



CTBTO Capacity Building Follow-Up Visits in Africa

John Coyne, Belkacem Djermouni, Misrak Fisseha, Gadi Turyomurugyendo, and Lassina Zerbo
CTBTO, IDC, Vienna, Austria (John.Coyne@ctbto.org)

The technical follow-up visit to Member States under the Capacity Building project in Africa is one strategic component utilized to provide technical assistance to beneficiary Member States. The objective is to support the local National Data Centre (NDC) in their efforts to establish a sustainable routine use of International Monitoring System (IMS) Data and International Data Centre (IDC) products to fulfill their verification responsibilities.

Prior to the mission the NDC's needs and interest are pre-assessed using the Country Profile. During the initial kick-off meeting with the NDC staff, the proposed tailored Agenda and an interactive on-the-job technical hands-on training methodology is discussed refined as needed. The round table discussion addresses and prioritizes the pressing needs and interest of the NDC.

The five days technical hands-on on-the-job training focuses on step-by-step seismic data analysis techniques using NDC-in-a-Box software, and is typically the primary achievement of the follow-up visit. The basic theoretical background knowledge pertinent to routine data analysis techniques is presented.

The technical visit identifies the missing gaps and addresses key elements for the day to day functions of the NDC including operational and analysis working procedures. The efforts made during this project are expected to result in the increased use of IMS data and IDC products for treaty verification as well as for civil and scientific purposes in the country. This visit also provides an opportunity to become familiar with infrasound and hydroacoustic data, in addition to seismic data, depending on the needs and interests of the participants. To consolidate partnership and sustain the achievement of the project in a country, a strategy and roadmap is proposed.

After the visit, the usage of data and products by the NDC can be reviewed, to assess how the NDC is building upon the knowledge used during the visit. It is also important to provide venues for the exchange of experience with other institutions, for both bilateral and/or regional cooperation.