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African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development

1ST AMESD FORUM
KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
1ST TO 4TH DECEMBER 2009

1ST ANNOUNCEMENT



Introduction

AMESD aims to increase the information management capacity of African regional and national institutions in support of decision makers by facilitating sustainable access to Africa-wide environmental information derived from Earth Observation (EO) technologies. The supply of information from Earth Observation Satellites is of relevance for a range of policies and their implementation and can ease the development of longer-term political vision for environmental management.

To facilitate this regional and continental vision, AMESD is organizing Fora gathering together representatives of participating African countries and regions and international entities active in the EO for environment to exchange experiences on the use of EO products and services and in the implementation of AMESD, towards improved environmental governance and policy making processes.

This should:

- (i) allow AMESD to maximize the use of existing experience and capacities to reach its objective
- (ii) help to link policies and activities at regional and national level, and to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the program's outcomes for an efficient exploitation of the expected results and ensuring sustainability.

Objectives of the Forum - Putting in place the adequate networks

Now that the 5 regional AMESD thematic action plans are finalized and that the products and services to be developed by the 5 Regional Implementation Centers (RIC) i.e. AGRHYMET (Niamey), BDMS (Gaborone), CICOS (Kinshasa), ICPAC (Nairobi) and MOI (Mauritius) are defined, the 1ST AMESD Forum will present the program objectives, expected results, status of implementation and the institutional framework of the program at the national, regional and continental levels.





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The primary objective of the Forum is therefore **to allow putting in place the necessary and adequate networks** within African and in between international and African institutions for the effective development of the use of earth observation data for a better management and monitoring of the African environment.

The general idea is to gather the community having (at least potentially) a link with AMESD or some interest to be well aware of AMESD and to position oneself with respect to this programme. The invitation process of key people (sponsored or not) and of distribution of the first announcement will be conceived in order to create and build a community, and to act in subsequent steps of the program (2nd Forum and beyond) to sustain this community and make it perennial.

The operational objectives of the Forum will be three-fold.

Objective 1: Consolidate the continental dimension of the project maximizing the use of existing experience and capacities and creating synergies;

Objective 2: Position AMESD at the international level and with respect with major projects related to Earth Observation applied to Environmental monitoring;

Objective 3: Allow AMESD linking policies and activities at continental, regional and national level, and ensuring that stakeholders are aware of the program's outcomes for an efficient exploitation of the expected results and products for further sustainability.

Furthermore, the Forum will also be the occasion to:

Objective 4: Inform the users' community on the AMESD implementation agenda mainly on the deployment of infrastructures and the development of the products and services.

Preliminary Programme

Day 1

Starting

- ✓ Opening ceremony
- ✓ Invited speakers belonging to key institutions
- ✓ Inauguration of exhibition stands

AMESD general presentation

- ✓ The institutional dimension (speeches by AMESD partners)
- ✓ The project concept
- ✓ Data acquisition
- ✓ Training strategy, etc.





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Day 2

THEMA presentations. The day is divided in five sequential sessions arranged by type of applications or environmental topics (agriculture, drought, river monitoring, etc.).

Each session, will include a speech on each AMESD THEMA, and two or three invited speakers on connected projects.

Day 3

Several sub-sessions organized in plenary, with an introductory invited speaker for each sub-session. Examples of sub-sessions linked to networking activities:

- ✓ Products with pan African potential
- ✓ Synergies and networks between AMESD and other projects
- ✓ Strengthening of national and regional partnerships and networks

At the end of day 3: **Conclusion and recommendations**

Day 4

- ✓ Inauguration of the CICOS receiving station, in situ demonstration of the EUMETSAT products and e-stations.
- ✓ Technical excursion on the Congo River

Location

The 1st AMESD Forum will be held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 1st to 4th December 2009. It will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT) of the Democratic Republic of Congo and jointly organized in close collaboration with the "Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo - Oubangui – Sangha" (CICOS), Kinshasa and the AMESD Program.

The sessions will take place in the auditorium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Participants

The 1st AMESD Forum is open to all interested participants in the use of Earth Observation for Environment in Africa (AMESD stakeholders, users, data and product providers, software and hardware providers, UN institutions, public and private entities, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, Research Institutes and Universities, etc.).

Sponsorship

In order to facilitate the participation to this 1st Forum, the AMESD program will sponsor the participation of one representative of each REC (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IOC, IGAD, SADC, ACP Secretariat) (6), two representatives of each RIC (AGRHYMET, CICOS, MOI, BDMS, ICPAC) (10) as well as one representative of each 47 African ACP countries (47). The latter will be designated in close collaboration with the RIC. The AUC staff, the AMESD Technical Assistance team and the TA-Consortium will also be represented and sponsored under the AMESD budget.





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Extra sponsorship will be analyzed on an ad hoc basis later on. All sponsored participants will be selected personally by the AMESD Program Coordination Team (PCT).

Registration

In addition to these participants, we are expecting some 150 non-sponsored participants. All participants will have to register by fax +251 11 416 7448 using the registration form which will be posted on the AMESD website with the second announcement around 15th August 2009. Opening of the registration will be indicated on the latter web site.

Language

The Forum will be held in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation.

Accommodation

Sponsored participants to the Forum will be accommodated in two different hotels for ease of transportation. Special rates are being negotiated for all Forum participants. Non sponsored participants are free to choose their accommodation keeping in mind that transport will be only organized from the two hotels mentioned above. Regular prices of accommodations are as follows:

N°	Name of Hotel	Single	Double	Suite
01	MEMLING	277\$ USD	317\$ USD	442\$ USD
02	GRAND HOTEL	302\$	356,5 \$	614\$
03	VENUS	210\$	260\$	300\$
04	MARIKA	80\$	140\$	160\$
05	AFROMORSIA/Ma campagne	200\$	250\$	300\$
06	HOTEL TOURBILLON	60\$	-	-
07	HOTEL TAVA	20\$	25\$	30\$
08	HOTEL LUNTU	75\$,85\$,90\$	115\$	170\$

For AMESD participants, the program will cover the cost of hotel accommodation (bed and breakfast). For all other expenses (telephone, internet, bar, laundry, etc.) participants will have to pay themselves.





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How to reach Kinshasa?

Departure	Depart city	Transit	Arrival	Days (1 - 7)	Dep. Time	Arr. Time	Company
Angola	Luanda	Direct	Kinshasa	1,3,4,6	15h00	17h00	Taag
Benin	Cotonou	Nairobi		2,4,6	22h45	10h00	Kenya airways
Botswana	Gaborone	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	19H00	12H00	South africa a
Burkina faso	Ouagadougou	Casablanca		4,6	03h00	23h00	Royal air maroc
Burundi	Bujumbura	Nairobi		1 à 7	04h00	09h45	Kenya airways
Capo verde	Illha do sal	Lisbonne+ paris		1,3,5,6	01h00	18h00+1	Tap + air france
Cameroun	Douala	Nairobi		1 à 7	22h00	09h45	Kenya airways
	Yaounde	Nairobi		1,3,6	22h00	09h45	Kenya airways
Chad	N'Djamena	Addis		2,4,7	14 h30	12h50	Ethiopian
Comores	Moroni	Nairobi		2,4,6	14h00	09h45	Kenya airways
Congo brazza	Brazzaville	Beach					
Cote d'ivoire	Abidjan	Nairobi		1,2,5,6	21h10	09h45	Kenya airways
Djibouti	Djibouti	Addis		1 à 7	18h20	12h50	Ethiopian
Eritrea	Asmara	Caire, nairobi		3,4,6,7	05h00	09h45+1	Egypt air +Kenya
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Direct		1 à 7	10h40	12h50	Ethiopian
Gabon	Libreville	Addis		1,2,3,5,6	12h35	12h50	Ethiopian
Gambia	Banjul	Dakar,nairobi		2,4,5,7	12h20	09h45	Kenya airways
Ghana	Accra	Nairobi		1 à 7	20h50	09h45	Kenya airways
Guinea bissau	Bissau	Dakar,nairobi		2,4,5,7	12h45	09h45	Kenya airways
Guinea conakry	Conakry	Casablanca		3,6	03h40	23h15	Royal air maroc
Guinee equatoriale	Malabo	Nairobi		2,5	23h25	09h45	Kenya airways
Kenya	Nairobi	Direct		1 à 7	08h15	09h45	Kenya airways
Lesotho	Maseru	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	16h45	12h00	South Africa a
Liberia	Monrovia	Nairobi		1,3,6	17h30	09h45	Kenya airways
Madagascar	Antananarivo	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	14h45	12h00	South Africa a
Malawi	Chileka	Jobourg		6	13h30	12h00	South Africa a
Mali	Bamako	Nairobi		3,5,7	19h30	09h45	Kenya airways
Mauritania	Nouakchott	Casablanca		3,6	03h40	23h15	Royal air maroc
Mauritius	Vacoas/Mau rice	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	16h30	12h10	South Africa a
Mozambique	Maputo	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	16h00	12h10	South Africa a
Namibia	Windhoeck	Jobourg		2,4,6,7	20h00	12h10	South Africa a
Niger	Niamey	Casablanca		3,6	03h00	23h15	Royal air maroc
Nigeria	Lagos	Nairobi		2,4,6	10h40	09h45	Kenya airways
Rca	Bangui	Douala	Brazzaville	2,5	10h10	15h45	Toumai + air service
Rdc	Lubumbashi	Direct		1 à 7	08h30	10h00	Hewa bora
	Kisangani	Direct		2,5	15h45	16h15	Hewa bora
Rwanda	Kigali	Nairobi		1à 7	04h00	09h45	Kenya airways
Sao Tome et Principe	Sao Tome	Lisbonne+ paris		5	06h00	18h00+1	Tap + air France
Senegal	Dakar	Nairobi		2,3,5,7	17h30	09h45	Kenya airways
Seychelles	Mahe	Nairobi		2,4,7	14h15	09h45	Kenya airways
Sierra leone	Freetown	Nairobi		2,4,5,7	17h30	09h45	Kenya airways
Sudan	Karthoum	Addis		1 à 7	06h35	12h50	Ethiopian
Swaziland	Mbabane	Jobourg		1,3,5,7	09h10	12h10	South africa a
Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam	Nairobi		1 à 7	05h25	09h45	Kenya airways
Togo	Lome	Addis		1,3,5	11h00	12h50	Ethiopian
Uganda	Kampala	Nairobi		1 à 7	05h10	09h45	Kenya airways
Zambia	Lusaka	Nairobi		1 à 7	00h05	09h45	Kenya airways
Zimbabwe	Harare	Nairobi		2,4 ,6	02h20	09h45	Kenya airways



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Background information on AMESD

The African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) initiative takes the Preparation for Use of MSG in Africa (PUMA) project a stage further by extending the operational use of Earth observation technologies and data to environmental and climate monitoring applications. It will also be the precursor of the extension of Europe's Global Monitoring of the Environment and Security initiative to Africa (GMES Africa)

Launched in 2007, AMESD is scheduled to run to 2012 and receives funding of 21 million euro from the European Commission through the European Development Fund. The programme is managed by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A steering committee, composed by the main AMESD stakeholders: five Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, SADC, CEMAC, IGAD, IOC) and the ACP secretariat, is providing guidance to the programme. The program addresses the need for improved environmental monitoring towards sustainable management of natural resources in four regions of sub-Saharan Africa, namely CEMAC, ECOWAS, ESA-IO (where IGAD and IOC are included) and SADC.



AMESD objective is to provide all African nations with the resources they need to manage their environment more effectively and ensure long-term sustainable development in the region. Most importantly, AMESD aims to improve the lives and prospects of the 350 million disadvantaged people in Africa currently enduring poverty and hardship, and whose livelihoods depend heavily on their environment.

AMESD aims to provide decision-makers in the Regional Economic Communities, the Commission of the African Union and at national level with full access to the environmental data and products they need to improve national and regional policy and decision-making processes.

AMESD is establishing operational regional information services to support and improve the decision-making process in the field of environmental management, focusing on the following five themes. Each theme is implemented in the region by a so-call Regional Implementation Centre (RIC), which is in charge of creating a regional network of partners to achieve the objective of the programme.

- ✓ **Water resources management** in the region of the Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), implemented under the leadership of the Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo - Oubangui - Sangha (CICOS), in Kinshasa, Congo.
- ✓ **Agricultural and environmental resource management** in the region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), implemented under the leadership of Botswana Meteorological Service Department, in Gaborone, Botswana.





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- ✓ **Land degradation and desertification mitigation, and natural habitat conservation**, in the region of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), implemented under the leadership of the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ✓ **Marine and coastal management** in the region of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), implemented under the leadership of the Mauritius Oceanographic Institute (MOI), in Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius.
- ✓ **Crop and rangeland management** in the region of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), implemented under the leadership of the Centre AGRHYMET of the Comité Permanent Inter Etats de lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), in Niamey, Niger.

AMESD horizontal activities

In addition to the thematic activities presented above, the AMESD programme is also performing horizontal activities, aiming at ensuring sustainability beyond the duration of the AMES D project. These activities are:

- ✓ Maintenance and upgrade of the PUMA infrastructure, namely the EUMETCast reception stations in the African National Meteorological Services.
- ✓ Deployment of new EUMETCast station to facilitate the dissemination of AMESD products in the continent
- ✓ Specialized training on the use of Earth Observation data for Environment management.
- ✓ Institutional development activities aiming at helping African political institutions at national, regional and continental level in making sound use of earth Observation information in their decision making processes and in support to their environmental policies.

In helping to establish national, regional and continental environmental information processes, frameworks and activities, AMESD will also enable African governments to meet effectively their obligations regarding international environmental treaties and participate in strategic global environment surveillance programs such as Europe's GMES initiative and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) initiative. AMESD has been recognized as one of the First 100 Steps to GEOSS by the Group of Earth Observation.





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Contact

MECNT

Avenue Papa Ileo n° 15

Kinshasa/Gombe

Tel.: +243 81 07 90 627

Email: contact@mecnt.cd

P. O. Box 12 348 Kinshasa

Website: www.mecnt.cd



Creation

The Ministry was created by Ordinance No. 75-231 of 23th July 1975 under the name of Department of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism.

SECTORS OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Missions

They are defined in accordance with the decree No. 03/025 of 16th September 2003.

- ✓ The management of forests, zoological and botanical gardens;
- ✓ The regulation of hunting and fishing, the protection of fauna and flora;
- ✓ The promotion and coordination of all activities relating to environment and nature conservation, exploitation of forest resources and aquatic resources;
- ✓ The development of standards related to human environmental health;
- ✓ The creation of the human settlements by the development of the green areas and amusement parks;
- ✓ The implementation of environmental impact assessments, industrial pollution and environmental sanitation;
- ✓ The creation and the management of protected areas and related reserves (national parks, hunting reserves and aquatic resources);
- ✓ The creation and the management of water ecosystems and forests;
- ✓ The creation and the management of wildlife stations capture;
- ✓ The monitoring and technical supervision of public and private enterprises working in the field of environment and nature conservation.



Attributions

Among its main functions, the MECNT is responsible for defining national policies for sustainable environmental management and preservation of biodiversity, forest, aquatic ecosystems and the development of plans for implementing those policies, their monitoring and their further evaluation.

The sustainable management of water resources and the regulation of all activities that affect aquatic ecosystems are also under its jurisdiction and justify its presidency of the CICOS in 2009. In addition, the MECNT ensure the implementation of regional, sub-regional and international treaties, conventions and agreements related to forest, water resources and conservation of nature.

Finally, the Ministry ensures the technical supervision of three public companies which are (i) The Congolese Institute for the Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Institute of Zoological and Botanical Gardens of Congo (IJZC) and the National Tourism Office (ONT).



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CICOS

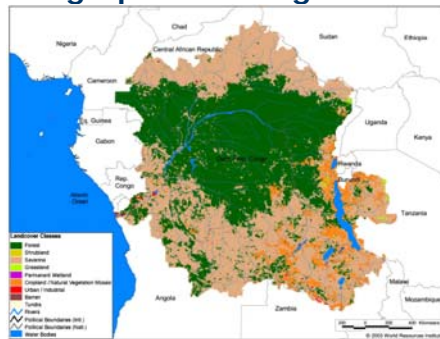
**THE AMESD REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION CENTRE (RIC):
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONGO-UBANGUI-
SANGHA BASIN (CICOS)**

Institutional Background

The Agreement Setting a Uniform River Regime and Creating CICOS for Inter-States navigation facilitation was signed on the 6th November 1999 by the Heads of State of Republic of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo. An Additive to this Agreement was signed on 22nd February 2007 to enlarge its mandate to **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**. CICOS has now the status of Basin Agency.

The institutional framework is constituted from a Ministers' Committee, Decision body, a Steering Committee, Guiding body and a General Secretariat, Implementation body. The Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo is chairing the CICOS Ministers' Committee in 2009.

Geographical background



The Congo River Basin is the first African and second largest in the world with a area of 3,700,000 km² and 25 000 km of interior waterways. The mean discharge at Kinshasa is 40,000 m³/s (the second after the Amazon River). The main Congo River tributaries are the Ubangui, the Kasai and the Sangha Rivers

Missions

The CICOS initial missions are:

- ✓ To establish an exchange platform between Member States to harmonize interior navigation conditions
- ✓ To promote transports facilitation and Inter-States trade ;
- ✓ To secure interior navigation.

The additive enlarges its missions to the IWRM

On-going activities

- ✓ Interior navigation promotion (GTZ support)
- ✓ African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (**AMESD**, European Commission support to African Union);
- ✓ CICOS Strategic Action Plan Preparation (**PAS**) de la CICOS (African Development Bank support, AfDB) ;
- ✓ Congo Basin Information System (**SIBCO**, GTZ support) ;
- ✓ Water resources providing Countries Interests Defense in the inter-basin water transfer project from Ubangui sub-basin to Lake Chad basin (CEEAC mandate).

Contact

Kinshasa, RDC, Tel.: +243 (0)815553676, E-mail: cicos_inst@cicos.info, Website: www.cicos.info



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: THE FACTS

History

Established as a Belgian colony in 1908, the Democratic Republic of the Congo gained its independence on June, 30 1960. Joseph Kasavubu ruled the country from 1960 to 1965. Col. Joseph Mobutu remained President for 32 years, from 1965 to 1997, changing the country name to Zaire. Laurent Desire Kabila succeeded him in 1997. President Joseph Kabila Kabangué is currently ruling the country since January 2001. He launched the Five Works to rebuild the country.

Climate

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a country spread over Equateur. It offers four types of climate:

- Equatorial climate (Orientale Province, Equateur and northern parts of Maniema, Bandundu and the two Kasai);
- Humid tropical climate (Northern part of Orientale Province, Equateur and northern parts of Maniema, Bandundu and two Kasai); peculiar rainfall pattern with all year long rains
- Tropical climate with long dry season (Orientale in the southern parts of Bandundu, the two Kasai and Katanga);
- Littoral climate (Orientale Province, Equateur and northern parts of Maniema, Bandundu and two Kasai);

Geography

This vast country located in Central Africa is covering an area of 2.345.000 Km². It has nine neighboring countries with 9.165 km of boundaries. It is considered as the hub for African markets and for Central, Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern African roads. Democratic Republic of Congo belongs to several Regional Economic Communities: SADC, ECCAS, COMESA.

Kinshasa

The capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa, formerly Leopoldville, is located at the Congo left river bank of the Stanley Pool at less than 25 km from Brazzaville, the capital city of the Republic of Congo. Initially a site of fishing villages, it is now a major urban centre with approximately 8 million inhabitants competing with Johannesburg for the status of the second largest city in sub-Saharan Africa and the third largest in the whole continent after Lagos and Cairo. It is often considered the second largest francophone city in the world after Paris. However, the other spoken language in the country are Lingala, Swahili, Tshiluba and Kikongo. Lingala is largely spoken in Kinshasa.

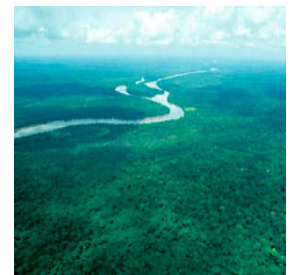
Contact

For more information please visit:

RDC Website <http://www.rdcongo-tourisme.com/accueil.php>

The Kinshasa Website <http://www.kinshasa-congo.com/>

The Presidency Website www.presidencercdc.cd



The Democratic Republic of the Congo is by far the most biologically rich country in Africa.
© Photo: wcs.org



Kinshasa and the Stanley pool © NASA



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Additional Matters

Further information will be forwarded to you through the 2nd announcement which will be published around 15th August 2009. This extra information will concern:

- Detailed Program and Agenda
- Exhibition / stands
- Call for papers
- Visas

Contact AMESD Headquarter

Mailing address

AMESD Headquarters
African Union Commission
P.O. Box 200288 Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Physical address

AMESD Headquarters
YEZELALEM Building, 2nd Floor
Kirkos Kefele Ketema
Kebele 10
House No 445
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Tel. Switch Board: +251(0)114163227
Fax: +251(0)114167448