

The IAEG-SDGs WGGI: Reviewing business modalities,  
2025 work plan, and IAEG-SDGs 15th meeting in  
October 2024

Ms. Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office, Ireland

Co-Chair IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information

# Introduction

## Reviewing the Work Plan 2024



#	Item	Timeline
1	<p>Promoting the work of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the IAEG-SDGs with side event(s) at the Statistical Commission that promote the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, the revised Short-list of SDG Indicators and other areas/events where geospatial information has a direct contribution;</li><li>• Convene a virtual seminar with members of SDG Custodian Agencies and Member States to promote case studies and examples of geospatially producing SDG indicators;</li><li>• Convene an in-person meeting of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI to review progress in Nairobi ;</li><li>• Convene meetings with countries implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to check in on progress, identify areas of improvement, and foster the sharing of experiences and cases; and,</li><li>• Participate and promote the WGGI’s work at regional and international forums.</li></ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Jun 2024</p> <p>September 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	<p><b>Produce a discussion paper “Rescuing the SDGs: The Role of Geospatial Information and Integration”</b></p> <p><b>Produce a discussion paper that outlines the role and potential of geospatial information as a means of supporting the Mid-Term Review process.</b></p>	<p>July 2024</p>
3	<p><b>Strengthening coordination and coherence of geospatially enabled SDGs</b></p> <p><b>Promote coordination and coherence of geospatial information with other subsidiary bodies through bilateral meetings and updating the revised Short-list of SDG Indicators.</b></p>	<p>Jan 2024</p>
4	<p>Liaising with the IAEG-SDGs and responding to emergent requests</p> <p>Responding to emergent requests from the IAEG-SDGs.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>



SDGs  
GEOSPATIAL  
ROADMAP

# The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

## Grounding the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap



### Statistical Commission Decision 51/101

*(i) “Encouraged further work on a better integration of geospatial and statistical information to better monitor the 2030 Agenda through the working group on geospatial information”*

### The Perspective of the IAEG-SDGs

In its 2021 Report to this Statistical Commission:

*[The IAEG-SDGs WGGI] is now focusing on its longer-term activities and is developing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, as a document that can ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors working on the SDGs. The Roadmap aims to realise the as-yet untapped transformational potential that geospatial information can bring to the SDGs and complement the existing work of the Commission on the global indicator framework”.*

# The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

## Grounding the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

### Broader Context and Considerations – Where do we find ourselves today, where will we be tomorrow?

*Twenty years on from the inception of the Millennium Development Goals and five years into the SDGs, regardless of the present global situation, **the transformational vision and new data requirements called for to realise the 2030 Agenda has only been partially realised.** The extent of this challenge has been underestimated and is further amplified by geospatial data, leadership, knowledge, and innovation primarily limited to some countries, the majority being the developed countries – **the geospatial digital divide.***

*While technologies are evolving at a rapid pace, **the commensurate capabilities, skills, and opportunities in the developing countries are not, and countries are being left behind.** This is a gap that must be bridged; accordingly, **the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap has been developed to provide simple and actionable guidance to the IAEG-SDGs, Member States and Custodian Agencies to bridge this gap.***



## The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

### **Vision:**

*“To see geospatial and location-based information being recognised and accepted as official data for the SDGs and their global indicators”*

### **Purpose:**

*The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap is a living resource that helps **communicate, guide and enhance the awareness** of geospatial information, Earth Observations, and related data sources, tools and methods, to inform and support the **implementation, measurement and monitoring** of the SDGs, according to national circumstances.*

### **How:**

*The Roadmap **outlines how to ‘build the bridge’ between the statistical and geospatial actors** working within the global indicator framework, through three phases:*

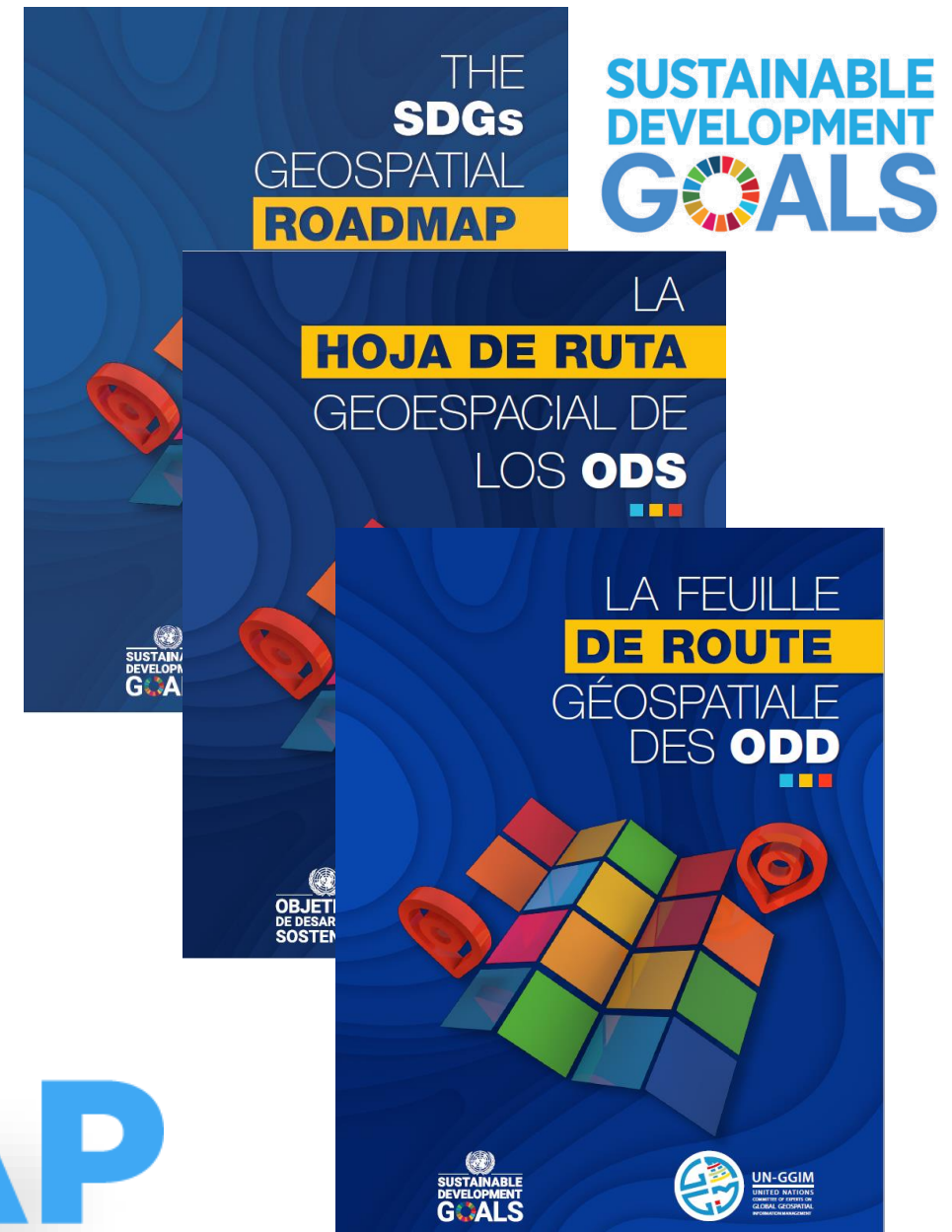
- 1. Prepare and Plan*
- 2. Design, Development and Testing*
- 3. Measuring, monitoring and reporting geospatially enabled SDG indicators*

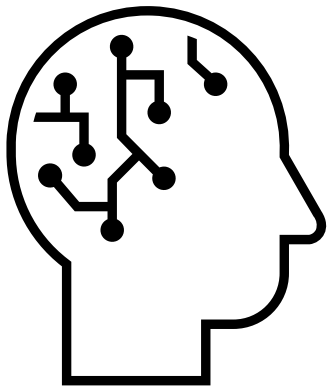
For both **Users (ie. Countries)** and **Providers** (ie. Regional Commissions, SDG Custodian Agencies and other Experts) of the SDGs and their global indicators.

## The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap Adopted by the Statistical Commission

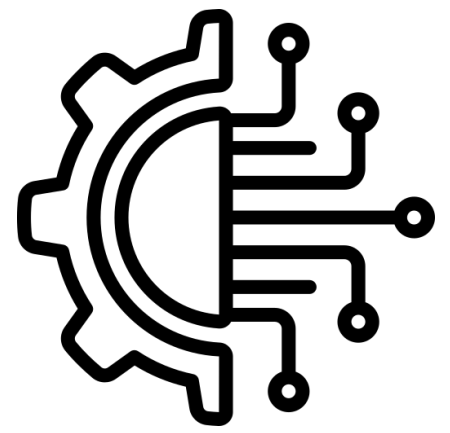
Following extensive development by the WGGI the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap was adopted by the IAEG-SDGs and the Statistical Commission.

The Roadmap is also provided in an interactive “**Storymap**”, to support its communication and to interactively ‘tell the story’ of how countries are using geospatial information for the SDGs

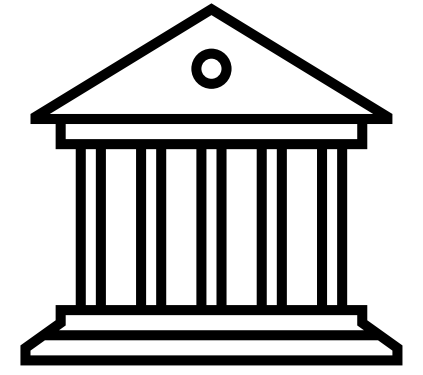




**People**



**Technology**



**Governance**



# Phase 1: Prepare and Plan

## Key Actions:

- 1** Establish governance structures to coordinate SDGs at the national level
- 2** Identify national data capacity and highlight potential data gaps
- 3** Identify and assess relevant frameworks and standards
- 4** Assess available skills and technological capacity



## Phase 2: Design, Development and Testing

### Key Actions:

- 1 Identify key resources to prioritize data needs
- 2 Prioritise Focus indicators based on National priorities
- 3 Convene workshops to promote sharing knowledge
- 4 Convene workshops to confirm appropriate data and methods, and coordinate development support
- 5 Leverage available capacity with regional and global entities






# Phase 3: Producing, measuring, monitoring and reporting geospatially enabled SDG Indicators

## Key Actions:

- 1 Develop and enact an SDGs dissemination strategy
- 2 Implement a suitable data management and dissemination platform, identifying technological capacities and gaps
- 3 Promote a culture of storytelling with existing data and highlight existing data gaps
- 4 Establish a publication calendar, identify areas responsible for monitoring
- 5 Publish metadata and continually update the list of prioritised indicators, including sources of information used



	Key Actions	People 	Technology 	Governance 
Phase 1	1 Establish governance structures to coordinate SDGs at the national level			●
	2 Identify national data capacity and highlight potential data gaps			●
	3 Identify and assess relevant frameworks and standards			●
	4 Assess available skills and technological capacity	●	●	
Phase 2	1 Identify relevant data and appropriate methodologies to develop indicators			●
	2 Prioritise and identify what data is needed at the national level.		●	●
	3 Convene workshops - sharing of knowledge and experiences	●		
	4 Identify appropriate data, develop methods and coordinate development support	●		●
	5 Collaborate with national and global entities to leverage available capacity	●		
Phase 3	1 Produce indicators	●	●	●
	2 Implement a suitable data management and dissemination platform, identifying technological capacities and gaps.			●
	3 Promote a culture of storytelling with existing data and highlight existing data gaps	●		
	4 Establish a publication calendar, identify institutional areas responsible for managing the production, monitoring, measurement and dissemination process	●		
	5 Publish metadata and continually update the list of prioritised indicators, including sources of information used	●	●	

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Shortlist



Table A
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road
9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology
11.1.1
11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
11.6.2. Concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
14.1.1
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area
15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area
15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

Table B
1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)
1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure
4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location
5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of nonsexual or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels
15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management
17.6.1 Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Shortlist

## Actions Now



### Next Steps

- **We seek Storymaps of Case Studies, Good Practice and Methodology**
- We intend to develop a Storymap that showcases national examples of how these indicators are produced using geospatial information – Examples from Canada, Colombia, Ireland, and Japan/JAXA have been confirmed... the WGGI is invited to provide its input.

#### SDG INDICATOR

2.2.1

2.2.2

2.2.3

9.1.1

11.2.1

11.3.1

11.4.1

14.1.1

14.3.1

14.5.1

15.1.1

15.1.2

15.3.1

15.4.2

# Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



## Rationale

***Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators***

At the 2022 “SDG Moment”, on the margins of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the President of the 77th General Assembly, World Leaders and Goodwill Ambassadors called to “re-dedicate ourselves to the SDGs as the world falls behind and work together to rescue the SDGs and leave no-one behind”.

The WGGI has developed a short paper that concisely articulates the opportunity and role for geospatial information in ‘rescuing the SDGs’ to the IAEG-SDGs via a small and focused writing team, composed of Member State representatives. This paper will draw upon both qualitative and quantitative experiences

- Highlight potential gaps in reporting and potential quick wins
- Strengthen the geospatial perspective to IAEG-SDGs process – especially when discussing methodological innovations/improvements across the indicator framework as part of the Comprehensive Review
- Contextualise the previous work of the WGGI, including the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and its reports on “Global and complementary geospatial data for SDGs” and “Land cover datasets for SDGs”

# Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



## Highlights:-

Why

What

How

Who

When



## How

- Implement Frameworks – Guided by the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap
- Increase collaboration.
- Take a geospatial approach
- Review and amend SDG indicator metadata to incorporate the geospatial dimension
- Prioritize a **'Country-led and country-owned'** approach that focuses on national data needs and selected methods fit-for-purpose, but **recognize that national data, due to a variety of factors, may only take countries so far.**
- Develop simple and impactful storytelling



# Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



## Structure

### **1. How can we ensure that geospatial information is commensurately considered from now until the 2030 Agenda – what lessons can be learnt now for countries to transform and rescue the SDGs?**

- Geospatial information is official data for the SDGs and the global indicators
- There are established frameworks, norms, standards, guides, norms, global data and methodologies that can be used at all levels of geographic disaggregation from the national to the local levels

### **2. The key stakeholders in geospatially enabling SDGs indicators**

- How to build the bridge with National stakeholders (NGIAs) and Global Organizations (CEOS, GEO) to identify gaps and avoid potential duplication
- Highlight the role of the geospatial community in the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of the SDGs

### **3. The challenge for Member States... and Custodian Agencies... and other SDG Stakeholders**

- Demonstrating opportunities for all stakeholders to fill in gaps in reporting

### **4. The opportunities of using Geospatial Information for the SDGs**

- Redefining the notion of “Country owned country led” in a world of global data?
- How methodological innovations/improvements can positively impact the indicator framework and strengthen the geospatial perspective to the IAEG-SDGs process

# Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



## Structure

### 5. The Frontiers of SDG Data: The role of new Data Technologies and Global datasets for enabling local and national SDG monitoring

- How to redefine the notion of “non-traditional” data... there is non-NSS-produced scientifically trusted geospatial information that can be used for the SDGs and indicators

### 6. What resources are available now... what is the role of technology for the future?

- We can backfill the GIF, as we have the data from 2015 (and before) to now
- For an achievable vision of the future, highlighting how digitalisation offers opportunities to get progress back on track

### Big Ideas

- We need to build the bridge between NSOs and other national stakeholders (such as NGIAs) with Global Organizations (such as CEOS, GEO) to identify gaps and avoid potential duplication
- Considers the implications of “country-owned country led” in a world of **available** global data and fit-for-purpose methodologies
- The role of ‘digital transformation’ as a means of accelerating progress and reversing our current progress
- How we can ‘back fill’ data within the global indicator framework using geospatial information... and provide
- The role of innovations such as GeoAI as a means of supporting indicator production.

# Proposed work plan 2025



#	Item	Timeline
1	<p><b>Promoting the work of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the IAEG-SDGs with side event(s) at the Statistical Commission that promote the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, the 'Rescuing' paper, the revised Short-list of SDG Indicators and other areas/events where geospatial information has a direct contribution;</li> <li>Convene virtual seminars with members of SDG Custodian Agencies and Member States to promote case studies and examples of geospatially produced SDG indicators;</li> <li>Convene meetings with countries implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to check in on progress, identify areas of improvement, and foster the sharing of experiences and cases; and,</li> <li>Participate and promote the WGGI's work at regional and international forums.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	<p><b>Strengthening coordination and coherence of geospatially enabled SDGs</b></p> <p>Promote coordination and coherence of geospatial information with other subsidiary bodies through bilateral meetings.</p> <p>Support custodian agencies with methodological assistance to bring geography to the global indicator framework.</p>	Ongoing
3	<p><b>Liaising with the IAEG-SDGs and responding to emergent requests</b></p> <p>Responding to emergent requests from the IAEG-SDGs.</p>	Ongoing
4	<p><b>Collecting national experiences of how geospatial information is contributing to the SDG indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collecting examples of how the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap has been implemented</li> <li>Collecting examples of good practice in geo-statistical integration for the SDG indicators</li> </ul>	Ongoing