

Aerospace and GIS Technology for Addressing Multi-institutional Coastal Environment Monitoring: The Way forward in Ghana and the West African Sub-region

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SUMMARY

The Environmental Protection Agency is the Government mandate institution for environmental monitoring and state-of-the-environment reporting. Apart from policing the use of the environment it also advises on the potentialities and limitations in the natural resources.

The coast line offers a wide range of ecosystem goods and services, but it is also the most sensitive to environmental abuse. Population and industrial growth has exerted enormous impact on the coastline, and the trend is on the increase at such a rate that it requires concerted efforts of all the agencies with coastal and marine interest to bring the picture of the ever-growing degradation to the public at large. Aerospace and GIS technology has an enormous information power for creating the necessary awareness and education of the general public. The position of the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS) is such that various aspects of digital map conversion problems are brought to its laboratory for solution.

From the various piecemeal projects on the coastal zone, it is possible to build a comprehensive aerospace cum GIS database for resources appraisal and state of environment reporting. The Ghana Navy EPA, and other agencies as frontline stakeholders and ultimate users of the database for their sectoral planning activities and for integrated approach to overall strategic planning to save the coastal environment. In this presentation the data sets from EPA and the NAVY have been put together and supplemented with digital population data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). Aerial and space images have been integrated into the database. The processes have created a local capacity for the frontline stakeholders to take advantage to establish a more comprehensive and multi-purpose database which can be used by all the interest groups and organizations.

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