

Concept Note

UN-GGIM Americas Side Event CARIGEO: Strengthening Geospatial in the Caribbean

Monday, August 16th, 2021
09:30 – 11:00 EDT/UTC-4

SUMMARY

CARIGEO is a collaborative effort among the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC), public agencies of Member States and Territories within the Caribbean, geospatial private sector organizations, academic institutions and civil society representatives, which seeks to empower the countries and territories of the Caribbean region to advance the use and sharing of geospatial, statistical and related information to support improved decision making for sustainable national and regional development.

The CARIGEO initiative intends to improve and enhance the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision making in the Caribbean. It also seeks to provide geospatial support to address regional issues in the Caribbean such as, disaster risk management and response, resilience management, climate change, economic development, the COVID-19 pandemic response, Agenda 2030 implementation, and also national priorities related to development strategies. This is in keeping with UN-GGIM: Americas overall mandate as outlined in Article 5 of its Statutes. These efforts will build upon recent and on-going geospatial developments, leveraging indigenous skills and resources, as well as exploring and utilizing external resources and technical expertise. The overall aim is to ensure that this initiative is sustainable in the long-term and has a positive impact on the life of citizens of Caribbean states and territories.

The aims and objectives will be accomplished through:

- strengthening geospatial information management governance and policies
- creating of datasets and procurement and development of tools for decision making
- enhancing collaboration and partnerships
- capacity development, communication and engagement to upskill people to benefit the region

One technical component of the initiative is the Caribbean GeoPortal, which provides the region with:

- Analytical tools and web services freely available to the community for anyone doing work in the region.
- Open data hosting for governments that wish to contribute their data to the community at no cost.
- An inter-operable platform that works with a variety of locally run software programs.
- People throughout the region are able to access leading-edge solutions, innovations, training, and services that improve their livelihood.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

1. Share knowledge and create awareness among the region’s senior decision makers on the value of leveraging geospatial and statistical data.
2. Enhance collaboration and build partnerships to advance CARIGEO’s objectives
3. Continue to build community and increase capacity across the region.
4. Raise awareness and learn how to utilize the Caribbean GeoPortal to prepare and take action for disaster management and response as well as other key issues of importance in the region.

AGENDA

5 min	Welcome remarks and introduction of the panelists <i>Paloma Merodio, President, UN-GGIM Americas</i>
15 min	CARIGEO Initiative - background and program plan <i>Bheshem Ramlal, University of West Indies, T&T</i>
10 min	CARIGEO programs and initiatives recap <i>Linda Peters, Esri</i>
15 min	Application of Geospatial tools in Caribbean disaster management <i>Simone Lloyd, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica & UN-GGIM Working Group on Disasters.</i> <i>Artie Dubrie, ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean</i>
15 min	Challenges and opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieving the promise - Partnerships - Funding The road ahead <i>Cecille Blake, UN-GGIM Secretariat</i>
25 min	Next Steps - Open discussion <i>Valrie Grant, GeoTechVision, GGIM Private Sector Network</i>
5 min	Closing remarks <i>Alvaro Monett, Statistics Division ECLAC</i>

FORMAT OF THE SIDE EVENT

This side event will be an hour and a half, using Zoom video conferencing platform. It will comprise an opening, presentations followed by a 25 minutes discussion segment. The Forum will be conducted in English.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AND CONNECTION DETAILS

Registration is available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unggim-america-side-event-carigeo-strengthening-geospatial-in-the-caribbean-tickets-165936393219>

POINTS OF CONTACT

Gabriela García Seco

Executive Secretary of UN-GGIM: Americas
Email: gabriela.seco@inegi.org.mx

Alvaro Monett

Statistics Division ECLAC
Email: alvaro.monett@cepal.org

Linda Peters

Esri
Email: lpeters@esri.com