



WEMAST TRAINING ON EARTH OBSERVATION PRODUCTS VALIDATION AND GEOPORTAL USE

Date: 24th and 25th June 2021

Online

Background, rationale and objectives

SASSCAL, as the lead of the Wetland Assessment and Monitoring Platform for Transboundary River Basins in Southern Africa (WeMAST) consortium, together with its technical partners from leading academic institutions (Midlands State University, Zimbabwe, University of Botswana, University of the Western Cape, South Africa and University of Zambia) and satellite-service providers (South African National Space Agency and Zambia National Remote Sensing Centre), has the pleasure to announce a training course “WEMAST training on earth observation products validation and geoportal use” . The course is tailor made to capacitate stakeholders on how EO data can be used to monitor wetlands as well as available spatial-explicit online-based wetland EO and in-situ data and products. The course is made possible with funding from the GMES and Africa Support Programme, an initiative of the African Union and the European Commission.

The WeMAST project’s aim is to design, develop and operationalise an integrated EO based platform that can provide wetland information services to target groups and end users. The target basins are the Cuvelai, Limpopo, Okavango and Zambezi, covering the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. At the end, the WeMAST project wants to ensure human and institutional capacity development in accessing, processing and utilizing products of this service, in line with the project concept ‘with the Users for the Users.’ Again, this training course fulfils the training strategy of GMES & Africa support programme, which highlights that EO, deserves continuous training and capability building of specialists because:

- a) EO technology is dynamic in terms of infrastructure and instrumentation,
- b) Data specifications vary with changing instrumentations,
- c) Processing software are changing or being updated on a continuous basis,
- d) The need to satisfy a dynamic user community and effective ingestion in daily decision making process and,
- e) The need to develop EO based spatial explicit wetland products from various environments in Southern Africa.

After wide consultations, through a questionnaire survey and a regional workshop in Harare in November 2019, stakeholders identified wetland indicators they recommended for WeMAST service development at basin scale and wetland level. This feedback informed the subsequent development of the WeMAST geoportal.

Expected outputs/Learning outcomes

By the end of the training course participants should:

- Familiar with earth observation product development and validation in relation to the WeMAST geoportal.
- Aware of the wetlands components that can be visualised on the WeMAST geoportal.
- Access wetland information and products via the webportal.

Participants

The course is targeting:

- River Basin commissions
- Water authorities
- Conservation authorities
- Government departments
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Universities and Research Institutions
- Private sector
- Local authorities
- Local communities' representatives

Mode of Training

The training will be held online via Microsoft Teams. A training-kit, comprising a set of documents, will be handed over to participants during the training. The training materials will also be available and accessible for free on the GMES&Africa digital E-training platform.

Training date and programme

2. WeMAST End-Users Training on Geoportal Use Programme (24th to 25th June 2021)

TIME	MAIN ACTIVITIES
DAY 1: 24th June 2021	
Session 1: Wetlands monitoring and assessment service	
2:00 - 2:15pm	WeMAST training workshop opening ceremony
2:15 - 2:40pm	Introduction to Theoretical aspects of Wetlands monitoring and assessment
2:40 - 3:10pm	Presentation on earth observation product development and validation
3:00 - 3:15pm	Live Demo: Overview of WeMAST geoportal
Session 2: Exposure Indicators	
3:15 - 3:30pm	Land Cover sub-indicator: presentation and live demonstration
3:30 - 3:45pm	Vegetation Cover sub-indicator: presentation and live demonstration
3:45 - 4:00pm	Wetland Inventory sub-indicator: presentation and live demonstration



4:00 - 4:00pm	Interactive exchanges, feedback collection & Wrap Up of Day 1
DAY 2: 25th June 2021	
Session 3: Sensitivity Indicators	
2:00 - 2:15pm	Water Quality sub-indicator: presentation and live demonstration
2:15 - 2:30pm	Soil Moisture Index sub-indicator: presentation and live demonstration
Session 4: Resilience Indicators	
2:30 - 2:45pm	Burnt Area: presentation and live demo
2:45 - 3:00pm	Precipitation Index: presentation and live demo
3:00 - 3:15pm	Undulation indicator: presentation and live demonstration
Session 5 : Interactive session	
3:15 - 3:45pm	Stakeholder experience in wetlands applications Interactive exchanges, feedbacks collections
3:45 - 4:00pm	Interactive exchanges, feedback collection and way forward
4:00 - 4:15pm	WeMAST Training Closing ceremony

