



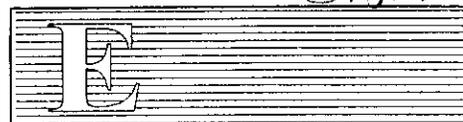
**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

First Meeting of the Committee on  
Development Information (CODI)

28 June - 2 July 1999  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



**Distr.: GENERAL**

**E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/CRP9**  
**28 June 1999**

**Original: ENGLISH**

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MAPPING  
OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT (RCMRD)**

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MAPPING OF RESOURCES  
FOR DEVELOPMENT (RCMRD)

(formerly: Regional Centre for Services in Surveying,  
Mapping and Remote Sensing)

Presented by

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The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development is an inter-governmental organization established and operating under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The Centre started its operations in March, 1975 with a membership of five countries, namely: Kenya, Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. Out of the twenty four (24) countries in the subregion, fifteen (15) have already signed the Agreement establishing the Centre and become contracting member States. These are: Botswana, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Representatives of these contracting member States constitute the Governing Council of the Centre which has met regularly on a yearly basis. The meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for the Centre is also held every four or five years to approve the development plans of the Centre.

The main objectives of the Centre are as follows:

- (a) To generate natural resources and environmental information using appropriate technologies such as surveying, mapping, remote sensing, etc; organize this information in suitable formats, readily available for immediate use for development planning purposes;
- (b) To advise on the options and optimum applications in the use of resource and environment information for development and the implications of the different types of information on the national and regional development processes;
- (c) To provide services in the calibration and maintenance of surveying, mapping and other

equipment and hardware utilized in resource mapping and environment monitoring; and to advise on the acquisition, procurement and use of such equipment in national resource mapping and environmental projects;

- (d) To transfer new technologies in resource mapping and environment monitoring to member States by way of conducting training, seminars, workshops, as well as provision of technical backstopping services;
- (e) To carry out studies and research in new technologies and techniques of resource mapping and environment management and make available to the Contracting Parties the results of such studies and research;
- (f) To provide advisory services on problems relating to resource mapping and environmental management to the Governments of member States and their agencies;
- (g) To establish and maintain an operational networking info-structure to facilitate the provision of these services to the member states whilst enhancing the accessibility and exchange of information within and between member States.

During the Governing Council meeting in December, 1997 the member States endorsed the resolutions of the 32nd Session of the ECA/23rd Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Planning Economic and Social Development held on 5-8 May, 1997 in regard to ECA's initiative on the rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions.

The Council resolved to endorse the new name of the Centre which had been recommended by the 2020 Vision review team. The new name of the Centre is: REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MAPPING OF RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT (RCMRD). It is envisaged that the Centre will focus on activities of mapping of resources for development.

#### Consultancy and Advisory Services

In the field of consultancy and advisory services, the Centre was involved in providing advisory services to the Dar-Mwanza Oil Pipeline in Tanzania. This involved carrying out photography for the entire route of the pipeline and initiated ground control.

The Centre participated fully in meetings which were organized to establish modalities for having "Regional Hydrographic Survey Units" in member States.

The Centre has recognized the importance of digital mapping in development activities and it has started to establish the facility at the Centre

The collaboration with UNCHS/Habitat

The Centre carried out an evaluation of the status of land surveys and large scale mapping in eastern and southern Africa countries.

#### Early Warning Systems for Food Security

Concerning Early Warning Systems for Food Security, the Centre hosted a project funded by France through the trust funds of FAO. The Centre also conducted a research project using METEOSAT derived data of Evapotranspiration. The project was funded by the Dutch Government.

#### Research and Development Projects

Africover project finally started its operations at the Centre. The project is funded by Italy through FAO Trust funds. Since its inception, the project has completed land cover mapping of Somalia and Kenya. It has also developed an operational software known as AIMS. It operates on WINDOWS-NT and interfaced with MULTISCOPE.

In collaboration with partners in Europe, the Centre is participating in the "Sustainability Use of Natural Resources in Dryland Areas of East Africa." The project is funded by the European Union. The first year's implementation performance was presented during a workshop on "Strategies for Sustainable Development in Dryland Areas of Eastern Africa" held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November, 1998.

#### Common Technical Services

The Centre mounted several missions in the last couple of years to member States to service their equipment. During these missions, the following equipment were serviced: 43 Plotters, 46 EDMs, 60 Theodolites, 22 Levels and 3 Microscopes.

In collaboration with Leica Geosystems, the Centre has trained its staff to undertake repairs and service of Leica equipment in eastern and southern Africa.

#### The Future Outlook

The implementation of the programme of activities will involve the active participation by member States. This will increase the delivery of services to the member States.

The Centre has gained recognition for going-into partnership for international contracts. This should give a position bearing on the future revenue generating efforts of the Centre.

The Centre is making efforts to solicit funds (about US\$500,000) from donors for the completion of office facilities. The additional facilities will enhance the services that are required of the Centre.

The Centre is active in developing projects which are beneficial to the member States. In this regard, the Centre is seeking active partnership with international organizations to fund the projects and in so doing, contribute to the development of the sub-region.

The Centre is committed to implementing its 2020 Vision plan. The objectives are envisaged to transform the Centre into a viable institution which is in harmony with the changing technology and cooperative environment.

The Centre enjoys wide acceptance not only in East and Southern Africa subregion, but also in Africa and internationally. The programmes of the Centre are considered to be relevant and a priority to the needs of the region. The Centre has tremendous potential operational capacity. It also enjoys unswerving continued support of the member States.

The entire membership of the Centre wish to continue to be affiliated to ECA. It is hoped that significant improvement will be made so that the Centre can work closely with UNECA.