



UN-GGIM-AP

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

**Draft 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 2021

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 Tenth Session of UN-GGIM virtually held from 26-27 August and 4 September 2020 led by 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 has 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 organized 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 has contributed to the United Nations Geospatial Network and its publications, including Geospatial Blueprint and Landscape; Geospatial for Action : Data and Insights for the Goals; and Geospatial for Humanity: Prevention, Response and Recovery of the World from the Pandemic COVID19.
- d. The Committee has contributed to the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI) through the Survey on readiness of operationalization of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF).
- e. The Committee is actively engaging and supporting the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

2.2. Plenary Meeting

From 3 and 5 November 2020 the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP took place virtually, hosted by Indonesia.

It was the second Plenary Meeting under the secretariat services of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and it was the first virtual Plenary Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolutions of the Ninth 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), 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 highlights 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 resolutions further underline that the regional committees' outputs are vital sources of knowledge for decision making, and that strong and active regional committees contribute to the realization of UN-GGIM overall work programme and vision. The UN-GGIM Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific also emphasized the importance to integrate statistical, geospatial and data communities in the 'Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere with Insight, Impact and Integrity'.

2.3. Other Meetings

Despite the difficulties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings have been successfully held in a virtual format for more than one year with the effort of member States and the Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP. The Executive Board meeting in 2021 took place on 18 and 20 May, and the Asia Pacific Regional Geodesy Forum took place on 8 June 2021. The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat also organized multiple webinars including "Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics - Answering SDG Implementation Challenges on 7 October 2020", "Regional Workshop for Promoting the Asia-Pacific Geospatial Information Platform" on 16 October 2020. The workplan of UN-GGIM-AP for 2021 includes continuously supporting member States through organizing/facilitating various capacity building and seminars for sharing the views and good practices, developing the 2022 Compendium on "Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia" as well as contributing to other publications, organizing capacity building for pilot countries, in collaboration with UNSD, in operationalization of GSGF and IGIF.

2.4. Working Group Activities

The presentation slides prepared by Working Groups for the Extended Executive Board Meeting in May 2021 that cover recent activities and upcoming workplans are found on the UN-GGIM-AP website <https://www.un-ggim-ap.org/meeting/eb-meeting-virtual-ii-extended-eb-meeting-2021>.

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. Although several events were planned but postponed or moved to online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WG has successfully held Global Geodesy Forum on Earth Day, 22 April 2021, and Regional Geodesy Forum on 8 June 2021, and the WG is planning to organize more webinars, workshops and meetings.

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 (FELA), an overarching policy guidance on land administration and management, while considering member states' national priorities including Spatial Data Infrastructure. In addition, the WG launched the virtual site named Geospatial Industry Digital Roadshow in March 2021, and this digital exhibition site of leading geospatial information businesses and global networks stays open throughout the year 2021. The WG also held a virtual seminar, IGIF Virtual Knowledge Exchange, from March 15 to April 9, 2021 to promote broader application of IGIF.

C. Working Group 3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics

Working Group 3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics aims to integrate statistic and spatial data to monitoring targets and indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The WG has identified resources and carried out a study in a specified country, organized a seminar to share best experiences and best practices and established an agreed workplan and road map. Toward the finalization in 2022, the WG devote this year 2021 to not only holding webinar for best experience sharing but also conducting its review work by the expert group and other organizations to reflect the views of the region followed by the final report of the pilot project. The WG has also encouraged the National Geospatial Information Authorities (NGIAs) and National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) to work together to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information and its integration with other information, based on users' needs and requirements, in the context of National Statistical Geospatial Framework (NSGF).

2.5. 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, published ‘Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020: A Compendium’ on 18 November 2020, 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. This compendium further aims at promoting peer-learning and innovative-thinking, encouraging regional cooperation, and inspiring increased investment in geospatial data-driven responses to building back better. The compendium explores in-depth ways that countries are using geospatial information, with over 100 country-based examples on the practical uses of geospatial information to support sustainable development, focusing on six different fields: (1) Disaster risk Reduction and Resilience; (2) Natural Resource Management; (3) Connectivity; (4) Social Development; (5) Energy; and (6) Climate Change.

3. Regional Priority Issues

As everywhere in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic is still 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 build back better, it is therefore important to provide best practice sharing, quality seminars and training programs as well as operational tools to the member countries.

In addition to dealing with COVID-19, toward better operationalization of Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), UN-GGIM-AP has been supporting member States through organizing/facilitating various meetings, developing knowledge toolkits and publications, contributing to other publications, organizing capacity building for pilot countries, and encouraging to contribute to various global surveys including the one to diagnose readiness at the country level for implementing the GSGF. The High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) had been established in February 2021. Regarding contributions from the Asia Pacific region, the HLG-IGIF membership includes Tonga as one of three members of the UNGGIM Bureau together with Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Nepal as Member States nominated by the Asia and the Pacific regional committee.

4. Future Meetings

The Committee is cooperating with the National Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) of the Government of Indonesia to organize the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Bali, Indonesia in early November 2021. The situation regarding COVID-19 is being monitored to evaluate, if the meeting can take place as planned via hybrid or virtual format.