Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology (GDEST)

Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary

Topics were selected in recognition of existing and/or emerging opportunities in the host country/countries

1. **Japan, February 2005:** Sensors, Nano-materials and Nano-structures.
2. **Europe, December 2005:** Quantum Computing and Coherence.
3. **China, March 2006:** Biometrics & Genomics.
4. **India, October 2006:** Agricultural Biotechnology
5. **Brazil, November 2006:** Bioinfomatics
6. **Africa, March 2008:** Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development

GDEST 2008: Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development in Africa

U.S. Department of State:

- Office of the Science Adviser to the Secretary
- Office of the Geographer and Global Issues

GDEST 2008 AFRICA, STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

- US has lost ground in geospatial science and technology (GS&T) applications in Africa since WSSD Johannesburg – 2002
- US GS&T Programs should be based on strategic considerations, rather than one-off initiatives.
- Linkages to national strategies and ministries are key.
- Need for genuine donor coordination and dialogue to ensure greater efficacy and sustainability of programs.
- Recognize existing expertise and capacity and reinforce existing networks.
- Focus on regional efforts wherever possible.

GDEST 2008: Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development in Africa,

March 1-19, 2008

- Two teams, 17 persons: USG, Academe, NGOs
- Site visits to 9 Countries: Gov't, Universities, Private Sector
  - –Team West: Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria
  - –Team East: Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Botswana, South Africa
- Capstone conference in Cape Town, March 17-19

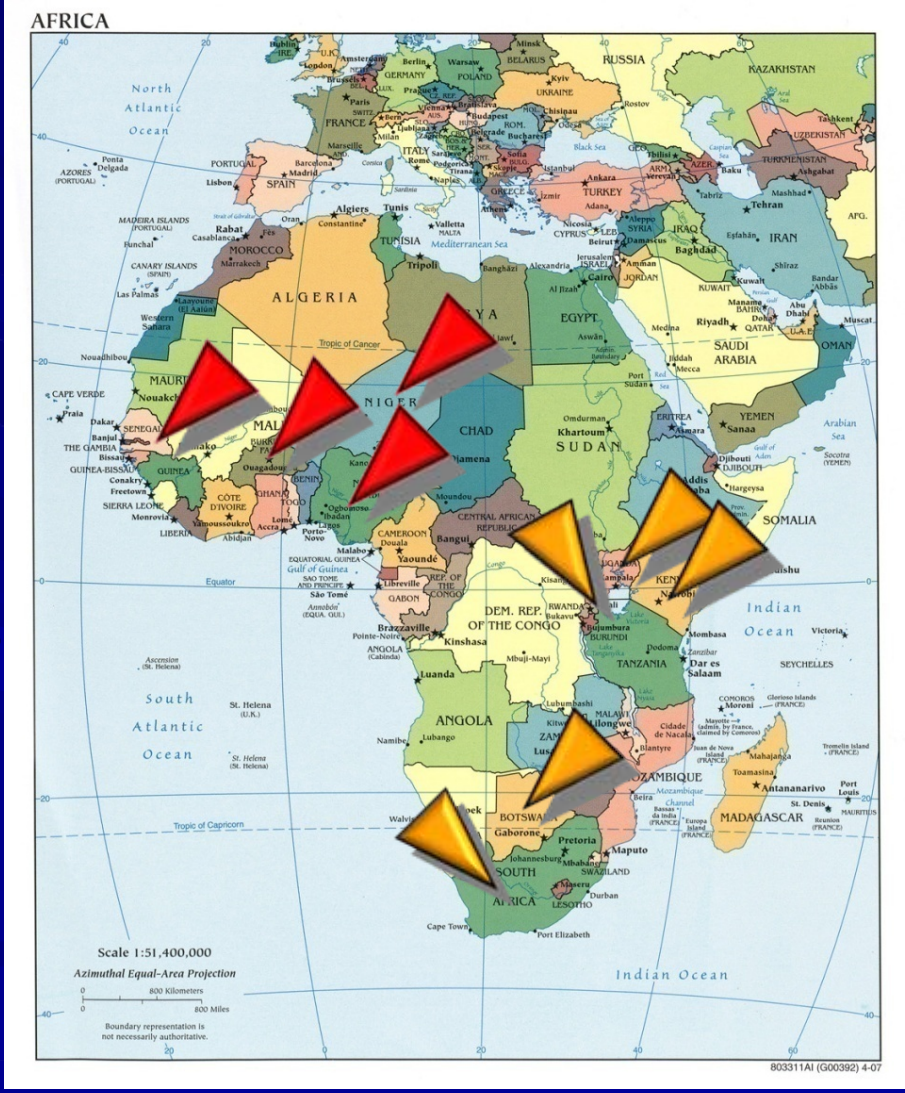
GDEST Africa 2008

Objectives

- Observing Africa
- Analysis of regional challenges to Africa
- The Africa Data Stream

Outcomes/Recommendations

- Continue *the dialogue*, review progress, & bring in other partners through already scheduled fora;
- *Build upon what exists*; using existing expertise and networks of excellence;
- Facilitate *face-to-face networking* at various levels;
- *Support collaborative African projects* and platforms;
- Develop sustainable *mechanisms for the supply of high resolution remotely sensed data*,
- *Strengthen university "islands of stability"*
- Compile and maintain an *inventory of geo-information initiatives* in Africa



Key Challenges:

- Capacity vs. capability;
- Moving capacity to sub-national levels;
- Access to data:
  - Bandwidth
  - Policies
- Develop and maintain on-the-ground data arrays and networks at various scales;
- Sustainability of partnerships beyond initial funding.

GOALS of the ongoing process:

1. Information sharing: understanding what activities and applications related to Geospatial Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa are currently underway in five sectors (gov't, private, academic/research, foundations, NGOs).

2. Building individual contacts and partnerships within and across sectors.

3. Facilitate coordination of current and future activities.

4. Establish/increase collaboration among sectors (in the U.S.).

5. Establish and strengthen relationships with African partners (support rather than supplant local activities and capacity).

6. Sustain these partnerships.

7. EIS-Africa, Kampala, Oct. 26-30