



**GMES
AND AFRICA**

African
Union 



"Contribution of Earth Observation data to the knowledge and accuracy of Wetland Economic Value Assessment"



With the support of



**Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL**



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

Context

As providers of ecosystem services, the most fundamental of which - water and its implications for health and well-being - awareness of the scale of wetland services and the cost of their loss or degradation is relatively recent¹.

Proclaiming in its resolution of August 30, 2021, February 2nd as World Wetlands Day, the United Nations General Assembly reaffirmed that wetlands are vital to humanity, nature and sustainable development. Important for their resources, ecological functions and wealth of flora and fauna, natural repositories of biological diversity, once considered sterile and unhealthy environments, hotbeds of disease and havens for mosquitoes and crocodiles, they will be used, with technological progress, for irrigated agriculture, controlling floods and maintaining environmental quality (**regulation**), providing communication routes and vital habitats for species of flora and fauna (**support**), providing nutritional resources (**production**), creating recreational activities (**cultural and amenity services**). Providers of plant products (wood, fruit, etc.) and animal products (oysters, fish, etc.), they are recognized in the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Wetlands and Water* (Finlayson et al, 2005), as a value for humanity estimated at US\$14 trillion per year and other aesthetic or cultural values often imperceptible when decisions are made, a source of widespread strong degradation of wetlands, increasing losses of biodiversity and pollution.

In order to contribute to socio-economic-environmental development, wetland management must be based on a better understanding of their status, quantity and spatial distribution. As few wetland sites benefit from access to high-resolution observation data, the African Union, in partnership with the European Union, via the Support Program of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (GMES & AFRICA) offers dedicated African institutions free access to geo-spatial technologies from Copernicus, EUMETSAT, among others.

GMES & Africa offer multiple benefits including: i) geographic coverage of vast wetlands, inaccessible or with high data collection costs; iii) availability of information on a regular basis from for targeted areas; iv) the retrospective analysis of the evolution of wetland ecosystems. The use of earth observation data should improve the estimation of the economic value of wetlands, assessing these resources is essential to convince decision-makers and populations of the richness and vulnerability of this potential, whose sustainability requires rational and concerted management.

In this context, the Center de Suivi Ecologique, leader of the «GDZHIAO» Consortium, aligning itself with the main theme of World Wetlands Day, 2024 (Wetlands and human well-being), is organizing a webinar:

«Contribution of Earth observation data in the knowledge and accuracy of the assessment of the economic value of wetlands».

Objectives

The overall objective of this webinar is to share with all stakeholders the benefits of using products and services derived from Earth observation data to better understand wetlands in terms of health status, quantity, spatial distribution and economic value.

Specifically, this will involve:

- Enhance understanding of the main functions and benefits of wetlands;
- Identify the opportunities offered by geospatial technologies for a better understanding of wetlands;
- Understand/identify the ecological, cultural and economic importance of wetlands, as well as their monetary and non-monetary values;
- Identify means and techniques for integrating wetland functions and values into decision-making tools.

¹ Wetlands Convention (2021). Global Wetlands Outlook: Special Edition 2021. Gland, Switzerland: Wetlands Convention Secretariat.

Session proceedings

Moderator: Colonel Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Associate Expert at Wetland International Africa

The session will take place in 4 steps

Step 1 - Opening Statement (5 minutes each)

- **Dr Jane M. OLWOCH**
Executive Director, Southern Africa Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive land Management - SASSCAL (Namibia)
 - ✓ Wetlands
- **Dr Emmanuel NKURUNZIZA**
Director General of Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development - RCMRD (Kenya)
 - ✓ The main functions of wetlands
- **Dr Cheikh MBOW**
Director General, Centre de Suivi Ecologique - CSE (Senegal)
 - ✓ The benefits of wetlands

Step 2 - Speaker's presentations (10 minutes each)

- **Speaker 1: SASSCAL Consortium (Southern Africa):**
Identify the opportunities offered by geospatial technologies for a better understanding of wetlands.
- **Speaker 2: Josphat MAKANGA, RCMRD Consotium (East Africa):**
Identify the ecological, cultural and economic importance of wetlands, as well as their monetary and non-monetary values.
- **Speaker 3: Alioune SEYDI, CSE Consortium (West Africa):**
Identify means and techniques for integrating wetland functions and values into decision-making tools.

Step 3 - Discussions (5 minutes each)

- **Discutant 1: Brice MONFRAIX**, Technical Assistance GMES and Africa Support Programme - Phase II Policy Expert, Sustainable management and monitoring of natural resources - ETHIOPIA
- **Discutant 2: Dr Ganiye AGBAJE**, President AFWEN Consultant, National Space Research & Development Agency (NASRDA) - NIGERIA
- **Discutant 3: Mahamadou TIENDREBEOGO**, Chef de service Zones Humides. Point focal national de la convention de Ramsar Secrétariat Permanent du Conseil national pour le Développement Durable - BURKINA FASO
- **Discutant 4: Mamadou SIDIBÉ**, Directeur des Aires Marines Communautaires Protégées (DAMCP) - SENEGAL

Step 4 - Discussions, Conclusion and closing remarks



Logistics

- Digital poster design
- Online English translator
- Translation of ToR into English
- Create and share the webinar link; All speakers will be asked to log in 30 minutes before the meeting (13:30 GMT) for a scoping meeting.

Days and times

- Date: Friday 2 February 2024
- Time: 14:00 - 16:00 GMT

Agenda

14 : 00 - 14 : 20	Introduction (Opening Statement)
14 : 20 - 14 : 50	Speaker's presentations
14 : 50 - 15 : 00	General discussion
15 : 00 - 15 : 50	Questions and Answers
15 : 50 - 16 : 00	Key recommendations, Conclusion and closing remarks

Times

Local times :	14 : 00 - 16 : 00
Senegal	14 : 00 - 16 : 00
Burkina Faso	14 : 00 - 16 : 00
Kenya	17 : 00 - 19 : 00
Namibia	16 : 00 - 18 : 00
Chad	15 : 00 - 17 : 00
Addis Ababa	17 : 00 - 19 : 00
Paris	15 : 00 - 17 : 00
Brussels	15 : 00 - 17 : 00

Annex 1: Guest list

- The RCMRD consortium and its national and regional partners;
- The SASCAL consortium and its national and regional partners;
- The CSE consortium and its partners at national and regional level;
- Members of the other 05 Consortia and their partners (CICOS, CSIR, ICPAC, OSS, University of Ghana);
- Regional hub coordination - GMES&AFRICA program;
- Regional and national decision-makers;
- ECOWAS, CILSS, donor agencies and other national, regional and international national, regional and international organizations operating in the sustainable development sector;
- Public officials of Kenya, Senegal and Namibia and their development partners;
- Civil society organizations (NGOs, farmers' organizations);
- Universities and research centers;
- National, regional and international media.

Webinar link

<https://zoom.us/j/95582941305?pwd=NzYwUWtsaTFsQy9nc1pGcEQ5UlplZz09>