

Quarterly Newsletter AUC-MESA
Project ,

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Who is MESA?

MESA is an acronym which stands for **Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa** .

MESA uses space-based and in situ Earth Observation data and Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques to enable an improved management of the environment and security at continental, regional, and national levels in Africa.

It builds on the Meteorological Transition in Africa (MTAP/PUMA) project and the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) program.

Inside this issue:

Who is MESA?	1
RICs sign grant	1
Journey from PUMA to MESA	2
Who says what?	3
PSC meeting recommends	3
MESA in Brief	4
MESA Partners	4

ICPAC Signs grant contract of 2.75 million Euros



Dr. Janet Edeme, AUC

To address the issue of Land Degradation Assessment, Natural Habitat Conservation and Forest Monitoring Services in the IGAD region (MESA theme), the IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre (ICPAC) Signed grant contract of 2.75 million Euros on the 03 March 2014 at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Monitoring for environment and

Prof. Laban Ogallo, ICPAC

Security in Africa (MESA) Program advances the socio-economic progress and well-being of African populations - particularly - by making vital information available for decision-making, planning, and engagement in socio-economic endeavors says Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of the Rural Economy Division and Officer in charge of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Department of the AUC, in her statement during the grant contract sign-

ing Ceremony.

The MESA Program is an important tool for meeting Africa's sustainable development aspirations and addressing Africa's critical needs such as food security; fisheries management; livelihood security; adaptation to climate change; disaster preparedness, response and assessment; livestock management; environmental monitoring and reporting; water transportation; agricultural production; climate change monitoring; etc. The ICPAC Grant Contract addresses some of these critical needs i.e. Land Degradation Mitigation, Natural Habitat Conservation and Forest Resources Management in the IGAD Region which will also be cross-fertilized to other selected Africa Regions.

The AUC, as Contracting Authority, expects ICPAC to provide critical information for integrating the use of earth observation into regional and national policy development processes, and environmental monitoring and reporting procedures, she added. (continued to page 2)

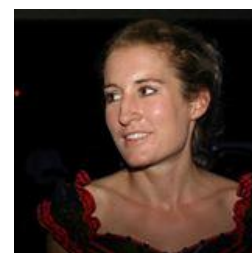
The Journey for better access to EO data in Africa

As a result of close cooperation between the European Commission, the African Regional Economic Communities, the ACP Secretariat, the African Union Commission and EUMETSAT, a succession of projects have been organised to help African countries get better access to Earth observation data. The focus for the initial PUMA project was to provide access to satellite data for weather forecasting. The objective of the subsequent AMESD and MESA projects address the provision of data for climate and environmental monitoring.

PUMA: paving the way (2001-2006)
PUMA (Preparation for the Use of

MSG in Africa), was the first pan-African technology project focusing on Earth observation funded by the European Union and has vastly enhanced weather forecasting capabilities across the African continent. A total of 53 EUMETCast stations were deployed in all African National Meteorological Services and regional centres to ensure operational and real-time access to relevant data and products.

Access to this data has enabled African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide more accurate weather



Rowanna Comerford, EUMETSAT forecasts, monitor extreme weather events, improve disaster management, and forestall drought and starvation. (p.2)

ICPAC signs grant contract ...



“This Grant is very timely. The IGAD region has been paralyzed by the impacts of climate variability and change over the last several years and most of our socio-economic systems have not recovered from the past impacts. We therefore welcome the collaboration we have with the AUC on the issues regarding climate change and environmental monitoring among others” says Prof Laban Ogallo, Director of ICPAC, in his re-

mark. The specific results that are expected to be achieved by the end of implementation period include: Improved access to existing basic EO, field and ancillary data by users in the region; Consolidation of existing operational information services established to improve policy and decision-making processes in Land Degradation Monitoring (LDM) and Natural Habitat Conservation (NHC) and development of a new Forest

Monitoring (FM) service; cross-fertilization with other RICs; strengthened political and policy development frameworks to ensure an active and sustainable participation of IGAD member states in global environmental surveillance initiatives; adequate technical capacity of MESA IGAD Thema stakeholders.

It was noted that Botswana Department of Meteorological Services (BDMS), International Commission for Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS), Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI), and University of Ghana have signed grant contract to implement the following MESA themes respectively: Agriculture and Environmental Resource Management; Management of Water Resources in Central Africa; Marine and Coastal Management.

“
The Commission will continue to provide the desired political leadership; facilitate policy, harmonization and coordination as required in addressing the challenges related to agriculture, rural development, environment and natural resources so as to improve the livelihoods of the African citizens eradication.”
 Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace

Who says what?



Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace
 Commissioner for Rural Economy and
 Agriculture at the African Union



**2014 Year of
 Agriculture and
 food security
 in Africa**

Journey for better access to EO ...

Six PUMA pilot projects enhanced the use of Earth observation data beyond meteorological applications, i.e. for marine resources, agriculture, river and environmental management. The PUMA project was funded through the 8th European Development Fund of the European Union and implemented by the Kenyan Meteorological Department, acting on behalf of and under the steering of the African Regional Economic Communities.

AMESD (2006-2013): The African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD)

project took PUMA a step further by significantly extending the use of remote sensing data for environmental and climate monitoring applications. On a practical level it also involved installing 111 new EUMET-Cast stations (one per sub-Saharan African country) and upgrading the EUMETCast stations already provided in the framework of the previous PUMA project.

By extending the operational use of Earth observation technologies and data from meteorological to environment and climate monitoring applications, AMESD enabled African

national and regional institutions, as well as the continent’s NMHSs, to provide decision-makers with the information needed to manage their environment more effectively and ensure long-term sustainable development in the region. Most importantly, AMESD aimed to improve the lives and prospects of the 350 million disadvantaged people in Africa, who currently endure poverty and hardship and whose livelihoods depend heavily on their environment. (p. 3)

Journey from PUMA to MESA



MESA: The Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programme builds on the results obtained in PUMA and AMESD and is the first contribution to the GMES and Africa and ClimDev-Africa initiatives of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy. MESA consolidates and widens the operational environmental services developed in AMESD, and proposes new services, such as African climate services.

The purpose of the MESA project is:

“to increase the information management, decision-making and planning capacity of African continental, regional and national institutions mandated for environment, climate, food security and related responsibilities by enhancing access to and exploitation of relevant Earth Observation applications in Africa.”

The project’s focus is to strengthen the use of Earth observation data in Africa, with emphasis on climate and environment applications. Among other activities, MESA plans to secure the maintenance and upgrading of EUMETCast receiving stations deployed through AMESD and to support the development of operational services based on Earth Observation data.

MESA is also introducing a continent-

wide and thematic transversal theme “Support to Climate Services (climate change monitoring)”. This theme has been proposed by the African Regional Economic Communities and the African Union Commission with the aim of receiving pertinent information for developing, implementing and monitoring their climate policies. MESA goes down to the national, regional and continental levels. This MESA theme is closely linked with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the ClimDev-Africa initiative. It will support the African meteorological community in the development or strengthening of their capacity to deliver appropriate climate information to decision-makers in their countries and regions.

PSC recommends 1st MESA Forum

The second MESA Project Steering Committee (PSC) proposes the organization of the 1st MESA Forum to be held in the IGAD region.

During the meeting which was held from 5 to 7 February 2014 at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, also recommends the Program Coordination Team to establish link with Copernicus.

PSC elects the Intergovernmental Authority on Development IGAD

which is represented by Dr Debalkew Berhe as Chairperson and ECOWAS, represented by Dr Johnson Boanuh as Vice Chairperson. The two Regional Economic Communities will serve until the next PSC meeting, which will be held December 2014.

Lessons from AMESD



Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel

“
What we learned from AMESD will help us move forward in utilizing the products and services we developed, improving our national and regional policies and development plans.”
 Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel,
 Director of the Rural Economy and Agriculture Department of the African Union Commission

New Program Director at HD responsible for MESA

Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics (HD) a public sector consulting company appointed Mr. Roman de Gardea as a new Program Director at Human Dynamics responsible for MESA as of 30 April 2014.

He replaces Mr. Peter Koegler the former manager of MESA Project.



Mr. Roman de Gardea and Mr. Peter Koegler

Upcoming events

AMOCMET Bureau Meeting **26-30 May 2014, Harare, Zimbabwe**

5th Africa Water Week, **26-31 May 2014, Dakar, Senegal**

MESA TEM 3, **2-4 July 2014, Accra, Ghana**

11th EUMETSAT USER Forum in Africa **8-12 September 2014, Pretoria, South Africa**

Information for Meeting Africa’s Agricultural Transformation and Food security Goals (IMAAFS) **1-3 October 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa

AU-MESA Headquarter
Egypt Street (Opposite Vatican
Embassy), Previous UNMEE
building, Mezzanine floor,
P.O.Box 3243,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel: (251) 11 5517700 ext 4473
Fax: 227 20723627
E-mail: info@hd-mesa.org
Website: <http://mesa.au.int>

MESA in brief

MESA program was proposed through the Ouagadougou Declaration signed in September 2010 by the African Union Commission, the ACP Secretariat and the African Regional Economic Communities.

The aim of the program is to ensure continuity of past investments on the use of Earth Observation data in Africa (e.g. PUMA and AMESD) and to provide an initial contribution to the GMES and Africa Initiative, which was called upon through the Maputo Declaration in October 2006 and included in the Joint EU-Africa Strategy as of December 2007.

Beneficiary Countries of MESA program are 48 ACP countries of five African Regions, namely CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC and SADC. The contracting authority of MESA is the African Union Commission. Funding is obtained from the 10th EDF of the European Union, with a budget of 37 million Euros. Timeframe of implementation is from 2013 to 2017.

MESA Partners



From Earth Observation to Policy Making
Advancing Sustainable Development in Africa

