

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the GlobWetland Africa newsletter. Here you will find a digest of the latest project news as well as report on recent and upcoming activities and events.

We hope you find the information useful and please feel free to distribute to your wider network. Also please do not hesitate to get in touch for more information or if you have any further queries (see contact info at end of newsletter).



Christian Tøttrup, Project manager

GlobWetland Africa in a nutshell

The main objective of GlobWetland Africa is to help African authorities to make the best use of satellite-based information on wetland extent and condition for better measuring the ecological state of wetlands and hence their capacity to support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services.

Project key facts:

- 3 years duration (starting from November 2015)
- More than 25 African and international partners
- Free and open data policy
- Provision of free of charge and open source EO toolbox

For more background information please download our fact sheet (also available in French) via the project [website](#)

Project Kick-off at Ramsar headquarter



The GlobWetland Africa Project was launched on the 10th of November 2015 at the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland. Read the full story [here](#)

GlobWetland Africa team meet in Gland for project kick-off © DHI GRAS

User consultations



GlobWetland Africa is a user-driven project where the requirements of the users are the main drivers for the toolbox design and implementation of functionalities for deriving geospatial maps and indicators on wetland status and trends. Since the Kick-off the project team has therefore reviewed and re-engaged with the users to consolidate the initial requirements provided in the project preparation phase. The user requirements has been consolidated during the first milestone review meeting (cf. below) and will now be used to lay the foundation for the upcoming development activities.

User advisory committee

To represent the user community and to assist ESA and the Africa Team of the Ramsar Secretariat during project reviews a User Advisory Committee (UAC) has been appointed. The role of the committee is to provide advice to the project in order to ensure that the project deliveries (toolbox and products) fulfill the user expectations and needs.

The membership of the GW-A UAC has been determined by the necessity to have the four African regions (North, West, Central and East Africa) represented in the committee but also to have different expert profiles and different types of organizations represented:

- At least the following organisations should be represented in the UAC: a Ramsar national focal point, a Ramsar regional initiative and a River Basin Authority.
- The members of the UAC shall cover at least the following fields of expertise: knowledge of Ramsar Convention and processes, Wetland ecology, River Basin hydrology and Earth Observation expertise.

Based on these criteria the following persons are nominated to be member of the GlobWetland Africa User Advisory Committee:

Abid HABID	Ramsar National Focal Point of Tunisia; Director of Forest Conservation	North Africa representative
Jean Abdias COMPAORE	Environmental Specialist at Niger Basin Authority	West Africa representative
Paul MAFABI	Head of Ramsar centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) ; Head of Ramsar Administrative Authority for Uganda	East Africa representative
Aboubakar Mambimba NDJOUNGUI	Deputy Director General of AGEOS (Agence Gabonaise d'Etudes et d'Observations Spatiales), Gabon	Central Africa representative

The GlobWetland Africa User Advisory Committee is established at the start of the project and will be active for the whole duration of the project (3 years). The Membership of the Committee will be reviewed at the end of each year.

Successful Milestone Review



Group Photo of the GlobWetland Africa review meeting participants. ©Ramsar

On 11-12th April the System Requirements Review (SRR) meeting was held for the GlobWetland Africa project at DHI GRAS Headquarters in Hørsholm (Denmark). Participants to the meeting included representatives from Ramsar, the user advisory group, the European Space Agency (ESA) and from the project consortium.

The main objectives of the meeting were threefold:

- To consolidate the output of 'user requirements' phase which has been underway since project kick-off
- To collect feedback on the technical reviews of the software toolbox and the suite of EO products to be developed and produced within the project
- To finalise the selection of test sites (for method development and testing) and create a preliminary list of possible pilot sites for subsequent larger scale demonstrations

The SRR represents the first milestone for GlobWetland Africa and successfully concludes the engineering requirements of the project. The next phase will focus on the toolbox engineering; i.e. documenting and prototyping the software architecture as well as all the design engineering results related to the implementation of the end-to-end processing chains for all the wetland information products to be provided (cf. wetland inventory, habitat mapping, water cycle regime, water quality, river basin hydrology and mangrove mapping).

Events & Outreach

Since the project kick-off GlobWetland Africa has been in active dialogue with the wetland community through participation in various events (cf. below) and by providing inputs to how Earth Observation can support the monitoring requirements for SDG target 6.6.1 "Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time".

The project has also accepted an invitation to participate in the GEO initiative on wetlands with the main objectives to establish a Global Wetland Community of Practice and governance structure that enable a fast collaborative development of the Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS).

Celebrating World Wetlands Day 2016



In recognition of World Wetland Day 2016 the use of satellite data for wetland management was promoted by ESA's Observing the Earth as well as with a GlobWetland Africa presentation at the annual TIGER workshop 'Looking

After Water in Africa' in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

For more information please visit:

http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Observing_the_Earth/Highlights/World_Wetlands_Day

<http://www.tiger.esa.int/index.php>

ESA Living Planet Symposium



GlobWetland Africa took part in the Wetland session at the ESA living Planet Symposium on the 12th of May in Prague, Czech republic.

With participation and inputs from related activities such as the Global Wetland Observation System (GWOS) and Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) the Symposium also offered an opportunity to discuss collaboration and align activities.

For more information please visit:

http://lps16.esa.int/page_session156.php#755p

Contributing to a Global Wetland Observation System

ESA technical officer Marc Paganini will be at the GEO BON Open Science Conference in Leipzig in July 2016 to participate and represent GlobWetland Africa in the workshop "Towards a Global Wetland Observation System (GWOS): A global collaborative framework for sustained wetland inventory, monitoring and assessment".



For more information please visit:

<http://conf2016.geobon.org/geo-bon-open-science-conference/>

We're on the web!

Please visit our web site to access background information, to learn where we work and to review the most recent news: www.globwetland-africa.org

We kindly request that you provide us with any relevant news that you would like the project to communicate.

Contacts:

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The GlobWetland Africa development team

