

Kenya Geological Survey Enhances Sustainability Planning with a Nationwide Airborne Map of the Entire Country

Oasis montaj Helped the Government Organize Detailed Geological Data for Responsible Mining, Water Access, and Geothermal Exploration

Moving Beyond Decades-old Surveys

A crucial part of protecting the environment is understanding the environment. In Kenya, the need grew for improving land use in areas including more targeted, less disruptive mineral exploration and effective infrastructure development. As northern Kenya recently experienced a drought and climate change has raised risks of water scarcity, locating new groundwater aquifers to improve access has become a priority. Finally, Kenya has great potential for geothermal energy use, which could provide abundant carbon-free power. Unfortunately, Kenya's geological database largely consisted of surveys conducted in the 1970s. To keep their country resilient, overcome climate change challenges, and keep up with a growing population, the Government of Kenya needed to greatly uplevel its geological knowledge.

Taking to the Air

They initiated the Kenya Nationwide Airborne Geophysical Survey project to gain an improved understanding of the land. With a seamless map of airborne geophysical data of the entire country, the government could eliminate blind spots, reveal valuable resources, and inform resiliency actions. Naturally, such an ambitious project involves an enormous amount of information – over three million line kilometers. Processing all that data would be challenging enough, but the team had to finish the project quickly to keep the data as current, accurate, and useful as possible.

Organizing an Entire Country's Data

As longtime users of Oasis montaj from Seequent, The Bentley Subsurface Company, the government realized that the application could help them meet the deadline without relying on outside contractors. The team quickly transformed the massive quantities of high-resolution survey information into organized databases. They then used the application to undertake quality control, generate production reports, and link the new data with legacy data.

Planning for a More Sustainable Kenya

The project team created a full geological map of Kenya with accurate, correctly tagged data. With fast turnaround and quality control, they reduced the need for data capture flights by 40%, significantly reducing the carbon impact of the project. The government can use data from the project to make mining activities both more efficient and environmentally accountable. The data will also help the government and associated organizations responsibly tap underground aquifers for improved water access, and to explore the development of clean, renewable geothermal power.

Project Playbook: Oasis montaj

Outcome/Facts:

- With Oasis montaj's fast turnaround and quality control, the team reduced the need for data capture flights by 40%, significantly reducing the carbon impact of the project.
- The Government of Kenya will use data from the project to make mining activities both more efficient and environmentally accountable.
- The data will help the government responsibly tap underground aquifers for improved water access, and to explore the development of clean, renewable geothermal power.

Quote: "Oasis montaj helped us in all the phases of our airborne geophysical survey, enabling us [to perform] quality control, process, and track over three million line kilometers of data." — Godwin Mzumbi, Senior Superintending Geologist, Kenya Geological Survey

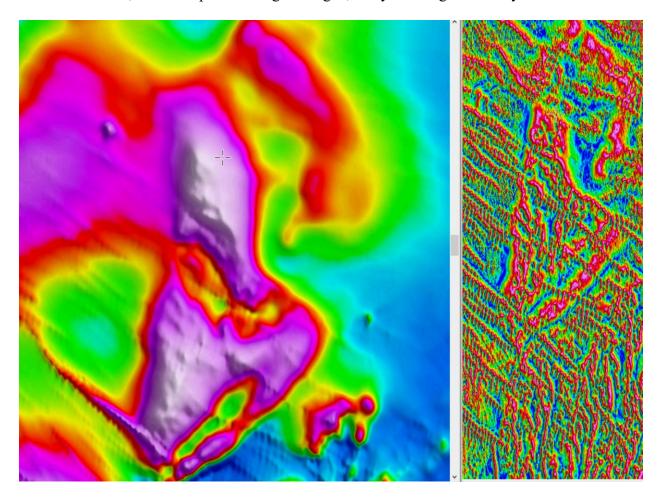


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Image caption/courtesy 1 (header image): With Oasis montaj's fast turnaround and quality control, the team reduced the need for data capture flights by 40%, significantly reducing the carbon impact of the project. *Image courtesy of Kenya Geological Survey*.

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