

Name Kaspar Kundert
Current Position Senior Advisor GIS and Geodata4Africa
Consulting Where Ltd

Key Skills

- Geographic Information System and Spatial Data: Concepts, design, budget and implementation
- Sound understanding of the qualities and challenges of IT Systems implemented by East Africa, often with donor support.
- Assess economic aspects and feasibility of IT Systems
- Team building and leadership
- Project management in the Africa Great Lakes region



Profile

Kaspar holds a Master in Geography and IT from the University of Zurich, Switzerland, where he started working with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as early as 1982.

After graduating, he was a GIS Consultant to UNEP in Kenya and Geneva, mapping and analyzing the consequences of sea level rise and the spread of East Coast Fever, a cattle disease common in Eastern Africa.

Back in Switzerland, he founded Esri Switzerland in 1992 with an original staff of three. Kaspar managed Esri Switzerland for 18 years and grew it to a successful GIS company with a staff of 40 and a yearly turnover of US\$ 12.5 Mio.

In summer 2010 Kaspar moved to Kigali, Rwanda to establish Esri Rwanda Ltd. Nine years later, in July 2019, he hands over - as planned - to Rwandan Management the now well-established company with a professional staff of eight.

Staying in Kigali, Rwanda, Kaspar continues engaging with members from the public and private sector as well as with development partners in Sub-Saharan Africa. Used to establish partnerships and work in multi-stakeholder environments, he retains a strong focus on the economic viability and sustainability of projects when consulting clients on the use of IT, innovative mapping, managing (vs. losing) data, making it open, and turn it into useful information.

Kaspar has over thirty years of practical experience in deploying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and building Spatial Data Infrastructures in countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo, Republic of Congo, Lesotho and Djibouti.

Kaspar has a high tolerance for ambiguity and the ability to adapt to changing priorities. He is used to apply his excellent analytical and organizational skills in high-pressure environments with sharp and frequent deadlines, managing many tasks simultaneously.

Qualifications

Master in Geography and Computer Science, University of Zurich, Switzerland (1988)

Memberships

- Swiss Society of Cartography
- European Business Association Kigali, Rwanda
- Africa CEO Network
- Organizing Committee AfricaGIS (since 2019)
- Data Contributing Member to the OpenStreetMap and Biking Communities

Professional Experience

Aug 2019 - present **Senior Advisor IT, GIS and Geodata for Africa**
Kigali, Rwanda

Achievements:

- Concluding its4land, an EU H2020 project creating six new tools to make Land Tenure Mapping faster, cheaper, easier and more responsible. Kaspar is a member of the Management team and writer of the business plan to commercialize the innovations of the 4 year research.
- Partnership Ready Rwanda: Transportation and Logistics Sector Brief. Gathered and researched data on the transportation-ecosystem in Rwanda. Authored the respective Sector Brief (study) for the GBN, the Global Business Network Programme implemented by GIZ.
- Developed Congo Nile Trail on-line Webmapping application for Rwanda Tourism as a volunteer

Sep 16 - July 2019 **Executive Director, Esri Rwanda Ltd.**
Kigali, Rwanda

Achievements:

- Partnership Ready Rwanda: Digitization Sector Brief: Gathered and researched data on the IT-ecosystem in Rwanda. Authored the respective Sector Brief for the GBN, the Global Business Network Programme implemented by GIZ
- Further developing and then preparing Esri Rwanda for hand-over to Rwandan management.
- Continued overall responsibility for the GIS projects conducted by Esri Rwanda

Aug10 - Sep 2016 **Founder and Managing Director, Esri Rwanda Ltd.**
Kigali, Rwanda

Achievements:

- **Introduced GIS/GPS software and equipment** at the Rwandan Government's Electricity Roll-out Access (EARP) implemented by the **Rwanda Energy Group** (then EWSA) in 2011: After demonstrating the applicability of using GIS to assess the currently built network, in relation to the population distribution in order to better plan and prioritize new power lines as well as identify areas for off-grid solutions, Kaspar participated and won with Esri Rwanda a public tender for the supply of GIS/GPS, needed equipment (computers, large-scale printers and scanners), and for the training of EWSA staff in the new technologies. While the introduction of GIS and GPS was successfully completed in 2011, Esri Rwanda continued to work and support REG and built a Geodata Portal for the Ministry of Infrastructure (2015-2017). Today, GIS is an indispensable tool for managing, planning et further expanding electricity access in the country.
- **Systematic Mapping of Customers and Water Organs** to reduce non-revenue Water for Rwandan Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC): Esri Rwanda deployed up to 100 enumerators to the field to systematically visit every water customer in Kigali and upcountry (some 250'000 in total) and to digitize all water organs. Kaspar laid out the quality assurance plans for the data to be collected and instructed staff on how to process data from the field. Once in GIS, a connected hydraulic network was created and analyzed to obtain estimates for the Terms of Reference for a SCADA system to be procured by WASAC.
- **Sharing of Geospatial Data:** Kaspar was instrumental in the **design and development of the first Land Use Planning Portal** on the African Continent (for RNRA Rwanda), and subsequent geoportals of the Rwandan National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Agriculture. Over a period of 18 months, he advised the Rwandan Minister of Youth and ICT on how to include geospatial aspects in the **Rwandan Data Revolution Policy**. He presented on the topic at the AfricaGIS in Addis Ababa (2013) and Kigali (2019), the Esri Africa User Conference in 2015 Cape Town (2015), the ICT4D in Nairobi, and during his annual guest lecture at Carnegie Mellon University Africa (Kigali).

- Calculated, acquired, designed and supervised all GIS projects by Esri Rwanda and assumed the overall responsibility for quality and on-time execution

**1992 - 2010 Founder and Managing Director, Esri Switzerland
Zurich, Switzerland**

Achievements:

- Responsible for setting up the company in 1992 and growing it from an initial staff of three to forty in 2010.
- Overall responsibility for the acquisition and execution of all GIS projects done by Esri Switzerland and for maintaining and growing the company's customer base.
- Introduction of Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) for Esri Germany and Switzerland in 2001. Kaspar designed a total quality management sales process for the company and defined the key performance indicators both for the company and individual sales representatives. He was in charge for the software specification, the quality control of developed features and the internal selling to Management and Staff. Kaspar developed the Documentation of the CRM and the processes established.

**1991 - 1992 GIS Specialist - self employed
Geneva, Lucerne and Zurich, Switzerland**

Achievements:

- GIS Demos for the administration of the Canton of Lucerne, Switzerland, to demonstrate the possibilities and applicability of GIS in Land Use Planning, Environmental Management, Energy Distribution and Transportation. Defined a GIS Strategy for Lucerne and was part of the evaluation team selecting the GIS based on the elaborated strategy
- On-the-job and class-room trainings for GIS staff of UNEP, both in Geneva and Nairobi.

**1992 - 2010 GIS Specialist, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Nairobi, Kenya**

Achievements:

- Responsible to prepare GIS presentations (live demos) to UNEP Visitors (e.g. then French Prime Minister Rocard)
- Assist UNEP's partners in applying GIS in their projects, notably in first simulations of mapping sea-level rise due to climate change and in mapping the spread of East Coast Fever, a vector born cattle disease

**1984 - 1988 Trainer, Tutor, Project Manager - Dept. of Geography, University of
Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland**

Achievements:

- Digitization of the arable land and building zones of the Canton Luzern, Switzerland; managed the mandate of University of Zurich to digitize the arable land and the built-up areas; acted as project leader of a team of six in this urban planning project, specified and prepared work packages, developed facilitating procedures, assured quality and produced the maps, the statistics as well as the final report.
- Teaching assistant to the Professor / Head of GIS Department

**1981 - 1984 Clerk - Credit-Suisse and Zürcher Kantonalbank (ZKB)
Zurich, Switzerland**

Achievements:

- Clerk precious metals department, introduction of the first text-processing system to the department in 1981 (Credit Suisse)
- Clerk international money transfers (ZKB)

Honorary Assignments and Outside Interests

- Honorary Consul General of Norway in Kigali (Jan 2018 - present)
- Enjoys working in multi-cultural teams
- Team leader and organizer of annual bicycle (tandem) camps for 10-15 visually impaired people in Switzerland (30 camps since 1987 for Plusport, the Swiss organization for sports for the disabled)
- Mountain Biking (in Rwanda), travel and geography

CV last updated: January 2020