



**UN-GGIM-AP**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF  
UNITED NATIONS  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
FOR ASIA & THE PACIFIC

**REPORT  
of the  
Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information  
Management  
for Asia and the Pacific  
(UN-GGIM-AP)**

**Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP  
ESCAP**

**July 2020**

## 1. Reporting Period

This report highlights the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) since the Ninth Session of UN-GGIM held from 7-9 August 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

## 2. Activities and Achievements

### 2.1. Contribution to UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM-AP has operated effectively in line with its mandate and guidance given by UN-GGIM, contributing to its activities and producing tangible outputs. The Committee has closely cooperated with UN-GGIM as well as the other regional Committees, to ensure that the member States are well informed of and involved in the UN-GGIM work.

- a. The Committee cooperated with the UN-GGIM Secretariat and other regional Committees on the response to COVID-19, taking place in regular meetings to exchange on the topic.
- b. The Committee had planned to organize a regional meeting on the IGIF in Bangkok together with UN-GGIM. Due to COVID-19 this meeting had to be postponed.
- c. The Committee is contributing to the United Nations Geospatial Network and its Geospatial Blueprint and Landscape.
- d. The Committee contributed to the Virtual GIS Summit on COVID-19 on 8 April 2020.
- e. The Committee is actively engaging and supporting the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters. UN-GGIM-AP was supposed to co-host the UN-GGIM WG-Disasters Conference 2020 in Tokyo in February. However, in the context of the global outbreak of COVID-19, it was decided to postpone the conference.

### 2.2. Plenary Meeting

From 4-9 November 2019 the Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP took place in Canberra, Australia, hosted by Geoscience Australia and in conjunction with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Week Ministerial Summit 2019.

It was the first Plenary Meeting under the secretariat services of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The resolutions of the Eight Plenary Meeting emphasized the roles and support of UN-GGIM Regional Committees to pursue international and regional agendas in support of the sustainable goals, such as the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the International Terrestrial Reference Frame, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management, and the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). The resolutions furthermore called attention to the close cooperation among UN-GGIM, its Working Groups, Subcommittees as well as other Regional Committees. The resolutions also highlight that technical capability development, human capacity building and knowledge sharing through regional cooperation and project implementation in the sector of geospatial information are critical tools to achieve global and regional goals and agendas. The UN-GGIM Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific also notes the ESCAP secretariat's plan to

establish an Asia Pacific Geospatial Data Network to promote the sharing of geospatial information as a Big Data source.

### **2.3. Other Meetings**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several planned meetings and programmes, such as the above-mentioned regional meeting on the IGIF in Bangkok as well as the Working Group meetings in Deqing had to be postponed.

Other meetings such as the Executive Board Meeting took place in a virtual format on 3 July 2020, where the Secretariat of UN-GGIM Africa was invited as observer.

The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat organized a series of webinars focusing on ‘Strengthening regional cooperation in geospatial data sharing for mitigation of COVID-19 pandemics’ and ‘How space technology and GIS applications contribute to combatting COVID-19 pandemic’. These webinars were conducted in cooperation with the World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC), the Asia-Oceania Group on Earth Observations (AOGEO) and the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP).

### **2.4. Working Group Activities**

#### **A. Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Framework**

Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Framework aims to improve access to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) through development and maintenance of the regional geodetic reference frame, which supports regional geodetic cooperation, enhances regional Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) cooperation and develops geodetic capacity through workshops and seminars in the region. The WG has four main activities in the term 2019-2021: the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) project, the Asia-Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP), the Asia-Pacific Regional Height System Unification (APRHSU) and the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) project.

- a. APRGP is an annual regional GNSS campaign coordinated by Australia. The campaign for 2019 was conducted in September 2019 with participation from 16 countries. The report is currently being finalized. The campaign for 2020 is planned for September and a Call for Participation is being prepared for distribution to the Member States.
- b. WG1 co-hosted the “Positioning and GNSS CORS Infrastructure Workshop” at the South East Asia Survey Congress (SEASC) 2019 Darwin in August in collaboration with UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy’s (SCoG) Working Group on Education, Training and Capacity Building (ETCB), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Asia-Pacific Capacity Development Network (AP CDN) and Geoscience Australia. The WG also co-organized a forum on “Developing Capacity for Geodetic Infrastructure and Systems” at the Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Canberra in collaboration with UN-GGIM SCoG ETCB WG, FIG AP CDN, FIG Commission 5 and Geoscience Australia. At the GEO Week 2019 in conjunction with Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, the WG co-organized a side event

on “Geodesy4Sendai” project in collaboration with GEO, International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

## **B. Working Group 2 on Cadastre and Land Management**

Working Group 2 on Cadastre and Land Management aims to identify and determine the key regional issues for the management of land and cadastre, and take necessary measures to secure the social, economic and environmental benefits. The WG focuses on advocating the importance and pertinence of land and its administration and management at the global, regional and national levels for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal. The WG also focuses on knowledge dissemination, experience and technology exchange and risk assessment in the region in terms of land related issues, in addition to supporting the global consultation regarding the production of the Framework for Effective Land Administration, an overarching policy guidance on land administration and management, while considering member states’ national priorities including Spatial Data Infrastructure. In line with the proposed objectives, WG2 plans to:

- a. Join the global effort to fight the current Covid-19 pandemic, leveraging national geospatial and land platforms and providing them with relevant datasets,
- b. Carry out a country specific case study using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) Diagnosis Tool and the Implementation Guide to identify geospatial information challenges with respect to land administration and management in the term 2020-2021,
- c. Strengthen skills related to cadastre and land management at the regional level that incorporate professionals, future young professionals, and vulnerable groups that also include gender equality by developing capacity building programs, and
- d. Identify future challenges as well as the impacts of disruptive geospatial technologies in the context of cadastre and land management, in coordination with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

## **C. Working Group 3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics**

Working Group 3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics aims to integrating statistic and spatial data to monitoring target and indicator of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the WG3 session in tandem with the UN-GGIM-AP plenary, the WG3 discussed the application of innovative information and communications technology (ICT) such as vector tiles. The WG welcomed a demonstrative application from the United Nations Vector Tile Toolkit (UNVT) for geospatial statistical data integration recommended in the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF).

Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia (BIG) with the commitment to implement the SDGs, has conducted several initial coordination with the Ministry of National Development Planning, Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) as the SDGs Implementation Coordinator in Indonesia.

The first and second coordination to finalize the steps of BIG's role especially Deputy Head for Thematic Geospatial Information in mapping the achievements of the SDGs. Mapping is carried

out on the largest scale to monitor the achievement of the SDGs goals by completing seamless mapping of village boundaries throughout the country and carried out an analysis of spatial data integration and statistical data. The field of resource dynamics mapping has been filled by Central Statistics Agency of Indonesia (BPS) administration coding in the BIG village boundary Map, it has also been carried out the identification of BPS village potential data as a mapping material for measuring SDGs indicators up to the district scale. Most of the activities were related to geo-statistics integration:

- Conduct seamless village boundaries throughout Indonesia
- Integrating tabular data into spatial data in accordance with BPS coding
- Conduct geostatistical analysis to answer SDGs indicators

The One Map Policy (OMP) must be integrated to One Data of Indonesia Policy and must also be directed to support SDGs, as conveyed in the first FGD on April 16, 2020 for the compilation of the Grand Map One Map Policy in the field of Agrarian Reform in supporting the achievement of SDGs, up to level parcel mapping. In this first FGD, it was concluded that the OMP Grand Design supporting the SDGs would certainly be an inseparable part of the national action plan. Indonesia has not started the IGIF country action, but the One Map Policy and One Data Policy Grand Design will be very useful to start the IGIF country action. This is BIG's commitment to support Indonesia's SDGs. The BIG role that is already underway to support SDGs is the SDGs Atlas activities carried out by the Atlas and Social Mapping Sector. This SDGs Atlas illustrates SDG indicators up to the district and provincial levels.

## **2.5. Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform**

The ESCAP Secretariat has developed a long-term initiative to establish an Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform over the next 10 years from 2020 to 2030, in collaboration with member countries of UN-GGIM-AP. The key objective of the initiative is to promote the integrated use of geospatial data as a digital big data source through building a regional cooperative platform which will connect and integrate geospatial data among member States in the Asia Pacific region. A more open and orderly sharing of geospatial data between space-faring data-supply countries and regional data-users in the Asia-Pacific region will deepen understanding of complex sustainable development problems and find solutions for the successful implementation of the SDGs. The inception regional workshop was postponed from April to October 2020 due to COVID-19.

## **2.6. Publications**

ESCAP, in its function as the Secretariat of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) and as the Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP, is currently issuing a publication on 'Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development: perspectives from Asia-Pacific' to provide information to countries in the development and management of their geospatial information resources, to integrate new and innovative approaches for evidence-based decision-making, highlighting relevant country situations and circumstances. The publication is scheduled to be published in November 2020.

### **3. Regional Priority Issues**

As everywhere in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest challenge in the reporting period as a health crisis as well as a socio-economic crisis due to containment measures put in place to control it.

Geospatial information can play an essential role in monitoring and analyzing the impact of COVID-19 as well as supporting the response and recovery. The Asia-Pacific region, as a hub of digital and science innovation, can support the fight against COVID-19 with new and innovative solutions. These geospatial resources are however not equality distributed, with a lack of capacity and resources in terms of finance and expertise in many countries. In the context of leaving no one behind during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is therefore important to provide best practice sharing, quality seminars and training programs as well as operational tools to the member countries.

### **4. Future Meetings**

The Committee is cooperating with the National Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) of the Government of Indonesia to organize the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Bali, Indonesia in November 2020. The situation regarding COVID-19 is being monitored to evaluate, if the meetings can take place as planned on site or will have to be virtual or combining both.