Fifth High Level Forum on
UN Global Geospatial Information Management

Geospatial Monitoring of the SDGs

Sharing experiences on indicator 6.6.1 on freshwater related ecosystems, and exploring opportunities for better monitoring of the land-water-ocean nexus

2:00 – 5:00pm, 27 November 2017
INEGI Dirección Regional Centro
Mexico City, Mexico

Host

This Side Event will be hosted and moderated by UN Environment. The event is being convened in partnership with UN-GGIM, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, Google, the European Space Agency (ESA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Venue

INEGI
Dirección Regional Centro
Balderas 71
Col. Centro C.P. 06040
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
Ciudad de México
http://www.beta.inegi.org.mx/app/oficinas/

Motivation

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have elevated the importance of integrated monitoring of the environment, including the linkages between people, the economy and the environment. The SDGs include a dedicated goal on Water (Goal 6); however, identifying best practices in terms of using geospatial information for monitoring water related issues remains a challenge.

Background

Decisions on the management of water resources often do not occur at the national level, but at the local or basin level. Monitoring the SDGs will require leveraging existing earth observation data.

SDG indicator 6.6.1 on measuring freshwater related ecosystems is an excellent case study on the role of geospatial information in the SDGs. This indicator includes sub-indicators related to water quantity, water quality, freshwater related ecosystem extent and fresh water ecosystem health. In

order for the indicator to be useful for national decision-making it must be disaggregated geospatially. Additionally, to identify appropriate policy interventions requires analysis that links agriculture, water-related ecosystems, waste and waste-water management, water quality and coastal eutrophication. Such analysis is only possible with high quality geospatial information providing the anchoring framework.

This Side Event will:

- Demonstrate national experiences in geospatial monitoring of water quality and water-related ecosystems;
- Provide an overview of recent developments toward using Earth Observation data for monitoring SDG indicator 6.6.1;
- Discuss the use of geospatially disaggregated information and Earth Observations for better monitoring of coastal eutrophication and the linkage between land use, inland water quality and coastal eutrophication; and
- Engage participants in a discussion around improving global monitoring of the land-water-ocean nexus.

Agenda

This Side Event will include presentations and panel discussions to share national best practices, global developments and current methodologies. The outline agenda will be as follows:

- Opening remarks from host organisation INEGI
- UN Environment will provide an overview of SDG indicator 6.6.1 and serve as the Moderator.
- The European Joint Research Center will present on the Global Surface Water Explorer and their collaboration with UN Environment providing data under 6.6.1
- The European Space Agency will present on available data from Sentinel Satellites, as well as mapping and monitoring wetlands for indicator 6.6.1
- NASA will present experiences in using medium to high resolution imagery to monitor SDG 6.6.1 in select pilot countries, including sharing the experience of monitoring of SDG 6.6.1 in the United States.
- Google will share information on how cloud computing can be leveraged to improve the analysis of earth observation data and the need for tools which make global satellite data accessible to governments and local level stakeholders.
- Panel discussion with JRC, ESA, Google and NASA. Inviting questions from the audience the moderator will facilitate a discussion around the importance of geospatial information for improved national and global and national monitoring.
- Two national delegates (Mexico, New Zealand) will present their experiences in monitoring and reporting on SDG 6.6.1
- One national delegate (Colombia) will provide an overview of the possibility of using satellite data for improved monitoring of water quality, including in coastal waters (eutrophication)
- Panel discussion with three national delegates. Inviting questions from the audience the moderator will facilitate a discussion around owning, contributing to and applying geospatial information in decision making at the national and sub-national level.
- Closing remarks from UN Environment