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The American Geographical Society Elects Dr. Catherine Nakalembe to AGS Council

Description: The American Geographical Society (AGS) has elected Dr. Catherine Nakalembe to the AGS Council.

[New York City, NY] — [December 29, 2023] —The American Geographical Society (AGS) has elected Dr. Catherine Nakalembe as a new member of AGS Council. Dr. Nakalembe is an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, serving as the NASA Harvest Africa Director and the Agriculture and Food Security Thematic Lead on the NASA SERVIR Applied Sciences Team.

Dr. Nakalembe’s expertise lies in the research and development of satellite remote sensing and machine learning applications for agriculture and food security, land use and land-use change mapping, humanitarian mapping, and climate change. She is a leading figure in capacity-building for remote sensing in agriculture monitoring and research, with a special focus on Africa.

Most recently, she is the recipient of the 2022 Al-Sumait Prize for African Development, alongside the African Agricultural Technology Association. In addition, her dedication to improving the lives of smallholder farmers through the use of satellite technology earned her the prestigious 2020 Africa Food Prize. She was also recognized as a 2020 University of Maryland Research Excellence Honoree and received the Inaugural GEO Individual Excellence Award in 2019. Notably, Dr. Nakalembe was featured in the 2020 Women and GIS, Volume 2: Stars of Spatial Science ESRI Press book and recognized as one of the Quartz Africa Innovators in 2021. Her work exemplifies a profound commitment to leveraging geospatial data and innovation to advance agriculture and make a lasting impact on communities.

On joining the AGS Council, Dr. Nakalembe remarked, "I am deeply honored to join the AGS council. As a remote sensing professor at the University of Maryland, specializing in food security remote sensing, I am committed to furthering the AGS vision of championing geography for the benefit of society. Together, we will convene a diverse global community, advance geographical knowledge, and harness geographic science and technologies to address the challenges and opportunities facing our world today. I am excited to collaborate with my esteemed colleagues on the AGS council to make a meaningful difference in advancing geographic understanding and contributing to a better future for all."

"It is my pleasure to congratulate Catherine on her election to the AGS Council. We are looking forward to the unique perspectives she will bring to AGS as we provide leadership in this era of ubiquitous use of geospatial tools," said Dr. John Konarski, Chief Executive Officer of AGS.

The AGS Council is the governing board of the Society and has been leading the organization since 1851. Some of the nation’s most prominent historical leaders have served on the Council including Henry Grinnell, Seth Low, Archer M. Huntington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Noble Wilford, and many of the leading geographers, business leaders, and political figures throughout the decades.
The AGS is a 21st-century learning society dedicated to the advancement of geographic thinking, knowledge, and understanding across business, government, academe, social sectors, and most importantly with teachers and students. The vision of AGS is to be the foremost champion of geography for the benefit of society. The mission of AGS is to convene a diverse global community of innovators, thinkers, and practitioners; create and curate geographical knowledge, learning, and exploration; and advance geographic knowledge and technologies to address society's challenges and opportunities. Established in 1851, AGS is the oldest professional geographical organization in the United States and is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in geographical research and education. AGS seeks to engage the American public, from its youngest to its oldest citizens, with new and amazing ways to understand and characterize our changing world. The Society maintains its headquarters in New York City.

**Professor Catherine Nakalembe**

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