



UN-GGIM-AP

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

**REPORT
of the
Regional Committee of United Nations Global
Geospatial Information Management
for Asia and the Pacific
(UN-GGIM-AP)**

**Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP
ESCAP**

June 2019

1. Reporting Period

This report highlights the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) since the Eighth Session of UN-GGIM held from 1-3 August 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. Background

On 22 November 2018 the Seventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP took place in Deqing, China, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China and in conjunction with the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC).

At the meeting the committee agreed on the transfer of the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and therefore contributed to implementing the resolution of the Economic and Social Council on “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management” (26 July 2016).

The meeting elected the Executive Board for 2018-2021 and established two Working Groups - succeeding the former four Working Groups - on Geodetic Reference Frame, and Cadastre and Land Management with another theme on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics to be considered for next steps. The third Working Group was officially endorsed during the meeting of the Executive Board on 21 June 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Resolutions on 1) Geodetic Reference Frame, 2) Cadastre and Land Management, and 3) Strengthening Cooperation with UNESCAP were discussed and adopted.

Germany provided a JPO staff for the UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat since 7 May 2019.

3. Activities and Achievements

3.1. Contribution to UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM-AP has operated effectively in line with the its mandate and guidance given by UN-GGIM, contributing to its activities and producing tangible outputs. The Committee has closely cooperated with UN-GGIM as well as the other regional Committees, to ensure that the member States are well informed of and involved in the UN-GGIM work.

1. The Committee supported and contributed to the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) held on 19-21 November 2018 in Deqing, China.
2. The Committee took a lead in strengthening the linkage with the regional Commission as called for in the ECOSOC resolution “Strengthening institutional arrangements on

geospatial information management” (26 July 2016). UNESCAP has officially taken over the responsibility of UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat on 23 November 2018, setting an example for the UN-GGIM community.

3. The Committee actively participated in the consultation on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF).
4. The Committee will continue its efforts to identify and report regional issues to the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM.

3.2. Working Group Activities

A. **WG1 on Geodetic Reference Framework** aims to improve access to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) through development and maintenance of the regional geodetic reference frame, which supports regional geodetic cooperation, enhances regional GNSS cooperation and develops geodetic capacity through workshops and seminars in the region. The WG has four main activities in the term 2019-2021: the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) project, the Asia-Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP), the Asia-Pacific Regional Height System Unification (APRHSU) and the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) project.

- a. APRGP is an annual regional Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) campaign coordinated by Australia. The campaign for 2019 is planned for October and a Call for Participation is being prepared for distribution to the Member States.
- b. WG1 co-hosted special sessions on “Developing Capacity for Geodetic Infrastructure and Systems” at International Federation of Surveyors’ (FIG) Working Week 2019 in Hanoi in collaboration with FIG Asia-Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP CDN) and UN Subcommittee on Geodesy’s (SCoG) Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building. WG1 held UN-GGIM-AP WG1/FIG AP CDN/UN SCoG joint special sessions on development of GNSS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) and geodetic capacity at the UN/Fiji Workshop on the Applications of GNSS in June and will co-host the “Positioning and GNSS CORS Infrastructure Workshop” at the South East Asia Survey Congress (SEASC) 2019 Darwin in August. In addition, the WG will conduct an UN-GGIM-AP WG1/FIG AP CDN/UN SCoG joint workshop on geodetic capacity development in conjunction with UN-GGIM-AP 8th Plenary in Canberra.

B. **WG2 on Cadastre and Land Management** aims to enhance the understanding of overarching policy guidance for sustainable and interoperable land administration as well as management systems from existing global concepts, approaches, and national geospatial information management systems referencing to global guidelines. The WG aims to also develop capacity for future young professionals to obtain expertise in areas related to land administration and management including data collection, systems, institutional or legal framework, and other pertinent sectors.

- a. WG2 is planning to carry out a number of country specific case studies using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) Diagnosis Tool and the IGIF Implementation Guidelines to identify geospatial information challenges with respect to land administration and management in the term 2019-2020.
 - b. WG2 plans to design tools for the diagnosis and assessment of a land sector in order to develop a capacity building model. Then, they will select a target country in which to use the developed tools.
- C. **WG3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics** aims to establish an agreed work plan and roadmap for sustained applications of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework (GSGF) as a monitoring tool for SDGs, to enhance the understanding for a sustainable and interoperable GSGF from existing global concepts for the Asia Pacific region, working with Expert Groups on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, to carry out a pilot project in the area of disaster risk reduction using the GSGF to monitor SDGs achievements in cooperation with National Statistical Agencies, and to improve the human capacity in areas related to integration of statistical and geospatial information including data collection, standards, institutional framework. There will be four main activities in the term 2019 -2021:
- a. Drafting work plan and roadmap, cooperation from member countries for drafting of plan and roadmap through on-line reviews;
 - b. Seminar working group members to share experiences and best practices;
 - c. Study in specified countries;
 - d. Selection and application of GSGF in a particular country.

4. Regional Priority Issues

Asia and the Pacific has become a hub of digital and science innovation that brings new and innovative solutions to pressing global problems. Faster and more versatile digital connectivity, satellite data, geographic information systems and spatial analysis have become increasingly accessible and available, generating more evidence-based data to support real-time decision-making. Geospatial information and statistics have also increasingly been incorporated into development planning, which has led to more accurate monitoring and evaluation of development interventions. As a result, combining geospatial information and statistics and enhance their applications have come to play a more prominent role in the implementation and realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

Despite these advances, several challenges remain. A lack of capacity and resources in terms of finance and expertise, is a common problem. Many developing countries, including small island developing States, do not have the capacity to utilize, analyze and interpret space-derived data. In the region there is a disparity regarding the stage of geospatial infrastructure development and capacity on the usage. In the context of leaving no one behind, it is therefore important to provide best practice sharing, quality seminars and training programs to the member countries. Operational tools will be

very important in the region for implementing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which makes the Implementation Guide of the IGIF a very important document.

In this regard, countries in Asia and the Pacific adopted two resolutions at the 75th session of the ESCAP Commission in May 2019, namely 75/6: “Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” and the “Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)” and 75/9: “Implementation of the Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind”. These resolutions will contribute from the regional perspective to the implementation of the UN-GGIM global initiatives and agenda.

In addition, the work of UN-GGIM-AP therefore will enhance the coordination, cooperation and dialogue among member States on regional/global initiatives for geospatial information management and applications, and will improve the capacity of member States through technical assistance, research and promotion of state-of-the-art technologies, best practice and experience on geospatial information management. It will also strengthen the support and contribute to UN-GGIM global initiatives and agendas such as the IGIF, Integration of Statistical Geospatial Framework, and proposal to establish a UN Global Geospatial Knowledge Center of Excellence and its operation.

Since the end of 2018, member States of ESCAP and donors have contributed to projects on the use of geospatial information and statistics for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The Russian Federation has funded a project on “Strengthening institutional capacity on integrating geospatial and statistical data, with a focus on land accounts in Central Asia” (Jan 2019 – April 2021), which also contributes from the regional perspective to the implementation of the UN-GGIM regional and global agenda.

5. Future Meetings

UN-GGIM-AP supports the Workshop of WG1 on Positioning and GNSS CORS infrastructure at the South East Asia Survey Congress in Darwin, Australia on 15 August 2019.

The Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP will be held in Canberra, Australia from 3-5 November 2019 in conjunction with the GEO Week and Ministerial Summit from 4-9 November 2019.

UN-GGIM-AP will support the upcoming Deqing Forum on UN-GGIM: “The Ecosystem for the SDGs” to be held from 21-23 October 2019 in Deqing, China and other capacity building activities of this kind organized by UNSD under the framework of the China-UN Trust Fund.

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in 2020 will be hosted by Indonesia. A final endorsement will take place during the UN-GGIM-AP meeting at the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM.