Welcome to the Digital Earth Africa Day! This will be an opportunity for RIC participants and key stakeholders to learn about, and begin to engage with the DE Africa Program. RIC participants and key stakeholders have an opportunity to build key relationships needed for the governance, operations and alignment of DE Africa moving forward.

The DE Africa Program will develop a continental service enabling African nations to track changes across their countries in unprecedented detail. Once established, DE Africa will provide information and insights on issues ranging from flooding through to droughts, including soils, coastal erosion, agriculture, forests, mining and human settlement. Using free and open satellite data, and the Open Data Cube software, DE Africa will produce freely available, routine, decision-ready information and services - analogous to the operation of a weather service.

The core technology behind DE Africa comes from Australia, which implemented the first operational data cube – Digital Earth Australia. DE Africa will scale up this technology to the African continent, calling on the experience of Geoscience Australia and using funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

DE Africa will be institutionalized in Africa as a key program within the African Centre for Statistics at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Through an independent Governing Board and Technical Advisory Committee, DE Africa will respond to the needs and priorities of African stakeholders. A network of partnerships will align DE Africa with other organizations and initiatives with similar mandates, to leverage capacity and expertise and to accelerate the uptake and use of products for decision-making and daily action.

Highlights for the day

- Formal Announcement of the Digital Earth Africa Program in Africa.
- High-level political perspectives on the importance of EO data to address key issues across Africa, and the need for DE Africa.
- Outreach on Open Data Cubes, Analysis-Ready Data and the DE Africa program, drawing on the experiences of the Africa Regional Data Cube, and of Digital Earth Australia.
- Regional perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for Earth Observation in Africa, which will inform the DE Africa Program.
- Networking to build engagement and alignment with key institutions and stakeholders with a mandate on the use of geospatial and EO data across Africa.
Agenda for Digital Earth Africa day

08:00-08:30  Arrival and Registration

08:30-09:30  Welcome and Introductions
Welcoming comments from key institutions and funders including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the Regional Centre for Mapping for Resources Development (RCMRD), the Government of Australia, The Helmsley Charitable Trust, and the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

09:30-11:00  Digital Earth Africa
This session will provide an introduction to Digital Earth Africa and draw on experiences from Australia. Demonstrations and capabilities of data cube technology and analysis-ready data will be presented, along with the overall objectives of the program. The governance framework for DE Africa will also be presented along with next steps and the 3-year vision. Geoscience Australia will facilitate this session.

11:30-12:30  Keynote Address
High level perspectives from influential speakers from African organizations and countries.

12:30-13:00  Statements of Support
A short ceremony highlighting commitments from key institutions

13:00-14:30  LUNCH

14:30-16:00  Transitioning to Digital Earth Africa
The Africa Regional Data Cube (ARDC) has prepared the ground for DE Africa through country data cubes in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya. Representatives from the 5 countries will share their experiences and insights. This session will also discuss the transition from the ARDC to DE Africa.

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Data Development will facilitate this session.

16:30-18:00  Challenges and Opportunities for Earth Observation in Africa
A panel session will bring together regional institutions and countries to discuss challenges and opportunities for Earth observation across Africa, leading into an open dialogue about the major barriers to access and use, decision-making and action, and the needs and priorities relevant to the technical roadmap for DE Africa.

The Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) will facilitate this session.
Other side events

We would also like to invite you to our other events that will be happening along the sidelines of RIC2019.

- Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 6pm: DE Africa Social and Networking event
- Wednesday 14th August 2019 (afternoon session): DE Africa Plenary and Technical Session

More information

Email: deafrica@ga.gov.au
Registration: ric2019.rcmrd.org/registration/de-africa-program-registration
Website: www.digitalearthafrica.org