



25 March 2025

Maputo, Mozambique

Africa Region Overview

Introduction

UN-GGIM and Africa's Geospatial Agenda

- **UN-GGIM Initiative:** Launched by the UN Secretariat to coordinate global geospatial activities among Member States.
- **Africa Regional Committee:** Established in 2015 to advance geospatial governance across African nations.
- **10th Meeting in Addis Ababa:** Held in October-November 2024 with 100+ participants from governments, private sector, and UN bodies.
- **Strategic Objective:** Focuses on strengthening governance, interregional collaboration, and national leadership in geospatial data.



Photo by Aslam Parker



Introduction to UN-GGIM Africa

Geospatial Governance & Development



Role of UN-GGIM Africa

Facilitating geospatial governance, integration, and policy implementation across Africa.



Key Objectives

Strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting data accessibility, and enhancing regional collaboration.



Partnerships & Stakeholders

Engaging with governments, regional organizations, and international bodies for sustainable development.



Governance & Institutional Framework

Leadership Structure of UN-GGIM Africa



Executive Board

Chaired by South Africa, with vice-chairs from Cameroon and Morocco, ensuring continental leadership.



Regional Representation

Includes key members from Burkina Faso, Uganda, and UNECA as the secretariat.



Collaborative Decision-Making

Engages governments, private sector, and academia to shape geospatial policies.



Implementation of IGIF in Africa

Advancing Geospatial Strategies



IGIF Adoption

Multiple African countries are developing and implementing IGIF frameworks to enhance spatial data management.



Capacity Building

Training and knowledge-sharing initiatives improve technical expertise across the region.



Policy Integration

IGIF aligns geospatial policies with national development agendas for economic growth and sustainability.



Countries developing and implementing clap

AT INITIAL PHASE



CONGO



COTE D'IVOIRE



MALI



NIGER



TOGO

IN PROGRESS



CAMEROON



ESWATINI



MOZAMBIQUE



RWANDA



SENEGAL



SOUTH AFRICA

COMPLETED



BURKINA FASO



ETHIOPIA



Challenges & Opportunities

Geospatial Governance in Africa

- **Key Challenges:** Inter-ministerial collaboration, funding limitations, and digital divide remain significant hurdles.
- **Opportunities for Growth:** Stakeholder engagement, online knowledge-sharing platforms, and policy advancements drive progress.
- **Regional Adaptation:** Customized solutions tailored to Africa's diverse political, economic, and technological landscape.



Working Groups & Areas of Collaboration

Enhancing Geospatial Data Integration

- **Geodesy (AFREF):** Standardizing and improving geodetic frameworks across Africa.
- **IGIF Implementation:** Ensuring all working groups align with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF).
- **Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information:** focuses on enabling the interoperability and integration of geospatial data with statistical data to improve evidence-based decision-making across governments, institutions, and the private sector.
- **Land Administration:** Developing geospatial tools to enhance land tenure security and urban planning.



Photo by Cytonn Photography on Unsplash



Strategic Goals & Future Directions

Enhancing Geospatial Capacity in Africa

1. Communication & Awareness

- Strengthen UN-IGIF messaging & expert insights.

2. Collaboration & Capacity Building

- Stakeholder engagement & financial sustainability.

3. Governance Frameworks

- Align governance structures & enable inclusive decision-making.

4. Workforce Empowerment

- Education, training, & professional networking.

5. Resilience & Sustainability

- Sustainable funding & disaster risk management.

6. Infrastructure Modernization

- Mapping, data integration, & digital transformation.



Challenges & Resource Constraints

Barriers to Geospatial Development

- **Inadequate Funding:** Limited financial resources restrict participation in regional activities and national geospatial programs. Funding is needed for simultaneous interpretation.
- **Technical & Institutional Gaps:** Shortage of skilled professionals and weak institutional frameworks hinder progress.
- **Emerging Technologies & AI:** Limited access to AI and remote sensing due to financial and infrastructure barriers.
- **Geospatial Sovereignty:** Need for Africa-led data governance structures to ensure regional decision-making autonomy.



Photo by UN GGIM AFRICA



Strengthening ties with the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

Fostering Cross-Regional Collaboration

Empowering Member States: dedicated to enhancing the geospatial information management capabilities of Member States, with a particular focus on developing countries.

Implementing the UN-IGIF: committed to fulfilling the ambitions set by Member States for the implementation of the UN-IGIF.

Promoting Knowledge and Innovation: striving to share knowledge, experiences, good practices, methodological guidance, and facilitating innovation and technological advancements, while promoting access to enabling geospatial tools and technologies across countries.



**Knowledge and Innovation
Exchange**



Joint Initiatives
To embed the IGIF in Africa Region



**Support in strengthening Agenda
2063 and cross-regional geospatial
collaboration**



UN-IGIF
INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

Enabling a better future with location data



Thank You