

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)

Dual Use Earth Observation (6)

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THE DUAL ROLE OF NIGERIAS EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITES AS IT RELATES TO HEALTH AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Abstract

The Dual use role of Earth observation with the use of remote sensing and GIS is increasingly becoming more dynamic in both civilian and military uses. The use of Earth Observation space assets was successfully deployed during the military raid on a world renowned terrorist and Earth Observation assets has also been successfully used in the area of Public Health .The National Space Research and Development Agency has successfully used its earth observation satellite for both military and earth related exercises. The dual use of Earth Observation assets can be deployed to take away life or to preserve and protect life. Due to these dual use of E.O satellites, Nigeria's satellites have been deployed for use in the eradication of TSE-TSE fly under the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, PATTEC, was established following the adoption of Decision by the African Heads of States/African Heads of Government and Government during the OAU Summit held in Lome, Togo, in July 2000, urging Member States to embark on a Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, (PATTEC). The decision arose from the urgent need to stem the ravages of Trypanosomiasis development, causing death, debility, diminished productivity in man and domestic animals. The diseases occur only in Africa, where its prevalence in 37 countries coincides with an area known as the tsetse belt which covers about 1/3 of the African continent. Due to this campaign the National Institute for Trypanosomiasis research in Kaduna began a carpet approach to the eradication of the fly in November 2011 starting with the North-West axis of Nigeria with Jigawa state being the first state for the eradication campaign. Also the rising spate of home grown terrorism has also called for the use of Nigeria's Earth Observation assets coupled with Military intelligence in combating the growing threat of Boko Haram and the country's porous Northern Borders. The presentation is to highlight the various ways Nigeria has been able to use its Space Assets for both Military and Civilian usage.