



# GMES AND AFRICA

## 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of the GMES & Africa

19th - 23rd November 2018,  
Libreville, Gabon

**Theme:**  
**Unlocking the Potential of Earth  
Observation as a Key Driver of Africa's  
Sustainable Development**



**#1stGMESandAfricaForum**

## INFORMATION PACKAGE



Project co funded by the  
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Flag of Gabon

## Overview of the 1st GMES & Africa Forum

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa) Support Programme is the crystallization of the long-standing cooperation between Africa and Europe in space science & technology, which is one of the key priorities of the long-term EU-Africa Joint Strategy. In October 2006, the Maputo Declaration provided the necessity for the EU-Africa partnership to confirm the commitment to avail European infrastructure and facilities, under the Copernicus programme to Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries. This commitment led to the launch of GMES and Africa process, during the 2nd EU-Africa Summit in December 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal, initiating a long-term structured dialogue between Africa and Europe in the context of developing EO systems to manage the environment, understand and mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure civil security. Such EO systems would provide, on a real-time and near real time basis, information to policy makers, scientists, businesses and the public. The GMES and Africa process is aimed at promoting the development of local capacities, institutional, human and technical resources for access to and exploitation of EO-based services on an operational basis. This process ultimately resulted in the identification of the thematic chapters with an agreement on the drafting of the Action Plan.

A Cooperative agreement was signed by the European and African Union Commissions for the implementation of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa) Support Programme, in April 2014 during the 4th EU-Africa Summit. The GMES and Africa Support Programme is a 30 million Euro joint programme co-financed by the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

The Programme is designed to: specifically respond to African

needs with respect to services related to water, natural resources, marine and coastal areas; to address the global needs to manage the environment, ensure civil security; and to enable the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy.

The GMES and Africa Support Programme aims to improve the capacities of African policy-makers, planners, scientists, businesses, the private sector and general public to design, implement and monitor national, regional and continental policies, and to promote sustainable management of natural resources through the use of Earth Observation data and derived information. The programme is built on the achievements of predecessor Earth Observation Programmes in Africa. These include the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA), African Management of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) and Preparation for the use of Meteosat Second Generation in Africa (PUMA). Unlike prior EO programmes in Africa, the GMES and Africa Support Programme introduced four key innovations:

- Northern Africa is one of the beneficiary regions in Africa and that makes the Programme a Pan African programme;
- The Programme uses the EU Copernicus Programme data and services and adapts them to the African context;
- The Programme's overall management is handled by the African Union Commission, through the Department of Human Resource, Science and Technology;
- The Programme is designed to engage the African private sector and national institutions and to improve regional and national academia's capacities to conduct relevant training.



Stade De L'Amitie, Akanda Libreville, Gabon

## Information on logistics



List of Proposed Hotels

**Venue:** The First GMES & Africa Forum will be held at Stade De L'Amitie, Akanda Libreville, Gabon

### Accommodation:

Delegates are expected to make their own hotel reservations. Possible options for accommodation are listed below. If delegates require any support on this, they can contact our help desk (lsembinga@gmail.com or/and flotitty@gmail.com )

| No. | Name                                     | Contact Info   | Rooms            | Rate                                       | Distance To Venue                         |
|-----|--|--|------------------|--|---|
| 1   | King Choice Appart Hotel                 | 00241 07776358<br>kingchoicelbv@gmail.com  | 45               | 67, 500 FCFA<br>117.02\$                   | 750m, 8 mins- walk,<br>2mins- car         |
| 2   | Les Myriades - Alisée-First Discothèque, | 24104686827<br>myriadeshotel@gmail.com   | 10               | 45 000 FCFA + breakfast<br>78.01\$         | 3.5 km, 45mins –Walk,<br>11 mins –car     |
| 3   | Hotel Orchidee                           | 24101441066 /<br>24106187744   | 36               | 45.000 F CFA/night,<br>78.01\$             | 6.6 km, 1h:31mins-walk,<br>10mins -car    |
| 4   | Fly Hotel                                | 24101 44 21 70<br>info@flyhotelgabon.com   | 20,<br>12 suites | 120.000 XAF + breakfast<br>208.04\$        | 8.9km, 1h:40mins –walk,<br>12mins- car    |
| 5   | Onomo Hotel                              | 0024105609035 /<br>0024105609027 sales.<br>libreville@onomohotel.com   | 114              | 61 000 FCFA<br>+breakfast<br>105.75\$      | 5.4 km, 1h:19mins- Walk,<br>9min car      |
| 6   | Hotel Tropicana                          | 002410179200   | 21               | 25000 FCFA,<br>43.34\$                     | 9.2 km, 1h:53min-walk,<br>13 min-car      |
| 7   | L'etoile D'or                            | 00241 05 40 68 80  | 70               | 66 531 FCFA ,<br>115.34\$                  | 7.9km, 1h:37mins-walk,<br>12mins-car      |
| 8   | Radisson Blu Okoume Palace Hotel         | 0024101448004 Reserva-<br>tion.libreville@radissonblu.<br>com  | 306              | 120,000 FCFA,<br>208.04\$                  | 12.5 km, 1h:19mins-walk<br>18 mins by car |
| 9   | Hotel Residence Nomad                    | 0024105407729<br>info@nomadlibreville.com,<br>website: <a href="https://www.nomad-residence-hoteliere.com/en/home">https://www.<br/>nomad-residence-hoteliere.<br/>com/en/home</a> | 40               | 139, 762 FCFA + break-<br>fast<br>242.30\$ | 5.9 km, 1h:3mins-walk,<br>8mins -car      |



ESA



### **Air tickets**

Electronic tickets will be sent to sponsored participants upon confirmation of their participation. No refund will be provided to any sponsored participant who buys his/her own ticket (including payments for transportation in their countries of residence or in Gabon). Sponsored participants are required to submit all their boarding passes before they are paid DSA/ Per diem.

### **Transportation**

Arrangements have been made for airport pick-ups. Delegates are required to show up at the GMES & Africa branded welcome desk at the airport for transportation to their hotels. During the period of the forum (19-23 November), shuttle buses are also arranged to provide transportation from the hotel to the venue (and vice versa). The shuttle bus service is available only for participants staying at the hotels listed above.

### **DSA**

Daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be paid at the existing AUC rate for the month of November, 2018 to sponsored participants upon presentation of their boarding passes. Each participant will be responsible for paying for their accommodation and any other expenses incurred while staying at the hotels.

### **PARTICIPANTS SPONSORED BY CONSORTIA**

Those sponsored by consortia will get their air ticket and DSA paid by the lead of the consortium.

### **Currency**

Gabonese local currency is the Central African CFA franc (XAF) and 1 USD is approximately 557.69 XAF. You can change all major currencies (US\$, EURO or British Pound) in Gabon at the Airport or other authorized centers within the central business district.

### **Time Zone**

Gabon Time Zone- is abbreviated as WAT (West Africa Time) GMT/UTC + 1h Standard Time

### **Weather**

The average temperature in Gabon in the month of November is 26°C, with minimum and maximum temperature of 23°C and 29 °C respectively. November is rainy in Gabon with average precipitation of 210 mm.

### **Health**

All participants will be required to bring their valid vaccination certificates (Yellow Card). This is a mandatory requirement of the Government of Gabon for all travelers into the country.

### **Visa information:**

- Nationals of CEMAC member countries (Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Chad) travelling within the CEMAC zone are exempted from visas for a stay not exceeding three months (90 days).
- Nationals of G20 and Gulf Cooperation Council member countries can obtain their visas on arrival upon presentation of an invitation letter from the African Union Commission.
- Other nationals of countries not covered by the above exemptions can apply for an electronic visa (E-visa) through [www.dgdi.ga](http://www.dgdi.ga) or [www.evisa.dgdi.ga](http://www.evisa.dgdi.ga) or by applying in person at the Gabonese consulate in their respective countries.
- For participants constrained to obtain visas before departure, arrangements are being made with Gabonese authorities for visas on arrival
- Visa fee on arrival is approximately about 100 USD
- On the date of entry into Gabonese territory, participants are required to hold a passport valid for at least 3 months (6 months for E-visa applicants)
- All sponsored delegates should keep all authenticated receipts for VISA payments in order to claim for refunds from the AUC or consortia depending on their sponsor.

## About GMES and AFRICA

GMES and Africa Support Programme is a 30 million Euro joint Programme co-financed by the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

It will use and adapt the Copernicus Programme data and services in the African context. It is designed to specifically respond to African needs with respect to services related to water, natural resources, marine and coastal areas and to address the global needs to manage the environment, mitigate climate change and ensure civil security. It is to enable the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy, formulated to harness the continent's capabilities in utilizing space science and technology for economic growth and sustainable development. In the implementation agreement, the African Union Commission is the 'delegated authority' responsible for the management of the programme.

GMES and Africa Programme is aimed at improving African policy-makers', planners', scientists', business and private sector and citizens' capacities to design, implement, and monitor national, regional and continental policies and to promote sustainable management of natural resources through the use of Earth Observation data and derived information.

GMES and Africa introduced several key innovations: for the first time, with the inclusion of Northern African countries, the Programme is pan African. It is managed by the African Union Commission, through the Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) Department. It engages the African private sector as well as national and regional academia.

African Union Commission  
Dept. of Human Resources, Science & Technology  
(HRST)

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