



**12th Session of the Committee of Experts
On Global Geospatial Information Management**
“Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges”

Side Event Summary

Date, Time, Conference room

Monday, 1st August 2022

4:30pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Conference Room 11 (CR-11, Conference Building)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Side event title: Towards the Standardization of Socioeconomic Impact

Assessment for Geospatial Information

Number of Attendees: 50

Moderator(s): (Name, Job title, Organisation)

Ms Kathrine Kelm, Senior Land Administration Expert, World Bank, Washington

Prof. Joep Crompvoets, Full Professor, KU Leuven Public Governance Institute, Belgium

Speakers: (Name, Job title, Organisation)

User Requirements Panel Session:

Ms Jan Pierce, Deputy Chief Executive, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

Mr Darko Vucetic, Director, Centre of Geospatial Information Management, Republic of Serbia

Ms Yana Gevorgyan, Director, GEO secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland

Methods

1. Applying Economic Models to Valuing Geospatial Information.

Mr Alan Smart, Senior Associate, ACIL Allen, Economic Consultants, Sydney, Australia

2. Using the World Bank’s Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) tool in Developing Countries

Mr Andrew Coote, Senior Geospatial Consultant to World Bank

3. The role of OGC in standardizing geospatial processes

Mr Trevor Taylor, Senior Director, Member Success and Development, Open Geospatial Consortium

Organized by:

Andrew Coote, Chief Executive, ConsultingWhere Ltd., United Kingdom

Note takers: Andrew Coote, Professor Joep Crompvoets



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Objective(s) of the event

- To outline to requirements for socio-economic impact assessment, particularly in relation to justifying investment in the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Action Plans
- To review current tools and techniques and their application in practice
- To share examples of quantified benefits identified by such studies.
- To examine the potential for collaboration towards standardizing the use of these techniques in geospatial information initiatives.

Key messages:

Panel Discussion

Q1. Why do we need to undertake Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (SEIA) for Geospatial Information investments?

- SEIA is mandatory in most countries to justify investment.
- It helps decision-makers understand the value of what we do, aids capacity building in stakeholders and support selling the vision in terms understandable for politicians and decision-makers.

Q2. What are the most important lessons learned from your experience of presenting projects for investment approval?

- The contribution it can make to telling the (human) story and/or to provide meaningful narratives.
- The predicted Return on Investment (RoI) allows the value of geospatial to be objectively compared to other funding initiatives.
- SEIA puts the Country Action Plan into financial terms, so helping communication with Ministry of Finance.
- Undertaking the work shows professionalism in our approach to investment and helps to strengthens trust.

Q3. Is it necessary (or possible) to standardise Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for Geospatial Information?

- It would help to reduce effort for developing countries.
- Standardization of SEIA in all circumstances may not be possible, because of the of the wide range of applications and variation in scope for NSDI initiatives.
- However, it should be possible to rationalise processes and provides key guidelines.

A fuller account of the discussion is attached.



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Methods Presentations

The presentation on Economic Models was delivered by Andrew Coote, as Mr. Smart was unable to travel to New York. The presentation reviewed the meaning of value as applied to geospatial information, explaining the difference between type of in-use value and legacy value.

Three methodologies for calculating value were explained i) multi-criteria analysis - a simple technique suitable for use where quantification is less important as political considerations. ii) cost-benefit analysis which is the most commonly used technique where quantification is required. It can be applied in both developing and developed countries and iii) Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling – a more sophisticated technique where effects on the overall economy are calculated in respect to macro-economic measures including Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and terms of trade (imports / exports). CGE modelling is more costly to calculate and relies on economic metrics that may not be available in developing countries.

Mr. Andrew Coote described the methodology for evaluating socio-economic impact of geospatial used within the World Bank IGIF implementations. He described a standard six-step process which has been successfully applied to support Country Action Plan (CAP) development in developing member states. The process is documented in the IGIF part 2 under the financial strategic path and supporting templates and guides have now been published by the World Bank. Sources of studies that quantify benefits of geospatial information were referenced as well as e-learning resources available on the World Bank Online Learning Campus.

Mr. Trevor Taylor explained the role of the Open Geospatial Consortium in developing standards and guidelines to support efficient and effective use of geospatial information. The value of test beds to evaluate potential standards was explained with examples in disaster risk management and climate change scenarios. OGC added value by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to ensure multi-disciplinary “buy-in” to solutions. He concluded that there was a role for OGC in moves towards standardisation of methodologies for socio-economic impact assessment and they stood ready to assist.

Web page references are available in the full slide sets published with this side event report.

Outcomes

There is a clear need to undertake SEIA to underpin investment in geospatial infrastructures.

An increasing number of studies based on different use cases, techniques and geographies now exist. Curating an inventory of Geospatial SEIA reports would minimize duplication of effort and facilitate good practice.

A short research study is justified, into the available economic and financial tools and techniques available to the community, with a set of recommendations standardizing formats and their efficacy in different scenarios.

Establishing a Community of Practice to share knowledge and experience would be a feasible first step towards advancing this initiative.



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Photos:



Panel Discussion. Left to Right: Andrew Coote, Kathrine Kelm, Joep Crompvoets, Jan Pierce, Darko Vucetic, Yana Gevorgyan. Photo courtesy of Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, AAM.

Further Information

For further information on the side event or to join the conversation on this topic, please contact:

Andrew Coote, ConsultingWhere

Email: andrew.coote@consultingwhere.com

Mobile: +44 7860 884119

Twitter: @acoote

Kathrine Kelm, World Bank

Email: kkelm@worldbank.org

Note takers: Andrew Coote, Professor Joep Crompvoets