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SNAPSHOT The SERVIR West Africa Launch

A Strong Start



Photo: USAID/Sharon Kellman Yett

The Prime Minister of Niger Brigi Rafini, Kassoum Denon, Coordinating Minister of CILSS, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, and USAID West Africa Mission Director Alex Deprez opening SERVIR West Africa.

The SERVIR West Africa (SERVIR WA) program was launched on July 14, 2016 at the AGRHYMET Regional Centre in Niamey, Niger. This newest SERVIR hub expands the environmental monitoring capacities of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)/AGRHYMET Regional Centre and other regional partners, bringing new earth observation and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to the region by supporting access to publically available data and through focused technical and administrative capacity building.

The SERVIR WA regional hub is a consortium of national and regional organizations led by AGRHYMET. It includes the Center for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS), *Centre de Suivi Ecologique* (CSE), African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information and Technology (AFRIGIST), African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Applied Sciences Team (AST), and the SERVIR Support Team – supporting exchanges and learning between hubs, among other activities.

The goal of SERVIR WA is to increase capacity to apply geospatial technologies and analysis to improve the region's resilience to climate change impacts and ensure that land use management reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The program will improve access to knowledge products and services to support decision making in food security and agriculture; water and water-related disasters; land cover and land use change and ecosystems; and weather and climate. Initial program activities will focus on building the capacity of SERVIR WA institutions, which are based in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria and Niger.

The program launch was attended by more than 100 notable regional experts and leaders present representing an important opportunity to formalize the consortium and begin collaboration. Of the next year, the consortium will conduct stakeholder consultations and needs assessments; implement the approach to service design and delivery; monitor, evaluate and learn from progress; among other activities.

Telling Our Story

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