



Working together Across Borders and Region – The Caribbean Experience

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Some initial thoughts...



- SDG#17 has direct bearing on this discussion
- In the Caribbean there the natural tendency has been to work independently in silos.... 'Islands'
- Nations are at varying stages of GIS and SDI development
- There is the issue of the Language barrier
- There are Misconceptions resulting from lack of Education/ awareness of geospatial matters
- There is Non- existent or under Developed policy frameworks and guidelines in some countries

Vision for the Caribbean



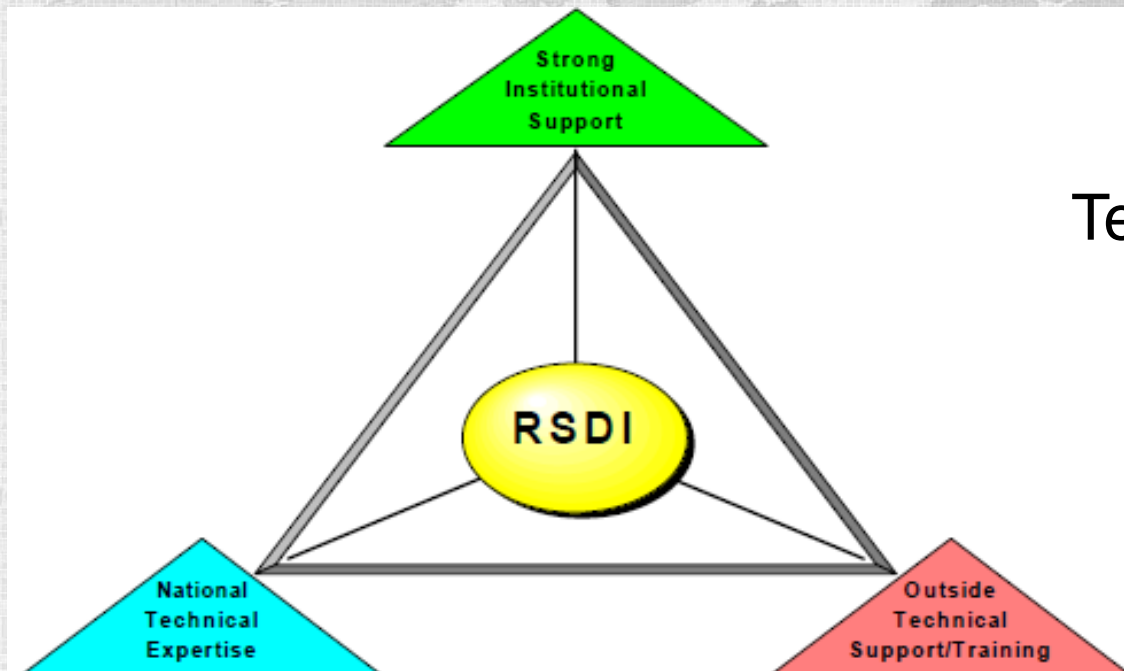
- Regional platform or Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure where the environment exist that all agencies can benefit from geoenabling *their* organization thus leading to more informed decisions in addressing the problem of climate change and sea level rise, Disaster Management, sustainable Environment and resource Management and economic development.

Collaboration



VISION BASED ON THREE TIER APPROACH

BUILDING BLOCK APPROACH



Strategic Partners
User groups
Private Sector

- **Consultancy Services**
- **Donor Support**
- **Regional Bodies**

Corporation

Consultation

Team Work , Plan

Coordination

Policies, Procedures

Projects , Programs

Initiatives



- URISA Caribbean Chapter
 - Presentations to Officials, workshops, HLF, GIS Day,
- UN-GGIM
 - UNGGIM- Americas Caribbean project
- GeoSUR
- Donor initiatives
 - Worldbank GeoNode, Collaboration4Development
- Private Companies operating in the Region
 - GIS Camp, work with governments in hosting executive seminars, GIS Day, sponsorship, etc

Proposal



- Finding a way to bring a regional bodies to the table
 - CARICOM , OECS
- Embarking on a Caribbean program for Standardization
- Behavioural changes
- Sustained Capacity building
- Conduct a Study to show the economic impact of Geospatial sciences in the region
- On going projects and programmes
 - Being relevant e.g. use of GI for Chikungunya

Proposal Cont'd



- Research and innovation
- Directory of experts to be tap into on a needs basis
- Recognise the role and work that URISA Caribbean, UN-GGIM Americas, GeoSUR, GEO and donors are undertaking in the region
- Better institutional Coordination at the regional level
- Petition CARICOM to establish a position with responsibility for Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (RSDI) within Sustainable Development Division of CARICOM Secretariat.

Proposal Cont'd



- Establish a Regional Geographic Information Council with responsibility to guide the development of geospatial information management in the Caribbean
 - Policy development
 - Standards adoption
 - Coordinates regional geospatial initiatives

Conclusion



- Build Nationally.... Share regionally!
- In spite of the language barrier we share a common language – geographic language
- We are focused on common goals
- Economies of scale – it just makes sense to work together!
- Ready for action – exciting time for the region.