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Geo-Information for Poverty Alleviation in Africa

**EIGHTH AFRICAGIS
CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
September, 17th – 21st, 2007**



International Organizing Committee
Local Organizing Committee
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Announcement & Call for papers

Introduction

The objective of *AFRICAGIS* is to be a meeting platform for both African and International professionals from the Geo-Information field share knowledge and experience, network, and work together to improve present applications of GIS technology and develop more advanced techniques suited to the African needs.

AFRICAGIS was first launched in Tunis in 1993 by The Observatory for the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS) and the United Nation's Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Since then, the conference has been held successively in Abidjan, Côte-d'Ivoire in 1995, Gaborone, Botswana in 1997, Accra, Ghana in 1999, Nairobi, Kenya in 2001, Dakar, Senegal in 2003, and Tshwane, South Africa in 2005. The series of conferences is organized by a consortium composed of EIS-Africa, the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) and The African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS).

The eighth Conference, "AfricaGIS2007", will take place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, under the support of the Burkinabe Government who put in place a Local Organizing Committee chaired by the Minister for Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research, assisted by a number of national institutions and others from the sub-region. Among these institutions are the Universities of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, the National Environmental Information Management Program (PNGIM), the Geographic Institute of Burkina (IGB), the International Institute for Water and Environment (2iE, formerly EIER-ETSHER Group), the Burkina National Tourism Office (ONTB), the SIGET-Adjaratou Centre, the Center for Studies, Research, and Production of Environment and Sustainable Development Information (CERPINEDD), the Burkina Association of Scientific Women (AFSCI-B), The Authority for Liptako Gourma's Integrated Development (ALG), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and directorates from various ministries.

Date and Venue

AFRICAGIS2007 will be held from September 17th – 21st, 2007 in the premises of the "Ouaga 2000 Conference Complex", in the southern part of Ouagadougou, capital city of Burkina Faso.

Pre and post conference workshops are planned besides the main event. As of May 3rd 2007, the following workshops were proposed:

- A workshop planned for September 3rd -14th, 2007 by the AARSE with the theme: Geoinformation and food security (to be confirmed).
- A workshop planned by the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) / IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE_GRSS) on September 15th – 16th, 2007
- A post-conference awareness raising and hands-on training workshop planned by ESRI on September 23rd -25th, 2007 (duration and dates to be confirmed)

Theme and sub-themes

The major theme of *AFRICAGIS2007* is "Geo-Information for Poverty Alleviation in Africa". Since a decade ago, poverty alleviation is at the heart of development policies and foreign aid ideologies worldwide. Success in taking up this challenge depends on our knowledge of the poverty phenomenon and its spatial distribution. Geo-information can contribute to solving the complex management and sustainable development issues in general, and those of the African Continent in particular. It allows, inter alia, for proper allocation of resources, understanding of the constraints related to access to the same resources, assessment of resource management strategies, and poverty and destitution eradication policy reforms in accordance with the quality and relevance of the available data. The *AFRICAGIS2007* conference and exhibition is

AfricaGIS'2007, organized by the Ministry of Secondary, Higher Education and Scientific Research in partnership with EIS-AFRICA, the Network for a co-operative management of environmental information in Africa, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), and African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS)

envisioned to offer opportunities to share experiences aimed at explaining the importance and role of geo-information in the fight against poverty. To this end, five (5) sub-themes will cover the various aspects of the main theme.

1. Geo-Information and the multidimensional vision of Poverty

Poverty reflects many aspects and is subject to a multifaceted perception. Availability of geo-referenced data in the area of Energy, Habitat, Socio-economic Infrastructure, Waste Management, Health, etc. allows combining and visualizing various indicators used to measure the many components of Poverty in their multidimensional expression. Although poverty mapping is a recent technique, it provides a proven improvement on the planning and implementation of poverty alleviation action. Contributing authors in this field are invited to share their relevant experiences in integrating the multifaceted perception of poverty by poverty mapping. Further, those experts will highlight the linkages between poverty mapping and the distribution of the efforts deployed by the governments and civil societies in the poverty alleviation action in Africa.

2. Geographic Information and Risk Management

The unexpected and repeated occurrence of natural hazards or social crises leaves communities in extreme poverty. Satellite-based monitoring facilities offer prevention means for all kinds of risks to users and decisions makers. Access to timely information allows for risks understanding, analysis, and management in order to mitigate their disastrous effects. Contributions to this sub-theme should deal with issues related to the use of geo-information in risk prevention and management, such as in epidemics, flooding, fire, desertification, etc.

3. Geo-Information, Land Management and Urban Planning

Civil engineering constructions such as dams, bridges or roads, sanitation operation in a human settlement, changing the land use of an area, managing the cadastre, etc. are many causes of significant change in the urban landscape. Such actions require the combination of multi-source information to be analyzed as accurately as possible. Given the diversity of data required in the Southern hemisphere's cities - more often sites of extreme poverty (mainly in the suburbs, spatially and socially marginalized portion of the African cities) – geo-information technologies are best suited for the management of the exponential spatial and demographic expansion of the urban areas and their development planning. Similarly, in agriculture-based economies such as in Africa, controlling land use is of great interest to the populations and development support institutions. Contributions related to this particular sub-theme strives to show how geo-information can contribute to optimized land management and town planning/management.

4. Space Technology and Geo-Information for Sustainable Development

When it comes to the use of space technology for geo-information production, African nations appear to be at varying stages of advancement. Whereas certain countries are in a preliminary stage, others have reached an advanced level. Only an adapted partnership can promote the sharing and/or the exchange of experiences between countries in order to bring the continent to an optimal level of space technology use, in accordance with the level of available resources. Discussions under this sub-theme will provide the means to assess the level reached by the use of Space Technology and Geo-information applications in Africa, and reveal potential partnerships among countries.

5. National Geo-information Policies

In most African countries, Geo-information is characterized by its scattered nature and its burial inside various institutions far from co-operating among themselves to optimize its shared use. The development of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) is driven by the need to make available and promote the sharing of geo-information within and between countries. Which experiences, in Africa and elsewhere, can be used as sources of inspiration to overcome the Geo-information management constraints? Articles targeting this sub-theme are those showing the need to make available and accessible geospatial data in an adequate regulatory framework aiming at optimization of geo-information contribution to African countries' economic development and to poverty alleviation, taking advantage of the Information and Communication Technologies.

In addition to these sub-themes, ISPRS wish to see the following two sub-themes covered:

Capacity Building and International Cooperation: It is the theme of ISPRS's Working Group VI/3, which is relevant in showing the linkage between capacity and effective use of Geomatics and Remote Sensing in Africa with the contribution of the international cooperation on one hand and efficiency in poverty alleviation on the other hand.

Innovative Problem Solving Methodologies for Less Developed Countries: It is the theme of ISPRS's Working Group VII/7. It contributes to main theme of the conference.

Candidate authors are requested to stimulate the discussion on the different sub-themes that will be also used to subdivide the conference program into thematic blocks for the presentations, workshops, and the posting of geo-information products and services.

Who may participate?

AFRICAGIS is the largest geo-information science application event in Africa, and the first of its kind. It brings together professionals of the geo-information field, policy and decision-makers. Geoinformation Science professionals encompass experts from the various GI sectors, in particular Geoinformation Industry - Equipment/Instrument vendors, software developers, data brokers and system integrators, researchers, lecturers, students and domain experts willing to include the spatial dimension in their approaches. Any person interested in a particular component of the event, or simply willing to learn about geo-information science and its contribute to poverty alleviation is welcome. Similar to a market place, AfricaGIS is an open forum, a platform offered to country and institution delegates to share ideas and knowledge. Geo-information Industry representatives can showcase their new products and innovative services to a wide audience, Consultancy bureaus, service providers, governmental institutions, academia, can offer their services or make themselves known. Participants will be able to discover the latest advanced innovations from interaction with eminent scientists or discuss their respective concerns during workshops and learn new techniques during the training sessions offered.

Registration

Since May 3rd 2007, application fees and the corresponding deadlines have been re-adjusted by the International Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee during a joint meeting convened in Addis Ababa during the CODI V conference. Registration fees and closing dates are as follows:

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|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Before June 30 st 2007 | € 150 | FCFA 98 400 |
| Between July 1st and August 31st 2007 | € 180 | FCFA 118 100 |
| From 1st September 2007 | € 250 | FCFA 164.000 |
| Daily registration fee | € 70 | FCFA 45 900 |

The payment procedure is provided in the registration form (available online). Paying the registration fee entitles the participant to receive the conference package (including a bag, list of participants, brochure, badge, stationeries and conference proceedings), access to the opening cocktail, access to the stadium to play or watch a football match, access to the meeting rooms, coffee breaks, to be met on arrival at the airport, to be taken on bus from the hotel to the conference venue and back throughout the conference period.

Meals

Participants can choose between

- Local healthy meals served in the premises of the "Ouaga 2000 Conference Complex" during lunch breaks, from Monday to Friday at a reasonable price (payable along with the registration fee), and
- A second varied menu served in a sumptuous environment and at an affordable cost negotiated for the conference participants, in the premises of the SOFITEL Ouaga 2000, very close to the conference center.

Participants are kindly requested to specify their choices for lunch as quickly as possible when submitting their registration forms, to allow for the right size of each lunch options to be set.

Hotel room

Many hotels covering a wide range of standing ranks are available at Ouaga 2000 in the conference venue area at negotiated rates. Booking can be made on the registration form. Participants are encouraged to book a room as early as possible to facilitate the accommodation management.

Exhibition

Exhibition stands are available to interested institutions and individuals willing to showcase during the conference. A standard booth covers a floor of 9 m² (3m x 3m). However booths of 6 m² will be offered, as well as multiples of 9 m² modules. The exhibition space is set along the way leading to the plenary room, offering the best exposure and immersion of all booths in the flow of the public.

Booths renting fees start from € 200 and vary according to options in terms of floor space detailed on the Exhibition Registration Form, also available online. Registering for a booth entitles the user, in addition to the floor space acquired, to the following facilities:

- Two (2) chairs, one (1) table, one (1) electric power socket
- Appearance of name on conference program
- Free access to the conference rooms
- Possibility to organize special gathering in the available free space during the conference
- Opportunity to put an advertisement on the conference brochure

Institutions on the Exhibition Space offering in addition a donation for the conference are entitled to use the Website of AfricaGIS2007 for advertising their products and services, and spaces well suited in the exhibition area and in the conference proceedings.

As long as there is still ample space available on the Exhibition area, there will be no restrictions on the size of the area booked by one single or a group of exhibitors. Space allocation will be on the basis of "First Booked - First Served" with reference to the registration date. For ease of planning, all exhibitors are kindly requested to confirm their booking by paying the fees by August 31st 2007 at the latest.

Conference – Exhibition Program

On the first day of the Conference, the mid-day will be devoted to the official opening ceremony, followed by the inauguration of the Exhibition and its visit by the Authorities and the public. An introductory plenary for opening the discussion on the main theme of the conference and its sub-themes will follow. In the afternoon, the first parallel technical sessions will start. At the end of the day, an opening cocktail will be offered to break the ice and put all participants in the best position to interact and know better each other, and also to meet some of the host country's Authorities.

Every morning, the program starts with a plenary session and then a number of technical sessions that run in parallel.

On Wednesday, the first half of the morning will be reserved for the AGM of EIS-Africa. Other institutions may organize statutory meetings. The normal program with the technical sessions running in parallel will start after the morning coffee break. At the end of the day, an "SDI Football" match will take place. The teams are the African geo-information experts on one hand and, a coalition of their partners and colleagues, the Space Technology experts from the rest of the world on the other hand. This match will be followed by an open air tasting of the famous "Poulet Mademoiselle" of Ouagadougou.

On Thursday, the discussions on the sub-themes of the conference will continue, whereas on Friday morning, a side event, known as the Burkina/Canada Day, will be organized in the morning, while the normal program of the conference continues to unfold. On Friday afternoon the official closing of the conference will take place, and in the evening an award and "soirée de gala" will be organized to close the Ouagadougou AFRICAGIS2007 Conference and Exhibition. Distinguished Exhibitors, Authors of papers and Geo-information personalities will be rewarded during this evening.

On Saturday morning, two excursions to renowned tourist attraction sites near Ouagadougou are offered. From its launching - after the official opening of the conference - the exhibition will be open throughout the period of the conference.

Paper submission

Contribution authors must submit a one page abstract in French or English to the Local Organizing Committee before July 31st. Author of accepted papers will be notified in early August and invited to submit the full paper by August 31st at the latest.

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You are expected in Ouagadougou, on this African Land of Freedom, the Country of Honest People, looking forward to welcoming you, arms open, and committed to do their best to make your stay a memorable one.