

KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

COUNTRY REPORT 2014

Being a National Mapping Agency, the office of the Surveyor General continues to provide surveying and mapping services to meet the needs of the Country. The major part of activities being cadastral surveys and the production of topographical maps at various scales. With technological advancement, most of the products of the Department are now in digital format.

Major Policy Legislative issues in the Land and Mapping Sector.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is still faced with a challenge of adopting the National Land Policy and the Land Bill. The Department of the Surveyor General played a major role in the production of the Draft National Land Policy and the Draft Land Bill. Currently the Draft Land Bill is still being considered at Ministerial Level and it is hoped that the Cabinet would soon map a way forward on how various stakeholders would be consulted on the Draft Bill.

Major Infrastructure Programmes.

During the year 2014/2015, the department received a major boost by receiving donor funds for financing the production of new orthophoto maps covering the entire country.

Government would within the next two months award the tender for this task of producing digital colour orthophoto maps. This is a major infrastructural boost that will provide up-to-date maps of the country for the planning of all developmental programmes.

The lack of up-to-date maps had slowed down the progress in the upgrading of informal settlements within the Capital Town, Mbabane. The new orthophoto maps will certainly speed up the process of the pegging of the 4 thousand plots, the new delivery target being December 2015.

Human Resources.

Due to the unavailability of local training institutions in geoinformation, the Surveyor General's Department is faced with a challenge of the shortage of technically qualified personnel and hence experiences a number of vacancies at technical and professional level. However, some staff members are pursuing studies in surveying sciences through distant learning. A plan is underway to persuade

Government to provide funds to train a pool of officers in surveying and cartography in institutions outside the country.

The Regional Centre, though, continues to offer short term training course and during this year, one officer received training on concepts of land administration and two officers received training at the Kenya Institute for Surveying and Mapping.

Cooperation with RCMRD

During the 2014 financial year the Centre undertook three missions to Swaziland

- (i) In May 2014, two Centre's senior officers undertook the review of Swaziland's Geodetic Networks, furthermore conducted a workshop on CORS.

- (ii) In July, two Centre's staff members provided training for two (2) weeks on Urban Mapping on techniques of extracting information from high resolution satellite imagery.

- (iii) In October 2014, three (3) Centre's staff members in collaboration with the department, conducted various interviews at all stakeholders on NSDI and conducted a workshop on NSDI on which all identified stakeholders attended.

- (iv) The Regional Centre further delivered the soft and hard copy maps of **Mbabane and Manzini Cities**.

- (v) Swaziland, through the Surveyor General's Department, appreciates the cooperation with the Regional Centre on the above-mentioned programmes.

Future Activities.

- In cooperation with the Centre, the Surveyor General's Department, intends to establish at least two Afref Geodetic stations

- To train a minimum of five (5) officers to degree level in land surveying

- Pursue the possibility of cooperating with South Africa on Sectional Titles

- To establish a GIS unit with the Department as mandated by Government to coordinate GIS activities within Government institutions.