

Cost Reduction in Operation and Maintenance of IMS Stations (IS32 and PS24)

Kenya hosts two IMS primary stations, IS32 and PS24. In previous years, the cost of operation and maintenance was significantly high. In recent years, these costs as well as the risks have greatly reduced due to the involvement (education) of the local community and the involvement of government agencies as stakeholders. As a result of the above, an enabling business environment has been created around these two stations that have greatly enhanced performance to meet the minimum 98% data availability. Training at the station has drastically reduced the cost of operation and maintenance considering that, for instance, infrasound technology was relatively new in the country. Government involvement to improve the road network has turned the place into a tourist attraction, thus eliminating various maintenance costs previously incurred by the CTBTO and hence improving the livelihood of the communities living nearby. Several businesses and people have benefited directly because of the existence of these stations. Station operators have also demonstrated high levels of professionalism in the daily operation and maintenance of the stations.

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