



# 2nd MESA FORUM

## Concept Note

**Date: 24 – 28 April 2017**

**Venue: Dakar - Senegal**

**FROM EARTH OBSERVATION TO POLICY MAKING**

## I. Introduction

The Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) project is a European Union funded project which utilizes earth observation (EO) and satellite technologies to generate critical products and information services for socio-economic development of African people as well as sustainable environmental management.

The project is supporting mainly African decisions makers, planners, scientists and international institutions in designing and implementing policies and development plans for sustainable development, thereby enhancing socio-economic conditions of the African population.

The MESA project promotes regional integration, enhances Africa's access to EO data, develops and disseminates products and services, encourages exchanges between the African and European experts and institutions, and also enhances the capacity of African institutions, policy makers and experts. The project is currently offering products and operational services to African users in areas such as: agricultural production, monitoring and assessment of droughts, floods and wildfires, climate services for disaster risk reduction, land degradation mitigation, coastal and marine resources management, water resources management, natural habitat conservation, rangeland management, and forestry management.

The MESA project is implemented with the overall coordination of the African Union Commission and steering by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Intergovernmental Organizations [i.e. the Committee of Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) from Central Africa, the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)] and the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat, in close cooperation with the European Union Delegation to the African Union, and partner institutions such the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Services (EUMETSAT) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

The project is implemented by the afore-mentioned RECs and Regional Intergovernmental bodies through their specialized technical institutions: the Botswana Department of Meteorological Services and SADC Climate Services Centre for the SADC region, the International Commission for Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS) for Central Africa, the AGRHYMET Regional Centre for the ECOWAS, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) for IGAD, the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) for the IOC, the University of Ghana for ECOWAS Region for Coastal and Marine Resources Management, and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) provides climate services for disaster risk reduction for the African continent.

## II. Overview of the Second MESA Forum

The organization of this 2<sup>nd</sup> MESA forum is one of the major activities of MESA and capitalizes on the experience of two Fora organized under African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> MESA Forum, held in Kenya (Nairobi) from the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2015.

The first AMESD forum on “Towards a Pan African Partnership and Networking for the monitoring of the African Environment by Satellite” was organized in Kinshasa from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009. The 2<sup>nd</sup> AMESD Forum was held in Mauritius from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011 on AMESD services and products with a focus on “achievement and perspective in support of environmental management”.

The first MESA Forum focused on services development, their use and applications both at regional and country level. It also focused on the broad issues of Environmental Governance, use of media to communicate environmental events and trends and climate change.

The Theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> forum was “streamlining MESA products and services towards the decision making cycle in support of sustainable environment management”.

The second forum aims at highlight how MESA link Earth Observation to decision making. The overall goal of the second MESA Forum is at enhancing exchanges with policy makers and the general public on MESA achievements to address environmental challenges including lessons learnt and perspectives with GMES&Africa and other programs. This will be done by dealing with the most critical MESA issues, in a contextualized manner, thus with respect to the current stage of development of the program.

The second MESA Forum will build not only on the past AMESD and MESA FORA but also to some relevant events which took place in 2016 e.g. the MESA Policy Dialogue Workshop, the EUMETSAT User Forum and COP 22 highlighting MESA contribution to address climate and environmental challenges of our time. Importantly, it will be laying the foundation for GMES&AFRICA to make the most of the lessons learnt in a spirit of shared knowledge.

Current MESA efforts and achievements, lessons learnt and best practices, sustainability of the programme and future strategies and programmes to further support sustainable environmental policies, strategies and practices are major topics to be discussed.

It is of paramount importance that MESA is able to inform and enhance policy development frameworks to ensure more effective environmental policies with tangible benefits to society, economy and environment. The second MESA Forum will, amongst the other objectives, try to verify up to what extent this goal is achieved and how improvements can be made over the remaining life time of the project.

### III. Objectives

The overall objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> MESA Forum is to highlight achievements of MESA, demonstrating how MESA initiative has influenced policy development frameworks and informed decision making processes across Africa and how the initiative outcomes (results) will support GMES and other related programs of Africa.

The specific objectives of the Forum are to:

1. Present the status of the program, with emphasis on show-casing how MESA services are used in environmental policies in light of the livelihood benefits to the African society. Each REC will illustrate how policies and decisions are supported by MESA and identify the major challenges ahead.
2. Highlight human capital development strategies of MESA program and the role of Universities to promote MESA topics in the curriculum of African Universities.
3. Discuss the sustainability path of MESA
4. Discuss COPERNICUS and new technology in earth observation with specific reference to the Sentinel and MTG data and their potential to improve access to data.
5. Present GMES&Africa and long term EO climate data, and identify patterns to collaborate, sustain, complement and benefit from MESA .

Conclusions will be drawn at the end of the Forum and some key recommendations will be presented in a plenary session to the participants and included in the MESA Forum Proceedings.

### IV. Expected Results

The Forum is expected to achieve the following results:

1. Overview of the project achievements and their potential for further improvements including, in-depth understanding of how MESA is impacting on Africa's continental, regional and national policies.
2. Deep understanding on the effectiveness and challenges of the human capacity development component of MESA and the role of universities.
3. Gain knowledge on how sustainability can be achieved in terms of EO applications with link to environment policies.
4. Improved knowledge on how the Copernicus and MTG programs can improve data access and EO applications for African Environmental policies.
5. Better understanding on how GMES programs compliment and benefit from MESA.

## V. Forum Approach

The second Forum would follow a slightly different approach than the first MESA Forum of September 2015. Whereas some elements of the previous approach will be maintained namely 1) the duration, 2) the technical visit 3) the utilization in the program of parallel sessions and round tables, 4) the focus on achievements at a level of policy implementation, these below are the new elements:

1. Active participation of important MESA continental partners such as AMCOW, AMCOMET, AMCEN, etc.,
2. The presentation spotlights on Thematic Areas instead of Regional Implementing Centers
3. The engagements of ultimate end users e.g. fishermen as testimonials of the benefits reaped at community level.
4. The active involvements of universities – including the Pan-Africa University as continental entity, deemed as factor of sustainability of MESA achievements.
5. Panel, parallel and plenary and exhibition sessions feed each other and contribute to the main objective of the forum

## VI. Forum Participants

Representative of the 48 participating African countries; the Regional Economic Communities; Representatives of African Ministerial Conferences (i.e. AMCEN, AMCOMET, AMCOW); the African Union Commission; the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat; the European Union; the African Development Bank; the United Nations Organizations (UNISDR, WMO, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP etc.); European Partners including EUMETSAT, JRC, ITC, ESA, CNES, ECMWF, NGOs; Development and Research institutions i.e. FEWSNET, Programme and projects, the Africa Risk Capacity. Final beneficiaries of MESA project such as farmers, fishermen, etc. will also take part in the Forum (see annex for the draft institutions and participants).

### High-Level Participants

- (a) African Ministerial Bodies (i.e. AMCOMET, AMCOW, AMCEN etc.)
- (b) The ACP Secretariat
- (c) The African Union Commission
- (d) The European Union
- (e) The Government of Senegal
- (f) The Regional Economic Communities
- (g) Pan African Parliament
- (h) Rector of Universities

## VII. Venue and dates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> MESA Forum

Venue and dates of the second MESA Forum – *King Fahd Hotel, Dakar Senegal. 24 – 28 April 2017,*

### VIII. Explanation of the FORUM sessions

#### Session 1: Key note address and round table discussion

In Session 1 key notes addresses will be provided by AUC and REC executives on how policy implementations have benefited from the MESA program. After a short introduction on environment policy makers, a round table discussion will follow.

#### Session 2: Overview of MESA achievements

Session 2 will provide an overview of MESA achievements by major result areas. This will be followed by a visit to the MESA exhibition.

#### Session 3: Policy development and implementation

First, the AUC will introduce the session by an introductory note. Then each Thema representatives provide highlights of their respective service and invite ultimate end users to present success stories, hence linking policy development with communities' livelihood enhancement.

Afterward, the Forum participants will split in to 3 groups based on different Thematic Areas (Land and Water, Marine and Climate). Successful endeavors able to relate environmental policies and livelihood improvement at societal level, under the aegis of Earth Observation best practices will be presented and discussed. Parallel sessions will be used.

#### Session 4 – Capacity building and sustainability

Overview of the MESA Training program will be provided with a spotlight on the immediate benefits and potential for scaling up. Subsequently, RIC will make presentations on how they pursue sustainability considering mainly the financial and institutional aspects of it. Finally, presentations by Universities in their scope for adopting and availing the MESA topics within their courses, will be forwarded.

A round- table will be organized to conclude session 4.

#### Session 5: Technical Visit

A technical visit will be proposed by the Hosting institution CSE on the fourth day of the Forum. The visit is the opportunity to highlight some environment issues related to land or marine in Senegal. The MESA products will be used to illustrate this showcase.

#### Session 6: GMES&AFRICA, Copernicus and Data access sustainability by EUMETSAT:

The status of GMES&AFRICA project will be presented. Common ground in thinking and planning lessons that GMES&AFRICA can learn from MESA will be discussed.

Copernicus program (with Sentinels applications for marine and land) with data access and applications and potentials will be illustrated and the experience sharing among applications developed in Copernicus and MESA.

The EUMETSAT contribution to weather and climate monitoring from space will be illustrated by the long term data access sustainability.

Session 7:

During this session, recommendations of the MESA Forum will be presented in the plenary and reviewed.

This will end the MESA FORUM n.2.

IV. Program of the Forum

See separate agenda

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## DRAFT AGENDA MESA FORUM N.2

	Monday -Day 1 MESA Achievements	Tuesday-Day 2 Policy	Wednesday- Day 3 Training and sustainability	Thursday-Day 4 Field Visit	Friday-Day 5 Long term sustainability
8:30 – 10:30	1. Registration 2. Opening Ceremony 3. Group photo 4. Exhibition time for <b>VIPs</b> 5. Press conference	<b>Session 3:</b>  <b>Informed decision making for policy implementation</b>  Introduction to the session  <b>Session 3.a</b>  <b>Success stories from MESA beneficiaries:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MESA Marine Thema (ECOWAS &amp; IOC),</li> <li>• MESA Land &amp; Water Thema (ECOWAS, IGAD and SADC, CEMAC),</li> <li>• MESA Climate services (Continental Thema)</li> </ul>	<b>Session 4: Capacity Building and sustainability</b>  <b>Session-4a:</b> MESA continental training and its contribution to sustainability of services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speech: EO Education and Trainings for sustainable development</li> <li>• MESA Continental Training and its contribution to MESA service development</li> </ul> <b>Session-4 b:</b> Trainings at Regional Implementation Centres; The role of Universities in imparting EO technology to youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution of Regional Trainings to University curriculum: The Case of SADC</li> <li>• MESA Training and University Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from four selected Universities in the RICS.</li> <li>• Plenary discussion on what has been benefited from MESA and how it can be further utilized in academic training</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<b>Session 6:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EUMETSAT</li> <li>• JRC</li> <li>• GMES and AFRICA</li> <li>• Copernicus</li> </ul>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Session 1</b>  Key note address  Round table discussion on policy			<b>Session 5:</b>  Technical Visit	

12:30 -14:00	Lunch time	Lunch time	Lunch time	Lunch time	
14:00 – 16:00	<b>Session 2:</b> <b>Overview of MESA Achievements</b>  (a) Infrastructure (Data access) (b) Products and services (c) Training  Exhibition time	<b>Session 3 b: Use of MESA products and services for policy</b> <b>(Three Parallel Sessions)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MESA and Marine application in Africa (IOC &amp; ECOWAS)</li> <li>• MESA and Land &amp; Water applications (IGAD, ECOWAS and SADC &amp; CEMAC)</li> <li>• MESA, DRR, Weather and climate services (ACMAD, AMCOMET)</li> </ul>	<b>Session 4c: MESA Training Partners (Third Party Trainings and Contribution to Service Sustainability)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-the Job Training-JRC</li> <li>• PUMA Training-EUMETSAT</li> <li>• Training Centres-IMTR, EAMAC, MMS, SAWAS</li> </ul> <b>Session 4d: Introducing AU initiatives in trainings and research</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Pan-African University</li> <li>• Introduction to CR4D</li> <li>• Recommendations and resolutions</li> </ul>	Technical Visit	<b>Session 7 :</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Forum recommendations</li> <li>• Adoption of Forum recommendations</li> <li>• Closing Ceremony</li> </ul>
16 :30 – 18 :00		Reporting in plenary			
19h00				Dinner	



The table below summarizes the proposed sessions, with the appropriate MESA result area and the Chair.

Session	Topic	MESA Result area	Chair
<b>1 and 2</b>	Policy Achievements with round- table	1,2,3,4,5	AUC (Session 1) CICOS(Session 2)
<b>3</b>	Policy development and implementation by parallel session	2,4	MOI
<b>4</b>	Capacity building and sustainability with round- table	2,4,5	IGAD
<b>5</b>	GMES&AFRICA, COPERNICUS, DATA ACCESS sustainability	1,2	SADC-CSC