

THE RCMRD NEWSLETTER

*Mapping for Sustainable
Development*



**Regional Centre
Training Institute**

Map Your Future!

The Training Arm of RCMRD

July 2026 | Issue 16



BRINGING THE **ESRI SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN GIS AWARD** TO RCMRD





Editor's Note

July at RCMRD was marked by global recognition and continued collaboration across the region.

We were proud to be recognised at the Esri User Conference, where our work in geospatial innovation was showcased alongside global partners. We also supported efforts in Somalia to improve agricultural data systems, helping move from data collection to real use in decision-making.

Across the region, we engaged in conversations on conservation and climate resilience, contributing to the EAC TBCA meeting and the ArcX Southern Africa workshop. We also continued to invest in people through technical training and by hosting students for hands-on learning experiences.

Enjoy the read.

*Julius Kamwathi,
Marketing & Admissions Officer - RCTI*

Top Stories

RCMRD Earns Global Recognition at Esri User Conference

RCMRD Strengthens Somalia's Agricultural Data Ecosystem

RCMRD Champions Regional Conservation Cooperation

RCMRD Advances Transboundary Cooperation for Climate Resilience



RCMRD was established in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1975 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union.



Showcasing Excellence with the Esri SAG Award



Ngugi Kimani, GDT Manager at RCMRD, pictured with Esri Co-founder Jack Dangermond (right) during the 2026 Esri User Conference in San Diego, USA.



Ngugi Kimani, Geospatial Data and Technologies Manager at RCMRD, proudly poses with the Esri Special Achievement in GIS Award at the 2026 Esri User Conference in San Diego, USA



RCMRD participated in the 2026 Esri User Conference in San Diego, USA, engaging with the global geospatial community and strengthening collaboration with partners advancing GIS for development across Africa and beyond.

During the conference, RCMRD showcased applications of geospatial innovation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development across the region.

Key highlights included:

- RCMRD received the Esri Special Achievement in GIS Award
- Three maps were featured in the Esri Map Gallery
- The team presented in two technical sessions, sharing innovative geospatial solutions
- Engagements with global GIS professionals, partners, and industry leaders

The conference also provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and explore new approaches to capacity development across Member States.

These milestones reflect the continued dedication of the team, the trust of Member States, and the partnerships supporting RCMRD's mission.

Strengthening Somalia's Agricultural Data Ecosystem



Participants under the Strengthening Food Security and Agricultural Data Systems (SFADS-Somalia) initiative pose for a group photo at RCMRD



Ongoing hands-on training under the Strengthening Food Security and Agricultural Data Systems (SFADS-Somalia) at RCMRD

RCMRD hosted a training under the Strengthening Food Security and Agricultural Data Systems (SFADS-Somalia) initiative this week, supporting efforts to strengthen Somalia's agricultural data ecosystem through coordinated investments, skilled institutions, and integrated digital systems.

Implemented in partnership with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation–Somalia, and the Somali National Bureau of Statistics, the training focused on building capacity in the use of geospatial technologies to effectively curate, analyse, and apply agricultural data.

The initiative aimed to move beyond data availability towards strengthening the capacity to translate insights into policy and real-time decision-making.

Championing Regional Conservation Cooperation



Representatives at the EAC Transboundary Conservation Areas TBCAs Network Meeting and Technical Capacity Building in Entebbe, Uganda, pose for a group photo.



RCMRD participated in the EAC Transboundary Conservation Areas TBCAs Network Meeting and Technical Capacity Building, held in Entebbe, Uganda, from 21 to 24 July 2026.

Representatives from EAC Partner States, Protected Area Authorities, and IUCN gathered to validate ecosystem profiles for 11 priority transboundary conservation areas, a critical step toward strengthening regional conservation governance.

Alongside partners, RCMRD supported the EAC Secretariat in developing the Regional TBCA Information System and Geoportal, strengthening evidence-based decision-making across shared ecosystems.

The EAC Secretariat underscored that transboundary resources must be managed collaboratively to ensure their sustainable use so that shared ecosystems can deliver benefits inclusively across communities and borders.

RCMRD continues to be recognised as a major contributor to conservation in the region through both technical capacity building and geospatial data provision.

Advancing Transboundary Cooperation for Climate Resilience



Partners pose for a group photo at the ArcX Southern Africa Regional Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa.

RCMRD successfully concluded engagements with regional institutions, European Commission representatives, and development partners at the ArcX Southern Africa Regional Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The forum focused on strengthening transboundary basin cooperation for disaster risk prevention and preparedness.

During the panel discussions, our team highlighted the deep interconnectedness of ecosystems, demonstrating how environmental degradation directly threatens regional food security, public health, and vital infrastructure.



Kelly Waga, Knowledge Management Officer, RCMRD, at the ArcX Southern Africa Regional Workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa.

By collaborating on shared data-sharing protocols and partner-owned capacity frameworks, we are paving the way for stronger climate resilience ahead of the ArcX Forum in December.

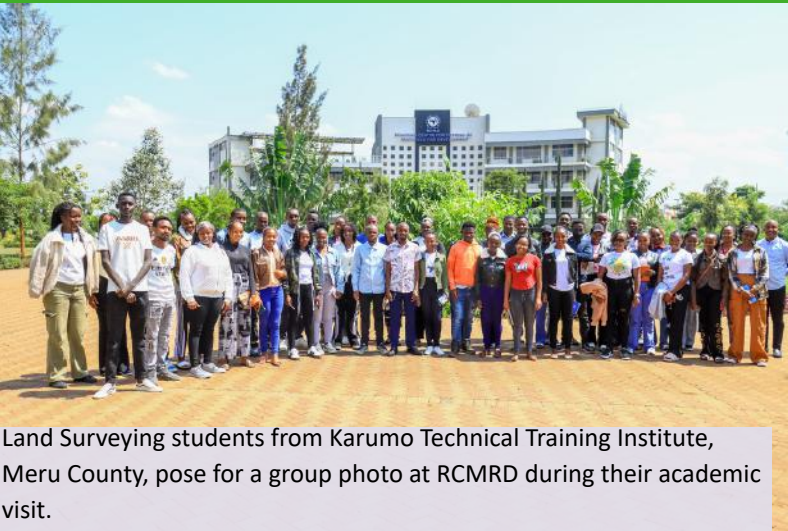
Powering Climate Action Through Transparency



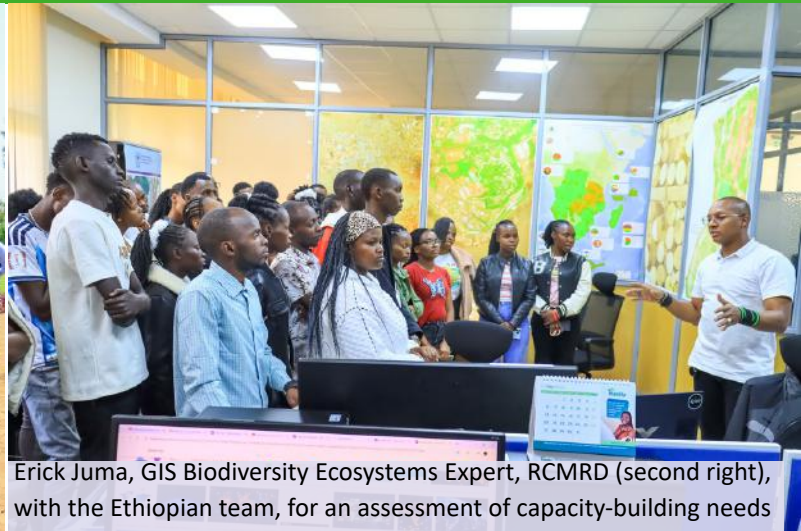
RCMRD, through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), in partnership with COMESA and other stakeholders, strengthened the systems behind climate reporting and supported countries to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

The CBIT programme equipped experts across COMESA Member States with the skills to strengthen transparency frameworks for tracking Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), use the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) software for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions, build institutional capacity for greenhouse gas inventory compilation, and promote regional data sharing and continuous learning through e-learning platforms.

Shaping the Next Generation of Surveyors



Land Surveying students from Karumo Technical Training Institute, Meru County, pose for a group photo at RCMRD during their academic visit.



Erick Juma, GIS Biodiversity Ecosystems Expert, RCMRD (second right), with the Ethiopian team, for an assessment of capacity-building needs

RCMRD hosted 48 students from Karumo Technical Training Institute, Meru County, for an academic visit, where they were exposed to the practical applicability of the units taught in class and gained insight into the technical field of surveying.

They experienced a hands-on perspective of industry practices, engaged with our teams, and were inspired to envision their future within the surveying profession.

Practical Learning for Future Surveyors



Land Surveying students from Karumo Technical Training Institute, Meru County, pose for a group photo at RCMRD during their academic visit

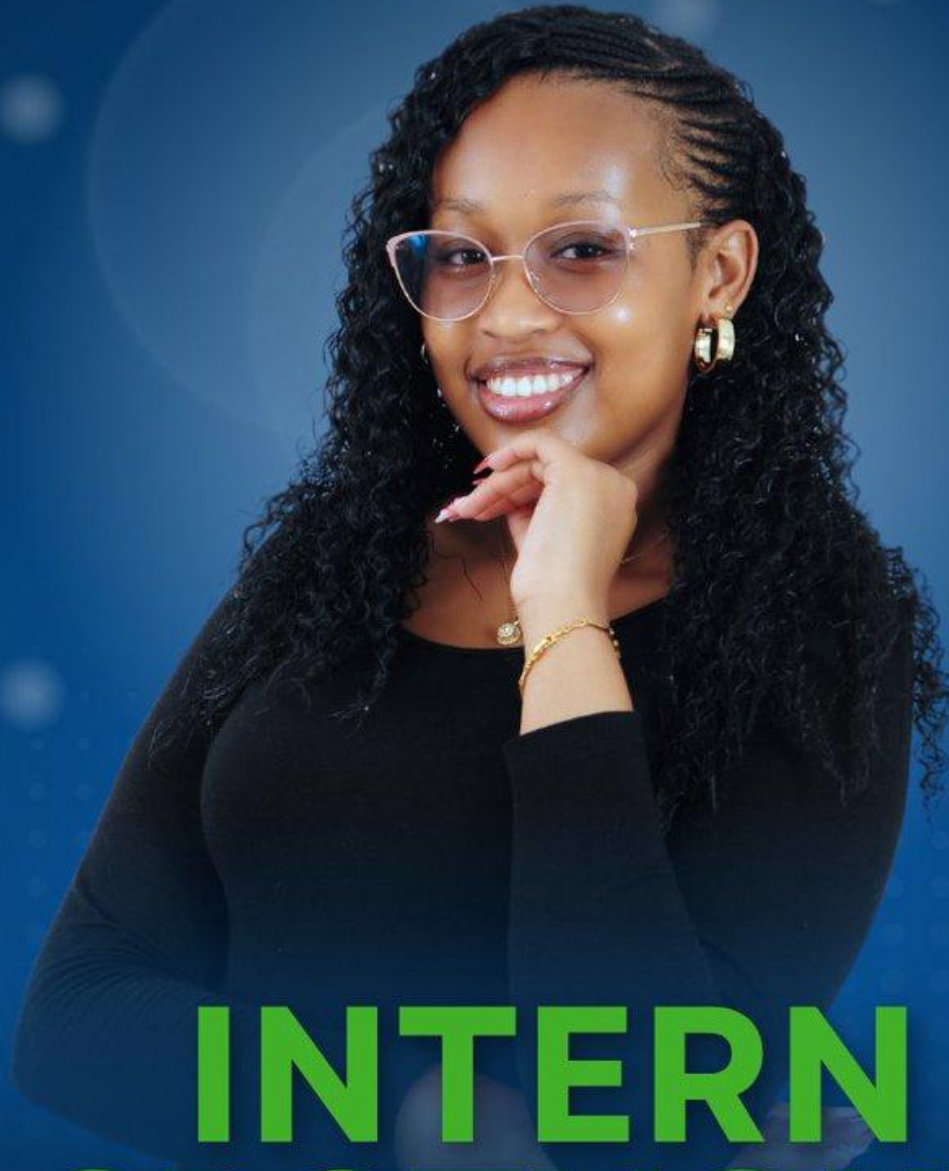


Erick Juma, GIS Biodiversity Ecosystems Expert, RCMRD (second right), with the Ethiopian team, for an assessment of capacity-building needs

RCMRD welcomed 45 Land Survey students from Mitunguu National Polytechnic, Meru County, for an academic visit.

They engaged with our teams, experienced real-world surveying in action, and transformed classroom knowledge into practical skills while exploring future career paths.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Abigail Anita Gathigia

Her internship transformed classroom knowledge into real-world experience, equipping her with the confidence, adaptability, and practical skills needed to thrive in procurement and supply chain management.

Contact Us!

Looking for internship
careers@rcmrd.org



UPCOMING EVENTS



Regional Centre for
Mapping of Resources
for Development

RCMRD International Conference

(RIC)
2027

Theme: From Earth Intelligence,
Action to Impact

SAVE THE DATE

8th – 11th March
2027



RCMRD

Land Information Management Systems (LIMS) for Efficient Land Administration

 Nairobi, Kenya

 17 14th–18th Sept 2026

What You'll Gain

- Design & implement digital Land Information Systems
- Apply Fit-for-Purpose & emerging tech approaches
- Strengthen data governance & interoperability
- Build implementation roadmaps for your country

Key Learning Areas

Foundations of
Land Administration

LIMS Design &
Databases

Digital Cadastre
& Parcels

Spatial Data
Infrastructure

Data Governance
& Security

System
Implementation

Costing &
Procurement

Fit-for-Purpose
& Emerging Technology

Action Planning
& Roadmaps



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RCMRD Profile

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ABOUT RCMRD

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) was established in Nairobi – Kenya in 1975 under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), today African Union (AU). RCMRD is an inter-governmental organization and currently has 20 Contracting member States in Eastern and Southern Africa Regions

Member States



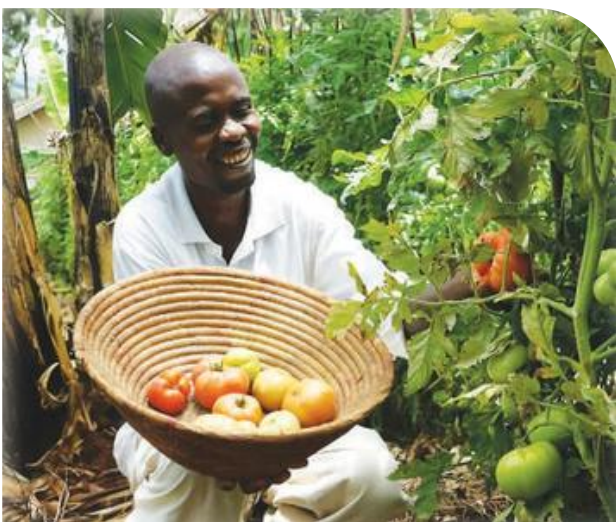
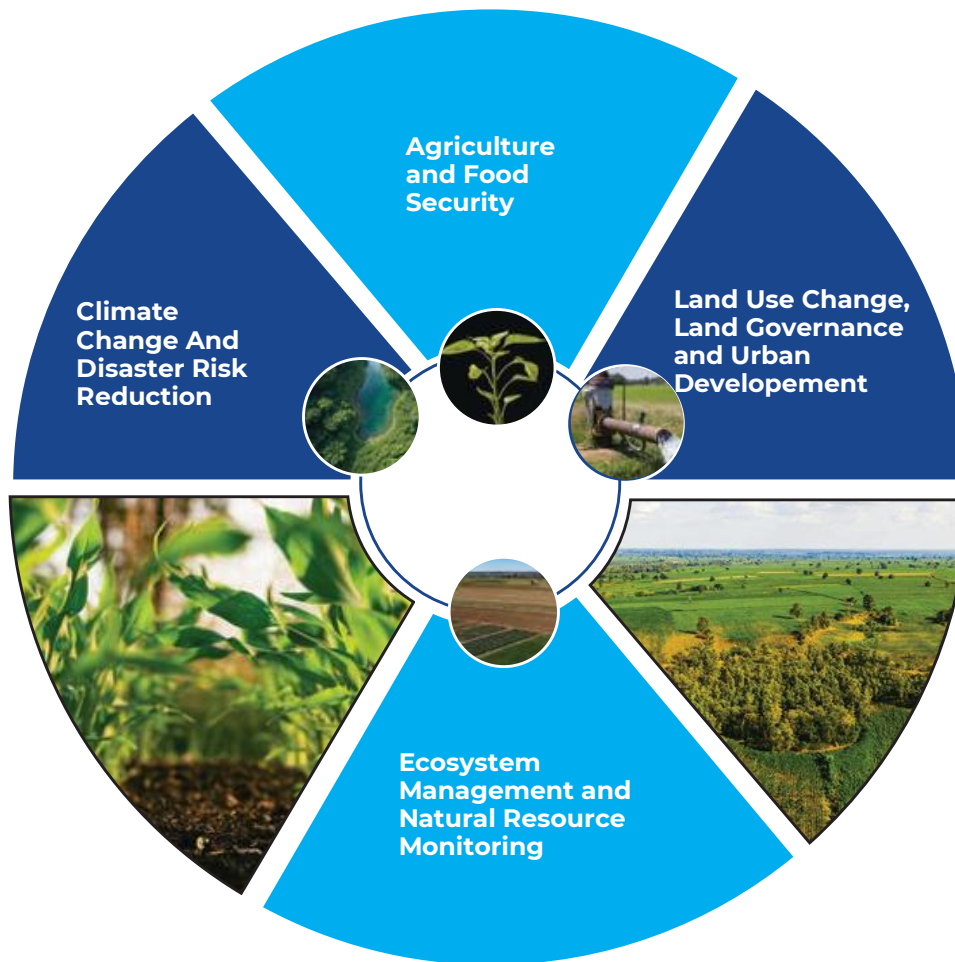
To strengthen the member States and our Stakeholders capacity through Generation, Application and Dissemination of Geo-Information on and Allied Technologies for sustainable development.



To be a Premier Centre of Excellence in the provision of geo-information and allied technologies for Sustainable Development in the member States and other Stakeholders.

To provide capacity building; advisory services; implement programs; and undertake Research & Development of innovative solutions and services on geo-information and allied technologies to member States and other Stakeholders

KEY THEMATIC AREAS



Agriculture and food security

RCMRD utilizes geospatial technologies and EO to enhance agricultural productivity, food security, and sustainable land management, focusing on mapping of agricultural resources, monitoring crop health, and providing data for better decision-making in farming practices. This thematic area also emphasizes land use planning, climate-smart agriculture, and early warning systems for food-related challenges, helping governments and stakeholders optimize resources, enhance food production, and adapt to environmental changes.



Land Use Change, Land Governance, and Urban Development

RCMRD is dedicated to enhancing sustainable land governance across Africa through technology-driven solutions. We offer surveying, mapping, and Land Information Management Systems, and also support the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) project, promoting accurate mapping and spatial data integration. Our services empower governments, communities, and institutions to achieve secure land tenure and responsible land use.



Ecosystem Management and Natural Resource Monitoring

RCMRD has dedicated its efforts to building the capacity of Member States' governments and private sector institutions to work with EO data and geospatial technologies to derive tools and information necessary for environmental planning, natural resource monitoring, and assessment. We also play a vital role in biodiversity and ecosystem management by acting as a hub for scientific research, innovation, and technology. We focus on safeguarding Eastern and Southern African ecosystems with evidence-based, data-driven decision-making through advanced geospatial technologies. RCMRD hosts the Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE) for Biodiversity, Forests, and Seascape Ecosystems Management, which collaborates with biodiversity conservation actors in various sectors, ranging from governments, environmental agencies, and NGOs, to enhance the protection and sustainable use of forests, biodiversity, and seascape ecosystems.

Climate Change And Disaster Risk Reduction

We provide geospatial tools and data for weather forecasting and water resource monitoring, enabling real-time data collection and analysis for effective flood risk management. The focus is on understanding weather patterns, monitoring climate variability, and assessing the effects of climate change on ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources.

Our work supports decision-makers in implementing sustainable development initiatives, disaster risk reduction, and resource management across Member States, addressing the increasing challenges posed by changing climate conditions. One of our initiatives under this thematic area is supporting Community-Based Flood Early Warning Systems (CBFEWS) in Malawi. By enhancing early warning systems, RCMRD helps local communities and authorities to anticipate and respond to flood events, thereby reducing vulnerabilities and improving disaster preparedness in flood-prone areas.

IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS



GMES & AFRICA
The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa



DE AFRICA-
Digital Earth Africa



RCoE
Regional Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity, Forests, and Seascape Ecosystems Management



CBIT
Strengthening Climate Change Transparency: COMESA Member States' Capacity Building Initiative



NOE in DRR
The Africa Network
Centres of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction



PASSAGE
Strengthening Pastoral Livelihoods in the African Greater Horn of Africa.



RMS4PP&D
Risk Management System for Plant Pests and Diseases



ESSA
Earth observation and environmental sensing for climate smart sustainable Agro-pastoral ecosystem transformation in East Africa



AfriGEO
An initiative of the African continent in Group on Earth Observations (GEO).



GO BLUE



ADM
Agriculture Monitoring



SusAG Foundation
Sustainable Agriculture Foundation Project



HYRELIEF PROJECT- ECOSTRESS
Enhancing Drought Monitoring with Hyperspectral Narrowbands (HNBs)



GEO-LDN-
The GEO Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship



Somali Ground Water Mapping



Malawi Land Information Management System for Malawi



Environmental Monitoring, Hazard Mapping and Atlases.