

Global Terrestrial Observing System INFORMATION NOTE

Recent developments from the Global Terrestrial Observing System, 22 August 2001

Information management / NSDI workshop, Lusaka (Zambia), May 2001

GTOS organized a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and Information Management System training workshop in Lusaka (Zambia), 3-10 May 2001 in collaboration with the Environmental Information Network and Monitoring System (EIMS) of Zambia, and the Integrated Support to Sustainable Development and Food Security Programme (IP).

The workshop improved the participant's understanding of the key components of environmental data management, including maps, tabular data and text.

The meeting explored the opportunities to strengthen the Zambian NSDI (especially in terms of data accessibility and publishing). GTOS could play a significant role in Southern Africa as a data broker, facilitating the movement of information laterally (between disciplines and nations) and vertically (from the national scale to the regional and global scale). It also became clear that there was a need for a resource centre that would support information systems and strengthen the existing NSDI.

Following the GTOS implementation plan for Southern Africa; IP/GTOS will organize further environmental management system workshops in Southern Africa. The topics of standards, metadata, registration processes, data flow, data release and sharing, etc, will be covered. The next workshop will be in Zimbabwe in September 2001. For details on future workshops please consult <http://www.fao.org/gtos/Resmeeting.html>.