

AfricaGIS2009 – 26th-30th October 2009 – Kampala, Uganda

Theme “Earth Observation and Geospatial technologies for integrated environment and natural resources management for Africa's development

AEGOS: design a pan-African infrastructure of interoperable data and user-oriented services to support the sustainable use of georesources in Africa

M. Urvois and AEGOS Consortium

BRGM - Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières

3 Avenue Claude-Guillemin, 45060 Orléans Cedex 02, France

m.urvois@brgm.fr – www.aegos-project.org

Abstract – The sustainable use of resources of geological origin such as minerals and non-energy raw materials, groundwater and geothermal energy require knowledge based on data, information and expertise. Collectively, European and African geological surveys have a unique archive of public Africa-related georesources data that needs to be shared and valorised. Providing access represents a major stake for sustainable development policy making and capacity building in geosciences in Africa.

AEGOS project (2008-2011) is a Support Action of the European Union 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and involves 23 partners from 20 European and African countries. It designs a continental infrastructure of public, interoperable geology-related data as well as user-oriented services. This observation system will provide support to a wide range of end-users: policy-makers at all geographic levels, development agencies, private sector actors, geoscientific communities and civil society.

The expected results of AEGOS include i) operational procedures for data management (Spatial Data Infrastructure, metadata, data specifications and systems architecture), ii) user-oriented products and services including the preparation of innovative spin-off projects, iii) the African-European partners network and charter of partnership, iv) a geoscience contribution to GEOSS, in the context of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE); v) a common strategy for capacity building and training programmes. AEGOS contributes to the GEO work plan 2009-2011 as a sub-task in the capacity building area, and also to the development of a Solid Earth Observing System by exploring interoperability and interdisciplinarity scenarios with other data from environment and socio-economic observation systems

Keywords: Africa, georesources, spatial data infrastructure, observation system, capacity building, GEO, INSPIRE.