

TASK TEAM ON INTERNATIONAL (GLOBAL) DATA

Scope of Work

Background

The IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information (IAEG-SDGs: WGGI) at its First Expert Group Meeting on 12-14 December 2016 in Mexico City established six task teams to consider and work on identified issues, one of which is the contribution of international or global data. This particular issue is also identified as a cross cutting issue.

Scope

The Task Team on International (Global) Data will address the role and possible use of international (global) data to supplement or augment or provide the data required to inform certain indicators. International (global) data is generally understood as data that is global in coverage, hence “international data” as against “national data” whose coverage is within one’s borders. This is also a cross-cutting issue as international (global) data is also trans-boundary and its global coverage may allow for better consistency and comparability.

The task team noted a number of identified issues during the First Expert Group Meeting and they are –

- National versus international. What is the common level of geography? Consider the periodicity of data – baselines, synthesis, refresh rates, annual, biennial, etc.;
- What are the roles of the international custodian agencies in relation to the use of nationally provided data/information versus the use of international data datasets e.g. imageries from space-based earth observation sensors;
- Develop a list showing which indicators benefit from having geospatial input from global earth observation sources versus indicators benefitting from national level data collection.
- Geospatial information is able to offer ‘global’ or international data that is consistent, but is the importance of consistency/comparability higher than the maybe, better resolution (or accuracy) of national data. And can the level of importance be different for the indicator custodians versus national governments.

The task team seeks to analyse the relationship between national data and international (global) data, and the appropriate way for integrating national and international-level data. Within the timeframe given, the task team intends to focus on two typical international data (i.e., land cover and digital elevation model) that are useful for the global indicator framework and will perform the following analysis:

- Review the state-of-the-art and available international (global) land cover and international (global) digital elevation model and their potential application for the global indicator framework (illustrated with two tables);
- Describe the techniques for compiling national data from international (global) data sets and the collaboration procedures among national and international organizations;
- Provide a brief report regarding relevant on-going initiatives and activities about the generation of new international (global) data sets and their services;
- Recommend a set of principles regarding the evaluation and utilization of international (global) data that can support the global indicator framework at national level and regional levels



The Task Team Members

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Rules of Engagement

- a) Please include every member of this task team in all of communications related to the task team so that each member is up-to-date on the efforts and always copy the Secretariat (scott12@un.org & teo@un.org)
- b) For any requests for responses, please respond even if you have nothing to add as a confirmation of receipt of the information.

Next Steps

The deadline for the output report is 17 February 2017.

(31 January 2017)

