Digital Earth
AFRICA

March 2025

2025 Annual Work Plan

About This Plan

This report sets out the strategic level Annual Work Plan (the Plan) for the Digital Earth Africa Team for the period April 2025 to March 2026. The 2025 Annual Work Plan has been prepared by the DE Africa Team for the Digital Earth Africa Interim Advisory Board, Technical Advisory Committee, funding partners, and other stakeholders. It provides a summary of Program outcomes and high-level activities for 2025 highlighting strategic context, key challenges and risks, and a proposed activity schedule. The Plan has been informed and shaped by inputs from the DE Africa team, Implementing Partners and the Technical Advisory Committee.

Last Version Date	Revision Number	Drafted By
17 December 2024	Draft V0.1	DE Africa Program Leads
22 February 2025	Draft v2	Final Review by A/ MD
07 March 2025	Final	Final endorsed by IAB

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About Digital Earth Africa

Digital Earth Africa (DE Africa) aims to improve the lives across Africa by providing planners and policy makers with crucial Earth observation information to support better decision making, and through enhanced access to satellite data to progress sustainable development outcomes.

DE Africa Vision: To provide a routine, reliable and operational service, using Earth observations to deliver decision-ready products enabling policy makers, scientists, the private sector and civil society to address social, environmental and economic changes on the continent and develop an ecosystem for innovation across sectors.

DE Africa Mission: To process openly accessible and freely available data to produce decision-ready products. Working closely with the AfriGEO community, DE Africa will be responsive to the information needs, challenges, and priorities of the African continent. DE Africa will leverage and build on existing capacity to enable the use of Earth Observations to address key challenges across the continent.

The long-term DE Africa Goal is: DE Africa improves the lives of Africans through access to tailored information for decision-making. This encompasses:

- **Livelihood strengthening** – EO data will support more informed decision making at government, sectoral and other levels, contributing to direct and indirect benefits for individuals and communities
- **Development effectiveness** – DE Africa will support enhanced understanding of development challenges and solutions, and in so doing, strengthen collective impact and ability to assess progress towards national priorities, African Union's Agenda2063 and the UN SDGs
- **Digital transformation** – through industry uptake and innovations, DE Africa will help to fuel the ongoing **evolution** of the digital economy in Africa
- **Economic development and job creation –** through access to data for commercial products and services development, DE Africa will support business development and employment opportunities.

Aligned with the long-term Program goal, the Phase III outcomes are:

- **Sustainment:** DE Africa is on-track to be sustained in Africa, with key African stakeholders invested to achieve this end-point
- **Uptake and Impact:** DE Africa information is consistently used by key stakeholders - governments, academia, researchers, communities, private sector and individuals, to drive environmental, social and economic impacts.

Introduction to Phase III

In 2023, DE Africa concluded the Establishment Phase (Phase II), and the transition of the Program to Africa. An Independent Evaluation found that by March 2023 DE Africa had largely delivered against all its expected intermediate outcomes and exceeded delivery expectations in many areas, making strong progress towards achieving the three End-of-Program Outcomes (EOPO)[1]. The evaluation also provided useful insights to inform the way forward.

In 2023 DE Africa secured investment for the delivery of Phase III from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), with continued commitments from Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Esri to provide in-kind support that is crucial to the operational success of the platform, and to reaching a wider user base.

The investment from the Helmsley Charitable Trust covers the foundations of continued Program operations, including strengthening governance, leadership and Program delivery and maturing business rigour to support DE Africa to become a self-sustaining public data infrastructure for all of Africa. The DFAT investment leverages a strong ongoing collaboration with Digital Earth Australia and will target capacity building for coastline monitoring, impact assessment and adaptation, and the continued development of a climate action tool kit through targeted technical offerings.

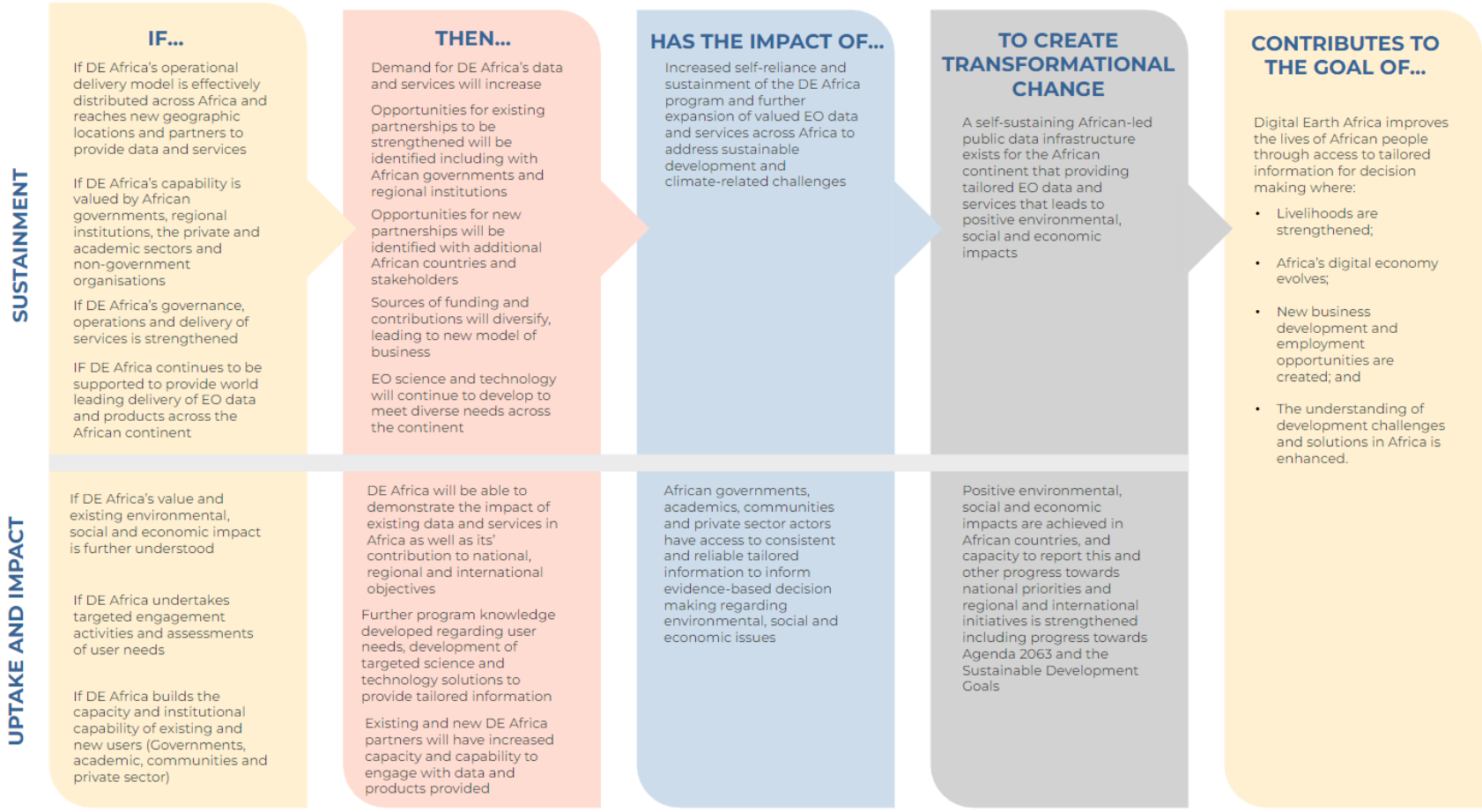
Phase III of DE Africa will create additional value from the science, technology, and institutional arrangements established in Phase II (2019-2023), by driving uptake of the DE Africa Program and delivering impact.

DE Africa Investment Logic

The Phase III Investment Logic presents the Theory of Change and describes how DE Africa's Program outcomes contribute to a chain of results flowing from immediate outcomes expected during the first 2 years of implementation, and the intermediate outcomes which are expected to be achieved within the following 3 years.

[1] EOPO 1: DE Africa is an operationally, technically, and financially sustainable, and inclusive entity in Africa; EOPO 2: DE Africa is demonstrating environmental and development impact; EOPO 3: DE Africa is a flagship initiative that promotes the benefits of open and free earth observation data

DE Africa Theory of Change



Program Delivery Framework

The Governance Framework, developed in 2019 and endorsed by the Governing Board, has guided the Program through its first two phases. In 2025, a Governance Review Process will be undertaken to reassess the Program me's governance structure. Following this review, the updated Framework will be submitted to the Interim Advisory Board (IAB) for endorsement within the year.

The DE Africa Governance Framework sets out terms of reference, roles and responsibilities of DE Africa's governing groups. The Governing Principles of DE Africa are a fundamental part of the governance framework, informing strategy, planning and delivery.

DE Africa will continue to be implemented through a distributed operational model[2]; the components of the operational model are laid out below.

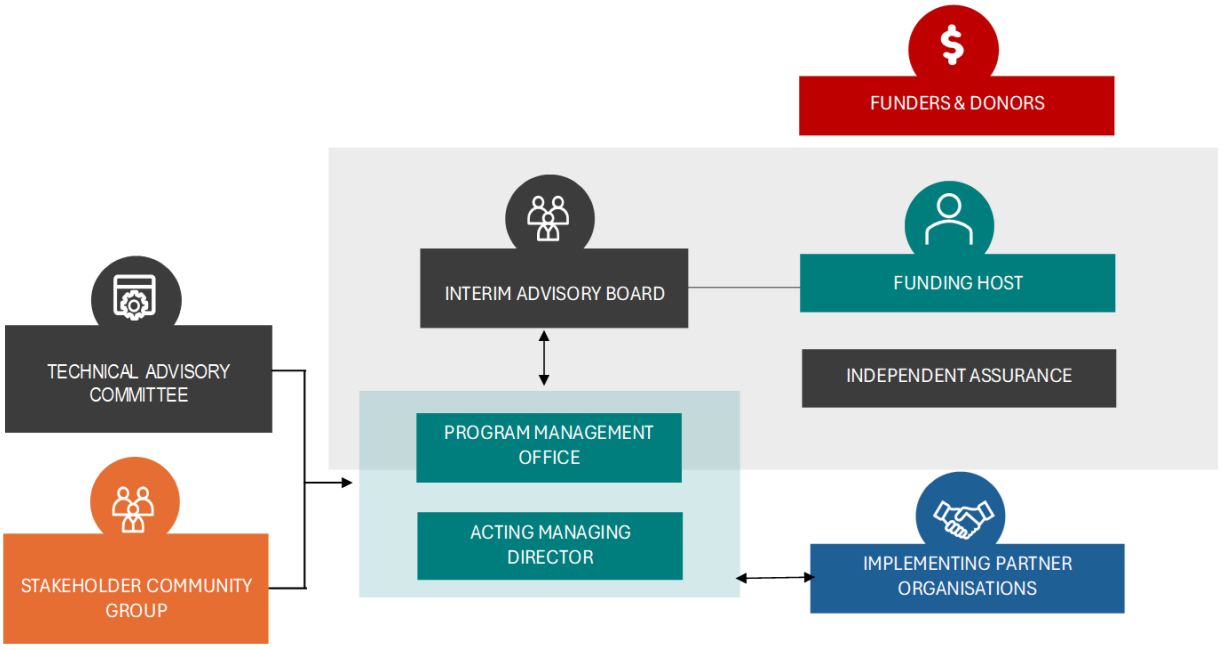


Figure 3 - DE Africa Distributed Operational Model

The distributed operational delivery model places emphasis on working with and through existing organisations and partners with Earth observation capabilities, and facilitating new networks to allow flow of information and end users (e.g. policy and Program decision makers) to be connected to the technical platform and the data and decision support tools that it offers. The elements of the model are described in more detail below, along with the areas of focus for 2025.

[2] An outcome of the fourth Technical Advisory Committee meeting (TAC-4) in Pretoria, South Africa in March 2020

Funders

Financial support through our current funding partners, The Helmsley Charitable Trust and the Australian Government, is tied to Phase III of the Program . Working with the Governing Board, the DE Africa team will develop and implement its long-term sustainment strategy.

DE Africa's platform which underpins the Program is made possible through technical partnerships, including those established with Amazon Web Services and ESRI. These key partners have provided in-kind and technical support that is vital to keeping the platform operational, and expanding use of DE Africa data and services to a wider audience. Both Partners have renewed their commitment for Phase III of the Program me. In 2025, the DE Africa team looks forward to continuing to collaborate with these partners and identify further opportunities for collaboration.

Governing Groups

Governing Board (GB): was ultimately responsible for the successful implementation of DE Africa. The Board is accountable for the funds allocated to the Program and also sets and approves the strategy, champions the guiding principles, and endorses the priorities. The Board approves annual work plans within the Program which releases the necessary funds from the Funding Host.

Interim Advisory Board (IAB): is an interim structure created in 2025 for the express purpose of providing leadership, strategic guidance, oversight and accountability during the Program 's transition to long term Program hosting arrangements on the continent. The Interim Advisory Board ensures the achievement of the mission and vision of DE Africa including policy guidance, alignment and prioritisation.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): The TAC has diverse representation from across the continent and provides expert advice and guidance related to: technical and scientific directions; stakeholder engagement at the international, regional, country levels; cross sectoral engagement; capacity building and; the latest trends, issues and research relevant to the Program . This Committee advises on the Annual Workpan to ensure delivery on the Governing Board strategy.

Implementing Partners

DE Africa continues to engage directly with five national and regional 'Implementing Partners' (IPs), who together represent the interests of 43 African countries:

- African Regional Institute for Geospatial Information Science and Technology (AFRIGIST, Nigeria),
- AGRHYMET (Niger),
- Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE, Sénégal),
- Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD, Kenya),
- Sahara Sahel Observatory (OSS, Tunisia).

Each of the IPs has been selected based on their existing role in supporting the uptake of Earth observation (EO) in decision making and based on their existing strengths in providing technical support to affiliated countries. IPs themselves will be key users of DE Africa. Further Implementing Partners will be added as the Program evolves.

Program Management Office

The Program Management Office currently hosted by the Research Institute for Innovation & Sustainability (RIIS) is staffed by a core team with additional personnel and capacities provided by the interim host to support the implementation of the DE Africa Annual Work Plan. RIIS as the host entity is contracted to ensure performance against workplan delivery.

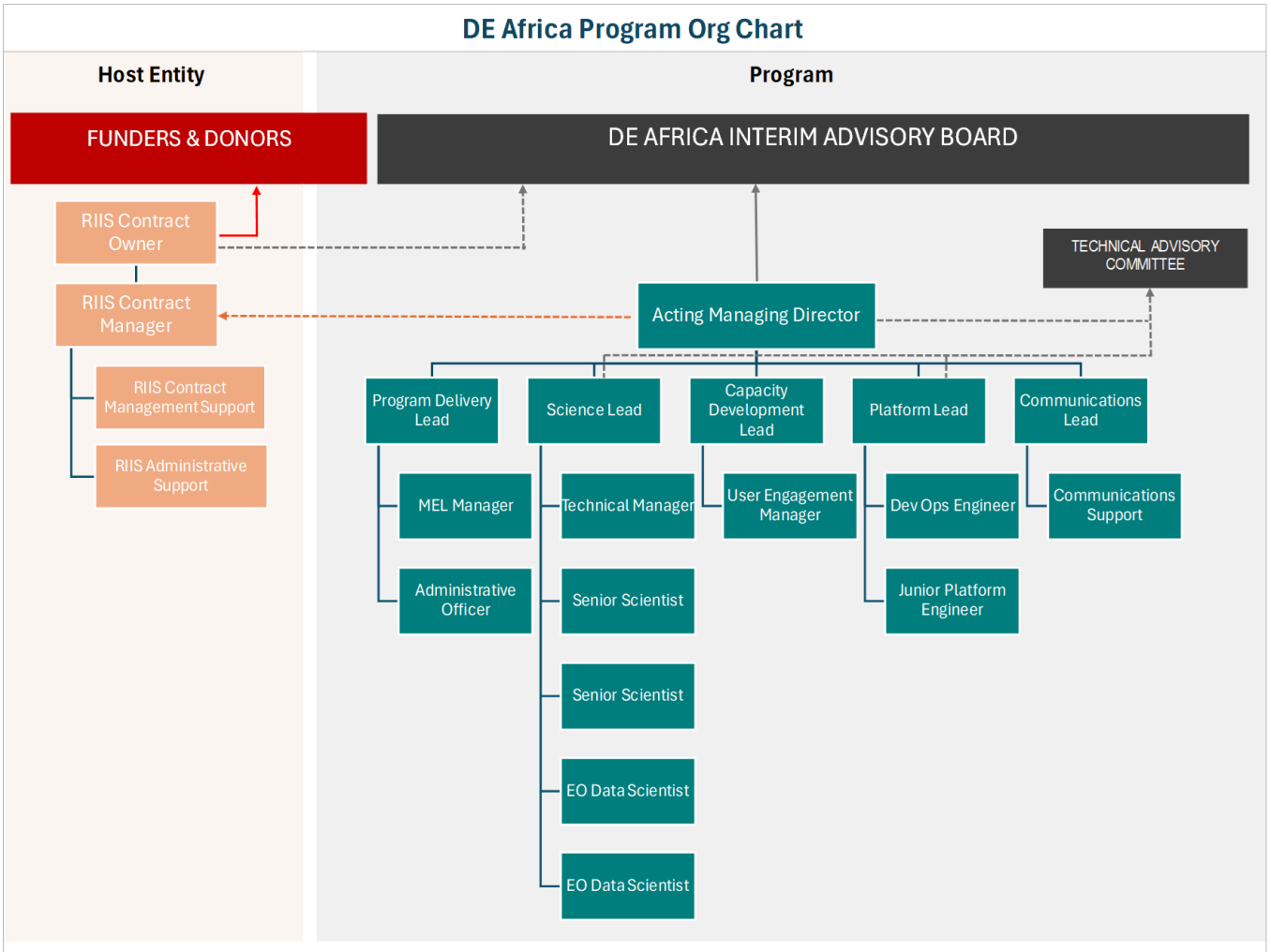


Figure 4. DE Africa Organiational Chart

2025 Annual Workplan

Context

In March 2024, the Research Institute for Innovation & Sustainability (RIIS) was appointed to host the Digital Earth Africa Program for an initial 12 months, ending March 2025. This contract has been extended for an additional 12 months until the end of March 2026. This extension ensures sufficient time to finalise the selection of a long-term hosting arrangement while maintaining uninterrupted Program delivery.

In 2024, the workplan focused on building robust foundational structures to support the Program me's long-term objectives. This included a comprehensive strategy review and the drafting of a 'Strategy Overview" document to guide the development of a 5-year strategy in this next workplan. The Program also updated its Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Framework and developed a detailed MEL Plan for the monitoring and evaluation of Program progress against outcomes.

Governance structures were further strengthened with a newly formed Interim Advisory Board (IAB), and rotation of TAC members. A Sustainment Options Paper was developed to outline options for achieving financial and operational stability beyond the completion of Phase 3 funding. Additionally, the Program achieved greater alignment with its in-country engagement approach, increasing direct engagement with countries and developing relationships and activities with a range of sectoral partners in Kenya, South Africa and Ghana.

These efforts aimed to position the Program efficiently and effectively for a seamless transition to a long-term host. Some activities, initiated in 2024, are set to continue and evolve as part of the 2025 workplan, addressing the Strategic Priorities set out below.

Strategic Priorities

Phase III of DE Africa will drive major benefits from the infrastructure and surrounding governance and partnerships established during Phase II, with a focus on increased user uptake, expanding in-country impacts, and ensuring long-term sustainability. In order to address these, and aligned with the Program outcomes, priorities in 2025 include:

- **Enhancing country engagement**: Digital Earth Africa will continue to work directly with countries to apply the continental infrastructure to support national priorities. This will be achieved by undertaking country-specific activities, including capacity development, co-design and development of workflows, services and data products that responsively address priorities specific to diverse country and cross-sector user needs. In order to have impact at a government level, we will engage directly with national governments through our Implementing Partners and members of our governance structures, as well as other Program

partners and aligned Program s, to understand each country's government context, the key problems to be addressed, the information gaps that DE Africa can fill, the capacity building requirements, and the modalities to work in a particular country.

- **Ensuring our sustainability**: In 2025, efforts will focus on key priorities to ensure a smooth and effective transition to long-term arrangements. The Program will continue to maintain its good governance through a Governance Review Process and the development of a 5 year Program Strategy. Efforts will continue to enhance and sustain efficient systems and processes, ensuring alignment with ISO standards for Good Corporate Governance. This will include strengthening reporting capabilities and facilitating improved monitoring of progress against defined outcomes. In 2025, a Business Development Lead will be appointed to support efforts in securing funding beyond Phase III. This role will be responsible for developing a sustainability strategy/ business model, along with an investment pack for sustainment funding. These efforts will contribute to diversifying funding and building a strong pipeline of project proposals.

- **Enabling climate action**: Africa is on the frontline of the climate crisis with populations across the continent severely and increasingly affected by extreme weather events which are resulting in extended droughts, floods, and coastal erosion. Given the unique role DE Africa has to play in supporting country-led action on risk mitigation and adaptation, we will continue with our overarching focus on climate action throughout 2025. This will be achieved by developing new tools and services to support planning and decision making, while engaging with in-country users to promote uptake and usage of DE Africa continental services and associated analysis tools with a focus on supporting climate change related impact assessments and National Adaptation Planning initiatives.

- **Engaging the community:** working to drive impact through wider uptake of DE Africa's platform and services by aligning DE Africa services with country-level use cases, expanding outreach and engagement, and positioning DE Africa capabilities to address specific requirements and national priorities. Country-level capacity building and institutional strengthening activities will also promote further uptake and usage of both existing and new DE Africa products and services to derive greater impact. DE Africa will work to understand its users and their needs, and provide tailored support that leads to increased use of DE Africa services and platforms. In 2025 we will continue to capture the impact our users have through storytelling via use cases, articles and user profiles, with the aim of growing awareness, engaging audiences and supporting uptake of DE Africa's platform and services. We will also continue to ensure that we serve an audience that meets our diversity and inclusion strategy.

Challenges and Risks for 2025

The Challenges and Risks that continue to remain on the Strategic Risk Register into 2025 are;

Long-Term Host Arrangement

- **Risk Description**: The hosting arrangement for the Program remains uncertain beyond March 2026
- **Mitigation Strategy**: The risk associated with the interim host arrangement has been significantly mitigated. The contract with the interim host has been extended for an additional year, providing sufficient time to finalise the selection of a long-term host while ensuring uninterrupted Program delivery. The Request for Information (RFI) for the appointment of a long-term host was advertised in December 2024, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) is on track for finalisation in 2025.

Achieving Uptake Across Diverse User Groups

- **Risk Description**: As an impact-driven, continent-wide Program me, DE Africa faces the challenge of achieving appropriate uptake from a diverse range of user groups across the continent. This is a critical component of DE Africa's mission, and failure to achieve sufficient uptake may render the platform ineffective.
- **Mitigation Strategy**: To address this, DE Africa is implementing an in-country engagement approach, enabling a more direct approach to enable user uptake and drive impact. Additionally, the Program continues to leverage the support of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Interim Advisory Board (IAB) members, who bring valuable relationships at both institutional and individual levels. The development of tailored in-country activities further supports efforts to raise awareness and drive continued engagement of the Program me.

Risk of Losing Support from African Organisations and Governments

- **Risk Description**: There is both an explicit and implicit risk that support for the DE Africa Program from African organisations and governments could be lost because the derived benefits from the products, services, and partnership value exchange are not met.
- **Mitigation Strategy**: To mitigate this risk, the Program is actively implementing the in-country engagement approach, ensuring the Program me's activities remain aligned with key priorities and receive appropriate guidance from African organisations and governments. Additionally, the Program Management Office (PMO) has established mechanisms to maintain functioning governance structures through its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) through the creation of the Interim Advisory Board (IAB).

To further safeguard DE Africa's strategic direction, the PMO works closely with the IAB, TAC, and

key partners to ensure alignment with critical African priorities and to minimise reputational risks. All Program activities and communications will be confined to the strategic agenda set by the governance groups, focusing on the SDGs. This ensures that the Program remains continent-wide, country-agnostic, and aligned with the strategic goals that drive its impact and growth.

Risk of Insufficient Partnerships and In-Country Support

- **Risk Description**: Partnerships are crucial for the success of DE Africa. Without establishing strong, relevant contacts within African countries, embedding the Program across the continent will be significantly hindered. Failure to achieve in-country support will lead to Program mandate failure.
- **Mitigation Strategy**: To address this risk, DE Africa will continue to leverage the DE Africa climate and food security narratives positioning DE Africa as a contributor to Climate Action in Africa, whilst working closely with governing bodies and partners to foster and expand in-country support, ensuring that the in-country engagement approach is effectively implemented.

Risk of Evolving Geo-Political Landscape

- **Risk Description**: The evolving geo-political landscape across the continent continues to shape national priority objectives, which may pose challenges in DE Africa's ability to work effectively across different countries.
- **Mitigation Strategy**: To mitigate this risk, the DE Africa Program Management Office (PMO) is focused on building both explicit and implicit in-country support from a broad spectrum of African organisations and governments. This will be complemented by increased awareness of the Program me's impact through dynamic communication activities targeting diverse stakeholder groups.

Additionally, ensuring strong project buy-in and ownership at the country level is critical for the Program me's long-term success. This will help align DE Africa's goals with national priorities and ensure continued engagement across various regions.

Risk of Misuse or Mismanagement of Program Funds

- **Risk Description**: There is a risk that DE Africa funds may not be used for their intended purposes, may not be properly accounted for, or may fail to achieve value for money. Additionally, overspending due to mismanagement of the budget versus actuals poses a financial risk to the Program me.
- **Mitigation Strategy**: To mitigate this, the PMO operates autonomous financial processes against a workplan and budget within RIIS's established financial policies and procedures. Furthermore, the company's financial statements are externally audited, and all Program

funds are managed through a separate, dedicated bank account for transparency and accountability. The PMO staff have direct access to the financial template and Program budget, and the host has allocated dedicated resources to reconcile all expenses, ensuring that each expenditure is tied to the completion of specific annual workplan items. This approach ensures that financial integrity is maintained throughout the Program me's lifecycle.

2025 Outcomes and Targets

This next section outlines the annual targets. Four sub-outcomes are addressed under each of the two main Program outcomes.

OUTCOME 1: Sustainment

Outcome 1.1 Strengthening Governance & Program delivery

Outcome 1.2 Enabling Partnerships

Outcome 1.3 Sustainment and Business Model Development

Outcome 1.4 Science and Technology

OUTCOME 2: Uptake and Impact

Outcome 2.1 Engagement and User Needs

Outcome 2.2 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

Outcome 2.3 User Uptake and Engagement

Outcome 2.4 Demonstrating Impact

Program Outcome 1 - Sustainment

Program Outcome 1 is for DE Africa to be on-track to be sustained in Africa (technically, operationally and financially), with key African stakeholders invested to achieve this end-point.

Strengthening Governance and Program Delivery

Through implementation of this Workplan, the Program Governance and Program Delivery efforts will focus on key priorities to ensure a smooth and effective transition to long-term arrangements while maintaining robust governance and operational efficiency. The Program will continue to uphold good governance through a comprehensive Governance Review Process and the development of a 5-year Program Strategy.
The newly established Interim Advisory Board (IAB) will guide the Program through its interim phase, support the identification and appointment of a permanent host, and facilitate the transition to a permanent governance structure.

To enhance delivery, the Program will continue to create operational efficiencies by benchmarking systems and processes against international standards, ensuring alignment with ISO standards for Good Corporate Governance. The implementation of Caspio, a customisable tool designed to automate manual tasks such as data entry into spreadsheets, will strengthen reporting capabilities and improve the monitoring of progress against defined outcomes. Additionally, the effective implementation of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan will ensure systematic tracking, monitoring, and evaluation of the Program me's progress and impact.

1.1 Governance and Program delivery

Continued stakeholder confidence in DE Africa's governance (Board and Advisory groups), operations and transparency, building the reputation of DE Africa as a trusted and reliable, pan-African capability with a widely recognised mandate to operate

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
IAB and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings are occurring according to Terms of References	Governance Board and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings are held regularly and follow best practices and guidelines for ethical and sustainable governance, whereby the board can promote the Program mes values and goals, for effective decision-making and long-term success and increased donor-funding through our good governance and reputation	• x4 Quarterly IAB Meetings held as per the ToR • x4 Quarterly TAC Meetings held as per the ToR • Programme Governance Review - provisional set of activities and timeline - dependent on the development of the Business Model and Long Term Host appointment.
PMO operations fully embedded and leading the effective delivery of the DE Africa Program	A five-ten year DE Africa strategy to be developed, endorsed, implemented and reviewed annually to include Partnerships, Communications, Diversity and	Drafting of a 5 year Programme Strategy • Updating of Key Guidance Documents • Development of a 5-year Strategy informed by the sustainment strategy and other key documents

	Inclusion, Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation	
	Program Operations are being maintained against International/ Global standards and frameworks and that the Program follows best practices and guidelines for ethical and sustainable governance.	• Continue to Align all Operational Frameworks to the ISO 37000 'Good Corporate Governance' standards for Donor-funded Program mes • Ongoing tracking of outputs, outcomes, and impact against the MEL Results Framework (including finalised BR measures) • Further development of Caspio to assist with automating a number of spreadsheets; o Cap Dev Training Stats, Use Cases, In-country Opportunity Pipeline, Planning and Reporting, Others to be identified for MEL System/ Plan • Risk Committee Meetings held as per Risk Framework • Annual Review and Updating of SOP's where required - drafting of new SOP's if needed
Work planning and reporting frameworks effectively implemented	Quarterly and annual planning and reporting delivered on time to a high standard, and accepted/ approved by governing groups and funding partners	• Development of a Transition out Plan • 2026 Annual Work Plan developed and approved by the Interim Advisory Board • 2026/ 2027 IP Annual Work plan developed and extension (at cost/no cost) of 2024 2025 work plans • x4 Quarterly Reports produced • Publishing of Program Reports on website

		• Dissemination of 2024 annual report
DE Africa is internationally recognised as a trusted and reliable brand.	DE Africa is internationally recognised as a trusted and reliable brand.	• Program promotion linked to activities in Outcome 2.4 Demonstrating Impact
All aspects of DE Africa are inclusive with a diverse user base	Number of targeted D&I initiatives delivered	• Collaborative Working Group (CWG) scheduled per quarter • 2026 D&I Annual Work Plan Updated • D&I Initiatives Identified across all functional areas of the Program me • Technical challenges - Youthmappers, Africa Women in GIS

Enabling partnerships

Partnerships are vital to deliver, amplify, and sustain DE Africa's work, and a robust ecosystem of partnerships is essential to achieving Phase III outcomes. During Phase III, DE Africa seeks to achieve this by further developing an efficient and effective partner ecosystem, strengthening partnerships with key pan-African organisations, forming partnerships with African governments and learning institutions, and fostering active and deep collaborations across ten countries. As a GEO Initiative, we look to integrate DE Africa activities within the GEO Work Plan; GEO provides greater access to the AfriGEO community (including National GEO's in South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya) and other GEO initiatives such as GEO Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Geo BluePlanet and GeoGLAM. Other Regional Partnerships we will continue to strengthen include the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC) through the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES and Africa) Program ensuring that DE Africa is delivering on the continental mandates set by these regional partners.

To achieve these targets, DE Africa will work to establish/cement active collaborations with partners across sectors in (3) opportunity countries identified through the defined country engagement approach, and will work with three (3) learning institutions in these countries to enhance their academic curriculum and research

capabilities through the integration of DE Africa. Regular quarterly meetings will be held to maintain relationships with the AUC and ECA, ensuring ongoing support and engagement.

1.2 Enabling partnerships

African governments and regional institutions are actively supportive of DE Africa pursuing financial sustainment and moving beyond aid funding, based on their appreciation of the value and mode of operations of DE Africa

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
Efficient and effective ecosystem of partners established	10 MOUs or active collaborations established with partners across 10 countries	• 3 additional active collaborations established with partners in government agencies, universities, and other sectors, within the 3 opportunity countries identified through the DE Africa country engagement approach, bringing the total to 6
Partnerships with key pan African organisations are strengthened	Expanding and strengthening relationships with pan-African organisations (UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission GMES and Africa partners, AfriGEO) that further build stakeholder buy-in and support for DE Africa's sustainment	• Relationships actively maintained with GMES and Africa partners, and ECA through joint collaborative opportunities • 3 collaborative activities successfully completed with GMES and Africa partners, AfriGEO. This will include a webinar in each quarter

Number of partnerships with African governments formed for use of DE Africa data and services	6 African governments using DE Africa data and services	• Demonstrated use of DE Africa services by government agencies in 3 opportunity countries through use cases
Number of partnerships with learning institutions formed for use of DE Africa data and services	6 learning institutions in 6 opportunity countries to facilitate embedding and uptake of DE Africa	• 3 learning institutions identified and 'formal' partnerships (e.g. MOU or Letter of Collaboration) established to facilitate use of DE Africa to support academic curriculums, following the approach implemented with UENR in 2024

Sustainment and business model development

Whilst significant research was undertaken between 2021 – 2023 on possible funding sources for DE Africa, and the related actions required, leveraging this information and updating it where relevant will support the development of a fully scoped Sustainment Roadmap during 2025. This will follow the presentation of an options paper which was developed in Q3 of 2024 to the board for approval during the first meeting in 2025.

In addition to this, ongoing partner engagement and identification will be a core focus for 2025, to both support continued operations and leverage potential partners and opportunities for further funding beyond Phase III.

In 2025, a Business Development Lead will be appointed to secure funding beyond Phase III. This role will focus on developing a sustainability strategy, business model, and investment package to ensure long-term financial viability. A key priority will be executing the Sustainment Roadmap, which outlines a cross-sector business model to diversify revenue streams and sustain operations. These efforts will directly inform the 5-year Program Strategy, integrating financial sustainability with long-term strategic planning and growth.

1.3 Sustainment and business model development

Development and implementation of a cross-sector business model that supports diversifying revenue sources, sustained operations, and contributions with funding secured beyond the end of Phase III;

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
Cross sector business model implemented	Evidence of sustainable business model in place by 2026	• Sustainment strategy is developed and being implemented
Partnerships formed to fund further DE Africa activities	Number of funding partnerships formed	• Engagements with existing funding partners • Engagements with new/potential funding partners • 4 engagements with in-kind contributing partners

Supplementary Phase III funding and in-kind support received (2023-2026)	$ amount of in-kind contribution supplementing Phase III delivery (2023-2026)
	
	$ amount of additional funding secured supplementing Phase III delivery (2023-2026)
		An in-person engagement with IP Directors to discuss future collaboration and greater mutual value derived from Partnerships
		
		Other targets to be updated once BD is appointed

Funding received for future Program delivery (2027-2029)	$ amount of in-kind contribution secured for future Program delivery (2027-2029)
	
	$ amount of funding secured for future Program delivery (2027-2029)
		Targets to be updated once BD is appointed

Strengthening Technologies and Science

DE Africa aims to maintain a responsive and world-leading science and technical platform that meets Africa's sustainable development needs. During Phase III, this will be achieved by ensuring the science effectively meets African countries' sustainable development needs, and the technical platform performs efficiently and effectively meeting Program and user requirements.

DE Africa's existing continental services are unique and are a vital starting point for technically sustainable information services that directly support user needs in specific thematic areas (such as improved food and water security and coastal zone management). In order to maximise relevance to key stakeholders who are vital to the sustainability of DE Africa, and to support embedding the Program in countries, future services will continue to be continental but with a focus on national-level use-cases and workflows.

As enhancing national decision making through the use of DE Africa services and tools is key to driving wider impact and uptake, in 2025, while continuing to deliver demand driven and co-designed continental services, we will place increased emphasis on producing and providing information and workflows that target and are accessible to national decision makers. This will include the development of new interfaces interpreting continental services for national/in-country scale decision-making, adding new external datasets as advised by African partners, and developing new/updating notebooks supporting the application and analysis of these new data offerings. Furthermore, we will ensure that the online technical documentation and user guides are updated to include new datasets and services in both English and French and will explore the inclusion of a third language.

Advancing these objectives in 2025 will be guided by the Products and Services Roadmap (previously referred to as the Technical Roadmap and updated in 2024), which provides a clear guide for science and technical Program delivery.

1.4 Technologies and science

The DE Africa science and technical platform continues as a living, robust, operational and world leading capability that is responsive to Africa's requirements.

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target

DE Africa's science effectively and efficiently meeting African countries' sustainable development needs	11 DE Africa continental scale services	• One new operational continent-scale service, co-designed and prototyped with African partners launched • One additional continental service designed and released
	Analysis tools tailored to DE Africa operational services addressing country needs;	• National wetland workflow implemented in 2 new countries, and validated through in-country partnerships • Development of new interfaces and/or notebooks interpreting DE Africa continental services for national/in country scale decision making addressing user demand
	5 additional geospatial / EO datasets available	• 2 new datasets added to DE Africa platform, supporting climate action, as requested and advised by African partners
	20 new notebooks addressing sustainable development challenges; 150 notebooks/ analysis tools developed with end users are available and up-to-date, and streamlined to have greater user impact / accessibility	• 5 new/ updated/ scaled notebooks developed supporting new data offerings, continental services and real world use cases; existing notebooks regularly updated as required
	Documentation for continental services and datasets maintained in English and French	• Technical documentation up-to-date
	6 operational data pipelines	• 1 new data pipeline operational
	PDTT meeting regularly and effective	• 8 meetings held

DE Africa's technical platform is performing efficiently and meeting Program and user needs	AWS data hosting continued, growth to >4Pb of data	• Platform cost assessment and review • Support provided for external datasets • Monthly Platform upgrades completed
	By end of 2026 99% Platform operations efficient and effective, with no major service outages	• Review SLA and Uptime monitoring process
	Annual Continental Services are operational and up-to-date	• Annual continental service updates implemented for 2024 (WoFS, coastlines, fractional cover, annual and semi-annual GM etc)
	Monthly Continental Services are operational and up-to-date	• Monthly Continental Services are operational and up-to-date
	AWS compute is used optimally and efficiently for computation of continental services and provision of user compute	• AWS compute is used optimally and efficiently for computation of continental services and provision of user compute
	Data pipelines are operational	• Data pipelines are operational

Program Outcome 2 - Uptake and impact

Program outcome 2 is for DE Africa information to be consistently used by key stakeholders, including governments, private sector and individuals, to drive environmental, social and economic impacts.

Enhanced country engagement and understanding of user needs

To address this Program outcome, it is essential to align DE Africa continental services with country-level use cases and products, and to position DE Africa capabilities to address specific requirements and national priorities (this will also support Program Outcome 1 by building support from countries for the sustainment of DE Africa). This will require heightened engagement with individual countries by undertaking country-specific activities through identifying and responsively addressing priorities specific to diverse country and cross-sector user needs. It will include tailoring continental services to address the specific in-country needs, building user capacity and connecting products and services to end-users across sectors including government, academia, civil base societies and media. with an emphasis on DE Africa opportunity countries. In 2025 these will include Senegal, Rwanda, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe, in addition to those which were a focus during the previous year (Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa).

In 2025, to advance these objectives we will continue to implement the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and the in-country engagement approach defined in 2024, map stakeholder ecosystems in three 2025 opportunity countries (Rwanda, Senegal, and one additional country), and work with existing stakeholders and members of our governance structures to identify key entry points for engagement. Engaging three African governments from opportunity countries will demonstrate DE Africa's impact and value, paving the way for wider uptake and embedding of the Program at the national scale.

To achieve these targets, in 2025 DE Africa will continuously update the Stakeholder Community Group list in Mailchimp CRM with users captured by country and thematic areas, and leverage country-level GEOs and Implementing Partner networks where applicable to identify user needs in the opportunity countries. Organisations will be identified which are interested in leveraging DE Africa products and services with information consistently captured in the CRM, and the ecosystem of African academic institutions leveraging EO in these countries will be mapped out. In addition, 8 academic institutions will be identified (at least 4 of

which are in opportunity countries) and engaged through targeted collaboration. We will continue to support cross sectoral users to actively leverage DE Africa products and services, and will document 10+ locally led use cases where DE Africa is used to empower African led decision making.

2.1 User needs/in-country engagement

Tailoring of DE Africa continental services to address specific in-country needs, especially in areas such as food security, and connecting these to end-users both directly and through partners, governments, the private sector, and communities.

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
Stakeholder Engagement Strategy effectively implemented	Diverse network of potential future users identified and engaged, by sector, thematic areas and geographic region	• Stakeholders added in Mailchimp CRM. The list includes representation across sector, thematic areas, and country
	40+ organisations across 25 countries identified with interests in DE Africa products and services. - including government, academia and industry	• 20 organisations identified which are interested in leveraging DE Africa climate action products and services, and their needs understood, across 15 countries, including government, researchers and private sector, with information consistently captured in the Caspio CRM.
	6 learning institutions in 6 opportunity countries are facilitating embedding and uptake of DE Africa	• 8 academic institutions identified (at least 4 of which in opportunity countries) and engaged through targeted collaboration • 3 academic institutions are leveraging DE Africa through defined pathways to use and integration of DE Africa

Decision making regarding environmental, social and economic issues by key stakeholders is informed by DE Africa's data and services	6 African governments using DE Africa data and services	• A pipeline of opportunity countries developed in a living document and used for targeting annual planning of activities • Country level user needs scoped in 6 opportunity countries and 2 additional countries, leveraging country level GEO/Implementing Partners/other networks • 3 African governments actively leveraging DE Africa focusing on 2025 opportunity countries (Rwanda/Senegal/Tunisia/Tanzania/Zimbabwe)
	Portfolio of 20+ diverse potential locally led climate related use cases identified which specifically relate to DFAT climate action products and services.	• 10+ locally led use cases identified supporting African led decision making on climate action, leveraging DE Africa products and services, with leads consistently captured through the Use Case Request form

Capacity Development

During Phase III DE Africa aims to diversify and upgrade our portfolio of training courses and materials informed by users' needs, challenges, and priorities, as a critical step to wider uptake and use of DE Africa. This will require the development of training and capacity-building materials and methods to support a diverse range of users, from decision-makers to in-country specialists, in using a variety of products from DE Africa.

In 2025, DE Africa will develop a new online training course on water quality service, increasing the number of users addressing water quality issues in Africa. DE Africa will focus on delivery of climate action courses both online and face to face with its implementing partners, aimed at reaching more countries. Addressing our principles of Diversity and Inclusion, we will conduct training to diverse audiences that will include high level training to decision makers, face to face training through our Implementing Partners, aiming for 10% French speaking participants, 10% of participants from opportunity countries and 10% of

participants are women. All the details of the trainees will be included in the DE Africa Mailchimp CRM to ensure that they are kept informed on DE Africa products, services, and training opportunities.

2.2 Capacity development

Further development of training and capacity building materials and methods to support, and which are being used by, a diverse range of users, from decision-makers through to in-country specialists, supporting specific products from DE Africa;

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
Development of new online training courses on using DE Africa to support climate action (English and French)	Development and upgrade of training materials empowering climate action for Coastline Monitoring Service and climate adaptation	• 1 new training course developed, peer reviewed, and released for DE Africa Water Quality Monitoring Service (English, French) • Course statistics captured and reported per quarter including information to inform design of new courses and diversity of languages
Training course delivery: Evidence of trainees continuing to engage and use DE Africa data and services post-training	Climate action trainings delivered to diverse sectoral audiences including government agencies in 4 priority countries: Delivery of in-country face-to-face training in 4 countries (1-2 courses delivered in French - west/ north Africa; 2-3 courses in English - east/ southern Africa); targeting 3-4 government institutions per country	• Delivery of in-country face-to-face/virtual training in 3 2025 opportunity countries targeting government institutions and 1 additional country on climate action toolkit

Capacity building for diverse trainee base conducted	<u>Number and diversity of training courses run (virtual and F2F):</u>
	- 4+ high level DE Africa intro virtual training sessions on new courses held (over 2 yrs), across 6+ countries: 100+ people engaged from 24+ organisations
	- 4+ in depth F2F training workshops delivered (over 2 yrs), across 6+ countries: 100+ people trained from 24+ organisations
	- D&I focused events - for example 1 x Women's training event; 1 x Youth event (University focused)
	- 100 participants in training courses
	- 20% of diversity of trainees who receive virtual or face to face training
		• 3+ high level DE Africa intro virtual training sessions on new courses
		• 2+ F2F in-country follow up workshops/webinars delivered
		• 50 new participants in online or F2F training
		  o 10% of participants are French speaking
		  o 10% of participants are from Opportunity countries
		  o 10% of participants are women

Increased number of diverse users completing DE Africa training course	Users Completing training courses - D&I specific event	• Quarterly Report reflecting the increased number of diverse users completing DE Africa training courses through Cap Dev Activities

Increased user engagement and uptake

DE Africa aims to increase user engagement and uptake, facilitating rapid growth in the adoption of DE Africa services, including the Map and the Sandbox. In 2025, DE Africa will enhance its learning webpage interfaces, ensure that it supports diverse user needs, adding additional language options through the DE Africa online training web page, and translate select learning modules into Portuguese and/or Arabic.

We will update all user engagement activities in the CRM to track and manage user interactions effectively and efficiently. The DE Africa Helpdesk Support Process ensures timely resolution of user queries, with a target of resolving 90% of queries within 72 hours. Requests for use cases will continue to be captured through the DE Africa use case request form, which will document use cases by thematic area and countries.

During 2025, we aim to have an additional 5000 unique DE Africa Maps users with 50% of users from African countries. We also aim to have 2 opportunity countries in the top 10 map user countries, indicating significant uptake in these regions. Additionally, we will work to onboard 1000 new Sandbox users, with 100 from 2025 opportunity countries, and identify private sector partners with the potential to leverage DE Africa data from these countries as well as more broadly. Furthermore, DE Africa will provide technical engagement to understand the needs of these private sector companies to leverage our data and platforms, and to have 2 start-ups actively using the platform by the end of the year. DE Africa live sessions will continue to be held regularly, with additional languages added per quarter (1 English, 1 French, 1 Swahili/other).

2.3 User engagement/ uptake

Rapid growth in uptake of DE Africa services including the Map and the Sandbox, and direct use of DE Africa continental services

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2025 Annual Target
Improving training interfaces to support	Addressing diverse user needs through 2 additional languages, bringing the total to 4	• Integrate translation options for DE Africa learning webpage (add diverse language support) assessed and integrated

diverse user needs (language)	Assessing the demand/use of different languages and partner interfaces	• New users are accessing DE Africa data through partner interfaces (Africa GeoPortal) • New users are accessing DE Africa data through additional languages
Increased range of diverse users across all DE Africa products and services	25,000 map users 25,000 diverse active users from 25+ countries	• Tracking map users in Google Analytics. Target 5000 map users
	6000 sandbox users	• Target 1500 new sandbox users • Put in place approach to assess usage of sandbox and report statistics
	10 industry partners leveraging DE Africa data	• Identify 4 established private sector partners with potential to leverage DE Africa data (where relevant from Opportunity Countries) • Provide technical engagement to understand the needs of 4 private sector companies to leverage the platform • 2 Start-ups from opportunity countries are actively using the platform
	Support provided to end users of DE Africa Maps and Sandbox	• Help desk is monitored regularly and requests reported quarterly • Use case requests are documented and responded to with support provided as relevant

	24+ live sessions (over 2 yrs) held promoting climate action products and services, reaching 100+ diverse, cross-sector users from 25+ countries	• 10+ weekly live sessions per quarter (1 English, 1 French, 1 swahili/other)
		• Live sessions focused on:
		  o English, French and adding additional languages where possible
		  o 4 2025 Opportunity Countries (Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, Zimbabwe/Tanzania)
		  o 3 2024 Opportunity Countries (Kenya, South Africa, Ghana)

		o D&I participant and presenters o Live sessions promote new services, workflows, datasets and notebooks

Demonstrating Impact

DE Africa aims to demonstrate impact through showcasing a growing number of diverse use cases where DE Africa services are empowering - or are working towards empowering - decision-making in support of sustainable development and climate action. Over the next three years, DE Africa seeks to achieve this through the development of content showcasing benefits to users arising from the information provided; and embarking on activities supporting and enabling awareness-raising, traction and target market engagement.

In 2025, the focus will be on advancing the indicators to achieve - and raise awareness of - DE Africa impact, through content generation that takes the form of impact storytelling, aimed at our key target audiences. These include government entities actively using - or with the potential to use - DEA products and services; regional and global NGOs that are concerned with facilitating, partnering and promoting DEA uptake; universities and academic institutions including individual researchers and academics; private sector users, including start-ups; independent users emanating from capacity building, sponsorships and training; our implementing and enabling partners.

DE Africa will aim to publish a total of 35 written articles, which will include 20 use cases from different countries across Africa, eight user profiles, five articles concerning the work being done by our Implementing Partners, and two articles that are co-developed with input from our Enabling Partners (namely AWS and Esri).

DE Africa will repurpose the “use case” narratives into impact and contextual articles for media distribution, with the aim of grabbing the interest of journalists (gate-keepers of information aimed at our target markets) and converting this into actual publishing so that we can drive awareness, traction, uptake and engagement with our target audiences. We will also, where possible, lean into our implementing and enabling partner networks to share information.

A bi-monthly (every second month) newsletter will be published to keep DEAfrica top of mind, and a consistent presence on social media will continue to build and expand the community (aiming for a 25% increase in our social media follower base).

Two videos will be produced; one on the Waterbodies Monitoring Service (similar to the Coastlines monitoring video which is a large undertaking), and the other will be a snapshot-type video; for example (but ideas not limited to) an end-of-year looking back at where we've come from type narrative. In addition, there will be a launch of the Operational water quality continental service which will be developed for execution in the second quarter.

2.4 Demonstrating impact

A growing number of diverse use-cases where DE Africa services are providing information that is empowering community decision making and improving lives. Successful engagement with decision-makers and African governments, and institutional strengthening to the point where African governments are utilising DE Africa services and systems to inform policy, plans and actions.

Indicators	Phase III Outcomes (3-Year Target)	2024 Annual Target
Evidence of benefit to users arising from the information provided	25 African countries using DE Africa data and services report benefits 10 industry partners leveraging DE Africa data and services - report on the benefit **100 published use cases across 20 countries	Develop impact storytelling across the year, for website publication (and media distribution - see outcome 2), focusing on the following potential user target markets: ● Government entities either using or potentially using DE Africa (ties back to outcome 1.2, output 3, line 13) - Target: 1 to 3 per annum ● Regional and global NGOs facilitating, partnering and promoting DEA uptake (as successfully delivered against 1.2, line 10) -Target: 1 to 2 per annum ● Universities and academic institutions including individual researchers and academics (ties back to outcome 1.2 Line 14 but not dependent) - Target: 1 to 4 per annum

		• Private sector users, including start-ups (ties back to outcome 2.3 Line 14, 15 & 16 and 2.1, line 23) - Target: 1 to 3 per annum • Independent users emanating from capacity building, sponsorships and training (ties back to outcome 2.2 output 4, line 21) - Target: 1 to 4 per annum • Implementing partners highlighting the work outputs -Target: 5 per annum • Enabling partners collaboratively developed and cross-shared on each other's platforms. Media distribution to be discussed on a case by case basis. -Target: 2 per annum
Evidence of diverse, cross-sector use case development	20+ high profile use cases/ **impact stories** fully documented and promoted, including 2 government organisations.	• High-impact articles, developed under Output 1, to be distributed to media. Target: 3 per quarter" • Two videos to be produced (waterbodies service and second short form TBD) • Funding partner press release/s • Product Launch PR and marketing campaign
	Evidence of regular media engagements/mentions Approx 50+ social media posts over 2 yrs promoting the applications, benefits and impacts of DE Africa products and services, with strong social media stats incl repromotion by partner	• Social media 8 posts per month, 24 per quarter, 96 per platform per annum o Aim for 25% increase in X and LI followers o Aim for 6 to 7% average engagement by year end (stretch goal) • A bi-monthly newsletter (every 2 months) - Target: 6 newsletters per annum • Website publishing of all O2.4- Output 1 content • Website Hosting and technical maintenance • Media Monitoring to assess traction of Program promotional activities • Website Content Upload o 4 x Quarterly Reports - translated and uploaded (x8 reports in total)

	organisations. > 3000 registrants for the newsletter.	o 2024 Annual Report Design o 3 x Translation of Material o 1 x Annual Report o 1 x Quarter Report o 1 x Annual Workplan
	Event Participation: Engagement and promotion of DFAT funding climate action work at 10+ international events over 2 yrs	• Participation at International Events related to DFAT funded climate action work at +5 international events • Promotion of Engagements related to DFAT funded climate action work at +5 international events
	DFAT Engagements: 4+ DFAT briefing sessions held; regular (min quarterly) engagement with DFAT post in Africa; regular DFAT engagement over social media.	• 2 Comms Toolkit updates • 2 Briefing sessions with Posts as arranged by GA • 1 comms pieces promoting AU-AF collaboration

Acknowledgements

THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B. HELMSLEY CHARITABLE TRUST
Australian Government
aws
esri
Afri GEO Earth Observations for Africa
ECA
AFRIGIST
CILSS AGRHYMET
CSE Centre de Suivi Ecologique
RCMRD
Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
Ghana Space Science & Technology Institute
IWMI International Water Management Institute
KARTOZA Open Source Geospatial Solutions
KSA Kenya Space Agency Possibilities beyond our skies
Open Data Cube
planet.
riis Enabling Innovation
UENR University of Energy and Natural Resources
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