Policies & Application of Space Technology for Environmental Monitoring & Management in Zimbabwe

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INTRODUCTION

• Zimbabwe is 39 075 700 hectares in size.
• Population 11 634 663
• Climate- Savanna
BACKGROUND

• Government policies are essential to ensure that related activities are well coordinated.

• Environmental issues are diverse and dynamic hence the need to continue reviewing situations using the most recent data from space.
BACKGROUND cont.

• Stake holders to this sector are varied thus the need to bring them together or to take cognisance of each other’s existence.
• By having periodical contacts to ensure that developments are assessed and monitored in total.
Development of National policies

• Government of Zimbabwe has developed a number of environmental monitoring and management policies. e.g. EMA of 2002
• Policies are developed for different Ministries, Departments & other related organizations.
• Coordination is at Ministerial level e.g. Ministry of environment and Tourism.
Development of National policies cont.

- There is greater need to widen the scope of stakeholders and increase communication among them all.
- Individual organizations have added policies that may impact on other organizations internal policies
- Hence the need to bring all stakeholders in this field together for the purpose of reviewing existing policies.
Environmental Issues to be preserved

• Deforestation as a result of land reform as it leads to demand for more schools, Business Centres (B.C) etc

• Currently there is demand for firewood to the existing B.C & rural villagers as electricity has not reached all areas yet.
Environmental Issues to be preserved

• Until the option of using gas, gasoline or solar energy is fully taken advantage of, the preservation of land cover will continue being at risk

• Desertification and soil erosion is meanwhile worsening
Environmental Issues to be preserved

- Illegal mining in areas already affected by overgrazing of animals thus worsening river siltation.
- These few examples and many other occurrences not mentioned need to be identified, monitored and managed early.
- By use of space technology such as Satellite imagery, GPS in conjunction with GIS technology.
Examples of organizations already adopted this technology

- Zimbabwe Electricity Authority (ZESA)
- Central statistical Office (CSO)
- Zimbabwe National Parks Authority (ZNPA).
- Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA)
- Geological Survey
- Department of Surveyor-General etc.
CONCLUSION

• Environmental issues are really exhaustible as alluded earlier on.
• Crucial that stake-holders work together instead of working in isolation thereby most likely duplicating efforts & wasting scarce resources
THANK YOU