

**REPORT TO THE AFREF  
WORKSHOP AND PLANNING  
SESSION ON WAFREF  
AT  
NAIROBI, KENYA**

ON  
17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004

Presented By  
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**INTRODUCTION**

- All the Countries in West Africa has their own difficulties and challenges in developing their geodetic reference system. The West Africa Reference Frame (WAFREF) component of AFREF has suffered same challenges to the implementation and development of this project.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Very little formal progress has been made on this project (WAFREF) during this times which was marked by an interchange of ideas between few interested and concerned individuals with in West Africa

- Since March 2001 when a meeting of representatives from 8 African countries was held in Cape Town and followed by other several meetings on AFREF, numerous talks and discussions have been held regarding the concepts and principles of a unified West Africa geodetic reference frame.

- In May and Sept 2003 when Heads of National Mapping agencies meet at CODI-Geo meeting, it was well debated at this discussions and few Leaders were tasked to organised the WAFREF component but till date little has been done to commerce the planning and implementation of the WAFREF.

- I know individual countries is trying to establish their own in their countries but we to coordinate this effort which I think that is the idea of AFREF. I have information that Cote d'Ivoire through their University in Yamosukro has establish one permanent station. Nigerian has formed and steering committee on national geodetic network. Ghana has also similar committee. Senegal has also completed one permanent station.

- The question then is why are these countries not working together to implement the WAFREF component in West Africa.
- I think there is not a clear structure as to how to handle this project and this has been the major problem which I am expecting this workshop to come out with the solution

## The Possible Way Forward

- The Director of RECTAS base in Nigerian should setup meeting or Workshop to get West African Countries together to start WAFREF.
- This meeting should involve Heads of Geodetic Departments of our individual Universities and Polytechnics.
- The Individual National Surveying Associations and members.
- Private organisations that are associated with surveying and mapping.
- The Heads of National Mapping organisations

## The Possible way forward Cont'd

- The national heads of Mapping should be represented on the committee to be setup as they are mostly engaged in other national issues but get involve in implementation.
- The Director of RECTAS should task the Chairman of this steering committee with a time frame to submit report on progress of the project and various meetings organised.
- Anglophone – Francophone link should be established within WAFREF to facilitate easily dissemination of information on the project to National mapping Agencies and their individual countries.

## The Possible way forward Cont'd

- This project proposal should officially be forwarded to ECOWAS Secretariat and logged with the Secretary General to be included in the ECOWAS agenda for West African States.
- Funds should be available to organise meetings for members of the committee to be setup.
- Ractas office should link with RCMRD to solve funding to support the project

## Activities during ISPRS in Istanbul.

- In July 2004 at the ISPRS 2004 Congress the African participants met and this project was also discussed as an essential element in development information as to how to this project can be started and also to unite West African States at large.

## Concluding Remarks

- There has been a lot of discussions, talk, debate and hard work surrounding the AFREF project since 2000. Many organisations and individuals have expressed interest and strong support for the project including IAG. A major challenge for us from West Africa States will be to increase the momentum and enthusiasm for the project.
- The time has come to put all talk, debate and resolutions into action and it is trusted the AFRF steering Committee will play a pivotal technical role in these actions during the next two years when we shall all meet at 5<sup>th</sup> FIG Regional Conference to be held in West Africa in 2006.
- The organisational structure of how to run this project is very important.

THANK YOU



- SEE YOU IN GHANA IN 2006 AT 5<sup>TH</sup> FIG REGIONAL CONFERENCE