Unveiling Synergies: YSAN-WA Webinars on African Geo-portals and the Impact of AI in Surveying for Sustainable Development in West Africa

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SUMMARY

This paper delves into the insightful webinars hosted by the Youth Surveyors and Geospatial Network for West Africa (YSAN-WA), focusing on the integration of African Geo-portals and the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in surveying. The first webinar explores the functionalities and potentials of African Geo-portals as crucial tools for geospatial data access and utilization in the West African context. The second webinar investigates the profound implications of AI on surveying methodologies, aiming to foster sustainable development practices in the region.

The research methodology involves an analysis of the key themes, discussions, and recommendations emerging from both webinars. YSAN-WA's expertise in the field, combined with the perspectives shared by guest speakers and participants, forms the basis for proposing an integrated framework that harnesses the strengths of both African Geo-portals and AI technologies. Special attention is given to addressing the specific challenges and opportunities associated with surveying and resource management in West Africa.

The paper highlights the potential for synergy between the two webinars, envisioning a holistic approach that leverages the data richness of African Geo-portals with the precision and efficiency offered by AI tools. Insights gleaned from these webinars form the basis for developing a roadmap for practitioners, policymakers, and researchers interested in implementing AI-enhanced surveying methodologies within the West African context. The socio-economic and environmental impacts, as well as ethical considerations, are explored to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the proposed integration.

Moreover, the paper discusses the role of YSAN-WA in promoting knowledge exchange and capacity building within the region. It emphasizes the need for continued collaboration and

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partnerships to realize the full potential of African Geo-portals and AI technologies in addressing the unique challenges faced by West Africa. The findings presented aim to contribute to a more resilient and sustainable approach to surveying and resource management, aligning with the goals of YSAN-WA and fostering a community-driven vision for the future of West African development.

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