FUNDAMENTAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MATTERS

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Introductory statements

‘You cannot manage that what you cannot count.’
‘You cannot count that what you cannot locate.’

Most decisions in policy making and development planning are related to an issue at a place or space. That is, they are geo-located.

Geo-spatial information is information about place and space.

‘Location matters’
The fundamental geospatial information, grouped within the fundamental data themes, provide the fabric upon which other geospatial and related information, in particular statistical information, is based.

The fundamental geospatial information must be relevant and authoritative in order to contribute to effective development, and hence the achievement of the development goals.

Meeting the needs of the user is critical – issue of relevance. Criteria to meet the user need:
- Completeness (national coverage);
- Consistent in level of detail and structure;
- Current (up to date) but historical information also required;
- Compliant with standards – datum, accuracy, data structure;
- Complete metadata;
- Open data
African Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management - *GI4SD in Africa*

- Geospatial information policy and governance;
- Common frameworks and tools;
- Capacity building and knowledge transfer;
- International coordination, collaboration and cooperation in meeting regional and global needs.
- Integration of geospatial information and statistics.
• With Africa being poorly mapped, every effort must be made to collect, manage and disseminate the fundamental geospatial information if we are to contribute to the effective development of the region.

• The scarce resources must be focussed on the agreed upon fundamental geospatial data themes.

• Implementation of the African Action Plan must be prioritised, with commitment from African governments, the international community and private sector.

• Need commitment by all stakeholders to the ‘C⁴ Challenge’ (communication, cooperation, collaboration, coordination)
Three Essential Requirements

Usability

Accessibility

Availability
Integration of geospatial and statistical information (+ more) for creating development knowledge indicators – providing the language of policy makers and politicians.
There can be no effective development without geo-spatial information.

For any African nation to effectively achieve the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the AU Agenda 2063 – the Africa We Want, will require the fundamental geospatial information, that is relevant, reliable and complete.

Thank you