

# **Roadmap as a Further Impulse for Standardisation in Africa by Geoinformation-Standards-ISO-Workshop in Nairobi**

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## **Key words:**

## **SUMMARY**

On the basis of the successful standards workshop in Durban, August 2003, and other events and activities concerning standardization of geographic information in Africa, ISO/TC211 organized on invitation a Geoinformation- Standards-ISO-Workshop at AARSE 2004 Conference in Nairobi. In a full day preconference workshop on 17th October, hosted by Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), and a Plenary seminar during the conference, a "Roadmap for Standardisation of Geographic Information in Africa" has been developed and confirmed.

Among others one of the recommendations encourages for publication in the respective conferences in Africa, such as FIG/SDI event on standardization at FIG working week in Cairo.

The author, who as Co-chair of Advisory Group on Outreach of ISO/TC211, initiated, organized and convened the meetings, has been supported by the envolved organisations, and reports about Resolutions and Recommendations and the frameconditions by the respective organisations and personalities.

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## **1. RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GEOINFORMATION- STANDARDS-ISO-WORKSHOP OF 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004, HELD DURING 5<sup>TH</sup> AARSE CONFERENCE AT RCMRD, NAIROBI**

Realising the importance of standards in geospatial data infrastructure initiatives at national and regional levels, the ECA and other international organisations, such as ICA, ISPRS, FIG, GSDI have put in a lot of efforts towards ensuring the development and implementation of geospatial standards in Africa. Such initiatives include the ECA & ICA -organised workshop on standards in Durban, August 2003.

In furtherance of the above, ISO/TC211 Advisory Group on Outreach in collaboration with AARSE organised a Pre-conference Workshop on Geoinformation Standards on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2004, hosted by RCMRD. The workshop attracted over 50 participants from many African countries as well as other interested geoinformation practitioners from outside Africa.

Recognising the need for geospatial standards in Africa, this forum (workshop) called for the establishment of a dedicated Working Group. However the forum noted that the Executive Working Group of CODI-GEO has a working group on Geospatial data standards, which is being coordinated by EIS-AFRICA and therefore resolved to work closely to support this WG in achieving its objectives.

The forum consequently recommended to the WG that the TOR should include the following issues while ensuring that the development of Geospatial Standards on the continent should be demand driven:

- Access to funding
- Building critical mass of human and institutional capacities
- Standards should not be limited to data alone.
- Recognise standards of supporting technologies (ICT etc.)
- Identify and encourage pilot projects
- Education and awareness
- ISO Geo-information Standards as component in GIS/EIS tertiary syllabus must be considered. (Education in Geoinformation Science must include the fundamentals and not just the application of Geographic Information Systems!)
- Recognition of the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN) of UNFAO as a facilitating mechanism to support capacity development
- Adoption and Implementation of Land Cover (LC) mapping standards at national and regional levels in Africa

- Recognition of LCCS as an evolving ISO -Standard and common tool for LC harmonisation in Africa which can also be used as an example for improving the situation in Standardisation and other GIS related fields
- LC as a core layer of the development of SDI globally.
- Workshops combining LCCS/GLCN and Geo-information Standards (such as ISO/TC211) are an optimal method for introducing these concepts.

This WG is encouraged to report back at GSDI 8 2005 Conference in Egypt, Africa GIS 2005 in South Africa, etc

The WG is further encouraged to apply for Class-A Liaison status to ISO/TC211.

The forum expresses its gratitude to ISO/TC 211, AARSE, RCMRD, UNFAO and other partners for facilitating and hosting this ISO/TC211 – Outreach Workshop (convened by Prof. Hans Knoop, Co-chair of ISO/TC211 Advisory Group on Outreach).”

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