



**Regional Centre for
Mapping of Resources
for Development**



RCoE-ESA
Regional Center of Excellence for Biodiversity,
Forests & Seascapes for Eastern and Southern Africa

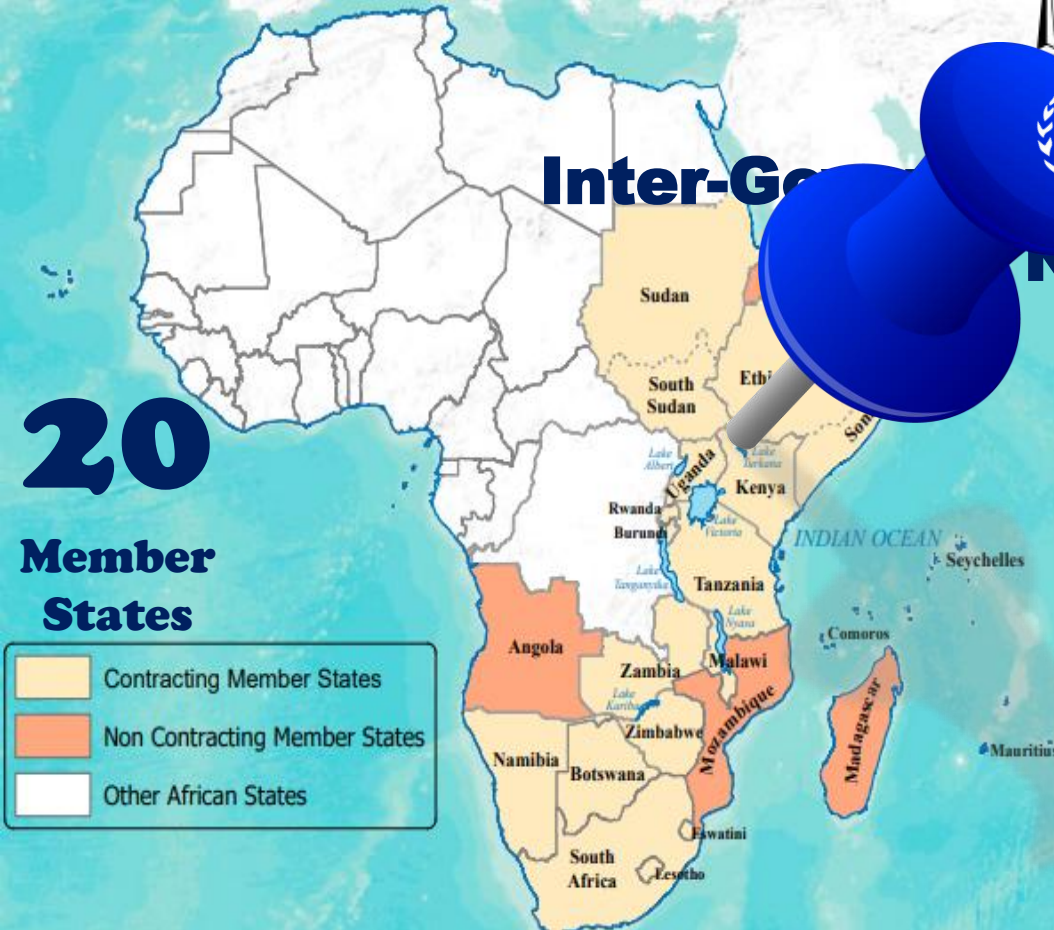
BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RCoE-ESA

Kelly Waga
Knowledge Management Expert

REGIONAL WORKSHOP SOUTHERN AFRICA

Strengthening Transboundary Basin Cooperation for Disaster Risk Prevention & Preparedness

7-9 July 2026 | 10:30-12:30 Hours | Johannesburg, South Africa



Inter-Governmental

Organization, based in Nairobi, Kenya



African
Union



United Nations
Economic Commission
for Africa

Formed



RCMRD

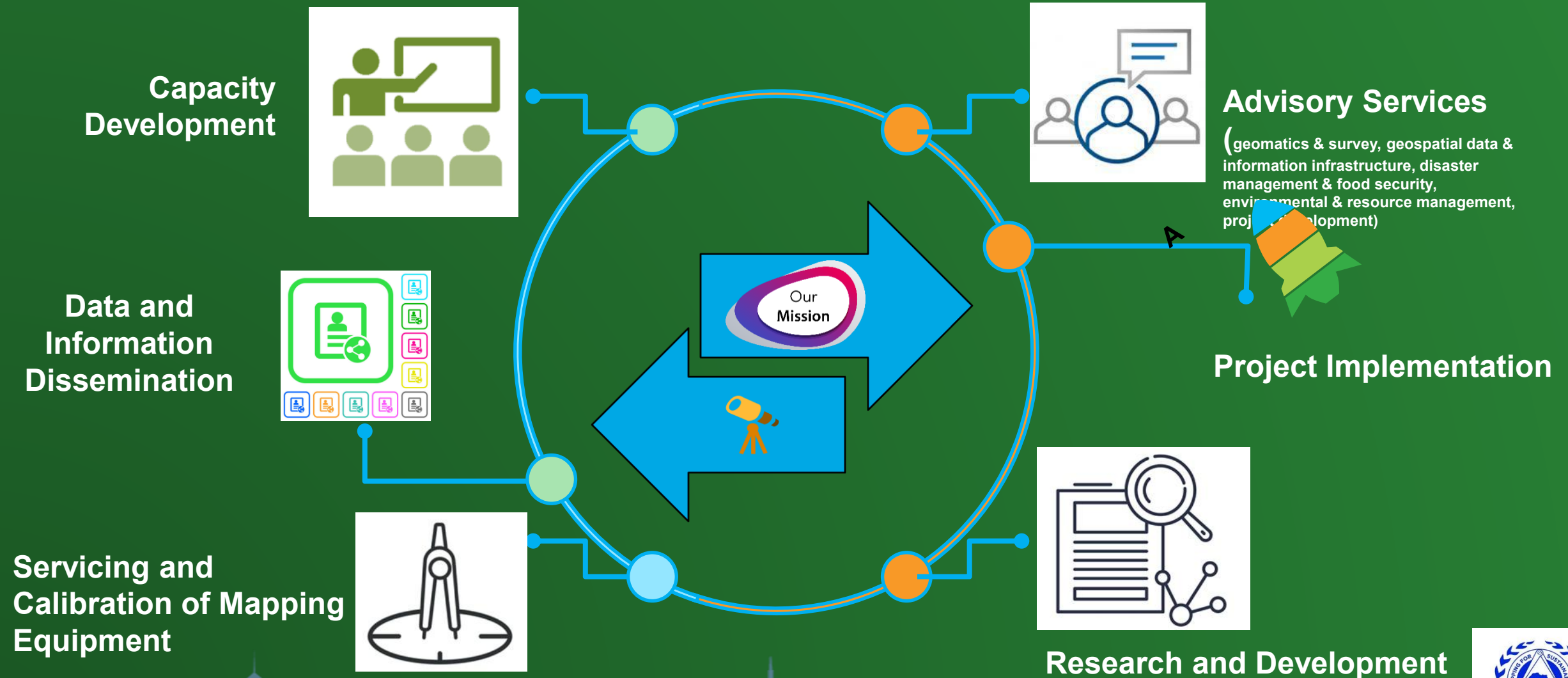


Our Vision

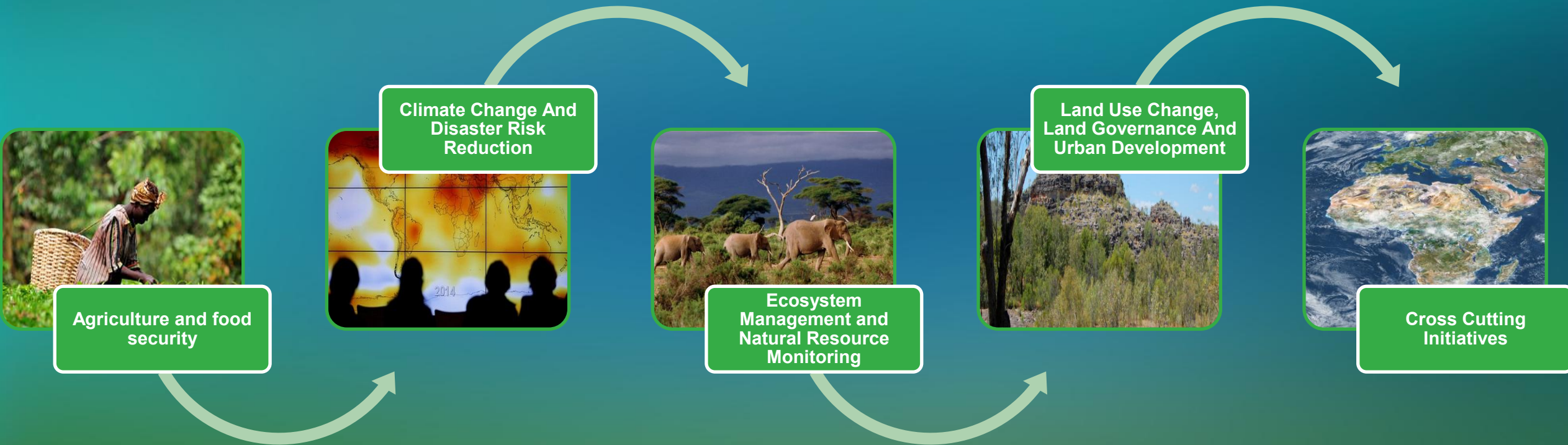
Premier Centre of Excellence in the provision of Geo-Information and allied technologies for sustainable development in the Member States and other stakeholders



CORE MANDATE

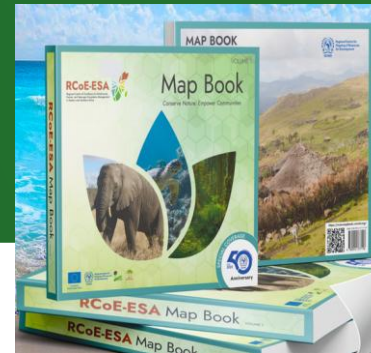


Our Thematic Areas





Convention on
Biological Diversity



RCoE-ESA MAP BOOK VOL 1
&
OTHER EVENTS

Our Flagship Project

RCoE-ESA

Regional Center of Excellence for Biodiversity,
Forests & Seascapes for Eastern and Southern Africa

Project Scope:

Duration: 2024-2028

Geographic coverage: 24 countries

Themes: Biodiversity, Seascape and
Forestry



Funded by
the European Union



RCMRD



World
Agroforestry

Countries Coverage



24



Implementing Partners



**Funded by
the European Union**



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Background

The RCoE-ESA builds on the outcomes of OFESA and BIOPAMA:



OFESA

Observatory of Forests of Eastern and Southern Africa (OFESA) was regional initiative that aims to improve forest monitoring and management in the region by sharing, exchanging and accessing data and information to produce a comprehensive and harmonized regional dataset on the latest trends and threats to forests, in 24 African countries. (2020-2024)

BIOPAMA

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Program assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in addressing their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. It contributed to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in protected areas in 24 African Countries (2020-2024)



Funded by
the European Union

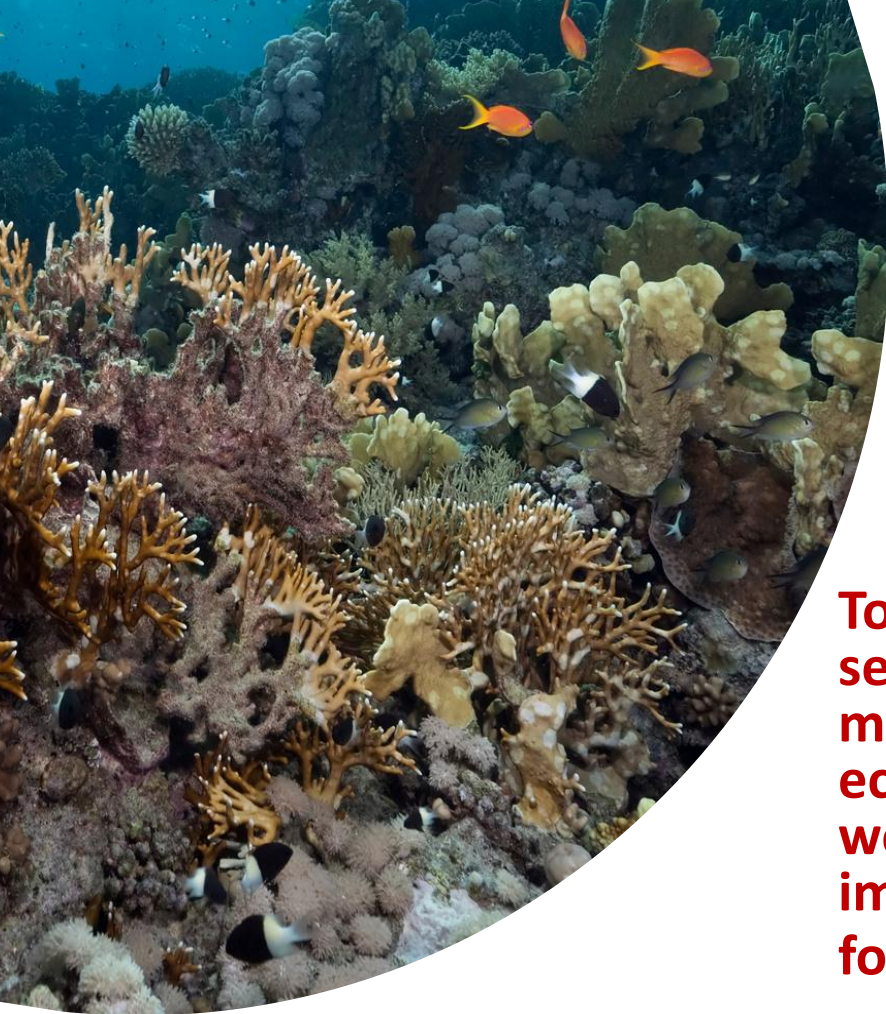


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Themes





Key Objective

To ensure forests, biodiversity and seascape ecosystems are sustainably managed and continue providing ecosystem services and contribute to the well-being of the populations, by providing improved, regular and updated information for informed decision making.



Specific Objectives

To make RCoE-ESA a major point for reference of updated information, that will influence policy decisions in the region on forestry and biodiversity

To improve cross-sectoral and cross-regional coordination and strategic steering of RCoEs to address Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) green transition challenge is improved.



Stakeholders



Foresters

Seascape &
Marine

Community
(IPLCs,
Women, youth

Biodiversity

Research &
Academia

Conservation &
Wildlife

Environment &
Climate



NOTABLE ACTIVITIES/ PROGRAMS

1. Data & Information Engagement Workshop-Kenya-2024; 106 participants
 2. Marine Seascape Ecosystems Management Data & Information Workshop-Tanzania-2024; 30 participants
 3. IMET Sensitization Workshop-Kenya-2025; 74 participants-field work IMET Assessment (Naibunga; Kenya and Lusaka National Park-Lusaka, Zambia)
 4. Regional Geospatial Forum for Inclusive Biodiversity Action-Kenya-2026; 72 participants (Youth, women, IPLCs)
 5. Online courses (2); target 1 & 3; Over 5000 participants
 6. Data Governance Framework Workshop on the Effective Management of Biodiversity, Marine Seascapes, and Forest Ecosystems in Comoros-2026.
 7. Biodiversity Monitoring & Reporting workshop (target 2) under KBF (FAO)-Kenya; 2026
- n/b: Came up with 4 policy briefs since inception.

Conclusion

- Transboundary Nature of Ecosystems** – Shared ecosystems across borders require coordinated management efforts.
- **Need for Cross-border Collaboration** – Countries must work together on data collection and ecosystem conservation.
 - **Weak Regional Governance** – There's a lack of harmonized policies and frameworks to guide joint ecosystem management.
 - **Limited Data Standardization and Sharing** – Absence of agreements and standards affects data accuracy and comparability.
 - **Exclusion of Indigenous Communities** – Local communities are often left out of decision-making processes despite being key stakeholders.
 - **Underutilization of Technology** – Technological tools are not fully leveraged for monitoring and managing ecosystems.
 - **Lack of Sustainable Financing** – Conservation efforts suffer from inadequate and inconsistent funding mechanisms.

Roles of CBD Technical & Scientific Cooperation Support Centre (TSC) Mandate



To provide a “one-stop service centre” that provides access to technical and scientific knowledge, information and data expertise, tools and other resources;

To strengthen capacities of regional, sub regional and national institutions through joint research/development programmes

To mobilize resources to provide timely and targeted support for projects and activities that address specific identified technical and scientific needs;

Africa Technical Support Centres:
-COMIFAC (Central Africa Forest Commission)
-CSE (Ecological Monitoring Centre)
-RCMRD
-OSS (Sahara and Sahel Observatory)
-SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute)

18th July 2025; officially signed the
TSC host agreement with CBD
Secretariat; Nairobi-Kenya

12 Countries Covered



Comoros



Eswatini



Ethiopia



Kenya



Madagascar



Mauritius



Rwanda



Somalia



South Sudan



Tanzania



Uganda



Zambia

- Conducted a needs assessment
- Linkage to existing programmes
- Resource Mobilization
- Collaboration efforts explored



AUDA-NEPAD
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



AFRICAN
NATURE-BASED
TOURISM PLATFORM



WCMC



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Transfrontier Conservation Areas
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



East African Community
One People, One Destiny



Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network





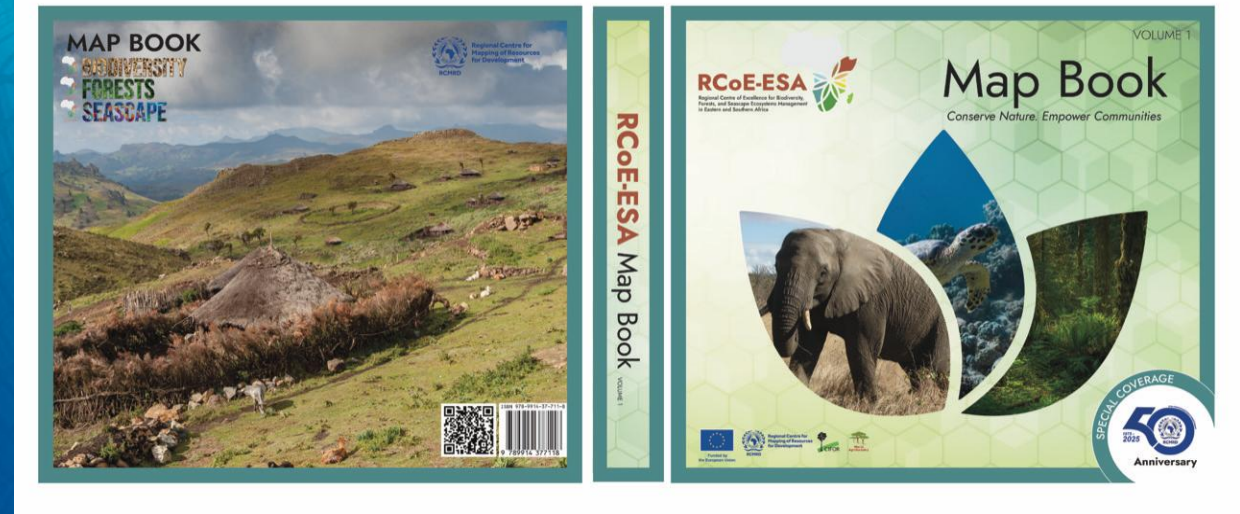
RCoE-ESA
Mapbook



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To access the RCoE-ESA Map Book, visit:

 <https://rcoe-mapbook.rcmrd.org>



SNEAK PREVIEW

- Centrepiece publication by Regional Centre of Excellence in Eastern and Southern Africa for Biodiversity, Forests and Seascape Ecosystem Management
- Launched on 16th June, 2025 as RCMRD marked her 50th Anniversary
- The publication is part of target 3 knowledge products emphasising on conservation of 30% of land, waters & seas by 2030
- The book contains 3 major sections; one on Conservation (biodiversity, seascape & forests), Special Coverage on RCMRD @50 & Adventure Hub (Fan facts, kids stories & games, Arts and Map Competition, 1 issue of the Comic book)
- Contains 3 ecosystem pillars, 60 high resolution maps, 24 countries, 13 conservation topics

Launched
16-Jun-2025

RCMRD TEAM PRESENTING RCOE-ESA MAP BOOK AT THE REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

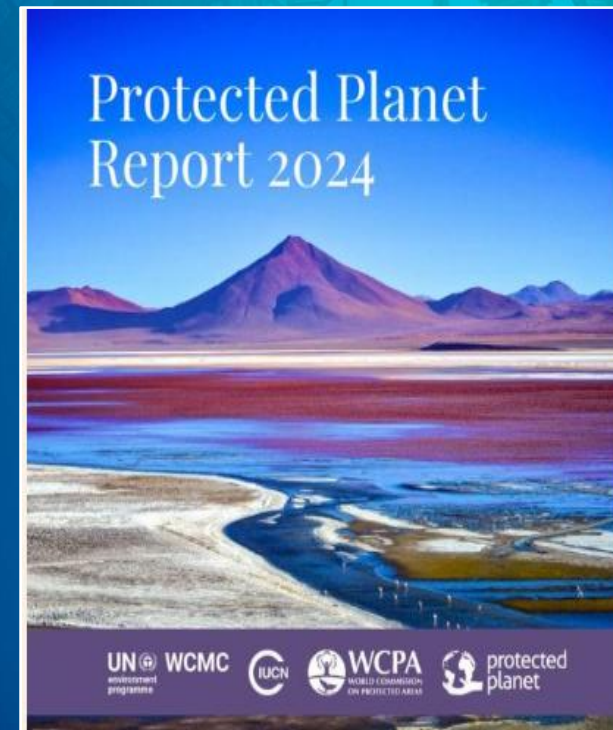
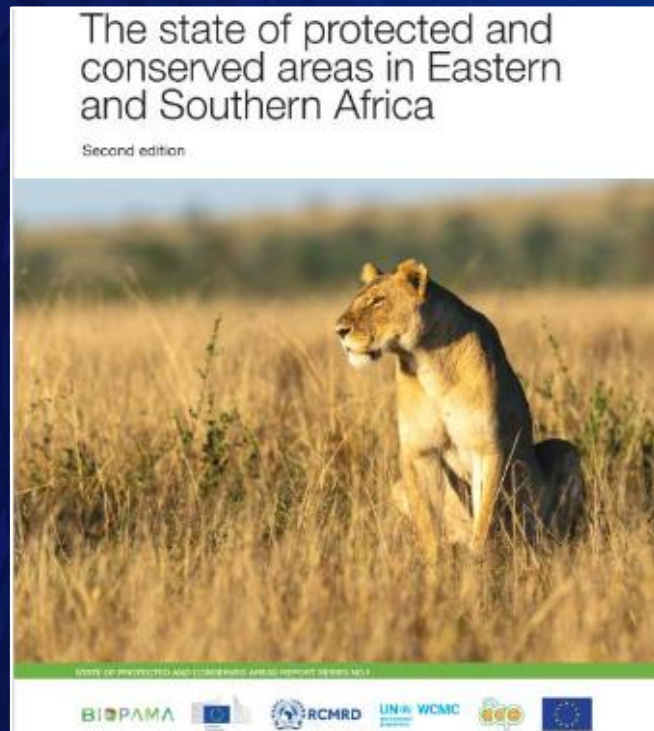


RCMRD representative (Kelly Waga) presenting the *RCOE-ESA MAP BOOK* to the Executive Secretary , Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Astrid Schomaker at the Regional Workshop on Knowledge Management for Biodiversity (KM4B) for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



RCMRD TEAM (Julius Buyengo and Patrick Kabatha) presenting the *RCOE-ESA MAP BOOK* to ESRI Co-Founder and President Mr Jack Dangermond at the ESRI INTERNATIONAL USER CONFERENCE in San Diego California

RCMRD Collaboration and Contribution



ESRI SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN GIS AWARD

Awarded to

RCMRD

Recognizing Leadership in
Geospatial Innovation
for Biodiversity Conservation
Across Eastern and Southern Africa



JULY 15, 2026



SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

ESRI USER CONFERENCE 2026

“THE OSCAR OF GIS”

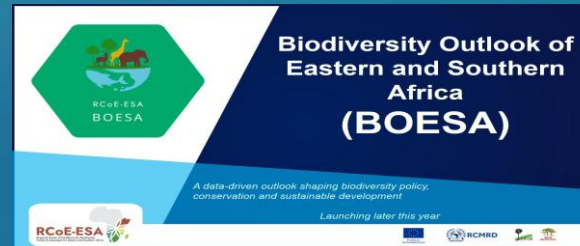


Looking Ahead

Planning an online GIS training course
(Transforming maps into stories and data
into decisions)



New publication of the year is ONGOING.



Arts and Maps Competition; recently launched
with submissions ongoing- deadline 31 August
2026 at 23:59 hours EAT



Thank You



kwaga@rcmrd.org

“Community is not a goal to be achieved but a gift to be received”

-Parker J. Palmer, American Author & Activist

