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SERVIR WEST AFRICA

Connecting Space to Village

The SERVIR West Africa is a five-year program supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). This program supports the use of satellite imagery to improve food security, conservation and climate-resilient, low-emission growth across West Africa. With the start of this program, West Africa becomes part of the Global SERVIR network, which includes Eastern and Southern Africa, the Hindu-Kush Himalaya region, and the Mekong River Basin.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

SERVIR West Africa is being implemented by the Agrometeorology, Hydrology, and Meteorology Regional Center (AGRHYMET), a specialized institution of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). With support from Tetra Tech, AGRHYMET is implementing this program together with a consortium of partners serving the West Africa region. The program is helping governments and other key decision-makers take advantage of publicly available satellite imagery,

Partners:

- Agrometeorology, Hydrology, Meteorology Regional Center (AGRHYMET)
- Center for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS)
- Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)
- Regional Center for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS)
- African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)
- Kanava International LLC
- Tetra Tech

Geographic Scope:

West Africa region with a focus on Niger, Ghana, Senegal and Burkina Faso

geospatial data and maps to make more informed decisions in four areas: food security and agriculture; water and disasters; weather and climate; and land use, coastal zones and forest management. Operating as a regional hub, SERVIR West Africa is promoting collaboration among technical institutions in the region, leveraging their respective strengths. It is also working across the region to increase awareness, and improve access to and the capacity to use geospatial information. In this initial phase, the program focuses on four countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger and Senegal. The program is working with analysts and decision-makers to provide user-tailored information services.

IMPACT

SERVIR has already demonstrated its value in countries where it has been operating. For example, in East Africa, where climate change has altered rainfall patterns and flood cycles, SERVIR is assisting the Kenyan Department of Water Resources to improve flood forecasting. A near real-time satellite data system has been co-developed that allows government authorities to alert communities so they can prevent loss of life, property, and livelihoods caused by floods. “Via the use of SERVIR, the Sahel and West Africa regions are poised to improve reliability and timeliness of data and information. Producers, technicians, and policy-makers thank the U.S. Government for its continued support both financially and technically,” stated Dr. Djimé Adoum, Executive Director of CILSS.

“There is an immediate demand to connect available science and technology to development solutions in West Africa. SERVIR/WA will engage scientists across the region to partner with each other to address the greatest challenges in the region. What we seek in the long term are African solutions to African problems.”

– Alex Deprez, Director, USAID West Africa Regional Office

Globally, SERVIR connects USAID’s development network in environments with limited access to data with NASA’s science, technology and extensive satellite data resources. Together with leading regional organizations and local partners, SERVIR has developed 70 climate change adaptation and mitigation products to provide information, tools and training to more than 41 countries. More information on SERVIR West Africa is available at <http://www.agrhymet.ne/eng/>.

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