

Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) Web site¹

The **Global Geospatial Information Management** Web site has been in existence since August 2010. Managed by UNSD, it has been already through some changes in its content and its appearance, but has maintained its focus on GGIM's work, and the countries contributions. The main site provides information on geospatial information policy issues to the widest possible audience, and serves as a resource for GGIM experts and others. The Web site is targeting a broad spectrum of users, from the public and private sectors, academia, and the general public

The site is used by those seeking a variety of information on:

- Background information on the GGIM initiative
- Scoping papers on GGIM
- GGIM products
- GGIM events
- National Practices in Geospatial Information Management
- GGIM news
- Links to UNGEGN and UNRCC activities

Below are snapshots illustrating the selection of some specific items.

The new web site format reflects the latest design practices using common dimensions and ensuring browser compatibility. The header featuring the new GGIM logo is consistently placed to identify the site on every page. Javascript libraries have been included resulting in interactive and easy-to-use web pages. Images have been created to better communicate the relevant issues to both, the public and the expert users. The new site improves the accessibility to the various GGIM activities, guidelines and events in a new appealing format.

The most significant change in appearance is the introduction of the new GGIM emblem which was designed by the UN Graphic Design Unit (and which will be presented at the Meeting).

On request, material can be posted under the section SDI & RP: National Practices in Geospatial Information Management. Material on the site is currently available in English only.

We expect that one of the most popular features on the Web site will be the authoritative documents on National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and links to related NSDI websites around the world.

Plans for the future of the Web site include adding search utility, and more information on the status of National Spatial Data Infrastructures, additional links to GGIM initiatives and products, and possibly adding educational material such as learning activity modules.

¹ Prepared by UNSD

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PROJECTS WITH MEMBER STATES

UN Map

A global multi-scale geospatial dataset for rapid map production and web mapping in support to the Security Council and the Secretariat including UN field missions...

[more](#)

Global Map

An international cooperation initiative, aiming to develop a digital geo-information framework ensuring spatial resolution at 1 km...

[more](#)

UN International Boundaries

A GIS-based UN International Boundary Information System (UNIBIS) that provides a knowledgebase of international boundary issues with treaties...

[more](#)

UN-SALB

A dataset project, providing a working platform for the sharing of data down to the second administrative level...

[more](#)

UN Gazetteer

An international initiative of the geological surveys of the world, aiming to create dynamic digital geological map data for the world...

[more](#)

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ABOUT GGIM

There is general agreement by member states of an urgent need for an inter-governmental consultative mechanism that can play a leadership role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges; to liaise and coordinate among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations.

Overview of the UN Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) Paper | Slides

[more](#)

MISSION STATEMENT

At the second preparatory meeting on Global Geographic Information Management (GGIM), held in New York in May 2010, the participants deemed necessary to develop clear terms of references including a definition of the mission and objectives of the proposed committee of experts on GGIM. A drafting Committee is in the process of elaboration of such document. Comments are most welcome (Please send them to Laaribi@un.org).

The draft will be discussed at the first meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM.

Draft Mission Statement and Terms of Reference

ECOSOC DECISION

The Economic and Social Council, recalling resolution 7 of the 18th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General to initiate discussions and prepare a report, for a future session of the Council, on global coordination of geographic information management, and recalling decision 41/110 of the Statistical Commission,² in which the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Economic and Social Council outlining a global vision for geospatial information management, decides to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2011 substantive session a report on global geographic information management under the sub-item entitled "Cartography", (E/2010/240)

The paper is now in consultation with technical experts.

OTHER DECISIONS

UNRCC-AP - Resolution VII: Global geographic information management

GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES

UNGEEN
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UNRCC
United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences

SDI & RP
National Practices in Geospatial Information Management

NEWS

Article in 'futureGOV Asia Pacific'
UN to establish entity on Global Geospatial Information Management
14 February 2011

Article in 'GEO&MEDIA'
Global Geospatial Information Management: un'iniziativa delle Nazioni Unite
24 March 2011

UPCOMING UN EVENTS

October 2011
United Nations Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management
Seoul, Republic of Korea 24-27 October 2011

May 2011
28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEEN)
Vienna, Austria 2-6 May 2011

April 2011

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National Policies on Geospatial Information: Spatial Data Infrastructure, Regulatory Practices, Information Management Issues

In response to the growing needs for timely and accurate geospatial information for national development, countries are building a strong foundation for their geospatial infrastructure and regulatory framework. Creating a successful National Spatial Data Infrastructure is a highly challenging management task, and the most important element lies, not at the technical level, but rather in establishing effective coordination and infrastructure management in order to realise the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying technology, and to make it accessible to and effectively used by a broad range of users. The role of the government, as the regulator and programme implementer, is rapidly shifting from being a primary provider of authoritative geospatial information to coordinating and managing geospatial data and facilitating partnerships among the producers and consumers of geospatial information. As a result, many countries are developing national policies and practices that formalize the ways in which their geospatial data can be shared, used, and disseminated. They are also considering legislation and regulatory framework for protecting national security, confidentiality and citizen privacy rights, if they have not already done so.

Below are links to key documents and material available on the web, some of them provided by Member States regarding their National Policies on Geospatial Information.

The section is meant to be populated by the national geospatial authorities of the countries to ensure that the information is an authentic reflection of the national situation. Please send documents and links to ggim@un.org or frani@un.org

KEY DOCUMENTS AND SDI WEB SITES IN MEMBER STATES

- Australia**
LINK [The Australian Spatial Data Infrastructure \(ASDI\)](#)
- Bahrain**
LINK [Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure \(BSDI\)](#)
- Brazil**
LINK [The Brazilian National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(INDE\)](#)
- Canada**
LINK [The Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure \(CGDI\)](#)
- Chile**
LINK [The Chilean National Spatial Data Infrastructure \(SNIT\)](#)
- China**

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PROJECTS WITH MEMBER STATES

UN MAP

UN Cartographic Section (UNCS) is developing global multi-scale geospatial datasets (or UNmap) for rapid map production and web mapping in support to the Security Council and the Secretariat including UN field missions. Currently an interim version of UNmap in scales of 1:1 million, 1:5 million and 1:10 million are in a final stage of completion and being used as primary geo-databases for UNCS and UN field missions. The purpose of UNmap is to develop and maintain a spatial data infrastructure (integrated with the datasets of UN international boundaries and SALB as well as UN Gazetteer) for UN needs that will provide a single homogeneous dataset of global geospatial features of the world for any mapping purpose. UNmap is a series of geo-databases for core mapping layers (international and administrative boundaries, coastlines, drainage, water bodies, roads, railways, airports, populated places and urban areas) in various scales (1:1-10 million for global coverage and 1:250K, 50K, 25K, 12.5K and 5K for UN field missions).

GLOBAL MAP

Global Mapping Project, launched in 1996, is an international cooperation initiative through voluntary participation of national mapping organizations in the world, and led by the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) and its Secretariat, c/o Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI). Global Map aims to develop a digital geo-information framework ensuring spatial resolution at 1 km, with standardized specifications and available to everyone at marginal cost. Global Map datasets consist of 8 basic layers (Boundaries, Drainage, Transportation, Population Centres, Elevation, Land Cover, Land Use, and Vegetation) for currently 71 countries and 4 regions, collectively covering 60% of the whole land area. Global Map (global version) for elevation, land cover and vegetation (percent tree cover) layers wholly covers the land area of the globe.

[Global Map web site](#)

UN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES

UN Cartographic Section (UNCS) is developing a GIS-based UN International Boundary Information System (UNIBIS) that provides a knowledge base of international boundary issues with treaties, relevant documents, maps and satellite imagery as well as status of disputed boundaries in support to the Security Council and the Secretariat as well as the Member States. The objective of this knowledge base is to prevent potential conflicts, resolve border dispute and support border demarcation as well as cross-border cooperation. UNIBIS allows the research of data related to the status of international boundaries including analysis and interpretation of the satellite imagery, treaty maps and other relevant material. Updates and maintenance of international boundary geo-database is carried out in order to build the capacity for rapid response to the growing demand of Member States especially in conflict areas and for the assistance in international boundaries delineation and demarcation as well as cross-border.

UN-SALB

Launched in 2001, the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) dataset project is providing the international community with a working platform that covers all the UN Member States for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of data/information down to the second administrative level. The administrative boundaries are a fundamental component of any national spatial data infrastructure and constitute vital basic data for the work of many decision-makers, managers, planners and other users in a variety of sectors: census, health, education, regional development, water, agriculture, energy and environmental resources, etc. to name a few. The project, developed under the leadership of WHO, has been recently handed over to the UN Secretariat where coordination and policy issues have been taken care by UNSD and technical aspects have been under responsibility of UNCS.

[SALB web site](#)

UN GAZETTEER

UN Cartographic Section (UNCS) is developing a global place name database and search engine (or UN Gazetteer) in support to the Security Council and the Secretariat including UN field missions. The UN Gazetteer is employing "fuzzy logic" to find place name locations worldwide. It accomplishes this by searching with a place name's phonetic spelling (how it sounds) and

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PARTNERS

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The following list is subject to confirmation by the respective Government:

Africa	
Algeria	Institut National de Cartographie et Télédétection
Angola	Angolan Geographical and Cadastral Institute
Benin	Institut Géographique National du Bénin (IGNB)
Botswana	Department of Surveys and Mapping
Burkina Faso	Institut Géographique du Burkina
Burundi	Institut Géographique du Burundi
Cameroon	Institut National de Cartographie (INC)
Cape Verde	Serviço Nacional de Geografia e Cadastro
Central African Republic	Direction de la topographie et cartographie
Chad	Direction du cadastre et de la cartographie
Comoros	Direction du Cadastre et de la Topographie
Congo	Centre de Recherche Géographique et de Cartographique (CERGEC)
Côte d'Ivoire	Centre de Cartographie et de Télédétection
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Institut géographique du Congo (IGC)
Djibouti	Division topographique de la République de Djibouti
Egypt	Egyptian Survey Authority
Equatorial Guinea	Servicio Geografico
Eritrea	Ministry of Agriculture
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Mapping Authority
Gabon	Institut National de Cartographie
Gambia	Department of State for Local Government and Land
Ghana	Survey Department

http://ggim.un.org/default.html

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