

**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**

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



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# Addressing major challenges/barriers and opportunities in enhancing geospatial information at the regional level

## Challenges and barriers: case Dominican Republic

Gerkery Soto Roque

National Geographic Institute  
“José Joaquín Hungría Morell”



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# Overview

- General context
- Main challenges
- Opportunities for regional cooperation
- Conclusions



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# National Context

- National IDE based on Law 208-14
- Land use planning law
- Inter-institutional coordination efforts
- Progress in governance and planning
- Need to consolidate national geospatial policy



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# Major Challenge #1: Governance & Continuity

- High turnover of officials
- Frequent structural changes in government (recent elimination of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPyD), which contained the planning instruments).
- Processes that must be continually restarted
- Difficulty in consolidating long-term policies



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# Major Challenge #2: Standardization

- Uneven adoption of standards among institutions
- Non-uniform documentation and metadata
- Limited interoperability
- Absence of a fully formalized national framework



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# Major Challenge #3: Data Culture

- Data treated as isolated resources, not as national assets.
- Low willingness to share information.
- Duplication of efforts and unnecessary costs.
- Difficult to build a national data inventory (on two occasions we conducted surveys with support from the World Bank, but participation was almost nil).



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# Major Challenge #4: Policy & Legal Framework

- National Geospatial Data Policy drafted (pending approval).
- Institutional changes affect continuity
- Without a formal policy, it is difficult to assign sectoral responsibilities

## Progress

Creation of a Geospatial Data Board, Innovation Cabinet (coordinated by the Ministry of the Presidency).



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# Major Challenge #5: Institutional Coordination

- Need to strengthen sectoral cooperation



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# Positive Developments

- Coordination with key institutions (Comptroller General's Office and National Statistics Office)
- Progress in integrating statistical and geospatial data (National Statistical System – SEN)
- Progress in planning joint lines of work
- Specific examples of effective cooperation: agreement with the Comptroller General's Office.



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# Regional Opportunity #1: Governance Stability

- Common regional frameworks to ensure continuity
- Shielding processes from political changes
- Shared references for national policies (available through the IDE repository of the Americas, ECLAC).



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# Regional Opportunity #2: Common Standards

- Regional guidelines compatible with IGIF
- Improved interoperability between countries
- Reduction of adoption gaps
- Consistent production of information (common data models—a good example is the European Union)



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# Regional Opportunity #3: Capacity & Institutional Strengthening



- Regional expert networks
- Continuing education programs
- Joint workshops on governance and standards
- Peer learning to accelerate progress



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# Key Takeaways

- The challenges facing the Dominican Republic mirror those of the region
- Governance and standardization are critical issues
- Regional cooperation can accelerate the implementation of the IGIF
- Greater integration = greater resilience and better public policies



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