

AEGOS and geology contribute to GEO Work Plan

The management of geological resources such as minerals, building materials, groundwater and geothermal and other energy sources presents an environmental challenge that is not yet well-reflected in the GEO Work Plan. AEGOS was designed by geological surveys to fill this gap, as the European Commission contribution to the GEOSS.

AEGOS has undertaken the task of analyzing the geological content of and gaps in the GEO work plan. It is proposed that new tasks on managing the environmental impacts of mineral extraction and on the identification of geothermal energy resources be added to the current revision of the GEO Work Plan 2009-11. In the longer term, it is suggested that the Energy Societal Benefit Areas (SBA) might be extended to include mineral resources. Several additional potential GEO activities have been identified that would further strengthen such a "Georesources" SBA. The new 2012-15 GEO work plan will be prepared over the next year, for approval at the 2011 GEO Plenary. Proposals for new GEO activities will thus be timely. In addition to the obvious gap topic of Georesources, potential new contributions are envisaged in geohazards, to help implement the Geohazard Community of Practice Roadmap, urban planning, soil characterisation and palaeoclimate, which would see the geoscience contribution spreading across the 9 SBAs, as a truly cross-cutting activity.



Adaptation of GEO diagram showing how geology could contribute to the nine societal benefit areas of the GEOSS Work Plan.

New proposed tasks in red.

AEGOS in the GEOSS portal

AEGOS metadata and services will be registered into the GEOSS catalogue.

Contact & Information

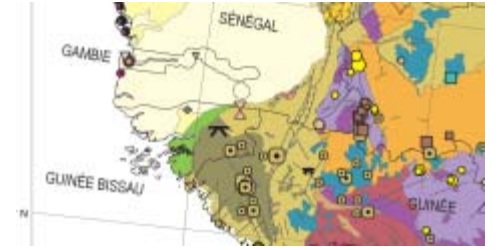
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AEGOS

AFRICAN-EUROPEAN GEORESOURCES OBSERVATION SYSTEM



BUILDING THE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GEORESOURCES IN AFRICA



What is AEGOS ?

The sustainable use of resources of geological origin such as minerals and building materials, groundwater and geothermal energy require knowledge based on data, information and expertise results. Providing visibility and access to georesources data represents a major stake for sustainable development policy-making and capacity building in geosciences in Africa. AEGOS aims to design and set up a pan-African spatial data infrastructure (SDI) of public, interoperable geological and geology-related data as well as user-oriented products and services to foster and strengthen the sustainable use of georesources in Africa.

This web-enabled continental observation system concerns all the existing known information and knowledge available in Europe and Africa, with provision made for future acquisitions.

AEGOS is a **Support Action of the European Union 7th Research and Technological Development Framework Programme.**

Objectives

- > Build the Spatial Data Infrastructure for Georesources in Africa
- > Safeguard, share and valorise the data archived in European and African geoscientific institutions
- > Generate innovative projects based on AEGOS
- > Elaborate common strategies for capacity building and training programmes

Project Outcomes

- > **Distributed architecture** of European and African public and interoperable georesources information assets.
- > **Integrated with other national and regional African SDI's**
- > **User-oriented products and services:** customized decision-support systems combining ge-resource information with socio-economic and sustainable development indicators.
- > **Operational procedures** and open standards to browse interoperable spatial information: ISO/CEN, OGC (WMS, WFS), IUGS/CGI (GeoSciML).
- > **Capacity building and training programmes.**
- > **Charter of Partnership:** Data Sharing Recommendations
- > **Permanent network** of institutions and geoscientists to facilitate cross-border and continental overview.
- > **Plan for Sustainable Operation** of the AEGOS infrastructure

Main targets

- > **Governmental authorities, geological surveys**
- > **Educational & Research institutions**
- > **Private sector entities**

Contribution of African and European Geoscience Communities to International Programmes

- > **GEO** (Group on Earth Observations) – Work Plan 2009-2011: AEGOS is Sub-Task no. CB-09-05d of the Capacity Building programme “Infrastructure Development and Technology Transfer for Information Access”
- > **INSPIRE** (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) and ISO standards for AEGOS metadata and data reference models
- > **GEONETCast:** distribution of geoscience data in Africa through a satellite broadcasting network
- > **GMES & Africa** (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) – Identify AEGOS as an infrastructure in the Action Plan and contribute to the “Long-term Management of natural resources” and “Water resources management” thematic areas.

Steps forward

AEGOS implementation phase 2 (2012-2016)

- > **Extend the network** of African partners
- > **Develop and implement** the Spatial Data Infrastructure
- > **Integrate** with other national and regional African SDIs
- > **Register** data, products and services
- > **Train** the team of AEGOS professionals
- > **Promote AEGOS** as an innovative decision-support system for combining georesources information with socio-economic and sustainable development indicators
- > **Meet at AEGOS Conference** (Dakar, Senegal - March 2011)

AEGOS Partners

EUROPE

- Czech Republic (CzechGS)
- Belgium (RBINS)
- Finland (GTK)
- France (BRGM, CIFEG, IRD)
- Germany (BGR, Beak)
- Intl. org. (EU/JRC)
- Netherlands (TNO)
- Poland (PGI)
- Portugal (INETI)
- United Kingdom (BGS)

AFRICA

- Ethiopia (GSE)
- Ghana (GSD)
- Guinea (DNG)
- Intl. org. (SEAMIC)
- Intl. org. (UEMOA)
- Uganda (GSM)
- Senegal (MMI)
- South Africa (CGS)
- Tanzania (IRA)
- Zambia (GD-SOM-UNZA)

