



## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST AARSE CONFERENCE

The **African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)** invites expression of interest from national institutional members and/or other organizations/agencies in Africa for the hosting/organization of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Association in 2020. Bids can also be received for the 14<sup>th</sup> edition (2022) and the 15<sup>th</sup> edition (2024). The conference is usually held in the last week of October of every even-number year.

The expression of interest should clearly indicate the following points:

- Name of championing organization including history of the organization and statement of previous hosting of international conference(s) of similar magnitude;
- Names, affiliations and contact details of the lead person and members of team making the proposal;
- Names of supporting government organizations, universities, national geospatial associations, UN agencies, NGO/Civil society organizations and other organizations in the country supported by letters of intent from such organizations;
- Suggested main theme of the conference;
- Indication of city and proposed venue(s) for the conference, including capacities of main hall, breakout rooms and exhibition space and internet access capability. Where available, academic institutions are the preferred venue;
- Name(s) of nearest airport and airlines plying the route;
- Availability and types of hotels and tourism locations;
- Indication of ease of visa processing (presence of embassies in most African countries);
- Indication of the strength of AARSE membership and potential for membership growth, as well as geo-information activities in the country;
- Other useful information, such as strength of the commercial geospatial sector, number of universities offering geospatial training, national geospatial infrastructure such as satellite receiving stations.

For the 2020 edition, first preference will be given to applicants from the Central Africa sub-region followed by West Africa sub-region in line with the AARSE principle of rotational hosting. It should be noted that AARSE does not provide funds for the hosting organization but the Association can and will solicit for international funding on behalf of the organization towards a successful hosting of the conference, and provide guidance to the Local Organising Committee on soliciting sponsorships and commercial exhibitors within the host country.

Interested organisations are encouraged to address any further inquiries to either Prof. Kamal Labbassi or Prof. Jide Kufoniyi (see contact details below) regarding a possible bid. This solicitation of a conference host is an open process, and may be discussed with any of the AARSE Council members. We plan to reach a decision on a host country and organization at the AARSE 2018 conference taking place in Alexandria, Egypt from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018, therefore each applicant will be expected to attend and make a presentation to the AARSE Executive Council during the conference. However, discussions will be ongoing until suitable hosting arrangements have been finalized.

The expression of interest should be sent latest by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to:

Prof. Kamal Labbassi  
Secretary General  
African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)  
Faculty of Science,  
Chouaib Doukkali University,  
B.P: 20, El Jadida, Morocco  
Tel.: +212 6 63 10 73 71; Fax: +2125 23 34 21 87  
Email: [kamal.labbassi@africanremotesensing.org](mailto:kamal.labbassi@africanremotesensing.org)  
Alt email: [labbassi@ucd.ac.ma](mailto:labbassi@ucd.ac.ma), [kamal\\_labbassi@yahoo.fr](mailto:kamal_labbassi@yahoo.fr)

With a copy to:

(1) Prof. Jide Kufoniyi  
President, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE)  
Surveying and Geoinformatics Programme  
Department of Estate Management  
Faculty of Environmental Design and Management  
Obafemi Awolowo University  
Ile-Ife, Nigeria  
Tel: +234 8037251141  
Email: [jide.kufoniyi@africanremotesensing.org](mailto:jide.kufoniyi@africanremotesensing.org)  
Alt email: [jkufoniyi@oauife.edu.ng](mailto:jkufoniyi@oauife.edu.ng), [jidekufoniyi@yahoo.com](mailto:jidekufoniyi@yahoo.com)

(2) AARSE Secretariat: [info@africanremotesensing.org](mailto:info@africanremotesensing.org)

#### **Previous AARSE Conferences:**

To achieve its objectives, AARSE conducts a biennial (once every two years) international conference in Africa in addition to other awareness, research and capacity building activities. Up to 2016, AARSE, with the support of local and international organizations, has organized eleven (11) of such conferences in Harare (Zimbabwe) in 1996, Abidjan (Cote D'Ivoire) in 1998, Cape Town (South Africa) in 2000, Abuja (Nigeria) in 2002, Nairobi (Kenya) in 2004, Cairo (Egypt) in 2006, Accra (Ghana) in 2008, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2010, El Jadida (Morocco) in 2012, Johannesburg (South Africa) in 2014 and Kampala (Uganda) in 2016. The conference usually takes place in the last week of October. The themes of the past conferences were:

- The Application of remotely Sensed Data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Environmental Resources Assessment in Africa (AARSE 1996);
- Lessons of Experience and the Way Forward for Integrated Development and Application of Remote Sensing and GIS for Sustainable Development in Africa (AARSE 1998);
- Information for Sustainable development (AARSE 2000);
- Geo-information for Sustainable Development in Africa (AARSE 2002);
- The Role of Geo-Information Technologies (GIT) in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) (AARSE 2004);
- Geoinformation Sciences & Earth Observation in Support of Africa's Development (AARSE 2006);
- Earth Observation and Geoinformation for Governance in Africa (AARSE 2008);

- Earth Observation and Geoinformation for Africa's Development Agenda (AARSE 2010);
- Earth Observation & Geo-information Sciences for Environment and Development in Africa: Global Vision and Local Action Synergy (AARSE 2012);
- Space Technologies for Societal Benefits in Africa (AARSE 2014);
- Our Earth, Our Heritage: Harnessing Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa.

The attendance at each of these conferences is in the order of 500 international participants and exhibitors.

The 12<sup>th</sup> conference will take place from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Alexandria, Egypt (see [www.aarse2018.org](http://www.aarse2018.org)) on the theme 'Earth Observations and Geospatial Science in service of Sustainable Development Goals'.

#### **About AARSE:**

The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) was founded in 1992 and was incorporated as an international NGO under Section 21 of the South African Companies Act (Act 61 of 1973). AARSE has an observer status in UN-COPUOS and the AUC; a participating organization of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO); and is a partner of many international organizations such as the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the IEEE Geosciences and Remote Sensing Society (GRSS), International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) and Digital Belt and Road (DBAR) Initiative. As a member of the erstwhile UN-ECA's Executive Working Group on Geoinformation, AARSE also participated in, and contributed to the activities of the UN-ECA Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST), sub-Committee on Geoinformation. AARSE is actively participating in the UN-GGIM: Africa and AfriGEOSS activities.

The goal of AARSE is to promote socio-economic development through increased awareness of African governments and their institutions, the private sector and the society at large, about the empowering and enhancing benefits of developing, applying and utilizing responsibly, the products and services of Earth Observation Systems and Geo-information Technology.

For further information on AARSE, including the benefits of membership and how to become a member, please visit [www.africanremotesensing.org](http://www.africanremotesensing.org).