

Leading for an inclusive agenda and shared purpose

Emmanuel Nkurunziza (Rwanda)

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SUMMARY

Throughout the years, RCMRD has expanded the horizon through growing its regional and global networks and inclusive partnerships that carries on board the women and youth. These partnerships help drive RCMRD to achieve its mandate across its thematic areas. RCMRD has established knowledge exchange hubs to foster information sharing for research, academia and for public usage. Examples of such hubs are the GMES& Africa Geoportal, the RCoE Geoportal which feeds into the Africa Knowledge Platform (AKP) which has been developed by the Joint Research Council (JRC) of the European Commission. At RCMRD, gender equity and youth empowerment are integrated into the implementation of projects and programs, ensuring that no one is left behind in the development agenda. Space challenges, internship programs, map competitions, mapathons and mentorship through GeoHubs, are stimuli for growing and nurturing talents among youths and young professionals. We are proud to have seen youths growing from internship to taking managerial and leadership roles within RCMRD and in other institutions dealing with Geospatial and Earth Observation.

RCMRD has collaborated with other institutions to promote gender equity and engage in forums such as African Women in GIS and Women in GMES & Africa. The deliberate move by the GMES& Africa program to sponsor more women for scholarship shows the commitment of the African Union and the European Union to gender balance across the Earth Observation spectrum. The wealth of networks and strategic partners across our thematic areas propels the institution to adequately utilise Geospatial information and Earth Observation to address the call to climate action.

Contributing to national reporting of SDGs have been achieved through global partnerships. RCMRD has been designated as a Technical Scientific and Support Centre (TSC) of the United

Nations Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and also a Centre to deliver capacity building initiatives/reporting to the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This recognition has come through support from Member states, other technical institutions, regional economic communities (RECs), donors and partners.

Building communities of practice for knowledge exchange have also accelerated insights into addressing challenges such as Climate Change, Rapid Urbanisation, Biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation and food insecurity. RCMRD remains grateful for the collaborative effort by stakeholders, partners, donors, and we are hopeful that together, we can address global challenges beyond 2030.

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