

# **Workshop on collaboration between GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA**

**Kigali, Rwanda**

**24 - 28 October 2022**

## ***CONCEPT NOTE***

### **1. Introduction**

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) was proclaimed “to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean” (UNESCO-IOC, 2022). The Ocean Decade is especially opportune for Africa as its coastal and ocean waters are increasingly gaining importance as a potential source of economic growth and employment. Several African countries are highly dependent on the ocean and its rich resources. The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap provides a vision and plan for diverse stakeholders to convene around a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa.

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa) initiative is *the crystallization of the longstanding cooperation between Africa and Europe in the area of space science & technology and earth observation*. The contribution of space observation to satellite communication, television, radio, positioning on the earth, as well as to fields such as agriculture, transport, health, natural resource management, the environment and risk forecasting is well established. Space observations are privileged tools for better understanding of the earth as well as the entire solar system. Although very powerful, space observation which leads to the creation of models, relies on *in situ* data and mainly data from the oceans, which are the driving force behind global changes and which make up about 70% of the surface of the earth. The marine environment is the largest component of the Earth’s system that stabilizes climate and support life on Earth and human well-being. GMES & Africa activities are designed to enable Africa to solve and address some global environmental challenges and to promote sustainable development.

A policy on collection of in situ ocean data is therefore essential, but unfortunately, to date, a common oceanographic data collection policy has not been adopted in Africa. The data collected at the level of each country for its own needs are often not only fragmentary but discontinuous. The GOOS-AFRICA alliance was established by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO with an objective of coordinating ocean observing systems and operational oceanography across African nations. Thus, GOOS Africa could play an essential role in supporting GMES & AFRICA.

Strategically, GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA should work together in a partnership in support of Ocean Decade implementation in Africa. The strategic alliance should have the following objectives:

- i. Strengthen partnerships to improve the delivery of observations to end-users through scientific forecasts, services and assessments;
- ii. Strengthen knowledge and exchange around the creation of value from ocean observations, enabling the dissemination of end-user applications at the local level;
- iii. Maintain, strengthen and expand the coordination of observations through the GOOS AFRICA network;
- iv. Promote standards and best practices;
- v. Ensure that ocean observing data and information in Africa are accessible, interoperable and reusable with quality assurance;
- vi. Support innovation in observation technologies and networks;
- vii. Develop capacity to ensure that a wider range of stakeholders participate and use the data for their benefit;
- viii. Expand systematic observations to understand human impacts on the ocean; and
- ix. Play a leading role in establishing effective governance for in situ and satellite observations in Africa, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

To achieve the above objectives, a workshop is being organised with an objective of formalising a win-win collaboration between GMES & AFRICA and GOOS AFRICA on in-situ ocean observation in Africa. The workshop is to be organised during the 13<sup>th</sup> African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) conference which brings together many experts including space technology specialists from Africa and the world. The AARSE conference will take place in Kigali, Rwanda from 24 to 28 October 2022.

## **2. Objectives of the workshop**

The general objective of the GMES & AFRICA and GOOS AFRICA workshop is to review in situ ocean observations initiatives, programmes and actions in Africa and to highlight the complementarity of GMES & AFRICA and GOOS AFRICA in this regards. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to initiate a joint programme the specific objectives of which include the following:

- i- To survey in situ ocean observation programmes at regional and national scales;
- ii- To identify the stakeholders and their needs;

iii- To review the services available to users;

iv- To review Africa's strategies for effective participation in the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development;

v- To support a joint programme; and

vi- To establish a partnership between GMES&AFRICA and GOOS AFRICA for a better use of the services generated from ocean observations by the end-users.

### **3. Participation**

About twenty-five experts from Africa, Europe and USA, and who are associated with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, GMES & AFRICA, GOOS AFRICA and AARSE, have been invited to attend the workshop.

### **4. Provisional Agenda**

The provisional agenda for the workshop, which begins on day 2 of the AARSE conference, is provided in Annex 1.

### **References**

UNESCO-IOC (2022). The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030. Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. UNESCO, Paris. <sup>[1]</sup> (The Ocean Decade Series 36).

## Annex 1: Provisional Agenda

<b>24 October 2022</b>	
Opening of AARSE conference	
<b>Day 1: 25 October 2022</b>	
9: 00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome addresses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prof Kouadio AFFIAN, Chair of IOCAFRICA and Chair GOOS AFRICA Coordinating Committee</li> <li>b. Dr Tidiane OUATTARA, Coordinator of GMES &amp; AFRICA</li> </ul>
9:45-10:00	Mme Ema Heslop: The GOOS Programme
10 :00-10 :30	Prof Kouadio AFFIAN: GOOS AFRICA mission
10 :30-10 :50	Mr Justin AHANHANZO: History of GOOS AFRICA
10:50 - 11:20	***: The GMES & AFRICA Programme
11 :20-11 :35	Coffee break
11 :35-11 :55	Dr HILMI Karim : Ocean observation in Morocco
11 :55- 12 :10	Dr Cherif SAMARI : Ocean observation in Tunisia
12 :10- 12 :30	Prof AMAN Angora: Past ocean observation in West Africa
12 :30-12 :50	M. Frédéric K. BONOU: Ocean observation in Benin
12 :50-13 :10	Dr. Regina Folorunsho (on line): Ocean observation in Nigeria
13 :10 -14 :00	Lunch break
14 :00 – 14 :20	Inal Ahmed : Ocean observation in Algeria
14 :20-14 :40	Prof Aldo (on line): Example of co-design project (ShareMed)
14 :40-15 :00	Dr Vanessa Cardin : Ocean observation case of MONGOOS
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break
15 :20-15 :40	Dr Suzan El Gabaroui: Ocean observation in Egypt
15 :40-16 :00	Amadou Thierno GAYE: Ocean observation in Senegal
16 :00-16 :20	Charles MAGORI (on line): Ocean observation in Kenya
16 :20-16 :40	**** (on line): Ocean observation in South Africa
16:00 – 16:30	Dr Juliet: Ocean modelling in South Africa
16:30 – 17:30	Discussions and summary for the day
<b>Day 2: 26 October 2022</b>	
09:00 – 10:30	Round table: Identification of actions to be undertaken in synergy with GMES & AFRICA

10 :30-11 :00	Co-designing of regional programme (2 groups)
11 :00-11 :30	Coffee break
11: 30-13 :00	Co-designing of regional programmes cont.
13 :00-14 :00	Lunch
14 :00-15 :00	Report back from task groups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15 :30-17 :00	Round Table: Improved networks and international collaboration for ocean observations in Africa
17:00 – 17:30	Discussions and summary for the day
Day 3: 27 October 2022	
9 :00-11 :00	Co-designing of regional programmes cont.
11 :00-11 :30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Group reports
13 :00-14 :00	Lunch
14 :00-15 :30	General discussions, conclusions and closing of workshop
15 :30-16 :00	Coffee break
	28 October 2022
	Participation in AARSE conference