

## Welcome to RCMRD News



In the final edition of the year we cover activities from the month of October to December. We successfully organized and held the tenth Conference of Ministers and fiftieth Governing Council meetings in Kigali, Rwanda. Among the main issues discussed included the mid-term review of implementation of RCMRD Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018.

We highlight a number of workshops and training activities we organized and conducted including Workshop to Support Land Policy Processes in Eastern Africa, Land Information Management System Training Course, National Spatial Data Infrastructure Stakeholders Workshop, and Information Communication Technology training for Botswana.

We were also honored to host Hon. Dan Kazungu, Minister for Mining, Kenya. The Minister appreciated RCMRD's work that was going into strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Mining.

*Wishing you a happy reading  
and festive season .....*

## 10th RCMRD Conference of Ministers Meeting Held in Rwanda

The 10th RCMRD Conference of Ministers meeting was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 21 - 22 November, 2016. Seventeen member States were represented at the meeting. The Conference of Ministers is the top governance organ of RCMRD which gives political support and strategic direction. Hon. Vincent Biruta, Republic of Rwanda's Minister for Natural Resources officially opened the meeting. Among the main issues discussed included the mid-term review of implementation of RCMRD Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018. The Strategic Plan clearly identifies measures to implement for the Centre's core objectives to contribute to sustainable development. The review indicated that we achieved 74% of the planned targets and many additional activities were also implemented. This was an excellent performance.

Prior to the Conference of Ministers meeting, RCMRD Governing Council (GC) was held from 14 - 18, 2016 in the same venue. The GC is an organ of RCMRD that meets annually to review and approve RCMRD's Annual Work Plan, Budget and Human Resource Policies. It is composed of Permanent Secretaries from member States responsible for the activities of RCMRD.



*Delegates at the 10<sup>th</sup> RCMRD Conference of Ministers Meeting.*

## RCMRD Organizes Workshop to Support Land Policy Processes in Eastern Africa

There is a growing recognition that land issues can no longer be arbitrarily separated into rural or urban sectors and the city needs to be analyzed beyond its administrative boundary; in a broader territorial context. Land policies that promote spatial planning instruments such as regional, territorial and land use are necessary to ensure an efficient delivery of land resources.



*Participants from RCMRD member States who attended the workshop to support land policy processes in the Eastern Africa region.*

In Africa, a number of initiatives are being promoted to harness the land dimensions through the urban and territorial lens. Through the Africa Land Policy Initiative (LPI), the tripartite consortium of the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and the

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African governments have demonstrated their commitment to improve land governance.

In this regard, RCMRD, LPI, AUC, AfDB, ECA, and GLTN organized

a two-day workshop on using the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) to support land policy processes in Eastern Africa from 18 – 19 November, 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Particularly, the workshop's expected outcomes included enhanced awareness around the land policy process and IG-UTP in the Eastern and Southern African region, enhanced inter-sector policy dialogue among senior government officers involved in the management of land and dealing with physical/spatial planning, introduction of a monitoring framework for tracking progress and periodic reporting by countries on adoption /implementation of IG-UTP in land policy processes, and sharing of experiences and inspiring practices by countries as they develop/review their policies in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) and the IG-UTP.

### ***RCMRD Wins 3rd Best Paper at the 11th AARSE International Conference in Uganda***

Six senior staff from RCMRD attended the eleventh African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) International Conference, which took place in Kampala, Uganda from 24- 28, October 2016.

The main theme of the conference was "Our Earth, Our Heritage: Harnessing Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa".

The theme appreciated past efforts related to resource management

challenges and also addressed the changes in 2015 in the global discourse, particularly dealing with contemporary development challenges.

During the meeting, RCMRD presented eight papers and participated in three side events, including crop monitoring, land cover mapping, and disaster risk reduction. Dr. Mubea's paper was awarded third best presentation during the conference. Additionally, Dr. Hussein Farah, RCMRD Director General held a meeting with state Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda.

The discussion centered on support to the Ministry's staff on capacity development in the use of Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing in water resource management. Read more [here](#)



*The eleventh African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) International Conference in Uganda.*

## Training on Land Cover Mapping in Rwanda

RCMRD conducted a two week training on Land Cover Mapping in Rwanda from 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

The training was officially opened by Dr. Caudine Uwera, country coordinator, World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) Programme. The training on land cover mapping attracted close to 20 participants from Rwanda Natural Resource Authority (RNRA), Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), World Bank Waves Programme for Natural Capital Accounting (NCA), the University of Rwanda (UR), Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Geology and Mines



*RCMRD staff conducting a two-week Land Cover Mapping training in Rwanda.*

Department, and Department of Forest and Nature Conservation. RCMRD is partnering with the government of Rwanda and the World

Bank to deliver capacity development in land cover mapping for natural capital accounting in Rwanda for 2015.

## Land Information Management System Training at RCMRD



*Participants of the Land Information Management System Training Course held at RCMRD.*

Almost 80% of any development activity is related to land. Information regarding location, condition and type of interest people have over land is needed for proper planning, sound policy formulation and timely and equitable services delivery to citizens. Nonetheless, there is

insufficient information and where it's available, it is in hard copies, making processing and analysis difficult. Therefore, this information should be structured and stored in digital databases and digital maps which are linked together for easier storage, retrieval, manipulation and

analysis.

Consequently, RCMRD conducted a one-week Land Information Management System (LIMS) training course from 17-21 October, 2016 to develop capacity in LIMS for its member States and Africa at large.

The objectives included enhancing the capability of participants in the development and use of LIMS concept and technology, providing the working knowledge required in the acquisition, preparation and management of LIMS database, and developing a core of trained LIMS personnel who can provide support for LIMS projects. Participants included surveyors, engineers, planners, land valuers and land administrators, geographers, agriculturists interested in the use, development, and management of LIMS.

## National Spatial Data Infrastructure Stakeholders Workshop in held in Tanzania

RCMRD in conjunction with Tanzania's Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development organized a one-day National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) stakeholders workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The workshop brought together high-level officials from various governmental and non-governmental institutions in Tanzania.

The objectives of the workshop included introducing the concept of NSDI to enhance awareness on the importance of having an operational geospatial data acquisition, collection, analysis, decision making and dissemination with others in the



*National Spatial Data Infrastructure stakeholders during the workshop held in Tanzania.*

workshop; giving an overview of RCMRD's support in the initiative; and setting up an interim committee to oversee the implementation of NSDI in Tanzania.

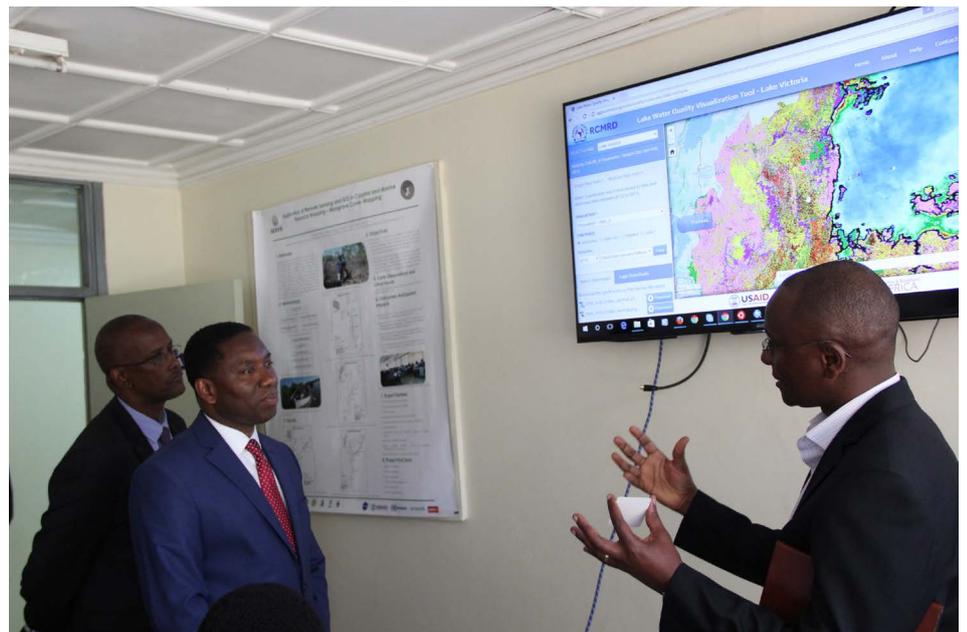
## Kenya's Minister for Mining Visits RCMRD

Hon. Dan Kazungu, Minister of Mining, Kenya visited RCMRD on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 on a familiarization tour of the Centre.

During the visit, the Minister met with Dr. Hussein Farah, the Director General, where a presentation of the Centre's activities and Projects was given. The Minister toured the Centre, where he interacted with staff and got first-hand experience of the activities.

The Minister said that he had come to see the challenges and aspirations of RCMRD that would in turn benefit both the Ministry and RCMRD.

The meeting discussed areas of co-operation with RCMRD on mapping of natural resources in Kenya. The Minister emphasized the importance of training staff in his ministry in the use of Earth Observation (EO) and GIS analysis.



*(From left) Dr. Mohamed, Hon. Kazungu and Dr. Mugo during the Cabinet Secretary's visit at RCMRD.*

The Minister said that Kenya was undertaking an ambitious programme of mapping the natural resources of the entire country.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed,

Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Mining and Dr. Wargute, Director Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS).

## RCMRD Provides Sentinel 2 Data to Member States

RCMRD provided Sentinel 2 datasets to 16 member States during the fiftieth Governing Council held from 14- 18 November, 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Sentinel 2 mission is a land monitoring constellation of two satellites that provide high resolution imagery and provide continuity for the current SPOT and Landsat missions.

The mission provides a global coverage of the Earth's land surface every 10 days with one satellite and 5 days with 2 satellites, making the data of great use in on-going studies.



*Sentinel 2 imagery in natural color.*

It provides data at 10m and 20m for land cover mapping in different channels, 13 in all. Data from the satellite is useful in land observation, land use and change detection,

providing support in generating land cover classes, disaster relief support, climate change monitoring, among other applications.

## Information Communication Technology Training for Botswana

RCMRD conducted a two-week Information Communication Technology (ICT) System Integration and Data Migration training for participants from Botswana Ministry of Lands and Housing.

The Ministry is establishing a new digital land information system and therefore requires to migrate data from the current system to the new land information system skills on preparation of data, data quality



*ICT training for Botswana participants.*

assessment and best practices for proper migration of data. The course covered information technology governance, data warehousing,

system integration, cloud computing, data security, information security quality management, among other topics.

## Web Mapping Training Held in Uganda

RCMRD conducted web mapping training workshop for various government institutions in Uganda from 5 – 9 December, 2016.

The objective of the training was to introduce participants to the basic concepts of spatial data organization and management.

The training introduced an open source software called Geonode, which is a software platform for organizing web-based Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and Geospatial Information Systems.



*The four-day GeoNode training workshop at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Kampala, Uganda*

Participants were trained on GeoNode installation, use and administration. It drew participants from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Agricul-

ture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Makerere University and Kyambogo University.

# Pictorial



*Participants of the Esri Eastern Africa User Conference held in Kisumu, Kenya.*



*Applied Science Team 3-day Developers Workshop on Regional Hydrologic Extremes Assessment System (RHEAS) at RCMRD.*



*The 6th Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference in Ethiopia.*



*The 2015 Land Cover Mapping inception workshop in Rwanda.*