

■ The Grant Scheme

The GMES & Africa Grant is built for a long-term EU-Africa cooperation on space science and technology to enable the two continents to jointly solve and address global challenges and promote sustainable development by making use of among others the services of Copernicus programme. Its objectives include:

- ⇒ Maintaining, improving and sustaining local, institutional, human and technical capacities for accessing and using Earth Observation (EO) data and services for sustainable socio-economic development,
- ⇒ Contributing to the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy, in particular on Earth Observation; and
- ⇒ Providing decision-makers with information and tools needed for the implementation of sustainable socio-economic development at the continental, regional and national levels.

■ Guidelines for Applicants

The Guidelines provide the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of actions financed under the Call, in conformity with the provisions of *the African Union Commission Grants Management Manual*. They provide applicants with relevant information on the GMES & Africa Support Programme, the priority areas for the Call for Proposals and the expected outcomes. They also guide applicants through the rules and the application process to submit their proposals, and provide them with information on the proposal evaluation process, and a grid for transparency and guidance. In addition, the Guidelines inform applicants about how the results will be communicated and published.

Priority Areas for the Grant

Grants will be issued in two lots according to the Water & Natural Resources service, and the Marine and Coastal Resources service. The two services will cover 23 applications and each application could cover the following actions either uniquely or in combination:;

- ⇒ Consolidation of applications already operational in the region;
- ⇒ Extension of operational applications to other regions; and
- ⇒ Development of new applications up to the operational stage of the product development cycle, i.e, Definition, Specification, Development and Operation.

■ Who May Apply?

⇒ In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must:

- ⇒ Be an African institution with at least five years of experience in implementing EO projects in at least three countries;
- ⇒ Be an institution directly working with national institutions;
- ⇒ Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with their partners, not acting as an intermediary;
- ⇒ Be legally registered locally or regionally for which they will have to provide the relevant legal documents;
- ⇒ Have at least a five-year record in the formulation and/or implementation of Earth Observation activities applied to Water & Natural Resources and/or Marine & Coastal Areas in Africa, and be able to demonstrate their experience and capacity to manage activities corresponding in scale and complexity to those for which a grant has been requested;
- ⇒ Have stable sources of finance to ensure the continuity of their organisation throughout the implementation of the proposed action;
- ⇒ Belong to consortia of national institutions, private sector and academia; and
- ⇒ Belong to at least one of the following categories: regional or national organizations, research institutions, or universities.

■ Application

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the Concept Note and the full application form along with several annexes that will be clearly identified. The application form and related annexes must be completed carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly.

■ Language and Submission Format

Proposals are submitted in either **English or French**.

Proposals must be submitted in timely manner in both a **paper** and an **electronic** version in a standard text (Microsoft Word) and calculation (Microsoft Excel) format.

GMES & Africa

GMES & Africa is an Earth Observation system designed to respond to global needs to manage the environment, understand and mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure civil security. It is a joint AU-EU initiative officially launched in November, 2016. The programme is user-centric and provides services for the environment and security, as well as information for policymakers, scientists, businesses and the public.

GMES and Africa will promote a more sustainable management of natural resources by improving decision making processes through the provision of additional pertinent information. This will improve African policy makers' and planners' capacities to design, implement, and monitor national, regional and continental policies and to promote sustainable management of natural resources through the use of EO data and derived information.

GMES & Africa is a 30 Million Euro programme co-funded by the European Commission through the funded Pan African Envelope (29.5 Million Euro) and the African Union Commission (0.5 Million Euro)..

Contacts for Further Information

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