



Welcome to RCMRD News

In the 13th issue of our quarterly e-newsletter we highlight activities that have taken place from April to June, 2017. We hosted the United States Congressional Staff Director, Mr. Gregory Simpkins. He was accompanied by Ms. Lesley Warner a Professional Staff Member from the US House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Democratic Office).

RCMRD 2016 Annual report was released. The annual report includes reports from all RCMRD directorates from 1st January to 31st December, 2016.

We officially admitted 160 students for Diploma in Land Survey, Diploma in Cartography and GIS, and Diploma in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing courses in June, 2017.

We took part in several regional and global events including the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) global partnership in Rwanda and 1st GEOGLOWS business meeting in the United States of America, to name a few.

In the last three months we've also conducted and attended workshops and training activities including, Regional Training Workshop on GIS for Agricultural Statistics and Monitoring, Workshop on Improving GHG Accounting for the AFOLU Sector, among others.

Wishing you a happy reading....

United States Congressional Staff Director Visit

The United States House Sub-committee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights and International Organizations Staff Director Mr. Gregory Simpkins visited RCMRD on April 11th, 2017. He was accompanied by Ms. Lesley Warner a Professional Staff Member from the US House of Representatives, Committee on Foreign Affairs (Democratic Office).

Upon his arrival at RCMRD, Mr. Simpkins' delegation met RCMRD management and senior staff before visiting some of the facilities at the Centre.



Mr. Simpkins, Prof. Kiema and Dr. Mugo during the visit.

Mr. Simpkins tour objectives to the East Africa Region were to familiarize himself on: i) Counter Violence Extremism, ii) Democratic Governance updates of Kenya's election process and iii) Regional Climate Change. His visit to RCMRD was organized in collaboration with USAID and selected partners working on regional climate change and resilience issues within the region. RCMRD was requested to host the event by USAID since it hosts the SERVIR Regional Hub for Eastern and Southern Africa. Click [here](#) for full story.

RCMRD 2016 Annual Report Released

RCMRD 2016 Annual report was released in May, 2017. The annual report includes reports from all RCMRD directorates from 1st January to 31st December, 2016.

RCMRD is obliged to make this information public pursuant to the Agreement establishing the Centre. Click [here](#) to read the RCMRD 2016 Annual report.

SERVIR Global Service Planning Exchange at RCMRD

The SERVIR global network convened a four-day Service Planning Exchange RCMRD, SERVIR's Eastern & Southern Africa Hub.

Representatives from SERVIR-West Africa, SERVIR-Hindu Kush-Himalaya, and SERVIR-Mekong made the trip to Nairobi on April 24-27 along with USAID, NASA, and SERVIR Support Team personnel.

The Service Planning Exchange was the first exchange focused primarily on the theme and was part of a multi-phased initiative to improve and enhance the practical application of the Service Planning Approach by the SERVIR Hubs.

In addition to in-depth discussions on the existing four Service Planning

Toolkit tools, there were working sessions. Read full story [here](#)



Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza, Director General, RCMRD, addressing attendees of the SERVIR Global Service Planning Exchange.

Director General Attends WAVES Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

Between June 5 and 7, 2017 RCMRD's Director General, Dr. Emmanuel

Nkurunziza participated in the Seventh Waves annual partnership

edition in Kigali, Rwanda.

Since its inception in 2010, the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) global partnership brings together WAVES partners from developed and developing countries, high-level government officials, United Nations agencies, academics, and experts from think tanks and non-governmental organizations at its Annual Partnership Meeting.

This year's meeting was to share experiences and lessons on implementation and use of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA), with a focus on land and ecosystem accounts; discuss measures required for effective policy use of NCA; and update the partnership on regional and global progress. Click [here](#) for full story.



There were three thematic sessions focusing on land and ecosystem accounts, policy use of NCA and institutionalization of NCA at the country level.

Uganda's State Ministers Onsite Visit

RCMRD welcomed Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, State Minister of Housing, and Hon. Isaac Musumba, State Ministers of Urban Planning, Republic of Uganda who toured the Centre, where they interacted with staff and witnessed the different activities taking place.

During their visit they toured RCMRD facilities and in particular

the following offices: Remote Sensing Lab; Geo Information Services (GIS) and Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) GIS/MESA lab; Data office; Engineering Workshop; the SERVIR Eastern and Southern Africa project and the Information Technology Training Centre (ITTC).

They praised the important services

RCMRD was providing to its member States and beyond.

They assured the RCMRD staff of continued support by the Council of Ministers to enable RCMRD achieve its mission.

Their visit was preceded by a visit from Mrs. Dorcas W. Okalany, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development, Republic of Uganda and a member of the RCMRD Governing Council on Tuesday, 9th May 2017.

On February 21, 1975, Uganda was the first signatory to the Agreement establishing the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying and Mapping (RCSSM) now RCMRD.



Hon. Dr. Baryomunsi and Hon. Musumba at the Remote Sensing lab during their visit.

Reps from the Kingdom of Lesotho Call on RCMRD



Representatives from the Kingdom of Lesotho during their courtesy call to RCMRD.

Mrs. Nthomeng Mapitso Panyane the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftain-

ship, Kingdom of Lesotho visited RCMRD.

The Principal Secretary was accompanied by the Director of Housing and the Director of Decentralization in the same ministry.

They were received by Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza, the Director General, on behalf of the management of the Centre and held a brief meeting.

The delegates came to familiarize themselves with activities taking place at RCMRD and paid a courtesy call on Dr. Nkurunziza who assumed the mantle of CEO in February this year.

Adding New Tools for Tracking a Changing Landscape

Monitoring land cover change over time is essential to understanding ecosystem health, biodiversity, forest carbon cycling, and much more. Land cover/land use (LCLU) data and maps are critical components for climate monitoring applications such as Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reports.

During the past few years, RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA has been supporting several African countries in GHG emissions inventory by generating Landsat-derived land cover maps in close consultation with end-users in forest departments and environmental ministries.

The maps constitute the results needed for the countries' submittals of Natio-



Workshop on the "Use of Agriculture Land Use tool for (GHG) Inventory Compilation" at RCMRD.

nal Communications to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

to quantify the GHG inventory. Read full story [here](#)

Regional Training Workshop on GIS for Agricultural Statistics and Monitoring

A 4-day (March 21-24, 2017) SIGMA Regional Training Workshop on GIS for Agricultural Statistics and Monitoring was held at RCMRD.

The workshop aimed at gathering regional stakeholders and institutions active in agricultural monitoring and statistics, and interested in innovations in satellite and in-situ geospatial technologies for monitoring of agriculture.

The workshop was jointly organized by RCMRD, ITC (Arno Van Lieshout, Eduard Westinga) and VITO (Roel Van Hoolst), together with expert contributors from the SIGMA partner consortium IIASA (Linda See), GISAT (Neha Joshi) and



Participants at the SIGMA Regional Training Workshop on GIS for Agricultural Statistics and Monitoring held at RCMRD.

EFTAS (Carsten Haub).

ITC and VITO led the workshop to impart knowledge on efficient use

of Geo-Information for monitoring and mapping of various agricultural processes and systems.

RCMRD Conducts Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping Training in Uganda

Participants at the Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping Training in Kampala, Uganda.



RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA held a week-long training on Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping

Training in Kampala, Uganda beginning 20–24 March, 2017. The training was conducted by

the SERVIR E&SA Vulnerability Impacts and Assessments (VIA) team for national technical experts on technologies being applied in East Africa to assess climate change vulnerability to key development sectors.

The training builds on the Climate Change VIAs in the East African Community and the Lake Victoria Basin and RCMRD's VIA work in Malawi, and in the Northern rangelands of Kenya.

The training materials and tools used were open-source. Read more [here](#)

SERVIR E&SA Supports Tanzania's WARIDI Project

SERVIR E&SA is collaborating with USAID/Tanzania's Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) in applying expertise and tools to better understand climate change vulnerability and adaptation issues in the Wami-Ruvu and Rufiji river basins of southern Tanzania.

This is a 5-year project providing support in water resources governance, water supply, sanitation and hygiene, and livelihoods to basin water boards, local governments and inhabitants of the two basins.

Working with regional partners among them PREPARED, ICPAC

and FEWSNET and national partners in Tanzania. Read more [here](#)



Climate change vulnerability mapping training workshop participants in Tanzania.

Workshop on Improving GHG Accounting for the AFOLU Sector

RCMRD, SERVIR Applied Science Team (AST-II), and SERVIR-ESA organized a five-day workshop in Entebbe, Uganda from May 1 – 5, 2016.

This was the second workshop as part of the three planned workshops for the Green House Gas (GHG) Emission accounting.

The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity for GHG Accounting for the Agriculture Forest and Land Use (AFOLU) sector in Uganda and generate a complete inventory for the year and identifying data gaps.

In the first workshop, participants were expected to understand the



Workshop on Improving GHG Accounting for the AFOLU Sector in Uganda.

national circumstances as far as AFOLU sector reporting is concerned.

The second workshop used Agriculture Land Use tool software for AFOLU GHG reporting.

RCMRD Welcomes Diploma Students

RCMRD officially admitted 160 students for Diploma in Land Survey, Diploma in Cartography and GIS, and Diploma in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing courses in June, 2017.

There was a feeling of joy and excitement for the newly admitted students as they were being welcomed into the institution.

They asserted that they were eager to start learning at RCMRD. During the orientation ceremony, the students were addressed by Ag. Director General, Ag. Director Technical Services, Ag. Director Common Services, Digital Sur-

-veyor, among other professionals in the field of Surveying, Photogram-

-metry and Remote Sensing.



Students listening to a speech during the orientation ceremony.

Improving Uganda Land Cover Mapping with Sentinel Data

RCMRD/SERVIR E&SA conducted a one-week training on Sentinel Data Processing and Analysis in Kampala, Uganda.

The one-week course was identified after a needs assessment conducted in May 2016 in Uganda.

The stakeholders expressed interest in using free and open data from Sentinel in order to improve the current land cover maps in Uganda.

Sentinel program is a joint effort of European Space Agency and European Commission to replace and

continue existing older earth observation missions ensuring no data

gaps on global monitoring of environment and security. Click [here](#)



Training on Sentinel Data Processing and Analysis in Kampala, Uganda.

Pictorial



RCMRD Delegates attend ISRSE 37. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD at Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition Ministerial Conference. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD hosts Discourse on Sustainable Water Partnership. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD/SERVIR Team Attends Technology Exchange. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD Staff in Tree Planting Drive. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD attends Land Tenure Tools Knowledge Sharing Workshop in Uganda. Full story [here](#)



RCMRD at 1st GEOGLOWS business meeting in USA. Full story [here](#)



Surveying and Data Processing For Precise Applications training for Kenya National Highways Authority Surveyors.