THE GLOBAL MONITORING FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY AND AFRICA (GMES & AFRICA)

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa) is a joint initiative Programme co-funded by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union. It utilizes Earth Observation system to respond to global needs on environment, climate change & ensure civil security.
The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) is an inter-governmental organization with 20 Contracting member States in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region. RCMRD signed an agreement with AUC GMES and Africa Program as well as Partner organizations to implement GMES and Africa Phase 2 after successfully implementing Phase 1 with 8 other consortium.

PARTNERS INVOLVEMENT
1. Ethiopia Space Science Technology Institute (ESSTI)-Ethiopian
2. Makerere University-Uganda
3. Rwanda Water Resource Board-Rwanda
4. Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR)-Sudan
5. Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS)-Kenya
7. Department of GIS, Remote Sensing and Cartography, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)-South Sudan
8. Cellule Cartographie de la DATUH Mapping Unit-Comoros
9. Ministry of Environment and sustainable Development-Djibouti
10. National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS)-Mauritius
11. Forest Services Agency (TFS)-Tanzania
12. Almaas University Somalia

END USERS
- Regional Institutions Eg. EAC, IGAD, AUC
- Natural Resource Management Authorities
- Wetland Management Authorities
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Civil societies
- National Mapping organisations, agriculture, forest and environment agencies

OBJECTIVES
- Assess Extent and Severity of Land Degradation
- Develop land degradation information service
- Enhance Earth Observation data dissemination from Copernicus and other data streams
- Improve access to Earth Observation data and information products on wetlands
- Improved Capacities of Regional, National, public institutions and private sector to take advantage of EO based information for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment
- Support improved policy and institutional framework
- Operationalize the Wetland Monitoring and Assessment service

PRODUCTS DEVELOPED
- Rainfall Erosivity
- Slope Vegetation Index
- Land Use land cover
- Population Index
- Soil Erodibility factor
- Land Degradation Maps
- Land Degradation Hotspot Map

VALUE ADDITION
- Involvement of the stakeholders
- Simplification for the data
- Opening more opportunities for inclusivity including Research Institutions in the Knowledge Management groups and platforms
- Creating more roles for the Private sector
- Cross fertilization with other consortium
High end GIS computer training lab established at RCMRD with 25 Computers. Over 200 people have been trained from 20 Nationalities in different EO programs.

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRAINING**

- Use of GMES and Africa Services for the focal persons
- Open source software trainings on QGIS and SAR
- Earth Observation for Decision Makers
- E-Station training for RIC
- Decision makers trainings (sensitization and awareness creation) use and application of EO technology for environmental management at national level
- E-Station training for system administrators and thematic experts
- Application of EO based information for decision making

**DATA AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The E-Stations acquire, process, visualize and analyze environmental parameters derived from remote sensing data.