



# *AAG Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Africa*

Geospatial Science & Technology for  
Sustainable Development in Africa:  
Partnerships and Applications

Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
May 28-29, 2009



# Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development in Africa

GDEST 2008: Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology

U.S. Department of State

Office of the Science and Technology Adviser

Office of the Geographer and Global Issues

*Harnessing the flow of geospatial information in addressing the challenges of sustainable development in Africa*



## AAG Participation in GDEST

- Meetings with key researchers, educators, and policy-makers during site visits and a culminating conference, March 2008
- Follow-up activities, including dissemination of recommendations/best practices, high profile panel sessions at the 2008 and 2009 Annual Meetings to discuss GDEST and future goals, and collaboration with EIS-AFRICA



# AAG / EIS-AFRICA Collaboration



- **The AAG:** a network of over 10,000 geographers, educators, researchers and scholars from 60+ countries
- **EIS-AFRICA:** a pan-African network of professionals who generate, manage, disseminate and use geo-spatial and environmental information to enrich policy debate and support decision-making for the well-being of African people
- **The partnership:** to improve African capacity to use geo-spatial science and environmental information in academic, governmental and non-governmental institutions for sustainable development



# AAG / EIS-AFRICA Collaboration



## Examples of Current Initiatives

- Grow the number of **collaborative scientific and technical research projects** between African and U.S. faculty and students, in the use GIS&T in support of sustainable development projects in Africa
- Support the **AfricaGIS Conference** in Kampala, Uganda (Oct. 2009): the most significant African gathering of all GIS and geospatial experts, decision makers, researchers, educators, students, practitioners
- Explore **professional certification program** for African GIS experts



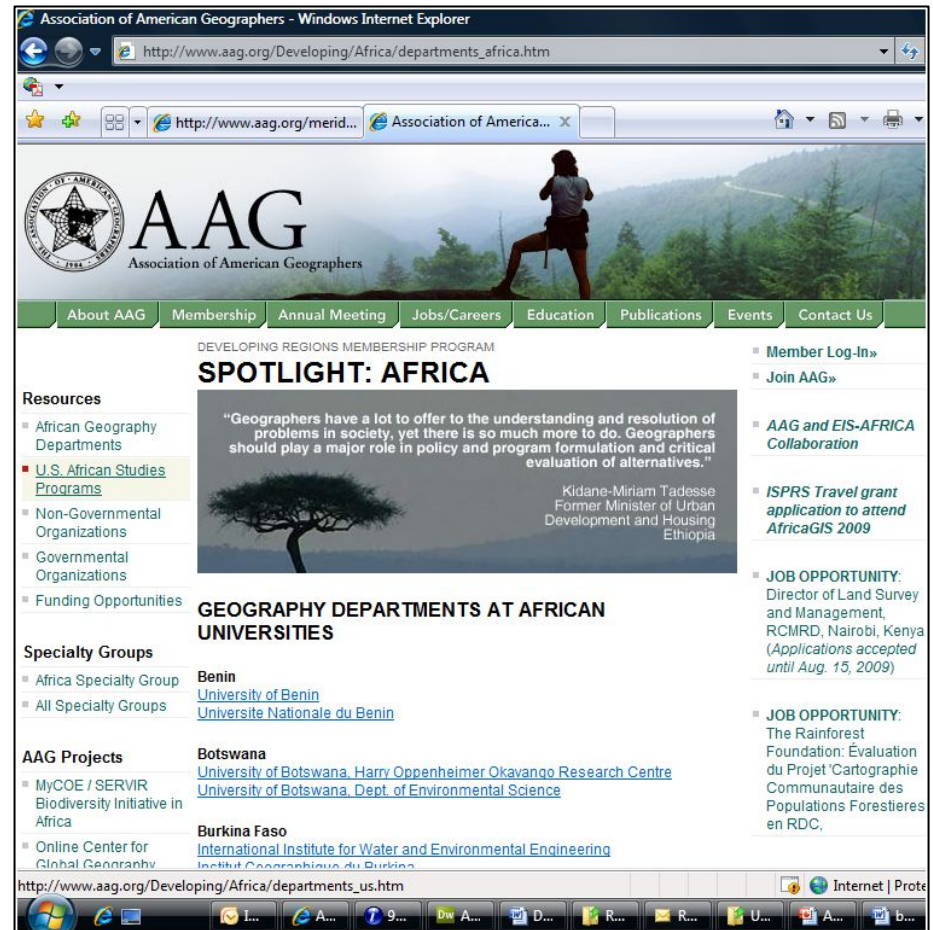
# AAG / EIS-AFRICA Collaboration



Online clearinghouse of resources including information on:

- Funding/employment opportunities
- Relevant organizations
- Academic departments
- Governmental and non-governmental organizations
- News and event updates

[www.aag.org/developing/africa/](http://www.aag.org/developing/africa/)





# AAG / EIS-AFRICA Collaboration



## RESEARCH

### Sessions at 2009 AAG Annual Meeting on Geography Research in Africa

- Over **100 papers** presented in continuous tracks throughout the five-day meeting
- Keynote presentation on 'Geography, GIS, and Africa' by **Jack Dangermond**, President of ESRI
- Featured panel discussion on GDEST with speakers from the Department of State, EIS-AFRICA, AAG, NGA, Greenbelt Movement, ESRI, and several universities



*Peter Ndunda, GIS Director for Wangari Maathi's Greenbelt Movement in Kenya, with Indy Hurt of the University of California, Santa Barbara.*





# Africa Specialty Group of the AAG

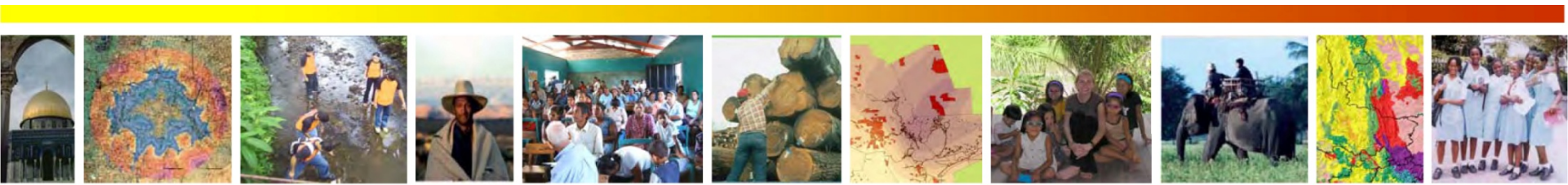
- **Hundreds of researchers** who collaborate on geographic research and educational exchange in Africa
- Publish the ***African Geographical Review***
- **Maintain a listserv** to communicate and disseminate news
- Engaged broadly in International Education Projects in Africa

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Home</li><li>About ASG</li><li>ASG Members</li><li>Newsletter</li><li>Important Links</li><li>The AAG</li><li>African Geographical Review</li></ul> 	<h2>Welcome to A.S.G</h2> <p>The Africa Specialty Group is one of many specialty groups within the Association of American Geographers. Our mission is to enhance geographic research and scholarship on matters relating to Africa by encouraging effective communication of knowledge and information and by supporting innovative approaches to geographic education on Africa.</p>	<p><b>To join the ASG contact:</b></p> <p>Dr. Abigail Amissah-Arthur Dept of Geography, Geology &amp; the Environment 326 Advanced Science and Technology Hall Slippery Rock University Slippery Rock, PA 16057</p> <p>➤ Email: <a href="mailto:abigail.arthur@sru.edu">abigail.arthur@sru.edu</a> ➤ Tel: (724) 738-2390 ➤ Fax: (724) 738-4217</p>



# My Community, Our Earth

## Geographic Learning for Sustainable Development



- Engage students in using the tools and concepts of geography to see how their communities can be made more sustainable
- Raise awareness of the importance of geography and geographic technologies to issues of sustainable development
- Foster critical thinking and stewardship by youth around the world





# Partners and Sponsors

- Association of American Geographers, Secretariat
- ESRI, Inc.
- United Nations Environment Programme
- US Department of Agriculture
- NASA
- National Geographic Society
- Inter-American Development Bank
- US Department of State
- US Agency for International Development
- NOAA, USGS, GLOBE, GeoEye, ATG, and others...





# Outcomes of Previous Phases

- 2091 Resource Kits sent out to 103 countries
- 218 Student Projects submitted from 27 countries
- 514 Mentors registered from 63 countries
- Showcased at many international events
  - WSSD in Johannesburg, UNCSD series of meetings
  - IDB Annual Meeting in Milan
  - ESRI International User Conferences
  - AAG Annual Meetings, etc.

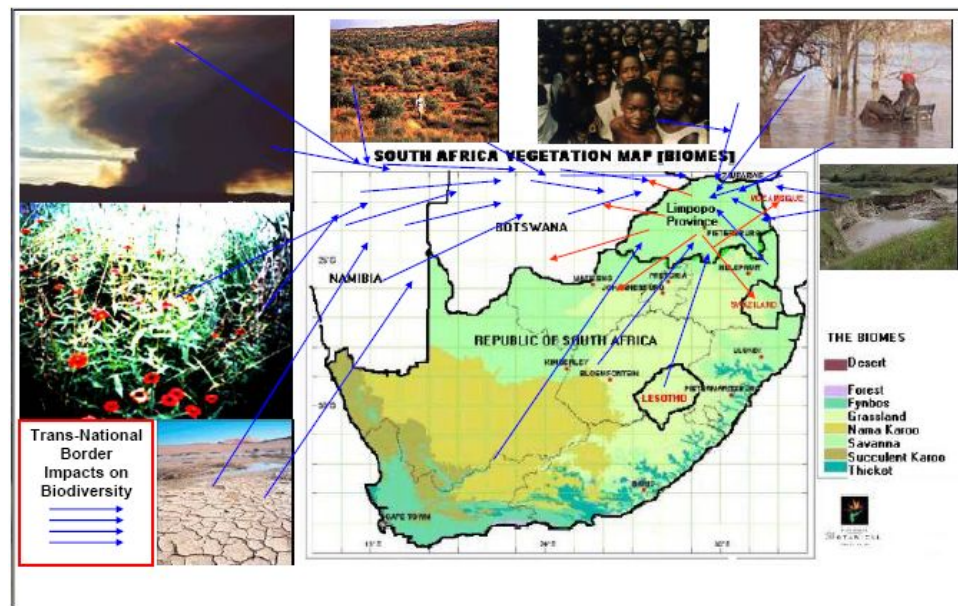




# Project Gallery and Library

- MyCOE Projects are posted in a searchable online gallery
- All resources, data, software, materials, lesson plans are free
- Multi-lingual

[www.aag.org/sustainable](http://www.aag.org/sustainable)



*Boundaries are Boundless – Biodiversity in Thorndale, Rural South Africa*  
By Benjamin D. Dovie

# Biodiversity Initiative in Africa



- Interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral teams.
- Participants from 23 eligible countries in Africa. Priority given to citizens of **Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.**
- Week-long workshop to be conducted in Kenya this Fall at facilities of RCMRD, which hosts SERVIR-Africa.

Deadline for applying is June 26. Already 120 applications received, many very qualified.



# MyCOE in Tunisia, August 2008:

## Supporting Basic Math and Science in the Muslim World

- Engaged collaborators in the Middle East, North Africa, and the U.S. to encourage the use of geography and GIS
- Provided interactive training in the use of geographic technologies and active hands-on pedagogy to 25 educators from **Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Yemen.**
- approaches to support the development of opinion formulation, fact-based decision making, critical thinking and problem solving skills, while demonstrating the key role that geography and GIS serve in an interdisciplinary pedagogical framework.







# Current Programmatic Focus

- Maintain Flexible Partnerships
- Develop Two-Tier Participation
  - E-communities and Web Library
  - Specific Funded Activities
- Address Partner Missions and Constituencies
- Link to Global Objectives
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - United Nations CSD
  - UN Decade of Education for SD
- Regional Focal and Thematic Initiatives



For more information:

[www.aag.org/developing/africa](http://www.aag.org/developing/africa)

[www.aag.org/sustainable](http://www.aag.org/sustainable)

