

UN-GGIM:Americas

Regional Report
2013-2014



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United Nations Initiative on
Global Geospatial Information Management

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Introduction

- On August 23, 2013, the Regional Committee of the UN Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM:Americas) was created.
- This new regional body replaces the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (PC-IDEA).

“The new regional committee will be aligned to the global architecture, which will better address regional and global challenges especially in the context of sustainable development and humanitarian assistance”.

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest,
Director of the United Nations Statistics Division
10th UNRCC-A



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5 Working Groups

1. WG on geospatial data collection and management.

Coordinated by Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, Director General of the Geographic Institute of Colombia Agustin Codazzi. Related to the 2nd resolution of the 10th UNRCC-A “Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination.” Some of the specific objectives are to promote the integration and use of geospatial information, promote the creation of quality geospatial data and the integration of statistical and geographic information.

2. WG on access and use of geospatial information in disaster risk reduction and climate change.

Coordinated by Rigoberto Magaña Director of the National Institute of Geography and Cadaster of El Salvador. Related to resolutions 5th and 6th: “Business cases in support of the creation and use of geospatial Information” and “Access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change decision making” respectively.

3. WG on promotion and evaluation of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

Coordinated by Álvaro Monett from the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordination of Territorial Information (SNIT) of Chile. Related to the 1st and 2nd resolutions: “Regional coordination and cooperation” and “Spatially enabling government through geospatial data collection, management and dissemination” respectively. Some of the specific objectives of this Working Group are creating an evaluation scheme of National SDI, the study operational models and promote the development of SDI in the Caribbean.



5 Working Groups

4. WG on Standards and technical specifications.

Coordinated by the Geog. Carlos Guerrero, Director General for Geography and Environment of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico. This working group has the objectives of collecting and disseminating best practices, technical standards and specifications, the creation of technical standards that complement those developed by international organizations that have that mandate such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), facilitating the process of selecting and prioritizing them to continue the efforts of PC-IDEA.

5. WG on regional coordination and cooperation.

Coordinated by Rolando Ocampo, President of the Regional Committee and Vice President of INEGI Mexico. The work of this WG is related to the first resolution of the UNRCC-A with the same name. Its objectives is to increase, integrate and strengthen the projects developed by and for the region on geospatial information, and strengthen the collaboration and coordination with the institutions of the Joint Action Plan signed by CP-IDEA, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) and Geospatial Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoSUR); work to integrate and collaborate with the Caribbean region; and promote the collaboration with regional and international organizations, private sector agents and the academic community.



Legal and Policy

- Statutes UN-GGIM: Americas: the new statutes were prepared based on the last PC-IDEA and the UN-GGIM for Asia and the Pacific Regional Committee statutes. The Executive Board of the Regional Committee in consensus, submitted for consideration a draft of the statutes and after consultation with the 24 member countries and the Secretariat of UN-GGIM, the approved statutes were distributed and published in the new website: <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/> on February 14th, 2014.
- New Logo: The new logo of the Regional Committee was created in line with the design of the logos of UN-GGIM for Asia and Pacific, and the Global Committee of Experts.



UN-GGIM:Américas

COMITÉ REGIONAL DE LAS
NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE
LA GESTIÓN GLOBAL
DE INFORMACIÓN GEOESPACIAL
PARA LAS AMÉRICAS



UN-GGIM:Americas

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS



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Administrative arrangements

- Project PAIGH 2013: The PAIGH supported the PC-IDEA project with \$ 8,000 USD for 2013 which were used for air tickets and per diem for some members of the Regional Committee to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas held at the General Assembly of PAIGH on November, 2013 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- Application for PAIGH Project 2015: Project application for financial support for 2015 was sent to the General Secretariat of PAIGH in a timely manner.
- Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE) and INEGI, to develop the project of strengthening the Geospatial Data Infrastructure in the Caribbean in the framework of UN-GGIM:Americas with a fund for the project of \$ 4'500, 000 USD.
- Geospatial Media & Communications will host the first session of the Regional Committee during the Latin America Geospatial Forum in Mexico City in September 2014, funding has been earmarked to assist 20 members of the Committee to participate in the meeting.



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International Presence

- Latin America Geospatial Forum, Río de Janeiro Brazil, September 2013.
- High Level Forum on UN-GGIM Global Map for Sustainable Development, Chengdu, China, October 2013.
- First meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical Geospatial Information, New York, November 2013.
- General Assembly of PAIGH and Extraordinary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas, Montevideo, Uruguay, November 2013.
- UN-GGIM meeting on the Role of Geospatial Information in Measuring and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. New York, January 2014.
- India Geospatial Forum, Hyderabad, India, February 2014.
- Regional High Level Meeting and the Caribbean Regional Workshop of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Caribbean Chapter in St. Maarten, February 2014.



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International Presence

- 45th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, New York, March 2014.
- State of Gulf of Mexico Summit 2014 of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies from the Texas A&M University, Houston, Texas, March 2014.
- First Workshop for the Caribbean Project, Panama City, April 2014.
- MundoGeo #Connect 2014, Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 2014.
- Geospatial World Forum, Geneva, Switzerland, May 2014.
- First Colombian Spatial Data infrastructure Forum, Bogota, Colombia, May 2014.
- International Workshop Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information, Beijing, China, June 2014.



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Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration

- Caribbean Project

Two principal objectives of the project:

- ✓ Reduce the gap in the management of geospatial information in the countries of the Caribbean region with respect to the other countries of the Continent.
- ✓ Support the integration and participation of Caribbean countries in the UN-GGIM:Americas initiatives

The development of this project would not be possible without the permanent cooperation of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico** and the **Association of Caribbean States**, and with the constant collaboration of **The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)** and **URISA Caribbean Chapter**.



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Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration

- Join Action Plan between **PAIGH**, **SIRGAS** and **GeoSUR** by diverse meetings and videoconferences which has been creating the paths to follow in the context of geospatial regional cooperation.
- Since the event **MundoGEO #Connect 2014**, the institution has offered cooperation to the Regional Committee on capacity building; updating the news banner on the website of UN-GGIM: Americas; among others.



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Future Plans

- The first session of the Regional Committee in Mexico City will be held at the Latin American Geospatial Forum from 22 to 25 September 2014.
- The Working Groups will continue developing work programs and incorporating the countries, accumulating regional cooperation and achievements in all of them.

Conclusion

In its first year of work, the Regional Committee has been defined the critical path to follow in geospatial information management in the Americas for the coming years. The challenge is big and with the cooperation of member countries and institutions committed to this regional effort, the achievements will be satisfactory.



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