

MOI KICK STARTS THE GMES AND AFRICA MARINE AND COASTAL SERVICE

The kickoff meeting of the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI) led GMES and Africa consortium was held in Mauritius from 14 to 16 August 2019. MOI is the recipient of the African Union GMES and Africa Marine and Coastal Areas Service grant for Eastern Africa coastal states including the South Western Indian Ocean island states.



The meeting was officially opened by the Honorable Premdutt Koonjoo, Minister for Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping. Other dignitaries who also delivered statements were Dr. Ruby Moothien Pillay, Director of MOI, Mr. Prem Saddul, Chairman of MOI Board, Mrs. Gina Bonne, Chargée de Mission, Indian Ocean Commission, Mr. Massimiliano Messi, Team Leader and Second Secretary, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Mauritius.

The kick off meeting signifies the beginning of the implementation of the MOI consortium of GMES and Africa, which is a joint African Union-European Union initiative providing information to policymakers, scientists, businesses and the public. The programme is an enabling mechanism designed to support the implementation of the African Space Policy and Strategy in addressing the growing needs of African countries to access and use Earth Observation (EO) data for the implementation of sustainable development policies on the continent. This will impact the management of the environment and natural

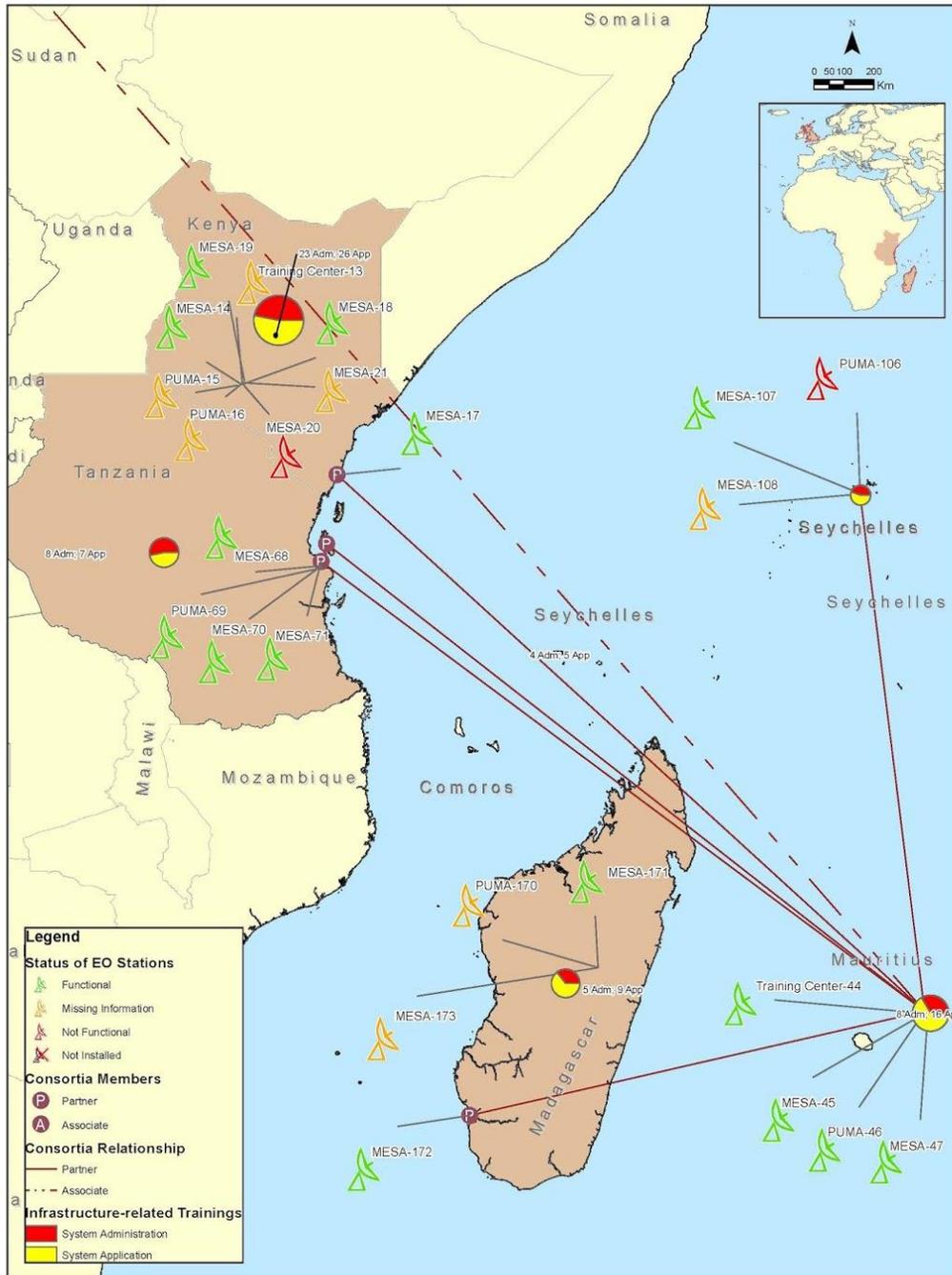
resources, as well as the monitoring of humanitarian operations through the integration and deployment of African requirements and needs in Copernicus Services.

The participating countries are dependent on their Marine and Coastal resources for their social, economic and ecological value. Fisheries management, better understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, monitoring and control of illegal fishing, climate change impact monitoring and forecasting of extreme weather events are some of the main regional issues that the project will address.

MOI is committed to deliver Earth Observation (EO) derived Marine and Coastal Services in partnership with the Tanzania Fisheries and Research Institute, Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines of Madagascar, Seychelles Meteorological Authority, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association. .

The GMES and Africa Marine and Coastal Management for East Africa uses both EO and in situ data to generate information; conduct analysis and forecasts that will eventually help institutions and decision/policy makers to observe, understand, anticipate and make better use of marine related resources. .

The consortium's eventual objectives include providing fishers with early warning information on the state of the ocean to protect lives at sea, as well as making data available to the scientific community and relevant stakeholders for decision making such as in cases of coral bleaching, harmful Algal Bloom and storm surges, amongst others. It seeks to avail periodic potential fishing zone maps and proposed areas for surveillance patrols and warning bulletins for Harmful Algal Blooms as well as providing vulnerability assessment of the coastlines of selected regions through production of shoreline change maps.



The main stakeholders and assets of the MOI Consortium

Source: <https://gmes4africa.blogspot.com/2019/10/moi-kick-starts-gmes-and-africa-marine.html>