

AFREF, Establishment of a Common and Modern African Geodetic Reference Frame

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SUMMARY

There are almost as many coordinate systems and thus reference systems in Africa as there are countries. Cross border, regional and continental geo-referenced applications, services and products require a uniform coordinate reference system. Africa requires such common a coordinate system. The World Geodetic 84(WGS84) and International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) are global reference and coordinate systems. To solve this problem, the African Reference Frame (AFREF) has therefore been proposed. It is aimed at establishing the reference system using GNSS technology based on WGS84 and ITRF systems standards. It is proposed that the project be implemented by all countries in the continent through their National Mapping Organisations(NMOs) with the support of the international community through various Scientific and Research organization in geosciences, donor agents, GNSS product manufacturers and users among others. This paper is aimed at sensitizing and seeking wider support for the AFREF project both within the continent and the globe. The objectives, proposed implementation strategy, current status and expected benefits are addressed.