2025, half of the world’s population will be living in water-stressed areas. Already, more than 663 million people in the world live without clean water. And drought is a major challenge in geographies ranging from Northern California, which is facing its worst drought in 1,200 years; to east Africa, where a devastating drought has led to crop

failures affecting an estimated 23 million people.

In this regard, RCMRD has been playing an important role in the assessment of crop availability, monitoring of water quality in Lakes Victoria and Malawi, and providing data for an early warning system for floods and fires through

satellite imaging technologies. Read more [here](#)

Training on Effective Land Administration Systems in Africa

Inclusive land tenure, pragmatic land valuation and taxation and rational land use and land development practices are important characteristics for good land administration.

To ensure seamless interaction this needs to be anchored on sound land information infrastructure developed from appropriate built and natural environment data sets. Realization of this is important if we are to achieve efficient land markets and effective land use management, factors that are critical for sustainable development.

In this regard, RCMRD, United Nations Economic Commission – Land Policy Initiative, and Land Development and Governance Institute jointly organized a five-day training course on Effective Land Administration Systems in Africa from 20-24th June, 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was officially opened by Ms. Mariamu El Maawy, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Lands & Physical Planning, Kenya.

The overall objective of the training was to contribute to the implemen-



Training course on Effective Land Administration Systems in Africa organized by RCMRD, UNECA-LPI and LDGI.

-tation of the African Union (AU) Declaration on land which specifically urges member states to "build adequate human, financial, technical capacities to support land policy development and implementation.

Specific objectives of the training included influencing African land administration systems toward more efficient, transparent, cost-effective; discussing inclusive and gender

sensitive services; equipping key experts in the land sector with relevant knowledge, skills and mindset to participate in national land policy processes which support effective land administration systems; and facilitating experience sharing, peer learning and networking amongst land administration experts. Read full story [here](#)

Information Technology Security and Cybercrime Training for Botswana

RCMRD conducted a 2-week training on Information Technology security and Cyber Crime from 9-20th May, 2016.

The training was attended by participants from Botswana and RCMRD's Information Technology Training Centre (ITTC) staff.

The participants were taken through information assets and threats, disaster risk analysis and risk management, information classification and management, managing information security, data protection, information security controls, organizing personnel security, security incident handling, combating cybercrime, detection and prevention of money laundering, combating cybercrime, detection and pre-



Training on Information Technology security and Cyber Crime for Botswana.

vention of money laundering, computer forensics, business continuity planning (BCP), detecting transnational e-crime and cybercrimes,

information security best practices and information security quality management. This was a course under RCMRD's ITTC programme.

Workshop on Building Capacity in Land Issues in the Great Lakes Region

RCMRD attended a five-day workshop on strengthening East African Land Administration Network (EALAN) to build capacity in land administration and land governance in the great lakes region from 23– 27th May, 2016 in Rwanda.

The workshop was attended by participants from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, DR Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, and Netherlands.

The workshop aimed at developing an updated and shared Strategic Plan, Business Plan & Research Strategy for EALAN.

EALAN members aim to work collaboratively to identify specific short and long-term research problems and project areas, research skills gaps, and advocacy skill gaps.

The short-term problems identified will focus on interest areas selected in the January 2016 kick-off meeting, including land governance and vulnerable groups. At the end of the training, a draft EALAN Strategic Plan, Business Plan & Research Strategy document was developed. The document contains medium, and long-term goals.

Particularly, it highlights and justifies a broad point of departure for EALAN Strategic Plan, Business Plan & Research Strategy.

The workshop provided a platform for delivery of outputs, increased capacity and skills in research, enhanced experience in undertaking research activities, improved skills in converting research into lobbying activities, and offered a long-term EALAN research outlook.



Workshop on strengthening East African Land Administration Network to build capacity in land administration and land governance in the great lakes region.

1st AfriGEOSS Symposium held in Zimbabwe

RCMRD) took part in the first AfriGEOSS Symposium in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 27-29th April, 2016.

The first symposium of the AfriGEOSS initiative was hosted by the Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) on behalf of the government of Zimbabwe and opened by Hon. Ambassador Simon Khaya Moyo, Minister for Policy Coordination and Promotion for Socio-economic Ventures in the President's office.

The event was also attended by Ms. Barbara Ryan, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat Director and Dr. Phil Mjwara, GEO

Co-Chairperson representing Africa and Director General, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Ambassador Simon Khaya Moyo reiterated the importance of Earth Observation and its role in national development, particularly for Africa.

The symposium's theme "Earth Observations for the Africa We Want" drew the symposium discussions to focus on ensuring AfriGEOSS activities respond to the broader African agendas and objectives such as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 with the

objectives of understanding the role of Earth Observations in the implementation of African policies for sustainable development; Identifying means and ways of mainstreaming Earth Observations in the decision making process in Africa; Reviewing the AfriGEOSS implementation approach and developing a detailed technical and financial programme; and building synergies with GEO initiatives and international initiatives relevant to Africa with continental initiatives.

The AfriGEOSS initiative, developed within the GEO framework, will strengthen the link between the cur

current GEO activities with existing capabilities and initiatives in Africa and will provide the necessary framework for countries and organizations to access and leverage ongoing bilateral and multilateral Earth Observation-based initiatives across Africa, thereby creating synergies and mini-

mizing duplication for the benefit of the entire continent. RCMRD's delegation was led by Prof. Kiema, Director, Remote Sensing, GIS and Mapping who made presentations on Forestry/ GHG Mapping/ MESA IGAD Thema and the SERVIR Programme- achievements and impacts.

RCMRD is a participating organization of GEO. Read more [here](#)



The first AfriGEOSS Symposium in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Stakeholders' and Consultations Workshops in Uganda, Rwanda & Tanzania

RCMRD/SERVIR-Eastern and Southern Africa held stakeholders' and consultations workshops from 23rd– 31st May, 2016 in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania respectively.

The workshops aimed at assessing the needs and gaps in using geospatial tools by various stakeholders including government agencies in the Eastern and Southern African region.

The major objective of the workshops was to engage with stakeholders from various institutions, understand the projects they are implementing and determine climate-related problems, the needs and gaps in form of geospatial data availability/ acquisition, sharing challenges, geospatial tools used, and capacity building in form of training required in developing and using the tools.

SERVIR strives to help developing countries improve environmental



Stakeholders' and consultations workshop in Tanzania.

management and resilience to climate change by strengthening the capacity of governments and other key stakeholders to incorporate

Earth Observation information and geospatial technologies into development decision-making.

Pictorial



Training workshop on Cadastral Database Development and Management for use in Planning Processes for Ethiopia.



Training on Application of Geo-Information for Disaster Risk Reduction in Kenya fieldwork.



Training of Trainers Programme on Integration of Land Tenure Monitoring in Development Projects Using Geo-Spatial Technologies workshop at RCMRD, Kenya.



Botswana delegation led by Mr. Thato. Y. Raphaka, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands and Housing during their visit at RCMRD.



RCMRD's management meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. Yamungu Kanyadabila in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Training for Land Use and Land Cover Monitoring in Mauritius.