

**TRIPARTITE REVIEW MEETING**

**GCP/RAF/287/ITA**

**LAND COVER MAPPING OF EAST AFRICA BASED  
ON SATELLITE REMOTE SENSING**

**27 / 28 January 2000**

**Sharm el Sheick**

**Egypt**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

## **1. OPENING AND APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND RAPORTEURS**

Dr. Hossam Fawzy of Egypt, was appointed as chairman by the members of the meeting.

Mr John Kitaka from the NFPI of Uganda and Rob Postma, Project Officer of the Africover Eastern Africa module, were appointed as rapporteurs.

## **2. PROCEEDINGS**

The TPR adopted to proceed with a general TPR meeting, followed by individual country meetings for those countries whose representatives requested for this closed session. The TPR agreed that in case of countries not holding a bilateral meeting with the donor and FAO national reports presented in third National coordinators meeting will be taken as a basis for completing the TPR exercise in its national dimension

## **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was amended and adopted as attached in Annex I.

## **4. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**

The TPR requested the project management to prepare an annual activities report, showing the achievements since the last NCM / TPR, to be sent to all members of the TPR.

### **(A) PROJECT WORKPLAN**

- The CTA made a presentation indicating a comprehensive workplan for the remaining work up to the end of May 2000 and an additional period from June 2000 to May 2002. On review of the presentation made by the project management, the TPR expressed its favorable assessment of the presented work plan. Therefore the TPR endorsed the proposed work plan up to end May 2000.
- The TPR took note of the workplan proposal for the 2-year extension, which reflects well the needs of the participating countries. The TPR indicated that the whole formulation exercise for a new phase has to be completed before a workplan for that new phase can be properly assessed and eventually approved.
- The TPR considered that one of the major reasons for the project coming short of completing the initially envisaged workplan within the time span and budget indicated in the project document relates to the fact that the project at its first start was faced with a scenario quite different from the one in which this specific project

had to be framed in a broader African land cover program. In the absence of essential components of normative nature, such as LCCS and related methodologies and software packages expected to be generated by FAO with all partners within the African land cover program, the Eastern Africa Africover project was left with no other option but to start taking care of generating these essential components. The generation of these components has captured an important portion of the resources allocated to the project both in financial terms and human resources. Thereby, resources left available for the execution of project activities specifically aimed at the land cover mapping exercise within the sub region are at this stage insufficient for completing the land cover mapping exercise as initially envisaged in the participating countries.

- The TPR recognized that if the extension of the project does not materialize, it would have disastrous implications in terms of delivery capacity, sustainability, institutional building, investments already made, relevance and usefulness of partial results to be attained by May 2000. Furthermore the TPR requested the project management to provide its members with a detailed assessment of those adverse impacts within 3 weeks.
- The TPR further acknowledged that there are expectations for future use to be made by other projects of outputs-data to be generated by the Africover project. Based on that, unanimous concern was expressed on the adverse implications of a missing extension at the regional level.
- The TPR was informed by the participating countries that there are already quite a number of national, regional and global projects that have been developed with the understanding that the Africover data will be available. The TPR was also informed by FAO that some other regions such as Asian and the Pacific have already decided through its Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development held in Delhi in November 1999, to emulate the Africover methodology generated by the project for environmental monitoring. Based on the above the TPR expressed concern for possible implications on a wider scale arising from not having the Africover project fully completed.
- The TPR noted the strong need for immediate action to be taken by all relevant partners in view of ensuring an extension phase.
- In this connection the participating countries unanimously urged FAO to approach the Government of Italy to take all possible measures to ensure a new extension phase and to avoid any discontinuity in the project activities. This is the only solution to allow the participating countries to have a full completion of the project activities, to capitalize the current achievements of the project and further strengthen their capacities in the wider application of Africover results for sustainable development

## **(B) MONITORING**

The TPR recommended that for the best implementation of the project in the envisaged new phase there should be a strong and close monitoring mechanism embedded in the operational procedures of the project. This would among other things assist the management and assure a timely detection and correction of any possible problems arising within the execution of the project activities.

Taking into account the potential use of the methodology and software generated by this project, within and beyond the present sub-regional boundaries, and due to its special nature of essential normative components on standards and software development, the TPR recommends that, within the envisaged new phase, a validation exercise is be carried out through submitting to the scrutiny of a panel of high level international experts all methodological and normative results generated by the project.

The TPR acknowledged the importance of properly evaluating the project performance and implementation through selected evaluation procedures as appropriate. Thereby the TPR recommends that provisions should be made to that end within the formulation exercise under way.

To assure that the national entities be more involved in the implementation of the project and its activities the TPR reiterates the recommendation made in its previous NCM and TPR meeting, to have the NCM transformed into a steering committee.

## **(C) INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY MEETINGS :**

- **Sudan** : The representatives of Sudan requested that the resources allocated for the field verification exercise would be reviewed as soon as possible in order to allow the execution of the exercise to proceed within the specified period.
- **DR Congo** : The representatives of DR Congo expressed their concerns regarding the unavailability of a full cloud free coverage of satellite imagery of the DR Congo, needed for the land cover mapping exercise, suggesting that alternatives should be explored.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The members of the TPR expressed the unanimous view that the Africover project has so far been highly successful. A number of outputs have been developed such as a preliminary multi-purpose environmental database, a methodology including related software packages of a potential world wide application and a regional cooperation network through a range of national capacity building activities.
- The participating countries unanimously urged FAO to approach the Government of Italy to take all possible measures to ensure a new extension phase and to avoid any discontinuity in the project activities. This is the only solution to allow the participating countries to have a full completion of the project activities, to capitalize the current achievements of the project and further strengthening their capacities in the wider application of Africover results for sustainable development
- Taking into account the potential use of the methodology and software generated by this project, within and beyond the present sub-regional boundaries, and due to its special nature of essential normative components on standards and software development, the TPR recommends that, within the envisaged new phase, a validation exercise is carried out through submitting to the scrutiny of a panel of high level international experts all methodological and normative resource generated by the project.
- The TPR acknowledged the importance of properly evaluating the project performance and implementation through selected evaluation procedures as appropriate. Thereby the TPR recommends that provisions should be made to that end within the formulation exercise under way.
- To assure that the national entities be more involved in the implementation of the project and its activities the TPR reiterates the recommendation made in its previous NCM and TPR meetings, to have the NCM transformed into a steering committee.
- The TPR recommended that in the proposed project document for the extension of the Africover project the in kind contributions provided by the participating members should be acknowledged. Such contributions include staff time, facilities, office space, ancillary data, and field work
- In view of the problems of cloud cover in some of the participating countries, as it appears to be the case in DR Congo, which experience delay in their project activities, the TPR recommended FAO to conduct a necessary assessment on the possibility of using any other alternative RS data. Further the TPR requested FAO to analyse the possible implications of using this alternative data in terms of methodology and financial needs and to provide a report for the information of all concerned parties.
- The TPR in this connection recommends FAO to make the best use of the above mentioned assessment for finalising the project proposal within the general rationale presented to the TPR and with a clear indication of the specific implications of the options adopted by FAO.

The minutes were discussed and approved by the TPR meeting and signed by :

REPRESENTATIVE OF GOVERNMENT OF ITALY

- For the DGCS :

Mr. M. Foti

- For the FAO / Italy Technical Review and Monitoring Panel

Prof. M. Gorgoni

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REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Dr Hossam Fawzy

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REPRESENTATIVE OF FAO

Mr. He Chang Chui

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