Global Dialogues on Emerging Science and Technology (GDEST)

Topics were selected in recognition of existing and/or emerging opportunities in the host country/countries

4. India, October 2006: Agricultural Biotechnology
5. Brazil, November 2006: Bioinformatics
6. Africa, March 2008: Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development
US has lost ground in geospatial science and technology (GS&T) applications in Africa since WSSD Johannesburg – 2002

US GS&T Programs should be based on strategic considerations, rather than one-off initiatives.

Linkages to national strategies and ministries are key.

Need for genuine donor coordination and dialogue to ensure greater efficacy and sustainability of programs.

Recognize existing expertise and capacity and reinforce existing networks.

Focus on regional efforts wherever possible.
GDEST 2008: Geospatial Sciences for Sustainable Development in Africa,

March 1-19, 2008

- Two teams, 17 persons: USG, Academe, NGOs
- Site visits to 9 Countries: Gov’t, Universities, Private Sector
  - Team West: Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria
  - Team East: Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Botswana, South Africa
- Capstone conference in Cape Town, March 17-19
GDEST Africa 2008

Objectives
- Observing Africa
- Analysis of regional challenges to Africa
- The Africa Data Stream

Outcomes/Recommendations
- Continue the dialogue, review progress, & bring in other partners through already scheduled fora;
- Build upon what exists; using existing expertise and networks of excellence;
- Facilitate face-to-face networking at various levels;
- Support collaborative African projects and platforms;
- Develop sustainable mechanisms for the supply of high resolution remotely sensed data;
- Strengthen university “islands of stability”
- Compile and maintain an inventory of geo-information initiatives in Africa
Key Challenges:

- Capacity vs. capability;
- Moving capacity to sub-national levels;
- Access to data:
  - Bandwidth
  - Policies
- Develop and maintain on-the-ground data arrays and networks at various scales;
- Sustainability of partnerships beyond initial funding.
GOALS of the ongoing process:

1. Information sharing: understanding what activities and applications related to Geospatial Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa are currently underway in five sectors (gov’t, private, academic/research, foundations, NGOs).

2. Building individual contacts and partnerships within and across sectors.

3. Facilitate coordination of current and future activities.

4. Establish/increase collaboration among sectors (in the U.S.).

5. Establish and strengthen relationships with African partners (support rather than supplant local activities and capacity).

6. Sustain these partnerships.

7. EIS-Africa, Kampala, Oct. 26-30