



YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO KENYA,
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVE TO KENYA,
AFRICOVER CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR,
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I am delighted to be here this morning to be part of the happy occasion marking the beginning of this important meeting whose participants are drawn from the Eastern African Sub-Region.

Let me start by welcoming you most warmly to Kenya, in general and the City of Nairobi, in particular. Please feel at home and enjoy the hospitality and warmth of your Kenyan sisters and brothers.

Kenya feels greatly honoured and privileged to have been selected to host this great Meeting for National Coordinators. Your presence here is a welcome sign of your support to Kenya.

Over the last few years Kenya has played happy host to an increasing number of important International Conferences, Meetings and Seminars -thanks to the enabling political and infrastructural environment.

I would, therefore, like at this juncture to extend our appreciation to FAO Africover - E. Africa for your wise decision to bring this Meeting to Nairobi.



AFRICOVER - E. Africa

Land Cover Mapping of E. Africa Based on Satellite Remote Sensing

FAO Trust Fund Project GCP/RAF/287/ITA

Your Excellency, Distinguished guests and participants, most of our economies are seriously under-developed and mismanaged and the majority of our people are still living in primitive and backward conditions, without access to adequate shelter, health and nutritious food.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, remote sensing technology provides a vehicle for rapid collection of current detailed land use and resource data for a variety of planning purposes which is so urgently needed in Africa. However, we must commend the FAO Africover-E. Africa Project for this important initiative. We express our desire that the Project will grow from strength to strength and demonstrate an adequate capacity for intergovernmental regional institution that is capable of withstanding regional and international pressures.

I wish to urge the FAO Africover-E. Africa to continue with its endeavours and to work even more closely with member governments to ensure the reinforcement and the building up of the national and sub-regional capacities for the establishment, update and operational use of the geographic referential and land cover maps and geodatabases.

Finally, Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests and Participants, before I declare the Meeting officially opened, I wish to invite all of you to take every opportunity during your stay here, to visit as many places of interest within Kenya.

Your Excellency, Distinguished delegates, ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my great pleasure and honour to declare this FAO Africover-E. Africa Project First National Coordinators' Meeting officially opened.

THANK YOU

EDWIN OSUNDWA



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