



Supporting document for the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI), May 2015

Developing a global statistical-geospatial framework

Background

At the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in February 2013, the Statistical Commission discussed the Programme Review: “Developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems”. In making decision 44/101, the Statistical Commission adopted the proposal to establish an Expert Group to develop an international statistical-geospatial framework, taking into account existing national and international efforts.

The third session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), held in July 2013, acknowledged the importance of integrating geospatial information with statistics. The Committee of Experts made decision 3/107 supporting the Statistical Commission decision to establish an Expert Group and to carry out the work on developing a statistical-geospatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

At the first meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, held 30 October – 1 November 2013, the Expert Group discussed and agreed on a Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference were subsequently endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

The Expert Group Terms of Reference includes the following as a focus area:

“Evaluate the statistical-geospatial framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and determine if and how this could be internationalised”.

Australian Statistical Spatial Framework

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) recognised the challenge of better integration of geospatial and statistical information and responded by developing the Statistical Spatial Framework. This Framework provides Australia with a common approach to connecting people-centric (socio-economic) information to a location, and improves the accessibility and usability of this location-enabled information.

The generic Statistical Spatial Framework, developed by the ABS, consists of five elements that are considered essential to integrating geospatial and socio-economic information (see green layers in diagram below). The Statistical Spatial Framework for Australia details the Australian implementation of this generic Framework (see blue layers in diagram below). The framework is shown in the diagram below.

Australian Statistical Spatial Framework (SSF)

