Open Source Geospatial Technology; the solution for African Women Empowerment

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Presented by

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Introduction: The inequality of sexes

Across Africa, women and men often experience different opportunities, conditions and privileges; they earn different wages, do not have the same access to education and are not always equal before the law.
Source; (AFDB, 2015)

Countries	Scores(%)	Countries	Scores(%)
South Africa	75	Lesotho	70
Rwanda	74	Botswana	69
Namibia	73	Zimbabwe	68
Mauritius	73	Cape Verde	66
Malawi	72	Madagascar	65

Digital Economic Trend/Digital Divide

❖ The world which is in transit to an endless reality has in time past witnessed several revolutions, currently she is in the (digital)technology resolution.

❖ While estimates vary, a woman anywhere in the world is ''less likely to be online, is more likely to have low or no digital skills and is at greater risk of being socially and economically excluded by the digital disruption currently taking place''

Geospatial Technology And The African Women

- The role of women is increasing in socio-economic, political and physical spaces; hence their empowerment will contribute towards resilience and capacity building that will return contribute to sustainable and disaster risk reduction in the long run.

- With the knowledge of geospatial technology, the various areas of life in which the African woman is vulnerable can be mapped and so identifying the prevalence so as to be able to evaluate and rescue her from such practices.

The power of Open Source Geospatial Technology

- For ones, Something is cost free (it will only demand your time and tonnes of passion.

- It is community building. (creates a fine network of map enthusiasts).

- It can provide excellent capabilities, stable operation, a quick learning curve, and support options.

- It rarely allows end users to acquire or view the source code.

- It allows security capabilities, as the source code can be viewed, and so malware and trap doors are easier to locate.

- It occupies smaller space on the PC.

When can we be excited?

When we have achieved the following;

❖ Personal Development

❖ Rational Development

❖ Collective Development

According to Rowland, 1997.

Conclusion

The digital divide is composed of a skill gap and a gap of physical access to information Technology (IT) and the two gaps often contribute to each other in circular causation.

Free and open source geospatial technologies has bridged the gap providing educational tool sets that are freely available to develop GIS programs according to **local** needs.

Thank you.

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