



Geospatial information supporting Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs

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United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2025 (UN GeoNow 2025)
Geospatial I.D.E.A.S to Accelerate SDGs
Deqing, China, 20-24 October 2025

During the 15th Session of the UN-GGIM, the committee of experts:

15/107 Geospatial information for sustainable development

(b) Welcomed the paper ‘Rescuing the SDGs: How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators’ and called for its wider dissemination and the provision of capacity development activities that enable Member States to implement the recommendations contained therein, as the instruments provide concrete support to help close the data gaps, particularly in the national context with limited capacities such as developing countries and Small Island Developing States;

Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



How geospatial information can transform the production, measurement, monitoring and dissemination of SDG indicators

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**



A Call to Action to Rescue the SDGs

Implement Geospatial Frameworks

- UN-IGIF
- GSGF
- GSBPM

Increase collaboration

- Across the **national ecosystem**
- Strong collaboration between **NSO and NGIA**
- **Sharing experiences** with peers
- **SDG Custodian Agencies**

Take a geospatial approach

- Use **nationally available** geospatial information
- Identify and **select appropriate sources** of data
- Identify **relevant criteria** and provenance of datasets
- Determine **appropriate actions** on the selected datasets

A Call to Action to Rescue the SDGs

Review and amend
SDG indicator
metadata

- Beginning with the “**shortlist**”
- **Geospatial basis** from which many SDG indicators can be produced

Prioritize a ‘Country-
led and country
owned’

- Focuses on **national data needs**
- **Selected methods** fit-for-purpose
- National data may only take countries so far
- Globally available datasets **still have equivalent quality** and scientifically trusted accuracy

Develop direct,
simple, and impactful
storytelling

- **Data visualization** and **cartography are critical** as it leads to better-informed policy and decision-making.

Advancing the Work Plan of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDGs Indicators (WGGI – IAEG SDGs) 2025-2026

UN IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI)

IAEG-SDGs WGGI

Co-Chairs:

- **Colombia:** Ms. Sandra Moreno, National Administrative Department of Statistics
- **Ireland:** Ms Mary Smyth, Central Statistics Office
- **Secretariat:** Mark Iliffe, UN-GGIM

Topics:

- Work Plan 2026
- Paper: Rescuing the SDGs with Geospatial Information



Work Plan 2025-2026

1. Promotion and Communications

- February: Virtual Side event at the UN Statistical Commission 2025 – “Rescuing Paper”
- March: Participation Webinar: "The Nexus between SDG's and Professional Education in Geospatial World" FIG
- June:
 - ❖ Panel "Beyond 2030: shaping the future of sustainable development“
 - ❖ EXPANDEO 2025, EARSC (European Association of Remote Sensing Companies)
 - ❖ ESA – Living Planet Symposium 2025, Vienna, Austria
- August, 6-8th: UN-GGIM, New York

We need your support to identify opportunities to contribute and raise awareness

Work Plan 2025-2026

2. Strengthening coordination

- **Promote coordination and coherence of geospatial information with other subsidiary bodies through bilateral meetings.**
 - Bi-lateral meetings with countries on Geospatial Projects – inclusion in Story Map (e.g. Denmark)
 - [EARSC](#), event [EXPANDEO](#) 2025 – panelist, Brussels (European Remote Sensing Cos.)
- **Support custodian agencies with methodological assistance to bring geography to the global indicator framework.**
 - Met with FAO – feedback on Shortlist - SDGs 5.a.1 and 5.a.2
 - FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) – meeting on SDG 5.a
- **Formalize cooperation with the UN ISGI (UN Expert Group Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information), and support the Task Team on Disaggregation of Statistics by Geographic Location**
 - Joint 8th Meeting of UN-ISGI and 7th meeting of UN-WGGI (IAEG-SDGs) – Nairobi, Sept 2024
 - EG-ISGI Steering Group – Online meetings 2024/2025
 - UN-GGIM – 15th Session – New York, Aug 2025
 - UNECE Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs, Madrid, Spain – Sept 2025
 - Eurostat – Sustainable Development indicators Working Group Meeting, Luxembourg – Sept 2025



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Work Plan 2025-2026

3. Supporting the IAEG-SDGs Work Plan 2025

- **Identifying issues with how things are reported within the global database**
 - Under-reporting -> need Geographic disaggregation within the statistics.
- **Reviewing the Indicator Metadata**
 - Proposing quick-wins, methodological advancements that help improve the reporting of the indicators
 - Much of the SDG metadata is drafted following a “bottom-up” approach, and the geospatial/EO-based “top-down” approach is not considered. It is reasonable to consider that metadata guideline was developed as part of the indicator ideation and does not take into consideration geospatial capabilities, unknown to those who developed the initial metadata
- **Providing enhanced guidance on how geography impacts the indicators**
 - e.g. some SIDS are one MODIS pixel – but this will work for other countries. What guidance could (and should) be developed to help break down the challenges that countries (and SDGs Custodians) have with reporting.

Work Plan 2025-2026

4. Collating and sharing national experiences of how geography impacts the SDGs indicators



Examples available for 1, 3, 11, 13 and 15 (click on board)

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a9bfa199b8c14f959b538d9a8898b8eb>



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Work Plan 2025-2026

4. Collating and sharing national experiences of how geography impacts the SDGs indicators

Goal	Country /Organization	Example
1	Colombia	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/95aca00ebf044128ac7a7db69229fb07
3	Ireland	https://irelandsdg.geohive.ie/apps/3fc32b9f985141c4a78ced3af4772840/explore
4	Indonesia	https://geoservices.big.go.id/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/c269e6a834574613ad42409c7d1154ed
11	Canada	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a9d3eb128aa3487baa537a37c18d4e5c
	Place	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/41ecaaacd1654947a0f774af79909b2a
	Japan	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3f9feb a2bb7d4e04b0e00f50cc2d7a50
15	World Meteorological Organization	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6d9fcb0709f64904aee371eac09afbdf
	Mexico	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/818e4127ad2d44398ec238eb4943c2cd



Work Plan 2025-2026

The Second Edition Shortlist

Prioritisation of Indicators



- With the assistance of the Secretariat and the Global SDG Database, we have analysed the metrics of how the SDGs in the Shortlist are reported
- This identifies priority areas for us to work on.
- We have discussed with the IAEG-SDGs Secretariat, and they have invited the WGGI to present these findings to the IAEG-SDGs.
- **We ask you to contact the co-Chairs and Secretariat if you wish to review these indicators.**

Shortlist A			
Priority #	SDG	Indicator	Data for at least one year since 2015
1	2	2.4.1	8.59%
2	9	9.1.1	10.36%
3	14	14.1.1	47.19%
4	6	6.3.2	50.78%
5	6	6.5.2	63.73%
6	6	6.6.1	74.36%
7	14	14.5.1	88.20%
8	11	11.3.1	89.12%
9	15	15.1.2	89.64%
10	11	11.7.1	91.19%
11	11	11.1.1	94.30%
12	11	11.2.1	94.82%
13	9	9.c.1	99.31%
14	11	11.6.2	100%
15	15	15.1.1	100%

Shortlist B			
Priority #	SDG	Indicator	Data for at least one year since 2015
1	5	5.2.2	0%
2	11	11.7.2	3.63%
3	1	1.4.2	10.02%
4	5	5.4.1	17.96%
5	14	14.3.1	21.24%
6	5	5.a.1	21.50%
7	14	14.4.1	29.53%
8	5	5.a.2	39.38%
9	1	1.1.1	48.96%
10	4	4.5.1	49.78%
11	13	13.1.1	70.67%
12	15	15.2.1	86.22%
13	6	6.4.2	91.19%
14	17	17.6.1	99.22%

“The SDGs will not be rescued in New York. They will be rescued in your communities. So, continue listening to the people in your communities and embedding their needs and concerns across your policies and investments”

Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations



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UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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