

Bahamas

Region Americas/Caribbean
UN-GGIM Regional Body UN-GGIM Americas
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Mapping/GGIM Organisation Bahamas National GIS Centre

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Organisational Features

GIM Program Yes
The Bahamas Spatial Data Infrastructure (BSDI) System and Program

GIM Policy **(date finalised and name)**

GIM Legislation Bahamas Spatial Data Infrastructure (BSDI) bill 2013. It is currently before Parliament and was drafted by the Legal Department and approved by Cabinet. The law is to be used to establish The Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems (BNGIS) Centre as a Department; a Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) and the BSDI System and Program.

GIM Strategy/Plan Yes

GIM Web address <http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/bngisc>

Leadership The BNGIS Centre was reactivated in 2004; operates as a unit under the Ministry of The Environment and Housing. The technical focal point for the collection and management of geospatial data; with responsibility to advance a Program that provides a strategic national framework for long-term systematic access and exchange of geospatial data between governmental agencies and other information providers for improved planning, research and analysis, to improve GI literacy in the school system and to equip managers, technicians and the wider GIS Community with GIS skills and technical support

Staff **(numbers and categories)**

GIM Budget Yes

% allocation for

- Salaries
- Equipment
- Training
- Data Collection
- Development

Government Entities (list names of entities using GIS tools)

Application of GIM maritime boundary, disaster preparedness, fisheries, oil exploration, hazard/sensitivity mapping, environmental protection, foreign investment, national security, land use planning, environmental impact assessment, utility infrastructure, healthcare

Private Sector (is the private sector a member of national GIS council and areas of application)

Data and Standards

Available Fundamental

Geospatial Data

Geospatial Data	100% Coverage	Last update	Free or Fee
Elevation			
Geographic Names			
Orthoimagery	All islands		Free
Cadastral			
Administrative Boundaries			
Topography			
Hydrography			
Geodetic control			
Transportation			
Land cover/land use			

Standards

Web/Portal Services A catalogue of Discovery Metadata is maintained. Users can discover what spatial data is available as well as details on content, quality, condition, source, scale and other characteristics of spatial data in order to determine its usability.

Data Access Policies Any interested persons or entities can access the Discovery Metadata catalogue. There are no fees associated with this service.

Technical Infrastructure

Geodetic Infrastructure

ICT Infrastructure Internet connectivity is provided through the Government Wide Area Network (GWAN)

Hardware Platform High end plotters, Large format scanner (color), GPS handheld units, GPS tripods, Colour printers.

GIM S/ware Platform

Training The Bahamas National GIS Centre Training Facility can accommodate up to ten persons. It is outfitted with ten high end computer systems. ESRI desktop GIS software is loaded on all systems

Current Programmes and Projects

Project 1

Organisation
Project Objectives
Funding
Duration
Achievements

Project 2

Organisation
Project Objectives
Funding
Duration
Achievements

Challenges and Needs

Adequate funding is needed to address:

1. The acquisition of topographic mapping, DTM and imagery for all islands

2. The ability to deliver effective outreach program for all major Islands in BSDI Program activities
3. Extensive overlap and duplication in spatial data collection at many scales, levels of accuracy, levels of detail, and categories of data, across various governmental agencies, making the sharing of spatial data very difficult (if not impossible and thus the marginalization of the BNGIS Centre.
4. There are major impediments to the sharing of spatial data among the governmental agencies, quasi government corporations, local government and private sectors and non government organizations. The Centre is not involved in projects that call for GIS and is or perceived to be marginalized in its role as Government's technical focal point for GIS.
5. There are no current mechanisms that allow identification of what spatial data have been collected, where the data are stored, who controls the access to the data, the content of the data, and the data coverage (e.g., scale, data density).

Future Areas of Work

1. Activities associated with the Centre's transition to Departmental Status including recruitment of staff, training, equipment.
2. Developing guidelines and regulations, standards
3. Developing BSDI training and public awareness program
4. Advancing the development identified spatial data infrastructure primary dataset and collecting metadata in support of implementing Geographical Information System applications;
5. GIS application development;
6. Developing Data acquisition Plan including field data collection
7. Acquisition of base mapping spatial data including topographic mapping, DTM and high resolution imagery for select Islands.

Needs

1. Cooperation and harmonization of spatial data activities to ensure coordination of data gathering activities thereby reducing duplication of cost and inefficiencies;
2. Leadership in a knowledge based entity with capacity to administer BSDI Program on an agency-wide platform;
3. Base level core spatial datasets to manage a diverse range of organizational applications to enable accurate planning by all agencies;
4. To advance the use of GIS in public and private schools;
5. To promote modern technologies such as GIS as a decision support to national initiatives including,
6. Comprehensive land use planning and meeting the provisions of the Forestry and Town Planning and Subdivisions Acts, **ii**) Obligations to the United Nations Convention on Laws of The Sea and the delimitation of the Country's maritime borders, **iii**) for disaster preparedness and comprehensive emergency planning.