

Expert Consultation and Meeting on Enhancing Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and Accelerating Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sub-regional Workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) for Central America and neighbouring Latin American countries

Implementing geospatial strategies: challenges and opportunities

Session III-1: National Priorities

**Panama City, Panama
1-5 December 2025**



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Sub-regional Workshop on UN-IGIF for the Central America and neighbouring Latin American countries

Caribbean SIDS Workshop, October 2024

Summary of Common Issues/Challenges for Countries (in no order)

- Communication and awareness – lack of understanding and political engagement.
- Risk in the political cycle. Decision-makers are always looking at the next election. Not enough political engagement and champions.
- The ‘brain drain’ and lack of skilled staff. Once trained, many take better jobs in the private sector.
- Limited resources and capacity – including human and financial – and sustainable funding.
- Lack of legislative frameworks. No adoption of geospatial information and data policies.
- Rapid technological change, and the skills/ability/training of staff to keep up.
- Resistance of agencies to share and integrate data (data silos).
- Lack of ‘buy-in’ from stakeholders (from government right down to the community) on the value proposition for geospatial information and other enabling technologies.
- Not being able to align the data to the problems of government – to national priorities.
- Disasters and risks.
- Mainstreaming the UN-IGIF outside of the National Geospatial Agency.
- Partnerships and collaboration, national and regional.
- Integration and interoperability.
- Implementing – from talking to doing.



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What are national development priorities?

- National development priorities represent the strategic objectives and/or policies that countries identify to guide their long-term economic, social, and environmental development.
- These priorities emerge through inclusive, evidence-based processes that engage diverse stakeholders across government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to create a shared vision for sustainable progress.
- They typically address interconnected challenges spanning poverty reduction, economic growth, human capital development, infrastructure, governance, and environmental sustainability.
- Unlike ad-hoc policy initiatives, these priorities emerge from comprehensive, deliberate processes that seek to build consensus among diverse stakeholders about the nation's development trajectory over medium to long-term periods, typically spanning a decade or more.
- The concept reflects a fundamental recognition that development is multidimensional and interconnected, requiring coordinated action across economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions to achieve meaningful and lasting progress.



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What are your national development priorities?

Be as comprehensive as you can.

List for all countries in your discussion group.



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What national data assets (geospatial, statistical, administrative, and other data) do you have?

Be as comprehensive as you can.

Hint: The 14 fundamental data themes may help with structure.

Where are these data assets held?



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Can you align or improve the alignment of your geospatial activities to national development priorities?



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Can you align or improve the alignment of your geospatial activities to national development priorities?

Would aligning your geospatial activities to national development priorities elevate the visibility and significance of geospatial information and enhance your geospatial information capacities?



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From Data to Impact

Applying Data and Solutions to real Problems

Aligning national data assets

Housing
Parcels
Coastal data
Elevation (DEM)
Road assets and conditions
Emergency services
Gas, oil, and power assets
Water networks
Building Layers
Population
Schools and education
Health facilities and services
Statistical/demographic values
Imagery/LiDAR

...to national priorities

Disaster resilience
Oceans and resources
Economic prosperity
Employment
Social well-being
Tourism
Climate mitigation
Health services
Equitable land
Social programs
Rising sea levels
Urbanization
Environment
Coastal Rehabilitation



From Data to Impact

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Real Questions:

To increase climate resilience for my Island country.....

How do I better understand my vulnerability to coastal erosion, sea-level rise, storm surge, and other inundation threats?

Where are my greatest vulnerabilities?

Who may be impacted?

What associated adaptation/mitigation measures do I need to take?

When?

