KU GIS Team Make a Presentation to the Vice Chancellor on 21st October 2014.

The KU-GIS Team on 21st Oct 2014 paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor and made a presentation on the progress made by the team in making accessible the ArcGIS Tools through the ESRI 100 Africa Universities Programme for teaching and research to the KU Community. Present during the meeting (Figure 1) were:

1. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olive Mugenda, ESRI ArcGIS License Owner
2. Prof. Simon Onywere, the KU-GIS Team Leader.
3. Mr. John Njenga, Esri EA Training Manager
4. Mr. Anthony Gakobo, KU GIS Trainer and ICIPE/CERNVEC Intern.
5. Mr. Solomon Mwenda, GIS Trainer and ICIPE/CERNVEC Intern
6. Mr. Peter Mwirigi, GIS Training Administrator.

![Figure 1: KU_GIS team with the VC in her office (from left, Gakobo, Onywere, the Vice Chancellor, Njenga, Mwenda and Mwirigi)](image-url)
The meeting started at 9:34 am with the VC welcoming the team to her office. Prof. Onywere introduced the KU_GIS team to the VC and gave her a brief on the progress made on the GIS Training program since 11th June, 2014. On behave of the Team, he thanked the VC and the management for continuously supporting the team since the program started. In the first schedule of the training that ended on 10th October, 2014, 340 student and 139 members of staff had been trained on how to use ArcGIS as a tool for GIS and Remote Sensing in a phased approach with 3 days Introduction to ArcGIS Tools and 5 days of use of the tools in the Applications Phase.

A map of Kenyatta University main Campus, which was a product of the application phase from various groups, was presented to the VC (Figure 2 and 3). The VC complemented the team on seeing that the GIS training had actually imparted spatial knowledge to the participants who had used the Esri ArcGIS tool to come up with the map product with such precision and detail. The map was posted online and Mr. Njenga of ESRI EA clarified on the issue of security of information available for public and private viewing. He explained to the VC that control can be put to filter what need to be viewed by public and what need to remain exclusively private for internal consumption and use by university management.

Figure 2: KU GIS Team Presenting the KU Map product to the VC in her office.
The VC was taken through the Web maps uploaded onto the Kenyatta University Geographic Data Portal by the KU GIS team in collaboration with Esri EA. The KU GIS Team was requested to liaise with Dr. George Vikuru of the Signage and Posters Directorate to improve on the graphical map in the students’ brochure availed to the first year students when they report to the University. The team was also tasked to discuss with the DVC and the Registrar, Finance, Planning and Development on the modalities and level of information to be availed for public consumption through the Kenyatta University Geographic Data Portal. The potential of the KU GIS Team and the capacity to help fully develop the KU Master Plan was recognized. She indicated that DLG, a US firm, had prepared the template for the Master Plan and Kenyatta University was supposed to improve on it and update the same with the existing features as a basis for future planning.
The VC proposed to constitute a team of professionals; Architects, Planners, Engineers, ICT and other relevant expertise from within the university who will work with the GIS team to actualize the full development of the Master Plan. She however gave the team some home work to come up with ToR, and a Master Plan project budget to guide in the project implementation. The GIS Platform was also recognized by the VC as a potential tool for archiving information on campus utilities such as Waterline, Power lines, Ethernet Cables among others. Most of the information is in the memory of a few members of staff that have served the University for many years and have either retired or are about to retire.

To further enhance the GIS capacity on Campus KU has already absorbed Mr. Solomon Mwenda on a 2 year contract. It was propose that the University considers recruiting Mr. Anthony Gakobo (with a background in Surveying) as a tutorial fellow to especially spearhead the development of the Master Plan Project while at the same time offering training on GIS on Campus. Mr Gakobo was asked to tender his application for the tutorial position in the Department of Environmental Planning and
Management. Mr. Gakobo briefly introduced his expertise and informed the VC about a previous task he had undertaken for KU while a student on the Masters programme concerning the Excision of a parcel of land for the directorate of accommodations.

Challenges in the implementation of the ESRI 100 Africa Universities programme

Prof. Onywere brought to the attention of the Vice Chancellor the challenges the team has faced in implementing the ESRI 100 Africa Universities programme and the training at KU. That there is need to have dedicated labs for GIS training and in particular larger labs for teaching bigger classes was not in doubt given the interest in geospatial knowledge from both staff and students. The VC informed the team that starting 2015 the University has proposed to require every to have a laptop as part of the learning materials. That way every student desiring to train in GIS can access the ArcGIS License if the university was to achieve the full use of the Enterprise license for teaching and research. Part of the proposal to talk to key financial institutions like the banks to arrange for loans with a negotiated interest rate to enable students own laptops.

The team informed the VC of the forthcoming GIS Day on 19th Nov 2014 and the ESRI GIS Education Users Conference to be held at the University of Dar-Es –Salaam on 20th -21st November, 2014. Esri EA announced they had waived the registration fee for all Kenyatta University participants and the team was seeking the support of the university to both mount the GIS Day Activities and to attend the conference. The team was informed to follow their request though their respective Deans of School and to make a formal request within the policy guidelines. The VC agreed to grace the GIS Day if her schedules allowed. The team request to use the KU- Business and Students Service Centre as the venue of the GIS Day. The KU confirmed registered participants to the ESRI GIS Education Users Conference to be held at the University of Dar-Es –Salaam are:

1. Peter, Mwirigi
2. Kagure, Esther
3. Macharia, Anthony
4. Onywere, Simon
5. Chege, Peter
6. Solomon Mwenda
7. Kelvin Mwenda (student)
8. Nancy Wachiuri (student)
9. Caroline Otiwa (student)
Mr. Njenga updated the VC about ESRI EA extension of the 3 years collaboration beyond the MoU period by 1 year to May 2017.

**Action Points**

1. Master Project- prepare team composition list, TOR’s, and Budget.
2. GIS Day - write request for KU-BSSC Venue use, the budget and invite the VC to attend and grace the GIS Day event.
3. Mr. Gakobo to formally apply for the position of a Tutorial Fellow in EPM.
5. Write request for sponsorship of GIS Education User conference in Dar.
6. Plan a meeting with Dr. George Vikiru of the Signage and Posters Directorate on updating KU map in the students brochure.

**Nairobi, October 2014**