

AfriGEOSS: Strengthening partnerships between Africa and the Diaspora on Earth Observation

GEO-XIV Plenary Side Event: 24 October 2017, 15h30 – 17h30

Room: Meridian B

The [AfriGEOSS](#) Initiative aims to improve the uptake of Earth Observations in decision-making in Africa. Its Action Areas include data and infrastructure for improved access to data; individual and institutional capacity development; addressing user needs and applications in areas such as water resource management, food security and agriculture, sustainable urban development and forest management, and climate services and adaptation. To achieve this goal, AfriGEOSS recognizes the need for strengthened intra-continental and international collaborations. The role of the African Diaspora is deemed critical in ensuring sustained international partnerships.

This side event will raise awareness on the AfriGEOSS Initiative and explore the emerging synergy between existing programmes such as the Cube/Nano satellites, African Space Programme and the growth in national Space Programs, as well as Geospatial Technology & Education in African countries. It will provide a much-needed forum for cross-collaboration among Researchers and Educators from Africa and partners in the Diaspora with particular focus on advancing uptake of EO through the AfriGEOSS initiative. The outcomes will outline potential areas of collaboration between African institutions and the Diaspora in realizing the use of Earth observations in achieving the 2063 African Union agenda and the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Conveners:

Andiswa Mlisa
AfriGEOSS Coordinator
GEO Secretariat
Email: amlisa@geosec.org

Henry Bulley
BMCC, City University of New York
Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow (2016)
Email: bulley@bmcc.cuny.edu

AfriGEOSS: <https://www.earthobservations.org/afrigeoss.php>

Programme:

15h30 Meet and Greet

15h35 Opening Remarks (*South Africa, GEO Africa Caucus Chair*)

15h45 AfrigeOSS Initiative (*Andiswa Mlisa, SANSA*)

15h55 Linking Africans and the African Diaspora to enhance Geospatial Science Curriculum & Research to benefit from EO (*Henry Bulley, BMCC, CUNY; Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow, 2016*)

16h05 Roundtable Discussions

Discussion Questions

How do we collaborate with the international experience and know-how of African Diaspora in EO capacity building for African countries to:

- i. Enhance Africa's capability to use EO in decision-making processes for achieving continental and global agendas?
- ii. Boost the development of human capital, especially youth and young women, in basic and applied Geospatial Science and Technology research?
- iii. Reach a coordinated EO data acquisition strategy?
- iv. Implement the African Space Policy and Strategy?

5 min Flash presentations

- African perspective
 - Sives Govender, CSIR, South Africa
 - Bako Mamane, AGRYMET (*SERVIR West Africa*)
- Diaspora perspective
 - Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Western Michigan University, USA
 - Hesham El-Askary, Chapman University, USA (*GEO-CRADLE*)
- Supporting International Programmes
 - Jeremy Coats, Institute of International Education (*Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Programme (CADFP)*)

Open discussions and interventions from the participants

17h20 Summary & Closing remarks (*GEO Africa Caucus Chair or GEO Secretariat*)

17h30 Adjourn