

## SECOND SCGIS KENYA SEMINAR AT HERON HOTEL ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2008

**Topic: Application of GIS in World Bank supported Sustainable Development Network (SDN) programs in Kenya**

**Speaker: Dr. Tom Owiyo. Monitoring and Evaluation and Impact Evaluation Consultant, The World Bank, Kenya Country Office (Sustainable Development Network Unit)**

The seminar which is the second in the list of the Society's programme for this year started at a high pitch by members arriving earlier even before the scheduled time showing their high degree of commitment to the event, had about 34 people in attendance derived from all sectors like the private, public and students from various universities in Kenya. Welcoming note was given by the Chairlady- Lucy who briefly addressed some issues about the Association especially to the new members and ushers in the speaker of the day.

As the topic implies, the presentation was basically to show how GIS is used in various World Bank (WB) projects in the country. It was realized that WB under the SDN programs deal with major sectors like Agriculture, Environment, Infrastructure and Energy. This is being achieved under three main operations which have unique spatial data requirements:

- Western Kenya Community Driven Development and Flood Mitigation (WKCDD&FM) implemented by the Ministry of Special Programs. Under the CDD, GIS is used to facilitate baseline survey including survey design and randomization to identify communities in the project area, select a target community based on need (poverty index) and finally monitoring and evaluation of the project. On the other hand the FM deals with catchment management and flood mitigation which is done identification of the degraded hotspots in the catchment.
- Arid Land Resource Management Project (ALRMP) by the Ministry of Development of Northern Kenya. The project is based in 28 Districts in Kenya and majorly focused on (1) Natural Resource and Drought Management which deals with the management of water and forage resources using GIS and Remote Sensing techniques and analyses, asst and drought management strategies like livestock based index insurance and risk management of asst based insurance which is based on asst attribute and spatial environment/health factors. (2) CDD where they give them support, capacity building for the community and for backstopping services. This is done by developing a database for Community Action Plans (CAP) including social infrastructures like schools, safety nets support to vulnerable groups and income generating activities.
- Kenya Agriculture Productivity Project (KAPP)

In terms of the infrastructures, Northern Corridor Transport Improvement Project (NCIP) under the Ministry of Roads is underway. Project include road rehabilitation, social economic enhancement, private sector participation in road management, road safety, support to Kenya Airport Authority (KAA), Support to Kenya Civil Aviation Authority

(KCAA) and support to the Ministry of Transport and Communication. Data on travel time, vehicle operation cost and goods/cargo type is collected for the road. For better management of these, there is a plan of new parastatals in the ministry i.e. Kenya National Highway Authority, Kenya Rural Road Authority and Kenya Urban Road Authority.

In Energy KPLC is used to spear head the mapping of distribution live, facilitate planning and implementation of the rural electrification program, economic sector work including the impact of access to electricity on economic growth, development, poverty reduction and income inequality.

WB also are involved in the sound management of the Constituency Development Funds (CDF) by funding the mapping of all the constituencies through Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), promoting use of GIS to manage and disseminate the CDF projects to public. These are done by the Ministry of Information and Communication (check-[www.information.go.ke](http://www.information.go.ke) for more information).

Great challenges faced by WB in undertaking these projects are slow pace of reforms and lack of experience.

I challenge you to never plan to miss the next seminar which will be on the web mapping services and tool by Mick Wilson from UNEP on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at the Heron Hotel Nairobi, see you then. For more details visit <http://www.scgiskenya.org/events.php>.

**“I rate enthusiasm above professional skills”**

By Sir Edward Appleton

Report by  
Okembo Clifford Otieno