



**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**

**June 2022**

## 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 Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM virtually held from 23-24 August and 27 August 2021 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 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 has contributed to the United Nations Geospatial Network and its publications, including “Geospatial for Humanity, Prevention, Response and Recovery of the World from the COVID19 Pandemic” and “Geospatial in Action, Data and Insights for the Sustainable Development Goals”.
- c. The Committee has supported to the International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management in Singapore on 17 and 19 May 2022, jointly organized by UNGGIM and the Government of Singapore through the Singapore Land Authority.
- d. The Committee is actively engaging and supporting the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters. UN-GGIM-AP, UN-GGIM WG-Disasters and Geospatial Information Authority of Japan jointly hosted Geospatial Capacity Development Conference on GNSS Applications and Disaster Risk Reduction from 17 to 20 January 2022 in a virtual format.

### 2.2. Plenary Meeting

On 2 and 4 November 2021 the Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP took place virtually, hosted by Indonesia.

It was the third Plenary Meeting under the secretariat services of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and it was the second virtual Plenary Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolutions of the Tenth Plenary Meeting reemphasized 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).

In 2021, UN-GGIM-AP planned to conduct the election of the new Executive Board members, President, Vice President as well as to renew the current Working Groups in the Tenth Plenary Meeting; however, in the context of the global outbreak of COVID-19, the resolution of the Tenth Plenary Meeting endorsed the extension of Executive Board members, President, Vice Presidents, and the current Working Groups by one year, on an exception basis arising from technical difficulties associated with the secret ballot that was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the UN-GGIM-AP will conduct the election of Executive Board and the renewal of Working Groups during the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP, to be held in 2022.

### **2.3. Other Meetings**

Despite the continuous difficulties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, meetings have been successfully held in a virtual format for more than two years with the effort of member States and the Secretariat of UN-GGIM-AP, and eventually, the Executive Board meeting in 2022 took place in a hybrid mode on 16 May in Singapore, hosted by Singapore Land Authority.

The workplan of UN-GGIM-AP for 2022 includes organizing an ad hoc Executive Board Meeting in Bali in August and the Twelfth Plenary Meeting in Hyderabad in October, as well as 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” and 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**

#### **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 2019-2022: 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 United Nations/Mongolia Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, in a virtual format from October 25 to 29, 2021, and the WG is planning to organize more webinars, workshops and meetings. Regarding the Global Survey on Geodetic Reference Frame Competency, the WG successfully conducted the first survey in 2018/2019 and the second survey in 2021, so that the summary of the survey would be reported to the UN-GGIM Twelfth Session in August 2022.

## **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 implementation 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 particular, the WG co-hosted the “Standardization of Geospatial Information and Integration of Thematic Maps Workshop” from February 15 to 18, 2022 in Armenia in collaboration with the Asia Development Bank. The WG also jointly held a virtual seminar, Geospatial Knowledge Sharing Program, from March 21 to 25, 2022 with the World Bank to promote broader capacity building and education of the new technology trends in data acquisition and digital mapping. In addition, the WG co-organized a virtual forum on “Land Administration and Spatial Information” on May 3, at the 2022 Green Innovation Days event in collaboration with the World Bank.

## **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). Some member countries seek to coordinate with statistical agencies in their respective countries to integrate spatial and statistical data to create a mapping of SDGs indicators. Data integrations including the earth observatory data and big data have been demonstrated in many applications such as climate change, water resource management, population data, land use information, river basin management. Data disaggregation using geoinformation has been shown successfully in some countries to address household data (street number, house number/code etc), stunting. The WG 3 has also been actively involved in SDGs Geospatial Roadmap developed by WGGI. Moreover, partnership with local governments at all levels was raised to be an important issue to address data

disaggregation. The WG is planning to organize more technical knowledge exchange including some guidelines that have been developed.

## **2.5. Publications**

In the past year, ESCAP published the second compendium in its 'Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific' series. The compendiums focus on the practical uses of geospatial information to support sustainable development, across six different fields: (1) Disaster risk Reduction and Resilience; (2) Natural Resource Management; (3) Connectivity; (4) Social Development; (5) Energy; and (6) Climate Change. The “Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia”, the second compendium of the series, focusing on the Southeast Asia region, which will contain 100 good practices to demonstrate the achievements.

## **3. Regional Priority Issues**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the biggest challenge in the past reporting periods as a health crisis as well as a socio-economic crisis due to containment measures put in place to control it. In the context of build back better, it is still important to provide best practice sharing, quality seminars and training programs as well as operational tools to the member countries.

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. In the region, major strong motivations are found in the fields of effective land management and disaster risk reduction, through both inter-agency cooperation in each country and international cooperation, with making full use of technology and innovation such as 3D data applications and satellite information applications.

## **4. Future Meetings**

The Committee is cooperating with the National Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) of the Government of Indonesia to organize an ad hoc Executive Board Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Bali, Indonesia in August 2022. The Committee is also cooperating with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of India, the Survey of India of the Government of India and UNSD to organize the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Hyderabad, India in October 2022.