

MAPPING AFRICA FOR AFRICA INITIATIVE

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In the beginning ...

- Intergovernmental meetings of the national mapping organisations of Africa, organised by UNECA,
- Each country provided a national report on progress with national mapping programmes and the meeting ended with well-structured resolutions.
- National reports showed little achievement in the national mapping programmes and in the implementation of resolutions of the meetings. Meetings were reduced to 'talk shows'.
- In an effort to address the problem a meeting was held in Durban, South Africa in 2003, which resulted in the launch of the Mapping Africa for Africa Initiative.

DURBAN STATEMENT ON MAPPING AFRICA FOR AFRICA

Recommendations:

- The UNECA, under guidance of the Committee on Development Information's Subcommittee on Geoinformation (CODI-Geo), implements activities relating to the "Mapping Africa for Africa", in collaboration with the ICA and other institutions and organisations.
- 2. NEPAD Secretariat endorses and supports projects on "Mapping Africa for Africa".
- 3. ICA creates a Commission or Working Group on "Mapping Africa for Africa".
- 4. That mapping activities be prioritised in line with priority needs of NEPAD.

Recommendations (cont.):

- 5. Promotion of public-private partnerships to ensure that human capacity developed in the public sector that has moved to the private sector is still available in the overall national pool of human resources for mapping in the country.
- 6. That a minimum threshold be set for in-country execution of geoinformation projects to ensure development of institutional and human capacity.
- 7. To implement the resolution of CODI that each country should have frequent national level CODI meetings for effective coordination at national and regional levels in mapping activities.
- 8. An inventory of existing geospatial data sets and resources in each country with associated metadata be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

Recommendations (cont.):

- 9. That organisations and institutions working on mapping topics should ensure that documents are made available in major official languages, such as English and French.
- 10. To use regional centres and institutions to link up with countries to facilitate regional coordination, communication and dissemination of information on relevant projects and initiatives.
- 11. That all countries participate in the Global Mapping Project and other relevant regional and international initiatives.
- 12. That every country develops a national spatial reference framework that should be part of the African Reference Frame (AFREF), as a matter of urgency.

Recommendations (cont.):

- 13. That every country identifies its fundamental data sets, from which the consistent regional fundamental data sets should be derived, including geodetic framework, topography, land cover, settlements, administrative boundaries and transportation, which are envisaged to be part of the regional data sets.
- 14. That awareness of available data sets and potential uses be created to develop a user base and ensure a demand-driven approach to geo-information development in general and mapping in particular.
- 15. That every development project proposal identifies, up front, programmatic arrangements for continuous maintenance of resulting data sets at the conclusion of the project.
- 16. That every country develops or adopts mapping standards consistent with international standards.

MAFA PROJECT ACTION ITEMS:

- Prepare detail project plan.
- Determine fundamental geo-spatial datasets (national / regional).
- 3. Determine available fundamental geo-spatial datasets.
- 4. Standards for fundamental geo-spatial datasets.
- Prepare "Best Practice for Collection and Maintenance of Fundamental Geo-spatial Data" (national / regional).
- 6. Determine gaps in available fundamental geo-spatial datasets.
- 7. Prepare action plan per country.
- 8. Agreement on action plan per country.
- Prepare and submit project proposal to NEPAD Secretariat and AU.
- 10. Source funding.
- 11. Implement and monitor progress of action plan (long term).
- 12. Establish regional / sub-regional nodes for fundamental datasets.

COMPLETED TASKS:

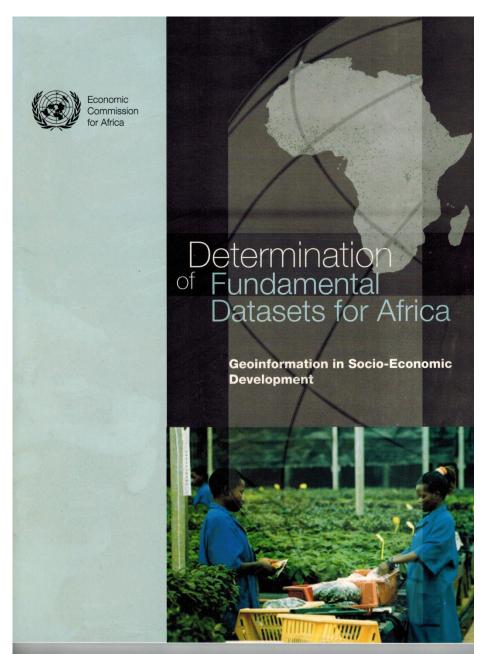
- 1. Determine fundamental geo-spatial datasets for Africa.
- Catalogue of available fundamental geo-spatial datasets (incountry and foreign).
- 3. Determine gaps in available fundamental geo-spatial datasets.

CURRENT WORK IN PROGRESS:

Work on the "Guidelines of Best Practice for the Acquisition, Storage, Maintenance and Dissemination of Fundamental Geospatial Datasets":

- Project plan complete;
- Outline of content complete;
- Writing of content commenced but need more contributors and funding.

Determination of fundamental geo-spatial datasets for Africa



UNECA Publication: ECA/ISTD/GEO/2007/02E

(African) Definition of fundamental geo-spatial dataset:

Fundamental geo-spatial datasets are the minimum primary set of data that cannot be derived from other datasets, and that are required to spatially represent phenomena, objects or themes important for the realisation of economic, social and environmental benefits consistently across Africa at the local, national, sub-regional and regional level.

List of fundamental geo-spatial datasets for Africa:

Three levels:

Level 0 – Primary reference

Level 1 – Base geography

Level II – Administration and spatial organisation

Level II – Infrastructure

Level III – Environmental information

Level 0 – Primary reference

Geodetic control network

Geodetic control point

Height datum

Geoid model

Level 1 – Base geography

Rectified imagery

Aerial photography

Satellite imagery

Hypsography

Digital elevation model

Spot height

Bathymetry

Hydrography

Coastline

Natural water bodies

Level II – Administration and spatial organisation

Boundaries

Governmental units

Populated places

Enumeration areas

Geographic names

Place names

Feature names

Land management units

Land parcels/cadastre

Land tenure

Street address

Postal/zip code zone

Land use planning zone

Level II - Infrastructure

Transportation

Roads

Road centrelines

Railways

Airports and ports

Structures

Bridges and tunnels

Utilities and services

Power

Telecommunication

Level III – Environmental information

Natural environment

Land cover

Soils

Geology

Comparison of Fundamental Data Theme

UN-GGIM	AFRICA
Global geodetic reference frame	Geodetic control network
Geographical Names	Geographical Names
Addresses	(Addresses)
Functional Areas	Boundaries
Buildings and Settlements	Populated places
Land parcels	Land management unit
Transport Networks	Transportation
Elevation and depth	Hypsography
Population distribution	-
Land Cover and Land Use	Land Cover
Geology and soils	Geology, Soils
Physical infrastructure	Utilities and services, Structures
Water	Hydrography
-	Natural environment
Orthoimagery	Rectified imagery

The UN-GGIM: Africa WG on Fundamental Geospatial Data and Standards is contributing to the work of the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Geospatial Data.