AfSA’s strategic plan and role in Africa’s Space ecosystem

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CEOS
Committee on
Earth Observation Satellites

Presentation Outline

- AfSA's Policy Framework and Statutory Process
- AfSA's Mission, Priorities and Goals
- AfSA's Strategic Actions and Programmatic Achievements, including GMES & Africa and AESPP
- Valuation of Space Industry in Africa
- AfSA Contribution to WGDisasters

African Outer Space Flagship and Agenda 2063

Statutory Process

2016: Adoption of the African Space Policy and Strategy

2017: Approval of the African Space Agency **Act**

2018: Adoption of the Statute of the African Space Agency

2019: Selection of the Republic of **Egypt** to **host AfSA's headquarters**

2024: Election of the first **African Space Council**

2025: Official Inauguration of the African Space Agency

2025: handover of the headquarters building by Egypt to the African Union and **full Operationalization**

AfSA Mission and Priorities

Mission Statement: The African Space Agency (AfSA) is the **continental** space agency of the **African Union**. It was established to **promote collaboration** amongst African nations and other regions in **harnessing space science and technology for Africa's socio-economic development**, promoting collaborative research and peaceful exploration of outer space.

SPACE PRIORITIES

Priorities of AfSA

Harnessing Space Technology for Africa's Sustainable Development

[01]

Earth Observation

[02]

Satellite Connectivity

[03]

Astronomy

[04]

Navigation and Positioning

AfSA Objectives:

One of its key objectives, as outlined in the African Space Agency Act, is to **enhance space missions across Africa**, ensuring **optimal access to space-derived data**, information, services, and products. Once fully integrated into national, regional, and continental programmes, AfSA will be crucial in **eliminating duplication and inefficiencies within the African space ecosystem**. As the official body overseeing and coordinating these efforts, it will also be responsible for **effectively implementing the African Space Policy and Strategy and achieving the continent's space-related goals.**

African Space Policy Goals:

- **Well-coordinated and integrated African space Programme** that is responsive to the social, economic, political and environmental needs of the continent, as well as being globally competitive.
- **Regulatory framework** that supports an African space Programme and ensures that Africa is a responsible and peaceful user of outer space.

African Space Strategy Goals:

- **Space-derived products and services** used for decision-making and addressing the economic, political, social and environmental challenges.
- **An indigenous space capability**, both in the private and public sectors, that defines a coordinated, effective and innovative African-led space Programme.

AfSA Strategic Actions

Addressing user needs

Harnessing the potential of space science and technology to address Africa's socio-economic opportunities and challenges.

Accessing space services

Strengthening space mission technology on the continent to ensure optimal access to space-derived data, information services and products.

Developing the regional and international market

Developing a sustainable and vibrant indigenous space industry that promotes and responds to the needs of the African continent.

Adopting good governance and management

Adopting good corporate governance and best practices for the coordinated management of continental space activities.

Coordinating the African space arena

Maximising the benefit of current and planned space activities and avoiding or minimising the duplication of resources and efforts.

Promoting international cooperation

Promoting an African-led space agenda through mutually beneficial partnerships.

Programmatic Achievements

Implementation of GMES & Africa

AUC-EC agreement on Copernicus Data access

Surveys on:

- Earth Observation private sector in Africa
- Navigation and Positioning in Africa
- Earth Observation Academia

Baseline Study on:

- Socio-Economic Benefits of Space in Africa
- Astronomy and Space science
- Satellite Communication

Africa Space Agency operationalization

Africa-EU Space Partnership Programme

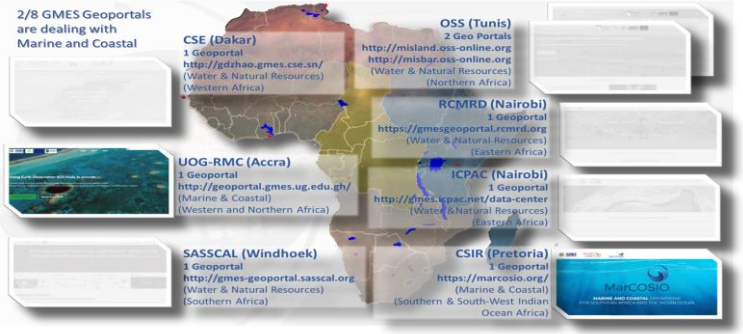
The Legacy of GMES & Africa

GMES & Africa is promoting the use of Earth Observation for the sustainable development in Africa.

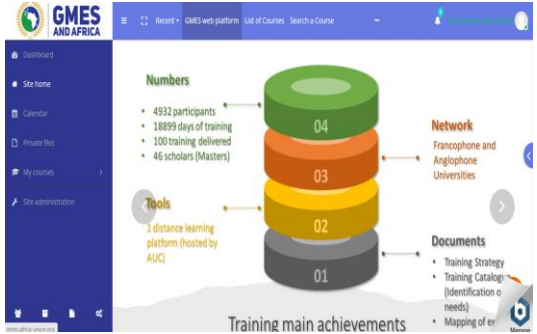
GMES & Africa is implemented by **8 Consortia made of over 145 institutions covering 51 countries.**

GMES & Africa Achievements

200+ eStations



09 Geoportals



Digital Learning Platform (DLP)

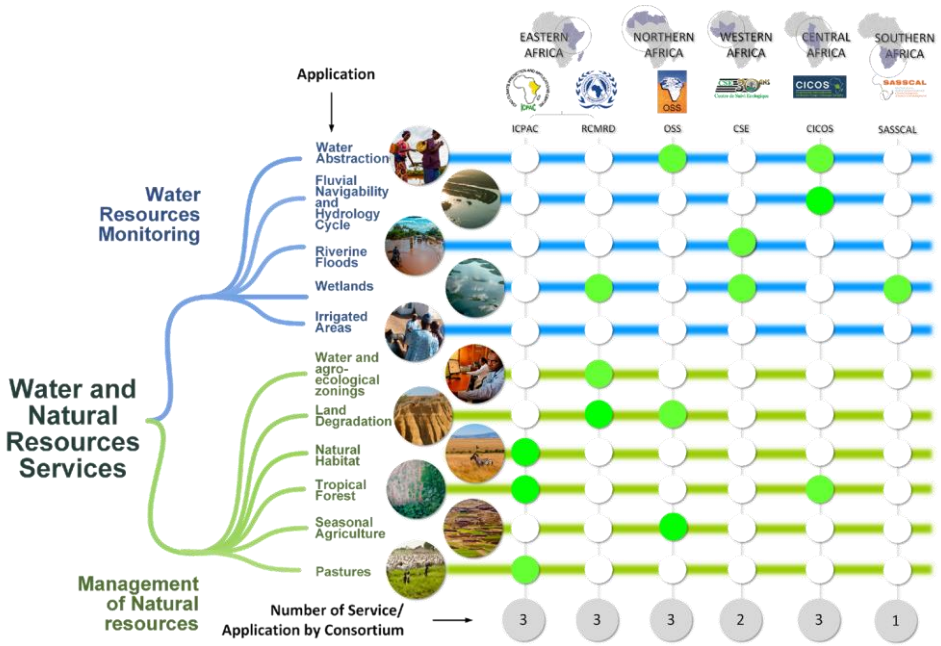
Women in GMES

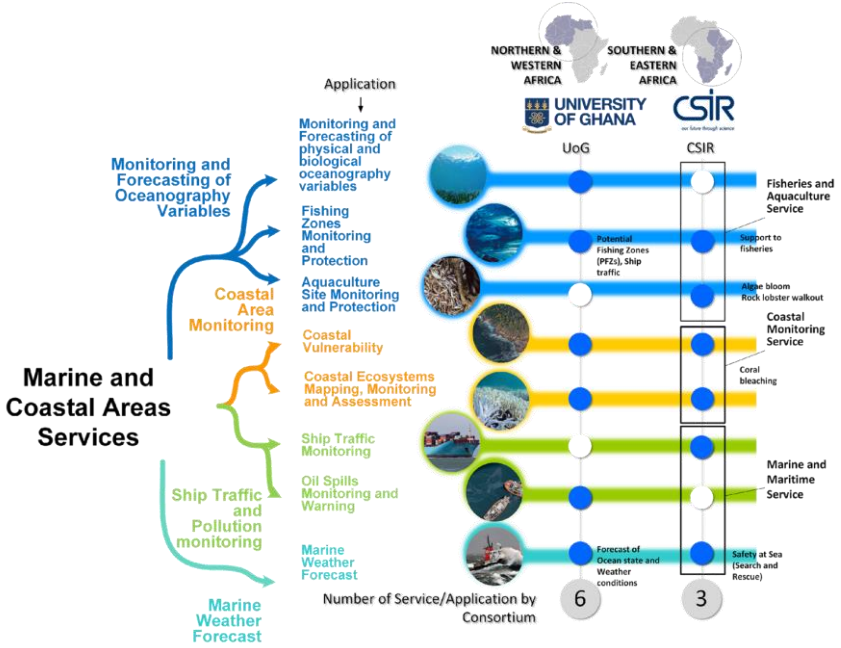
GMES Network for flood and Wetland

GMES Network of Academia

Incubator / Accelerator

GMES & Africa Operational Services



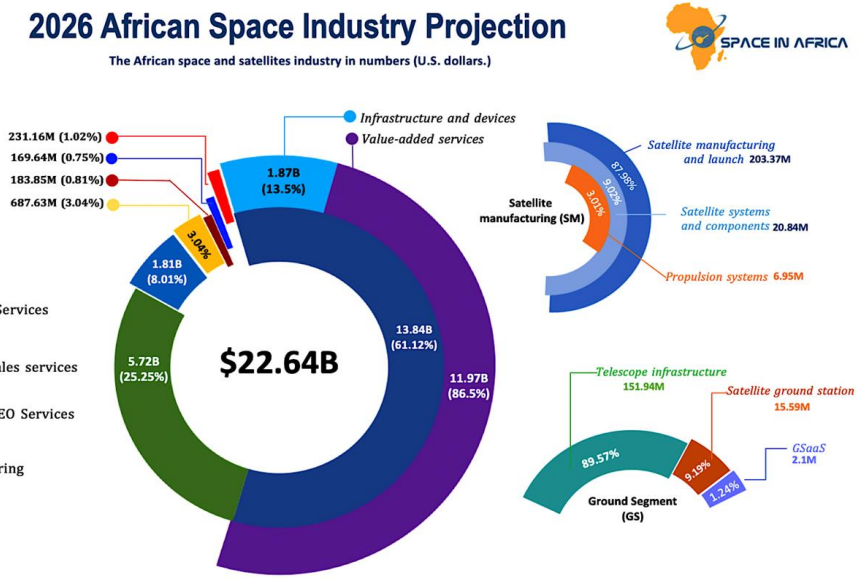


Looking Forward

The programme is structured around three key components:

- **Component 1: Africa-EU Space Partnership:** supporting institutional collaboration and decision-making processes.
- **Component 2: Space and the Green Transition – Focus on Early Warning:** developing space-based services, applications, and tools to strengthen Early Warning Systems for hazardous weather and climate-related events.
- **Component 3: Space and the Private Sector:** increasing the capacity and skills of the private sector, stimulating growth in the space industry, and expanding the data economy.

Valuation of Space Industry in Africa



Value of EO in Africa:

- About **50% of the African satellites** are for Earth Observation.
- **100+ space application projects** are currently being implem across the continent, mainly on Earth Observation (EO) and sa communications.
- **GMES & Africa**, PanAfrican EO proramme addressing continent's most pressing socio-economic challenges.
- **AESPP** as the way forward to crystallize the long-sta cooperation between Europe and Africa in terms of Space acti

AfSA Contribution to WGDisasters: Partnering for Resilience

- **Continental Interface**: AfSA will use its continental coordinator role to engage relevant African institutions (national space agencies, local DRM authorities) to join CEOS WGDisasters.
- **National Awareness & Engagement**: Sharing knowledge on WGDisasters' pilots/ demonstrators—including Wildfire, Floods, Landslides, and Volcanoes to help them visualize and predict disasters impacts.
- **Joint Capacity Building**: Collaborative training efforts to bridge the gap between Space Science and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) authorities and to facilitate access to satellite-based data and analyses for local DRM authorities to protect lives and property

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Thank you for your attention

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