

Presentation on Geospatial Information Production and Management in Ethiopia: An Overview

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Executive Summary

Ethiopia is located on the Horn of Africa and it is the second most populous country on the African Continent with a population of 90 million. The land area is 1.13 million square kms.

The first attempts to prepare detailed maps of Ethiopia were made during the brief Italian occupation of the country (1935 – 1941).

In 1954, the Ethiopian Government with the support of the Government of the United States of America (USA) established the Mapping and Geography Institute of Ethiopia to undertake survey and mapping activities in Ethiopia. The first mapping initiative of the Institute was undertaken during 1957 - 1961 in a collaborative effort between the Ethiopian Government and the Government of the USA to map the Blue Nile River Basin with a scale of 1:50,000 based on aerial photography and precise geodetic control network. This effort was later expanded to cover the rest of the country.

In 1980, the Institute was re-established as the Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA) by a Decree of the Government of Ethiopia as an autonomous agency.

EMA, as the sole source of authoritative geospatial information in Ethiopia, is currently engaged in the collection, compilation, production/publication, management, and dissemination of authoritative fundamental geo-information data sets in Ethiopia, and the regulation of Surveying and Mapping activities in the country.