

# EIS-AFRICA

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“Geospatial Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa:  
Partnerships and Applications” .

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# EIS-AFRICA Rationale

*"It is unquestionable that the livelihood of Africa's people is inextricably linked to their access to natural resources. Natural resource management contributes significantly towards achieving sustainable development in our region. Environmental and Geographic Data are fundamental building blocks that provide strategic information & knowledge to decision-makers. Availability & access to this data and their related information systems & infrastructures' is critical to Africa's battle against poverty, environmental degradation and ultimately meeting our sustainable development needs..."*



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# Presentation Outline

1. EIS AFRICA background.
2. EIS-AFRICA activities.
3. AfricaGIS
4. EIS-AFRICA & AAG partnership.
5. Concluding remarks.



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# EIS-AFRICA Background

- The formation of EIS-AFRICA consolidates close to twenty years of investment in capacity building efforts in EIS/ GIS in sub-Saharan Africa (supporting NEAP's) into an Africa-wide organisation promoting the greater use of harmonised geo-spatial information
- EIS-AFRICA is a non-profit pan-African membership based network of geo-information practitioners and institutions, Governed by an elected Board of Directors, Secretariat based in Tshwane, South Africa.
- Africa's GI Network of Networks (organisations & individuals).



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# EIS-AFRICA's Vision

An African Society where information for sustainable development is readily available and easily accessible.



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# EIS-AFRICA Activities

- **Networking**
  - Monthly multilingual EIS News.
  - Website (African web links, AGIRN)
  - News Alerts, job opportunities, experts roster, training courses.
  - Contact database 108 countries (53 African)
- **Capacity Building**
  - EIS-AFRICA membership.
  - AfricaGIS conference & exhibition
  - Support and facilitate training (SDI, metadata, GIS/RS etc.)
- **Project management**
  - Fundamental Geospatial Datasets
  - ISO profiling.
  - HIV prevalence mapping
  - Distribution of high resolution commercial imagery
  - Climate Change taxonomies.
  - AEIN



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# AfricaGIS

- AfricaGIS is the continent's premier geo-information conference and exhibition.
- Differences in themes, topics, in the geo-cultural setting, and many other factors have combined to give each conference a special personality.
- "A market to bring and show your wares!"
- Showcases Africa's talent to the world & brings the world's talent to Africa!
- Networking! Networking! Networking!



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# Chronology

- **1993: Tunis, Tunisia**
  - Conference to define UNITAR programme which took a life of its own.
  - AFRICAGIS developed as part of UNITAR/EIS programme
- **1995: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**
  - AFRICAGIS takes on a character
  - Christened the "GIS market place" in Africa
- **1997: Gaborone, Botswana**
  - Africanisation — Consortium of three African institutions appointed to "sponsor" AFRICAGIS conference series.
  - It was decided in at AFRICAGIS '97 that future events would be organised by a consortium made up of three key constituent organisations. These are: the African Association for Remote Sensing (AARSE), the African Organisation for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), and EIS-AFRICA.



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# Chronology

- **1999: Accra, Ghana**
  - First event organised under African leadership
  - Local organisation led by the private sector
- **2001: Nairobi, Kenya**
  - Emerging partnerships and cooperation for promoting geo-information in the new millennium.
- **2003: Dakar, Senegal**
  - Higher calling — Meeting information needs for NEPAD.
- **2005: Tshwane, South Africa**
  - Beyond Talk Geo-information working for Africa.
- **2007: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**
  - Geo-information for poverty alleviation.



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# AfricaGIS 2009

- 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Kampala, Uganda, Commonwealth Resort Hotel, shores of Lake Victoria.
- Theme: " Geospatial information and sustainable development in Africa; Facing Challenges of Global Change."
- Sub-themes:
  - GI for climate change, vulnerability & disaster risk management.
  - SDI in Africa and geo-visualizations enhancing science-policy.
  - GISc for business intelligence solutions, communication & Education.
  - EO & GI technologies for integrated environmental and natural resource management for Africa's development.



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# AfricaGIS 2009

- Keynote Address:

- Ugandan Government, Kenyan Government, GEO, UNEP- DEWA, UN-ECA, FAO, EUROGI, ESRI, Google, OSGEO, ITC, U.S. Dept. of State etc.

- Workshops:

- ISPRS, IEEE, GEOSS, GDEST etc.

- Training sessions

- OSGeo, Google, ESRI etc.

- Business meetings:

- EIS-AFRICA AGM
- AARSE AGM

[www.africagis2009.org](http://www.africagis2009.org)



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# EIS-AFRICA Partnerships

- UNECA CODIST Geo EWG member and Chair of Standards / WSIS/ AFREF/ MAFA
- UNEP-DEWA AEO/AEIN / AMCEN / African Atlas of Environmental Change
- ESA -TIGER Africa
- AARSE
- GEO/GEOSS
- ISO TC 211 / SABS SC71E
- ISPRS /IEEE-IGARSS
- FAO/ GLCN
- HSRC/ AGIRN
- GSDI/ EUROGI
- Sub-regional centre's (RECTAS, RCMRD, CEDARE, NEMA, SARDC, CSE, SADC RRSU etc.)/ numerous national agencies.
- GDEST (US Dept. of State)
- NGA
- WRI
- AAG

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# EIS-AFRICA & AAG partnership

- Post GDEST Cape Town 2008, EIS-AFRICA and the AAG agreed, based on our shared vision and the practical and tangible response to the GDEST recommendations , to formalize a collaborative agreement to promote Geography and GISc on both our continents and allow African and American Geographers to potentially work together but more importantly to support the continued work on the Mapping Africa for Africa Initiative (MAfA).
- Late 2008 a collaborative agreement was signed (supported by an award from the U.S. Department of State).



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## EIS-AFRICA & AAG partnership continued

- Impact of partnership has been immense in less than a year!
- Distribution of high resolution imagery in Uganda, Namibia and Burkina Faso to support the development of Fundamental Geospatial Datasets.
- EIS-AFRICA and the AAG have introduced reciprocal member programme.
- MyCOE support in Africa.
- Supporting the African Geographical Review Journal (AAG African Specialty Group).
- Participating at the AAG and AfricaGIS conference.
- GISSc accreditation for African GI scientists.
- Building a long term, sustainable relationship between our two agencies and our continents GI practitioners & scientists.



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# The future

- We know the geo-information is essential for sustainable development (80% theory). Do others?
- We need:
  - Demographics, Base Maps and data (imagery).
  - Mapping Africa for Africa
  - Measuring Africa for Africa.
  - Capacity building (human , infrastructural & institutional).
  - Effective & sustainable communication and networking.
  - Integrating GS&T and SDI into NICI's.
  - More importantly implementing needs driven SDI e.g. HIV prevalence at SALB.
  - Securing long term financial resources to support and sustain African driven initiatives/projects/organisations.
  - Focussed collaborations for sustainable & scalable partnerships.



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*Geospatial technologies can integrate data and gives us strength for deeper analysis.... It gives a common perspective.... It can transform the way we look at issues.... because it's visual it helps people to see!.....GS&T gives people access to knowledge that don't have formal education.* (Scientific Development, Innovation and the Knowledge Society:

*premises for development? Prof. Lidia Brito, UN-ECA CODIST 1, 2009)*

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# Thank you

## See you in Kampala!

**Sives Govender**

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