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**GEO-INFORMATION CAPACITY BUILDING AND BUILDING ON CAPACITY
IN KENYA: A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH**

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Research has shown that there is a direct link between Information and Communication Technologies Infrastructure (ICTs) and per capita growth. In deed, there is growing consensus that because of rapid innovation, ICTs provide African countries a great opportunity to leap-frog the industrialization stage and transform their economies into information and knowledge economies that can enable them to compete in the global market. In deed Kenya's current draft ICT policy provides a vision for creating an e-enabled and knowledge- based society by using ICTs to improve the livelihoods of Kenyans and to optimise its contribution to the development of the economy through the availability of efficient, reliable and affordable info-communication services throughout the country. The policy spells out the priority goals and objectives that will harness the potential of ICTs to achieve the Millenium Development Goals.

Most African countries have been unable to fully utilize ICT as a tool for increasing research capabilities and enhancing livelihoods and creating new business opportunities. Existing disparities in ICT have also hindered the effective application of Geoinformation science in African countries for decision-making. Geo-information science is an "all-purpose" multidisciplinary science, concerned with obtaining reliable information about the Earth's natural resources and the environment using high speed and high capacity electronic digital computer. It concentrates on geo-information production to ensure

This initiative is in line with the existing trends worldwide where partnerships are key to capacity development. This paper presents suggestions on a partnership approach to capacity building and building on capacity in geoinformation science that calls for a institutional collaboration in both the development and teaching of curricular and use of geospatial infrastructure. Such collaborative efforts are expected to catalyse development not only in Kenya but also in Africa as a whole.