

Background

GMES and Africa aims to provide a framework for long-term African-European cooperation in the definition and implementation of operational Earth Observation based services driven by African needs. GMES and Africa will make available tools needed to inform and support the implementation of policies addressing key societal benefit areas. It will build on existing initiatives and exploit synergies with related activities. Principles such as equitable, transparency and African ownership will guide the implementation.

The process, launched in 2007, foresees the development and adoption of a GMES and Africa Action Plan addressing 9 thematic areas (*Long-Term Management of Natural Resources, Marine and Coastal Areas, Water Resources Management, Impacts of Climate Variability, Natural Disasters, Food Security and Rural Development, Conflicts and Political Crisis and Health Management Issues*) as well as 5 cross cutting issues (*Policy and Institutional, Infrastructure, Capacity Building, Financial and Monitoring and Evaluation*). As requested by the Space Troika and endorsed by the GMES and Africa Coordination Team, the first 3 workshops will address: Marine and Coastal Areas, Water Management and Natural Resources.

The 1st GMES and Africa workshop on Marine and Coastal Areas is conceived in the frame of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy Support Mechanism (JAES SM), financed by the European Commission under the 10th EDF, to contribute to the implementation of the JAES Action Plan (AP). The organisation is carried out by an organising and scientific committee including FP7 supporting projects (BRAGMA and EAMNet), both European and African Union Commissions and relevant experts and institutions from African countries with coastal areas.

Objectives of the Workshop

The Workshop will bring together experts on marine and coastal activities in African countries with sea coast, representatives of the African and European Union Commissions, the African Regional Economic Communities, GOOS, IOC/UNESCO, MOI, and other relevant stakeholders. The objective is the finalisation of the GMES & Africa baseline plan and the endorsement of Marine and Coastal requirements through consultation with relevant African stakeholders.

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