

NEWS

UNSD Director presented with Commemorative Stamps Showcasing the Use of Geospatial Technologies in the Bahamas

On Thursday 7 August 2014, during the fourth session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information, Mr. Duane Miller*, GIS Technician from the Bahamas National GIS Centre presented the Director of the Statistic Division with responsibility for Global Geospatial Information Management, Mr. Stefan Schweinfest with a collection of commemorative stamps that depict the use of geospatial information and technologies in the Bahamas.

The commemorate stamp series were prepared in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the reactivation of the Bahamas National Geographic Information Centre (BNGIS). The anniversary ceremony was held on 21 July 2014 and the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie, delivered the keynote address.



The stamp series is a collection of four stamps. First, the 70 cents stamp depicts the use of GIS and GNSS to collect land use data and other topographic features on the island of Inagua. The 65 cents stamp shows a collaborative exercise among government departments (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Defense Force etc.) conducting field verification exercise, which has assisted in the definition of its archipelagic baselines. The 50 cents stamp shows a map of the hurricanes that have impacted the archipelago between 1960 and 2012. The last stamp, the 15 cents depicts the delimitation of the Bahamas maritime boundary.

A most noteworthy achievement of the BNGIS is the recent enactment of the Bahamas Spatial Data Infrastructure Act 2014. This is a first for the English speaking Caribbean States and importantly a major enabler to support the strengthening of its institutional arrangements. These arrangements provide a consistent way for governments and their servants to direct resources, convey information, comply with requests and accomplish their national objectives effectively and efficiently.

For additional information on the BNGIS refer to <http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bngisc>

* Mr. Miller served as Rapporteur for the 10th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference in August 2013 in New York.