

2024 Midterm Report

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Department : [Education, Science, Technology and Innovation](#)

Project Title : [Science Technology and Innovation for Africa's Sustainable Development](#)

Executive Summary

Major Achievements :	Through the Global Monitoring for Environment Security (GMES) and Africa Program, African organizations, policymakers and practitioners are making more effective use of Earth Observation (EO) data to develop relevant operational information services at national, regional, and continental levels. This includes nineteen (19) Services which have been delivered and are functional (including 11 on Water and Natural resources (WNR) and 8 on Marine and Coastal Areas (MCA)). Over 350 users (250 in WNR and 100 in MCA) are using these developed services. In the first half of 2024 alone, the GMES consortia conducted over 22 trainings capacitating over 1,736 scientists, policy makers and users of the developed products and services.
Major Challenges :	The GMES and Africa Program experienced cuts on funds requested from the European Commission (EC) due to a 10 percent retention being applied to every request made for pre-financing. However, the 10% retention should be applied on the final grant in order not to affect the workplan budget.
Lesson's Learnt :	In the case of the GMES and Africa program, there is increased uptake with designing of user-driven Earth Observation (EO) based services and targeting decision makers and grassroots users.
Recommendations :	The GMES and Africa Program is making use of existing online platforms to deliver trainings on various EO segments. To meet the ever increasing demand for skills in science and technologies, the online platforms are effective. Other programs should take advantage.

Outcome

Enhanced science , technology and innovation policy and research landscape, and enhanced utilization of science and technology products and services.

Actual Achievement :

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Indicators :	No.	Indicator	Measuring Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Date	Target Value	Target Date	Actual Value	Variance	Means of verification
	2	Number of organizations and end users using water and natural resources (WNR), and coastal and marine areas (CMA) EO services for decision-making processes	Number	100	2021-12-31	50	2024-12-31	32	18	Progress reports and Agreements; Service Development Plans (SDP)

Output

3. Africa's Earth Observation systems strengthened through GMES and Africa Program Phase 2

Actual Achievement : In 2024, 5,507,500 Euros was successfully disbursed to the African institutions (consortia) as grants for implementation of activities. During the New Space Africa conference in Luanda, Angola, four (4) Angolan Ministers were engaged and MoUs were signed between the Angolan Government and the GMES & Africa consortia. More policy makers have also been engaged to promote uptake of products and services developed by the program during other regional and continental workshops. There is increased collaboration with programs within AUC (ClimSA and DRR) and with programs outside AUC (GOOS-Africa; DE Africa). Just in the first half of 2024, the consortia have collectively conducted over 22 trainings capacitating over 1736 trainees in various EO skills. More than 5 engagement activities (regional, technical, and service workshops) for cross-fertilization and engagement of consortia, end-users, and partners were organized in the reporting period. These events have increased uptake of products and services developed by the consortia as evidenced by the increasing requests at national levels of the implementing partners.

Challenges :

The Digital Learning Platform (DLP) is currently non-functional.

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Way forward : Specialized Technical partners and Consortia will continue to support training activities through their platforms given the non-functionality of the DLP. The PMU will continue to follow up with consortia to ensure functionality of geoportals for continuous access to information services by users.

Indicators :

<u>No.</u>	<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Measuring Unit</u>	<u>Baseline Value</u>	<u>Baseline Date</u>	<u>Target Value</u>	<u>Target Date</u>	<u>Actual Value</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
1	Number of functioning Coastal and Marine Areas (CMA) information services updated.	Number	8	2022-12-31	8	2024-12-31	8	0	Annual Report
2	Number of GMES & Africa continental and existing regional geo-portals functional	Number	9	2022-12-31	9	2024-12-31	9	0	IP addresses Reports/ Articles on the 9 Geoportals
3	Number of functioning African Water and Natural Resources (WNR) information services updated	Number	12	2022-12-31	15	2024-12-31	11	4	The Consortia's narrative reports User feedbacks through AUC surveys
4	Number of trainees capacitated through regional	Number	500	2021-12-31	1000	2024-12-31	1736	1236	Training Database

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	stakeholders' workshops and trainings.								
5	Number of EO thematic communities of practice are active.	Number	1	2022-12-31	5	2024-12-31	5	0	Progress reports
6	Number of awareness-raising events held with national, regional, continental institutions to promote usage of GMES & Africa products and services	Number	30	2021-12-31	15	2024-12-31	5	10	Progress reports; user feedback surveys

Activities under the output

<u>No.</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Responsible</u>	<u>Implementation Status</u>	<u>Implementation Details</u>
3.1	Convene Policy Coordination and Advisory Committee (PCAC) meetings	60,261.00	STI	 STARTED	This activity is on course and will be held in November 2024. Administrative processes have been initiated.
3.2	Maintain GMES & Africa integrated Geoportal on Africa's Earth Observation System	54,000.00	STI	 WELL ABOVE AVERAGE	There are 9 Geoportals developed by Consortia and these are online. The Consortia have been actively engaging users

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						on utilization of services through them. There is need to update the continental geoportal through technical assistance. The budget has been reallocated to the budget line for strengthening of synergies and uptake of of products and services.
3.3	Disburse grants to implementing GMES & Africa consortia	584,611.00	STI	●	COMPLETED	All the 8 consortia have been fully supported with grants, completing the balances on the maximum pre-financing by AUC (excluding 10% retention) with regards to 2024 request for payment by each consortium. A total of Euro 5,507,500 has been disbursed among the 8 consortia.
3.4	Conduct monitoring and provide support to implementing consortia	75,226.00	STI	●	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE	All the 8 consortia were fully monitored through physical engagements at their sites during the reporting period. In the last half of 2024, monitoring and supportive meetings to each consortium have been scheduled. There is likelihood of conducted some of these engagements online.
3.5	Build synergy with national and regional initiatives and ensure uptake of EO products and services by policy makers and users.	956,516.50	STI	●	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE	Per annual workplan, implementation is on track with several activities for creating synergies and uptake of EO products and services having been conducted during the first half of 2024. The key continental events include; New Space Africa Conference; GOOS-Africa Continental Workshop; Continental Service Workshops (Water and Natural Resources and Marine and Coastal Areas). The consortia are also actively engaging national and regional initiatives and

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						policy makers through various platforms such as the Regional Workshops.
3.6	Equip the Program Management Unit (PMU) with specialized expertise and space software and tools to undertake the programme implementation.	344,470.00	STI	●	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE	The Program Management Unit (PMU) is supported by specialized experts on various aspects including thematic; planning; digital communication; administration and logistics. All contracts that expired in the course of the first half were re-launched and recruitment process was completed through OSSD. The experts are now delivering on their key responsibilities.
3.7	Train African earth observation (EO) experts on the new EO services and delivery.	200,120.00	STI	●	COMPLETED	The budget for training has been reallocated to the budget line for strengthening of synergies and uptake of products and services. Moreover, the Technical Partners will continue to provide specialized trainings and also the consortia organized over 22 trainings to national and regional scientists, policy makers and key stakeholders in Earth Observation based products and services. There has been overwhelming demand for tailored trainings and the consortia are taking advantage of online platforms to convey the necessary trainings.