

AFRICA AT MESO-SCALE: ADAPTATIVE AND INTEGRATED TOOLS AND STRATEGIES ON NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Keywords: Africa, GEOSS, web services, INRM.

Africa appears to be very vulnerable to climate change. It is expected that climate change will outpace the large efforts currently made to eradicate poverty. AFROMAISON (funded by the 7th Framework Program of the European Union) will propose sustainable solutions for communities and authorities in their operational management and strategic policy of natural resources, and help them in their fight against climate change.

Natural resources are, especially in Africa, essential for maintaining or improving peoples livelihood. Despite the availability of many tools, expertise, local practices and indigenous knowledge, the concept of Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) has hardly been brought into practice.

The challenge of AFROMAISON is to provide a holistic toolbox and operational framework for INRM that can be applied in a variety of environmental and socio-economic conditions in Africa. At the same time, following a participatory analysis of opportunities and challenges, it provides participatory management options for operational INRM, which are embedded in local traditions and culture, and are scientifically sound.

One component of the AFROMAISON toolbox will be a set of open source software to enable stakeholders to share their data and metadata in an interoperable manner helping them to:

- facilitate data discovery and access among the different components of the toolbox.
- foster and improve exchange of information and cooperation across sectors and scales.
- Integrate participatory tools and methods with web-based data management systems
- multi-disciplinary capacity building (human-institutional-infrastructure), awareness raising, and strengthening of ownership.
- contribute to GEOSS and liaise with other relevant projects (e.g., SERVIR-Africa, AEGOS, UNEP-Live).