



EIS

Editorial

Dear Readers,

This month's newsletter contains the very first article from Chad describing the GloWetland Project.

We are glad that readers have heeded our appeals to publish articles from their countries. This will hopefully spur others on to contribute their experiences in Environmental and Geographic Information Systems.

There are also interesting articles from South Africa and Zambia in this edition that shouldn't be missed.

EIS-AFRICA has also published web maps on its website. Go to www.eis-africa.org and click the "WEB MAPS" button then click the "EIS MAPS" button. We are publishing more maps on the site and can offer to link to your web maps and even host your data if you so wish.

Finally, another reminder that a comprehensive study will be undertaken to determine the availability of Fundamental Geospatial Datasets in Africa.

EIS-AFRICA, the HSRC and our sub-regional partners will be contacting all national data custodians shortly. Please remember that this study will contribute to Africa being comprehensively mapped. Your assistance will be vital to the successful implementation of the Mapping Africa for Africa (MAFA) initiative.

Until next month.

Regards

Sives Govender

GloWetland Project (Lake Chad Basin)

With transformation of European Space Agency, ESA into customer-oriented Agency, the Agency emphasizes constant dialogue with EO user communities particularly Africans. Dialogue between EO user communities (worldwide) and ESA started around 2002 through Data User Element, DUE resulting in increased use of EO derived information. DUE has more than 100 users involved in over 60 applications spread over 35 countries worldwide. The projects have more than 70 European EO companies and research laboratories.

By carrying out projects develop and demonstrate user-driven communities EO based services, DUE has increased strengthened user communities for EO applications.

Aim of the GloWetland Project

To achieve the vision of Ramsar Convention ("the conservation and wise use of wetlands by National actions and International cooperation as a means to achieving sustainable development throughout the world").

The project is conceived as a user-oriented project, where the field information services provided response to specific user needs. It is centered on the data requirements provided by a User Group, UG. Lake Chad Basin Commission, LCBC, is one of the UG, responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Lake Chad Basin. The Commission is presently, from the project, managing four sites (*Sambisa National*

Participatory Learning and Action

Aimed at newcomers and experienced practitioners alike, **Participatory Learning and Action** is the world's leading informal journal on participatory learning and action approaches and methods, reaching over 20,000 readers in 121 countries.

PLA 54: Mapping for Changes: Practice, technologies and communication is now available.

This 150-page special issue is built on papers presented at the "[Mapping for Change Conference](#)" held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7th-10th September, 2005. At the event participants from 45 countries explored the potentials and limitations of spatial information technologies used in the contexts of (i) asserting ancestral land and resource rights and entitlements; (ii) supporting collaborative planning and management of lands and natural resources; (iii) promoting equity in terms of ethnicity, culture, gender, environmental justice, hazard mitigation, etc; (iv) managing and ameliorating conflicts

amongst and between local community groups, and between communities and

higher-level authorities or economic forces; and (v) supporting cultural heritage preservation and identity building among indigenous peoples and rural communities.

For more information about on this special issue the conference, or to purchase copies, please visit: <http://www.iapad.org/pgis2005/pla.htm>

You can also subscribe to the series and receive PLA 54 as your first issue – subscriptions are free of charge to readers from the South. For more information or to subscribe online visit www.iied.org/NR/agbioliv/pla_note/s/subscribe.html

Multilingual & Multimedia PLA 54 CD-ROM version: IIED and CTA are also producing, in collaboration with other development

partners, a multilingual CD version of PLA 54. It will soon be available from the Participatory Learning and Action series. The CD-ROM will contain PDF versions of the articles published on PLA 54 translated in the following languages (subject to funding): Arabic, Chinese (traditional and modern), French, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili and Tamil. It will also include other key resources, such as a multimedia documentary and key literature on the practice. More information on this is found at:

www.iapad.org/pgis2005/pla_cd.htm

For more information about the CD-ROM, please contact PLA co-editor Nicole Kenton: Nicole.Kenton@iied.org

Source: *SDI Africa*

World Bank to Support Agri Development in Zambia

The World Bank approved a grant to support agricultural development in Zambia. The Agricultural Development Support Project aims to increase the commercialization of smallholder agriculture by promoting the development of a network of well-functioning and competitive value chains.

The project will provide resources for investments in agricultural production and marketing, develop innovative business linkages between smallholders and other actors in the target supply chains, and target investments in public goods. It will also improve smallholders' access to markets and the

competitiveness of their agricultural commodities.

Tijan Sallah and Paavo Eliste, the World Bank Task Team Leaders of the project, said that the project will contribute to the strategic priorities of the Africa Action Plan. They noted that the Government of Zambia is supporting the development of smallholder agriculture and is committed to support their development.

For more information on the World Bank's work in Zambia visit <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/zm> or <http://web.worldbank.org/external/>

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Source: *CropBiotech Update*, 19 May 2006

Upcoming Events

The 2nd African Regional Youth Congress on Science and Technology is scheduled for June 2006 in Accra, Ghana. The Congress is an annual event designed to provide a forum for young professionals and leaders to share expertise and experiences, as well as contribute to the major policy discussions affecting Africa's development. The emphasis will be on, but not limited to, health, agriculture, science, technology, and innovation issues. For more information, visit <http://www.atpsnet.org> or download the application form at <http://www.atpsnet.org/Application%20form%20-%20youth%20congress%202006.doc>.

Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite System Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa, Lusaka, Zambia from 26 - 30 June 2006. For further information and to download the application form, see <http://www.eis-africa.org>.

ISPRS Commission VI Symposium, Tokyo, Japan, 27—29 June 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission6.isprs.org>.

ISPRS Commission I Symposium, Marne-le-Valle, France, 3—6 July 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission1.isprs.org>.

GEOINFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (gi4dev): Bridging the divide through partnerships, agit_SPECIAL, July 7, 2006 - Salzburg, Austria. The event is hosted and organised by Z_GIS (Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg University) and sponsored by AARSE, GTZ, UNOOSA and UNU-EHS. gi4dev is one thematic focus of the annual AGIT Symposium (www.agit.at/en). Conference scope: Development topics are emerging more and more in daily discussions. Affected by natural disasters and the consequences of global change, economic development and human security issues, actors require explicit spatial information for improved decision making. The geoinformation community is aware of these potentials and application fields. However, there are still many obstacles in the way of successful implementation. The lacking awareness about GI applications, inadequate human resources or missing institutional provisions all hamper improvements. gi4dev wants to address these topics by means of an open discussion forum. Keynotes will prepare the ground from where discussions will start. Contrary to classic conference scenarios, this event will focus on result-oriented discussions by using moderation methodologies. Conclusions and recommendations will be evaluated in a [final panel discussion](#). [Information and a Call for Papers & Workshop topics is also available online](#): web: www.agit.at/gi4dev, email: gi4dev@agit.at

12th International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling, Vienna, Austria, 10—12 July 2006. Web http://www.agile-secretariat.org/docs/12th_SDH.pdf

ISPRS Commission II Symposium: "GICON 2006—Geoinformation Connecting Societies", Vienna, Austria, 12—14 July 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission2.isprs.org>, or <http://www.gicon2006.at/>

Biodiversity in inhabited areas of Eastern Africa, Makerere University, Uganda, 19—21 July 2006. Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (MUIENR), supported by the DANIDA-ENRECA Programme at Makerere University and the University of Dar es Salaam, will be hosting this Conference. Papers are particularly invited on the main theme, Biodiversity in Inhabited Areas of Eastern Africa and can include the results of the original studies on related aspects indicated below:

Biodiversity, people and agriculture (including such aspects as conserving biodiversity on farmlands and pastoral areas; bio diversity goods and services; traditional conservation; medicinal plants)

Biodiversity surveys and databases for conservation (species and habit modelling; monitoring; atlasing)

Use of GIS and Remote Sensing for natural resources management

Those interested are invited to send abstracts to the address below not later than 31st March 2006. Authors whose abstracts are selected will be informed by 30th April. Completed manuscripts should be brought to the conference and will be considered for publication in a peer reviewed journal. Abstracts which should not exceed 300 words should be submitted electronically to nbdb@mueinr.mak.ac.ug. Financial support will be offered to a limited number of residents of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A number of distinguished scientists are expected to give key note addresses. For further information please contact Ms Marjorie Nakibuka, MUIENR, P.O.Box 7298, Kampala. Tel +256 41 530135. Fax +256 41 530134. E-mail nbdb@mueinr.mak.ac.ug.

Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa 2006 Conference, Harare, Zimbabwe, 14-18 August 2006. The

GlobWetland Project (Lake Chad Basin) (cont.)

Park in North Eastern Nigeria; *Waza National Park* in Extreme Northern Cameroon; *Lake Lere* in Western Chad and the entire *Lake Chad* – shared by Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon). LCBC provided the required information need to ESA through Dr. Diego

Problem Statement/ Background:

In the last few decades, Lake Chad has reduced in size dramatically (since the 1960s it shrunk to about a tenth its former size – from about 25,000 km² to 2,600 km²), affecting the environmental and socio-economic conditions of the area. The whole basin is vulnerable to global climate change factors such as annual spatial rainfall variations, drought and desertification. In addition, the weak economic situation of neighbouring countries coupled with persistent rural economy, population growth and inefficient land and water management practices are responsible for increase pressure on water, ecosystems and continued decline of biodiversity in the region. Poverty level increases affecting more than 28 million people in the region. In this context, Lake Chad Basin Commission drafted user data and information needs for the regional planning and conservation of natural resources in the Basin.

Current means for collecting water-relevant information are severely degraded and fragmented in the region, leading to policies and management decisions based on unreliable, in-

complete and outdated information. This “water information gap” represents one of the main limitations to achieve both the Millennium Development Goals and the African Water Vision 2025. With the GlobWetland Project in full swing, baseline information in GIS layers are processed and delivered to the Commission.

Methodology

The LULC maps for 1986 and 2004 were created using Landsat MSS and ETM+ respectively for the 4 sites in the Basin. The classifications were made using eCognition, an object oriented image classification tool. Traditional supervised classification algorithms are limited to single pixel spectral information, while the object oriented approach takes advantage of multi-level segmentation of the image into natural looking objects. A user controlled classification hierarchy also reduces confusion between classes and provides superior final results.

Change detection maps are created in each site, through a systematic analysis of both LULC maps. The changes can be summarized through the use of statistics, but also through visualization in a desktop GIS. The final state classes in 2004 and 1986 are displayed in corresponding order/position. E.g. 2004 marsh extents are displayed with the 1986 class assignment displayed under the 2004 marsh polygons. Changes are computed automatically and depicted visually. The visualization tool provides

the LCBC with the ability to better understand the spatial context of the changes occurring over the sites.

GIS Products Generated from the Project

The system includes a number of information layers embedded in GIS to monitor and assess the water and land environment in the Lake Chad Basin. It includes the following layers:

Land use and land cover map in 2004 (scale 1:100,000);

Land use and land cover changes since 1987 to 2003 (scale 1:100,000);

Water cycle monitoring map for 2004 (scale 1:50,000);

The system and the derived products were installed at the LCBC GIS Laboratory in N'djamena and represent now a basic data set for our management activities. In addition, in order to consolidate the integration of the developed system into the LCBC management practices as well as sustainability of the system, LCBC staff received also dedicated training on the use of such information products for water management and conservation activities in Lake Naivasha, Kenya.

The work carried out within GlobWetlands will represent the basis for LCBC conservation activity.

Submitted by Garba Sambo, Chad

Biodiversity strategy launched

A biodiversity action plan has been launched to conserve plant and animal species and integrate the policies into economic decision-making.

Cape Town - Biodiversity policies must be integrated into economic decision-making for South Africa's flora and wildlife to be conserved, says Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk.

Up to four-fifths of the country's biodiversity lay outside its game reserves, marine parks and other protected areas, he said on Monday.

"Given the geographic spread and extraordinary diversity of our plant and animal species, it is impossible to conserve the majority of species and ecosystems through a traditional protected areas approach alone."

National strategy

Van Schalkwyk was speaking at the launch of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in Port Elizabeth.

He said it had now become necessary to integrate biodiversity priorities into the policies, plans and programmes of all South Africans.

According to the NBSAP, this will include "macro-economic, trade, industrial, and tax policy".

The document aims to establish a framework and plan of action for the sustainable use of the country's biodiversity.

It was compiled by the department of environmental affairs over the past three years,

Biodiversity important to economy

South Africa's biodiversity is very important to the national economy, and to people's livelihoods at a local level, says the document.

"This value is often not recognised by decision-makers, and biodiversity is not adequately considered in development planning and conversions of land from natural habitat to other use."

"This may be partly due to the historical focus on species rather than ecosystems and the services they provide, and the fact that much of the use value of species to rural people is not quantified, and is not included in economic indicators," says the document.

"Conservation of biodiversity in a network of protected areas, while important, is not enough to safeguard these important resources now and in the future. It is essential that biodiversity is mainstreamed throughout the economy."

The NBSAP says after more than a decade of democracy, South Africa has excellent national environmental policies, and a legislative framework, in place.

"(But) there is now an urgent need for implementation by provincial and local spheres of government."

Alarming figures

Van Schalkwyk said an assessment by his department and the SA National Biodiversity Institute had revealed some alarming figures:

- of South Africa's terrestrial ecosystems, 34% were threatened, and five percent critically endangered;

- of the country's 120 major rivers, 82% were threatened and 44% critically endangered; and

- of 13 "groups of estuarine biodiversity", three were in critical danger, and 12% of marine bio-zones under serious threat.

The NBSAP would "inform the creation, in law, of a National Biodiversity Framework" for an integrated, approach to biodiversity management by organs of state, the minister said.

Source: News24.co.za

World Vegetable Center Offers Course

The World Vegetable Center, Regional Center for Africa is offering an intensive course on vegetable crops production and research

from July to November 2006. The course is open to African professionals who currently undertake the vegetable research and devel-

opment activities in the African continent. For more information, visit: <http://www.avrdc.org/training.html>

FAO Voices Concern About Decreasing Wild Banana Species

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is calling for a systematic exploration of the wild bananas' remaining habitat in India due to the rapid loss of these species. There is a need, FAO says, to assess the damage and catalogue the number and types of surviving wild species, many of which are the ancestors of the Cavendish variety, which accounts for almost all of world trade of banana.

The Indian subcontinent has contributed enormously to the global genetic base of bananas, but many gene sources have been lost due to ecosystem destruction, says FAO Agricultural Officer Ne-Bambi Lutaladio. This could cause serious problems because commercial bananas have a narrow gene pool and are highly vulnerable to pests and diseases.

In addition, FAO voiced the need for conservation efforts that focus on better land management by local populations, and research on expanding the use of wild bananas in breeding programs.

Read more on FAO's "Concern at vanishing bananas" at

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000285/index.html>, or contact Christopher Mathews at Christopher.mathews@fao.org for additional information.

Source: CropBiotech Update, 5 May 2006

Somalia Interagency Mapping and Coordination (SIMaC)

This list is aimed at technical personnel working in the diverse fields dealing with spatial data and information in Somalia. The list is intended to provide subscribers with a forum to post questions regarding data, software and related technical problems. The idea is similar to that of the Sudan Interagency Mapping (SIM) list, which has been extremely successful in

minimizing duplication of mapping activities in Sudan. The list is being hosted by www.eogeo.org so thanks go to Allan Doyle. To subscribe go to

<http://lists.eogeo.org/mailman/listinfo/simac>

Submitted by Craig von Hagen, FAO

Environmentally friendly landfills on the way to replace dumpsites

THE government said yesterday plans are afoot to introduce environmentally friendly sanitary landfills that will replace dumpsites for waste disposal, which are hazardous to health.

The Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Environment), Prof Mark Mwandosya, said yesterday the best thing about using sanitary landfills for disposing waste is that it is not only environmentally friendly but also leaves room for the land to be later be utilized for other activities, including agriculture.

Speaking shortly after he had inspected the Mtoni dump site in Tememe Municipal, which has of late been a centre of protests by residents in the area, Prof Mwandosya said plans to introduce sanitary landfills will involve regional administration and

local governments.

'We have learnt a lot about the effects of dumpsites. We had a dumpsite at Tabata that was moved to Vingunguti, and from Vingunguti it was moved to Mtoni,' the minister told his attentive audience at the Mtoni dumpsite.

The Dar es Salaam City Council (DCC) Director, Mr Bakari Kingobi, told the minister that plans were underway to establish a sanitary landfill at Pugu Kinyamwezi in Ilala Municipality the site to which the Mtoni dumpsite will be relocated.

He said the site has been found to be suitable for the establishment of the sanitary landfill after completion of an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

'We are now making preparations for surveying the area and identifying property belonging to residents in the area for compensation purposes, Kingobi said, adding that the DCC was getting in touch with financiers to develop the area.

Mtoni residents have been protesting against the dumpsite in their area saying it is a breeding ground for diseases such as cholera and dysentery.

The dumpsite, which is located near the Indian Ocean shoreline, has also been disposing of some of the waste into the ocean.

Between 800 and 1,200 tonnes from Ilala, Tememe and Kinondoni municipalities are dumped at the site daily.

Source: This Day

Australia delivers more relief to Sudan, Kenya

Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, has announced that the country will deliver 11.5m Australian dollars (8.7m US) in emergency relief to four African nations.

The assistance will be given to Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where there are major food shortages.

Downer says there is unprecedented demand on Australia's emergency funds as many African nations are affected by drought and conflict.

He says more than half the money will go to Sudan, where 1.5 million people are living in temporary camps having fled violence. Since May 2004, Australia has contributed \$40.1 million in aid,

mainly to Darfur, and since early 2003 Australia has issued more than 14,000 humanitarian visas to displaced Sudanese.

Source: Sudan Tribune

IAALD Chapter Established in Africa

An African chapter of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) was launched during a regional conference on "Managing agricultural information for sustainable food security and improved livelihoods in Africa" in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference aimed to mobilize and apply agricultural information and knowledge to improve food security, and to enhance the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa.

The conference sought to engage information specialists in actively contributing to the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Hence, the conference addressed basic issues of capacity building in agricultural information resources management, enabling policy for agricultural information management, narrowing the digital divide, and knowledge sharing and information systems for networking and part-

nerships.

Details of the conference may be obtained by emailing Daniel Otunge of the Kenya Biotechnology Information Center at dotunge@absfafrica.org.

Source: CropBiotech Update 26 May 2006

Upcoming Events (cont.)

24th year of the EEASA conference promises to offer all of the regular presentations and workshop styles of past conferences. Paper presentations, workshops, field trips, round table discussions and formulation of recommendations for regional actions in line with the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) will be offered. A market place will be available for displays. The conference will feature a special open day for young people with both the presentations and the displays focusing on the participation of the youth in EE.

The sub-themes for presentations at the EEASA 2006 conference will be:

- * Organising for Action in EE
- * Environmental Policy in Practice
- * Industrial Initiatives for the Environment
- * Challenge of Sustainable Development
- * Working Towards Best Practices in EE
- * Translating UNDESD into Action

For more information, see: www.action.co.zw

International Disaster Reduction Conference, Davos, Switzerland, 27 August—1 September 2006. For more information see <http://www.davos2006.ch/>

ISPRS Commission VIII Symposium, Haifa, Israel, 3—7 September 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission8.isprs.org>.

ISPRS Commission III Symposium: "Photogrammetric Computer Vision", Bonn, Germany, 20—22 September 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission3.isprs.org>.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is organizing an **International Workshop on Global Irrigated Area Mapping (GIAM)** during September 25-27, 2006 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Goals of the Workshop are to:

- 1) Gather a group of experts on global applications of RS and GIS to present, discuss, and refine products and associated methodologies, with specific focus on mapping irrigated area;
- 2) Disseminate GIAM products, data, methods, techniques, and protocols to a wide group of user's and experts;
- 3) Define a future work programme to refine and improve products and methodologies;
- 4) Write a book and/or bring out a special issue of a journal on irrigated areas of the World;
- 5) Provide hands-on training for interested participants in irrigated area mapping methods and techniques, used by IWMI and possibly by FAO and other partners;
- 6) Involve stakeholders in product use and dissemination.

Please register on-line (preferred) at: <http://www.iwmidsp.org/iwmi/giam-workshop/>.

Call for papers for the planned **2nd Gi4DM** which will take place in Goa, India from 25—26 September 2006. Deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 January 2006. For more information, see: <http://www.eis-africa.org>.

IFPRI Commission V Symposium: "Image Engineering & Vision Metrology", Dresden, Germany, 25—27 September 2005. For more information, see <http://www.commission5.isprs.org>.

IFPRI Commission IV Symposium: "Geospatial Databases for Sustainable Development", Goa, India, 27—30 September 2006. For more information, see <http://www.commission4.isprs.org>.

First Eastern Africa ESRI User Conference (EAUC), Nairobi, Kenya, 5 - 6 October 2006. Oakar Services Ltd, ESRI's Eastern Africa Distributor invites you to join current and potential users of ESRI software and members of the regional spatial data community at the very 1st Eastern Africa ESRI User Conference. **2-4/10/06 Pre-conference Program** will include (a) ESRI Instructor-led GIS training sessions (b) Pre-conference seminar *GIS in Law Enforcement & Homeland Security*. The EAUC will feature paper presentations, a user poster display, commercial exhibitions, technical workshops and also an inspiring Student Assistantship Program. Paper Abstracts are now invited on any of the following tracks: (a) Environment & Natural Resources (b) Planning, Land Management & Economic Development (c) GIS Science, Technology & Education, Business Services (d) Transportation, Utilities & Public Works (e) Health & Public Safety. **Abstract submission deadline is 30 June.** For full conference details, contact eauc@esriea.co.ke

Upcoming events (cont.)

6th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference, Cairo, Egypt, 30 October—2 November 2006. Theme: Earth Observation & Geoinformation Sciences in Support of Africa's Development. For further information, visit <http://www.narss.sci.eg/aarse2006>. For information concerning AARSE go to: <http://www.itc.nl/~aarse/>. The AARSE conference is the largest gathering of remote sensing and GIS users in Africa. The conference is a premier forum in Africa which brings together scientists, practitioners, educators, developers and vendors and policy and decision makers to discuss advancements (Latest developments), applications, capacity building and promotion of geo-information technologies in sustainable development of Africa. It is a forum in which participants learn and exchange ideas on the latest advancements in the technologies and their applications in different fields. Strategies for promotion and use of the technologies in Africa are also discussed. **The last date to submit an abstract is 15 April 2006.** More than 1000 participants are expected under one umbrella.

Young Scientists' Global Change Conference 2006, Beijing, China, 2—8 November 2006. Applications: http://www.start.org/links/announce_oppo/YSC_Application%205.doc. Wherever possible, those having papers/posters accepted will have their full costs (including travel and accommodation) covered.

The **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association** is pleased to invite the global spatial data community to attend their 9th international conference in Santiago, Chile. The primary sessions will occur Monday through Friday November 6-10, 2006. Continuing with their organizational goal of fostering spatial data infrastructure developments in support of important worldwide needs, the theme of GSDI-9 is "Spatial Information: Tool for Reducing Poverty." The conference will be held at the Diego Portales Convention Center in the heart of the lovely city of Santiago. The program promises to be the most exciting and best yet. For further information, see: <http://www.igm.cl/gsd9/>

ESSP Open Science Conference, 9—12 November 2006, Beijing, China. Call for contributions: We invite scientists, policy makers, practitioners, scholars, members of the private sector and journalists to participate in the ESSP Open Science Conference and to submit online abstracts (poster or parallel session presentations) through the OSC website (http://www.essp.org/ESSP2006/CallPapers_index.html). Please note that this call for contributions will primarily be for poster presentations, and that poster sessions will be an integral part of the Conference. Poster sessions will also relate directly to OSC parallel sessions. A list of the session titles and their keywords/brief descriptions can be found on the online submission form and on the Conference website (see web link above). Please note that we cannot accept late submissions (deadline: 01 May 2006) and that abstracts should not exceed 250 words. Thank you for your interest in the ESSP OSC.

2nd Annual International conference of the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI) on "Prioritizing Food Security Policies for Health and Development in Africa", hosted by the Cameroon Academy of Science in Yaoundé Cameroon, November 12–16, 2006. The second meeting would consist of a first day of joint and executive sessions involving the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the Board on African Science Academy Development (BASAD); a 2-day public launch and scientific event focusing on the use of science and technology in improving policy decision-making related to food security for health and development in Africa and a 2-day learning collaborative involving African science academy leaders and staff, including a 1-day session involving media representatives from each African country. Resources held by the US National Academies have been set aside under the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI) for an annual Africa-US joint symposium and learning collaborative over the ten years of the project. The goals for this annual event are to raise the visibility of science academies in Africa and to promote their potential role in informing government decision making in a variety of areas, to establish and build long-term partnerships among the US National Academies and African academies of science, to strengthen African partnerships, and to provide a venue for specific training opportunities for African science academies. For more information, see <http://www.assaf.co.za>.



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*A network for the co-operative
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June Newsletter

Any contributions, which are welcomed, must reach us by 22 June 2006. Contributions can be sent to svorster@eis-africa.org.

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Top scientist spells the way out of Africa's woes

Science and innovation are the key to solving Africa's major economic and ecological challenges. According to Prof Calestous Juma, who this week was elected to the Royal Society of London for his exceptional contribution to science, "Africa must join the rest of the world in investing in more science, technology and innovation to address major challenges associated with meeting human needs, competing in the global economy and solving environmental problems."

The scientist says that the spread of famine in Africa shows an urgent need to in-

vest in science and technology to raise productivity and create local food markets. "Most of the technical knowledge needed to solve Africa's problems exists somewhere in the world," he says.

"What Africa needs is to invest in scientific and entrepreneurial capacity to harness the knowledge and put it to commercial use," he told the *Nation* in an exclusive interview upon his election to the society.

For more information, see <http://www.nationmedia.com/dailyna->

[tion/nmqcontententry.asp?category_id=39&newsid=73795](http://www.nationmedia.com/contententry.asp?category_id=39&newsid=73795)

Source: *Daily Nation, Kenya*