

“STRENGTHENING NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the global policy to guide the way countries collectively manage and transform the social, economic and environmental dimensions of people, planet and prosperity. The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also provides tremendous opportunity for the geospatial community to meet the unprecedented need for more and new sources of data covering all aspects of sustainable development. It demands new data acquisition and integration approaches and the need for “high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including earth observations and geospatial information”, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods. Timely, available and accessible geospatial information, and integrated with statistics and other information, with combined analyses, are prerequisite for good policy-making and supporting and tracking development progress and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) was adopted by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its eighth session in August 2018. The UN-IGIF provides a basis and a mechanism to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements. At its tenth session, UN-GGIM in making Decision 10/103, “welcomed the UN-IGIF as a means to strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements within and across Member States and noted the global significance of the UN-IGIF, which can be applied to any country to guide transformational change”. The UN-IGIF Implementation Guide, adopted in September 2020 by UN-GGIM¹, provides the specific guidance and recommended actions to be taken by Member States to establish, improve or strengthen their national arrangements in geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures. UN-GGIM expects the UN-IGIF to serve as an overarching guide for all of its activities, and for strengthening national capacities to effectively manage geospatial resources in order to modernize national geospatial information arrangements in Member States, in particular in developing countries.

An approach led by the country to implement and enhance its nationally integrated geospatial information management

Introduction

Countries prepare and implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) with their own country-level Action Plans taking into consideration national circumstances and priorities. The country-level Action Plans will include elements such as the economic impact and value of geospatial information systems, identification of investment needs and priorities, sequenced implementation through the identification of short, medium and long-term activities, and potential funding sources².

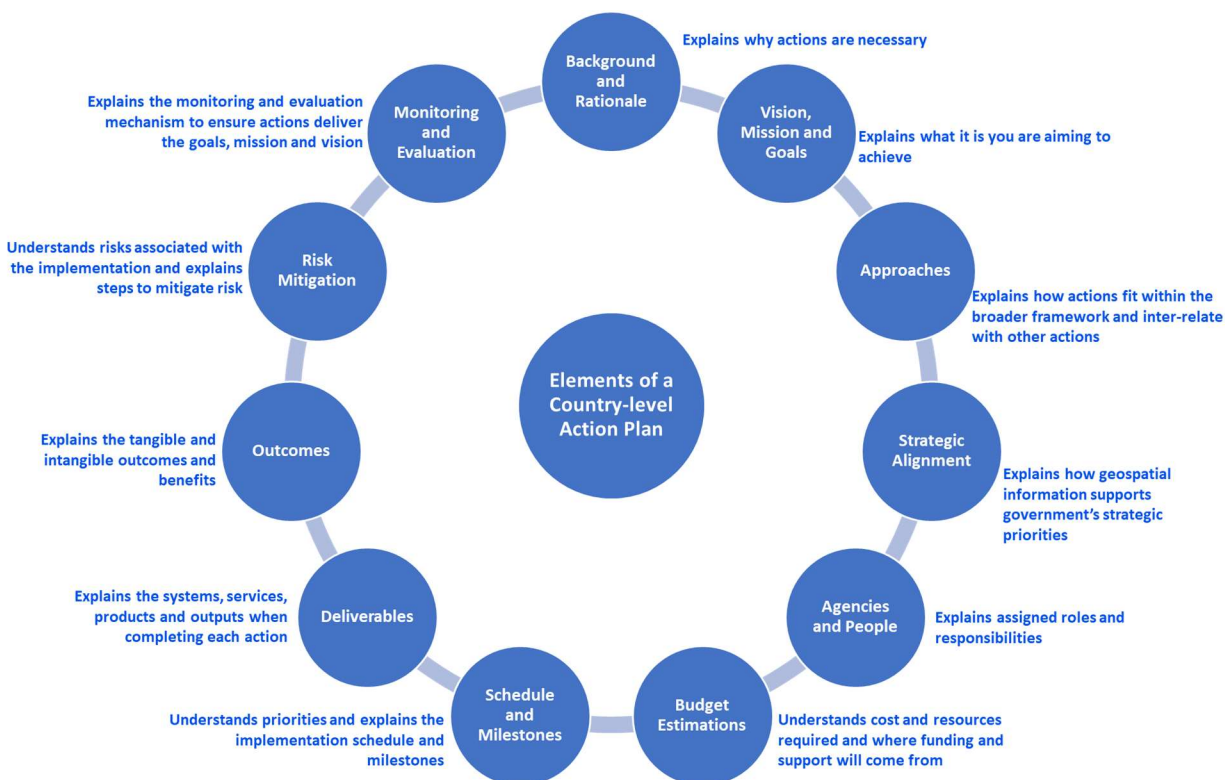
A country-level Action Plan³ references the specific guidance, options and actions provided in Part 2: Implementation Guide and addresses each of the nine strategic pathways to capture strategic to operational needs of a country when implementing the UN-IGIF. The Action Plan generally comprises a series of elements.

¹ <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-session/>

² Integrated Geospatial Information Framework – Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework, Page 8

³ E/C.20/2020/6/Add.1, Paragraph 35





These elements or components are by no means definitive or exhaustive, as a country-level Action Plan is intended to be developed by a country in accordance with their individual national circumstances and priorities⁴.

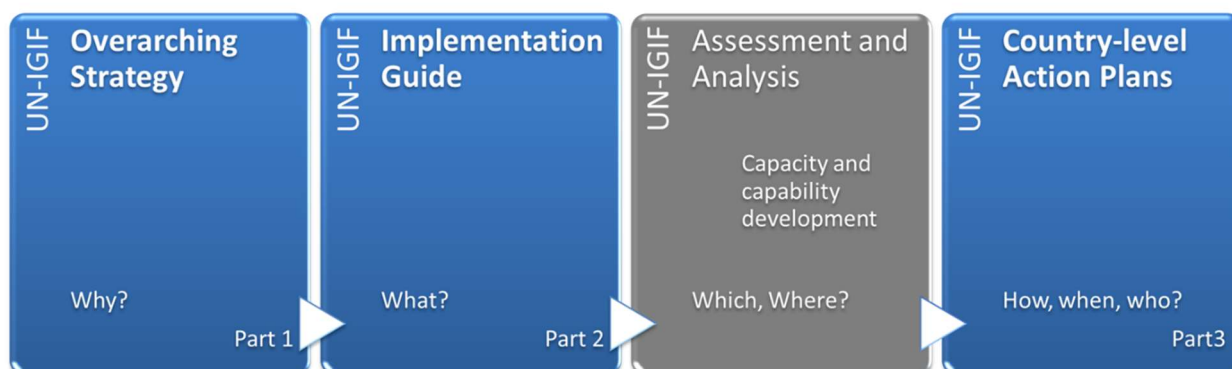
A capacity and capability development approach

To prepare and develop a country-level Action Plan tailored to national circumstances and priorities, an approach is needed that references the specific guidance, options and actions provided in Part 2: Implementation Guide and addresses each of the nine strategic pathways.

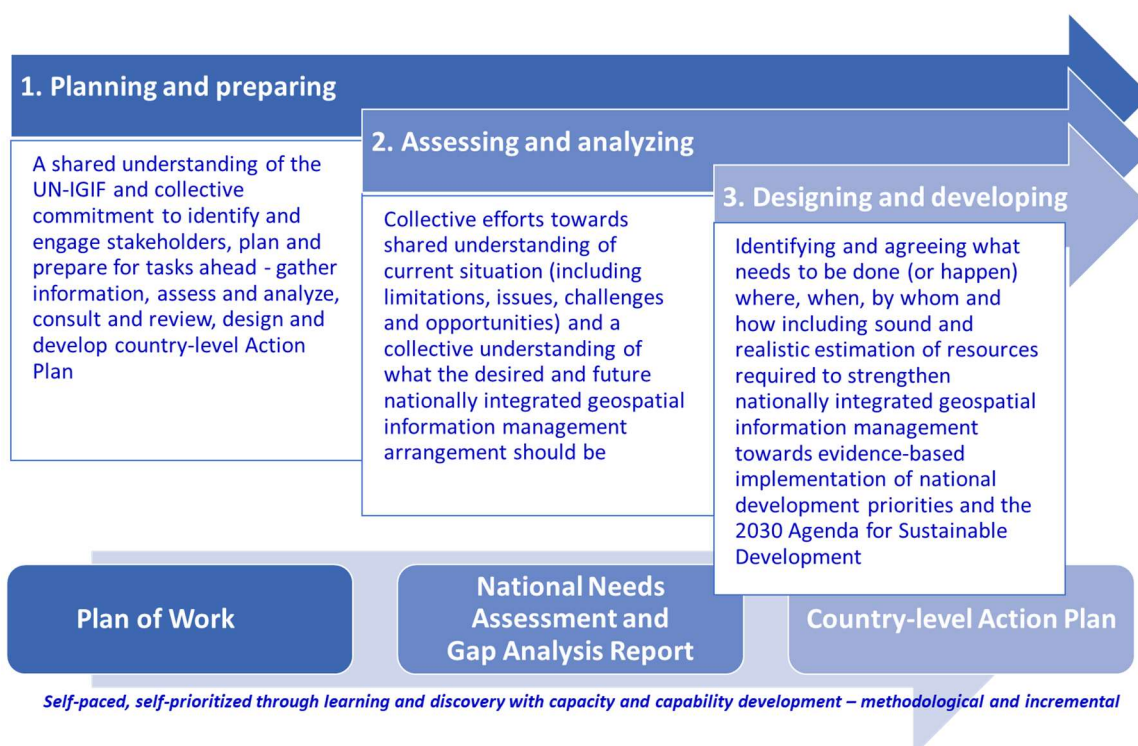
The United Nations through a Development Account Project⁵ designed and developed an approach towards preparing and developing a country-level Action Plan. The approach and related tasks are designed to consider national circumstances by recognizing that one size does not fit all. Importantly, the approach allows countries to assess and analyze, discover and learn their national circumstances, before designing and developing their action plans.

⁴ E/C.20/2020/6/Add.1, Paragraph 35

⁵ Development Account 11th Tranche Project "Strengthening geospatial information management in developing countries towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."



The approach has three components, namely: i) Planning and preparing; ii) Assessing and analyzing; and iii) Designing and developing, and can be illustrated as follows –



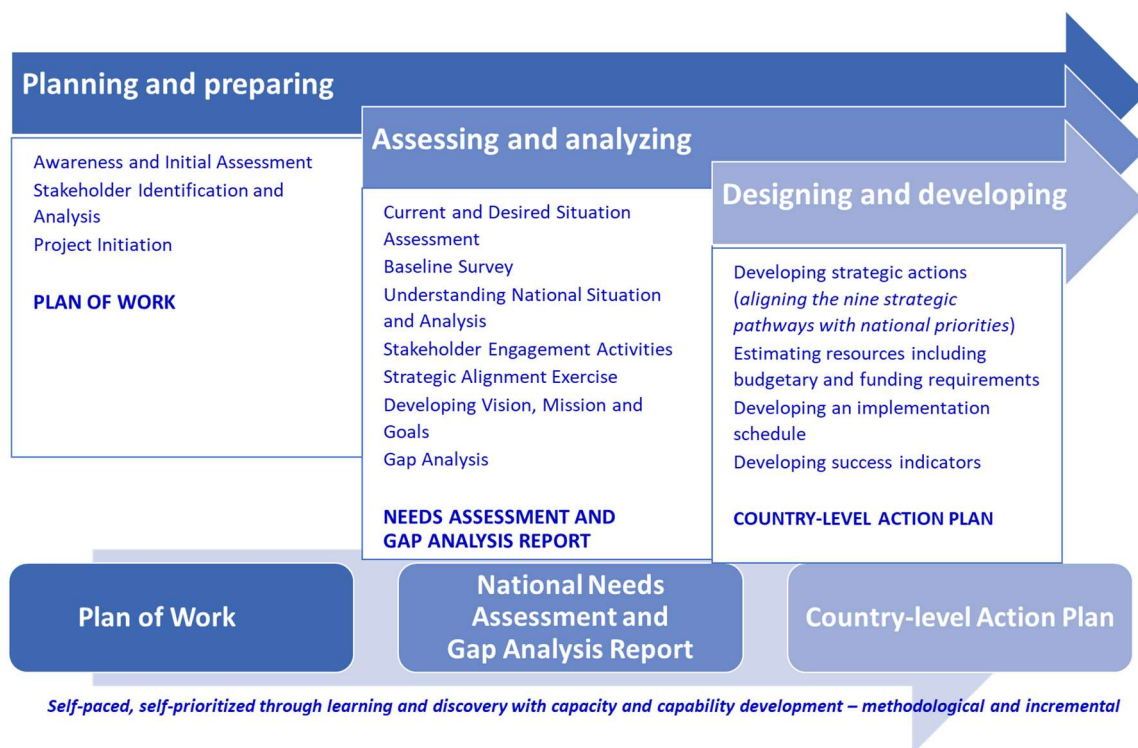
This approach was developed out of the need to consider existing, and then developing new capacity and capabilities as a critical feature when implementing the UN-IGIF. The approach is intended to be inclusive and participatory, and one where existing institutional capacity and capabilities are recognized, and where capacity and capability development commences with the very first component, gradually maturing when successive tasks were undertaken.

Recommended tasks and resource materials

Within each of the three components, there is a set of recommended tasks complemented by a suite of resource materials to support countries to prepare and then assess and analyze their national circumstances before designing and developing country-level Action Plans. The tasks are recommended and not mandatory, are all adaptable to national circumstances. The resource materials, designed to draw

out and work to support identified national development priorities⁶ and needs, are to be tailored to individual national circumstances. The recommended tasks for the development of the country-level Action Plans are -

- a) Component One – Planning and preparing
 - 1) Project Initiation and Pre-needs Assessment
 - 2) Stakeholder Identification and Analysis
 - 3) Plan of Work (*to design and develop country-level Action Plan*)
- b) Component Two – Assessing and analyzing
 - 4) Current and Desired (or Future) Situation Assessment
 - 5) Baseline Survey
 - 6) Environmental Scanning and Analysis (*understanding national situation*)
 - 7) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop
 - 8) Strategic Alignment (and Benefits) Exercise
 - 9) Vision, Mission and Goals
 - 10) Gap Analysis Matrix
 - 11) Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis Report
- c) Component Three – Designing and developing
 - 12) Country-level Action Plan (Template)
 - 13) Strategic Pathway Actions and Activities
 - 14) Implementation Schedule
 - 15) Budget Estimations
 - 16) Success Indicators



(April 2024)

⁶ E/C.20/2020/6/Add.1, Paragraph 38