



# GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE – WHAT DOES UN-GGIM DO?

UN-GGIM 3: Side event

Conference Room 3

10.00-11.15 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August

# Agenda

10.00 – 10.10

## **Welcome and Scene Setting**

Discussion

Moderator – Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey

10.10 – 10.25

## **Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience**

Lead – Mr David Henderson, Ordnance Survey

Comments from:

Ms Yana Gevorgyan, Group on Earth Observations

Ms Diane Dumashie, International Federation of Surveyors

10.25 – 10.55

## **Open Session – opportunity for attendees to share their own experiences**

Moderator – Mr James Norris, Ordnance Survey

Comments from:

Mr Victor Khoo – Working Group on Land Administration and Management

Mr Claudio Stenner – Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Audience will be asked to share their thoughts and comments on the subject, and the recommendations in the Discussion Paper

10.55 – 11.10

## **Next steps – feeding into the climate resilience discussion**

11.10 – 11.15

## **Closing remarks**

# Welcome and introduction

Mr James Norris  
International Policy Lead  
Ordnance Survey.

Report Lead Author



# Objectives and expected outcomes

By the end of this session, participants will have:

- Visibility of the different ways that UN-GGIM programmes and activities are linked to climate resilience.
- Shared their national and organisational perspectives on how geospatial information can be used for climate resilience.
- Proposed practical solutions for how UN-GGIM can make progress in promoting geospatial information for climate resilience.

# Discussion One

Have a discussion with your neighbour:

- Introduce yourself!
- Share any experiences you have in climate resilience.
- Do you agree with this statement?

You have three minutes!

“

We have never been better equipped to solve the climate challenge – but we must move into warp speed climate action now.

Antonio Guterres,  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

# Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

## Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience – What Does UN-GGIM Do?

A Discussion Paper



# The role of UN-GGIM frameworks and policies



Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.

Geospatial information and management for disasters.

Integration of geospatial statistical and other related information.

Marine geospatial information.

# Global coordination across other domains and communities



### Across other domains and communities

Several other domains, often complementary, to the geospatial community already underline the importance of geospatial information for climate resilience, these include:

<p><b>Disasters</b></p> <p>United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) GAR Special Report on Mapping Resilience for the Sustainable Development Goals 2023 grounds the importance of geospatial information, and data generally, as a key driver for urgent action;</p>	<p><b>Standards</b></p> <p>The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) have established a Climate Resilience Domain Working Group™ to act as a focal point for OGCs activities on developing open geospatial standards to achieve climate resilience on a global scale;</p>
<p><b>Earth Observations</b></p> <p>The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Global Heat Resilience service aims at building an open-access, integrated service to allow all cities globally to better understand health-related risks from heat, improve coordination and communication in advance of and during extreme heat events, better manage health-related risks from heat and become more resilient;</p>	<p><b>Statistics</b></p> <p>The Statistical Commission's work on developing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts™ (SEEA) as a statistical framework that highlights the interrelationships between the economy and the environment. Geospatial information also has an indispensable role for providing data that can be used to produce, measure, and monitor progress against statistical indicator frameworks; and,</p>
<p><b>Hydrography</b></p> <p>The International Hydrographic Organisation is the steward for worldwide collection of bathymetric data through its Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry™. This data on ocean depth data is used to generate a precise image of the seabed, including features such as canyons, seamounts and volcanoes. These physical elements have an impact on a variety of ocean processes like currents and ocean circulation as well as habitats for marine species. Ultimately, better data on the seabed topography helps improve our ability to model climate change;</p>	<p><b>Surveying</b></p> <p>The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) has established a Climate Resilience Task Force to elevate the work that FIG is already doing, and to strengthen the surveying profession's ability to act and mitigate climate change impacts.</p>

Some of these domains already have strong engagement within UN-GGIM, primarily through the Committee's Thematic architecture, but also representation through its functional groups.



# Recommendations

## OPTION 1

Establish a dedicated task team (or some such similar group) of experts, under the purview of the Committee of Experts, with representation from other potentially relevant ECOSOC subsidiary bodies and members of the United Nations system responsible for climate change and resilience to help provide leadership in this area. Such a task team could seek to establish and strengthen interlinkages between geospatial, statistical, climate and other relevant communities/ organizations seeking similar outcomes. Such organizations could include intergovernmental bodies such as UNCBD, UNDRR, UNFCCC, the Group on Earth Observations and other international standards-based groups;

## OPTION 2

Develop a discussion paper “The UN-IGIF for Climate Change and Resilience” that, expands on the relevant initiatives under the purview of the Committee of Experts in detail (inclusive of the UN-IGIF, Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, Framework for Effective Land Administration, Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, among other key resources). Such a discussion paper could be accompanied with national experiences; or,

## OPTION 3

Convene an international forum that brings together members of the geospatial and climate resilience communities that focuses on the role of geospatial information for climate resilience would help to establish an effective outreach programme.

# Cambridge Conference 2022

## Taking action on our data and technology.

- We must move past a focus on the ‘What’ of data – hence the focus on creating ‘The How Guide’.
- Data and technology are tools to help describe our world as it is today, advise us how to respond to current challenges, and guide our adaptation and mitigation actions. However, we must accept that producing data is not enough.
- We should also understand how to layer data to create information, put information in context in order to share knowledge, and use our knowledge to help our customers make wiser decisions.
- We should recognise the value of ‘Earth observations’ – not just from satellite systems, but from the variety of different sensors that will be needed to solve complex climate challenges with often unforeseen repercussions



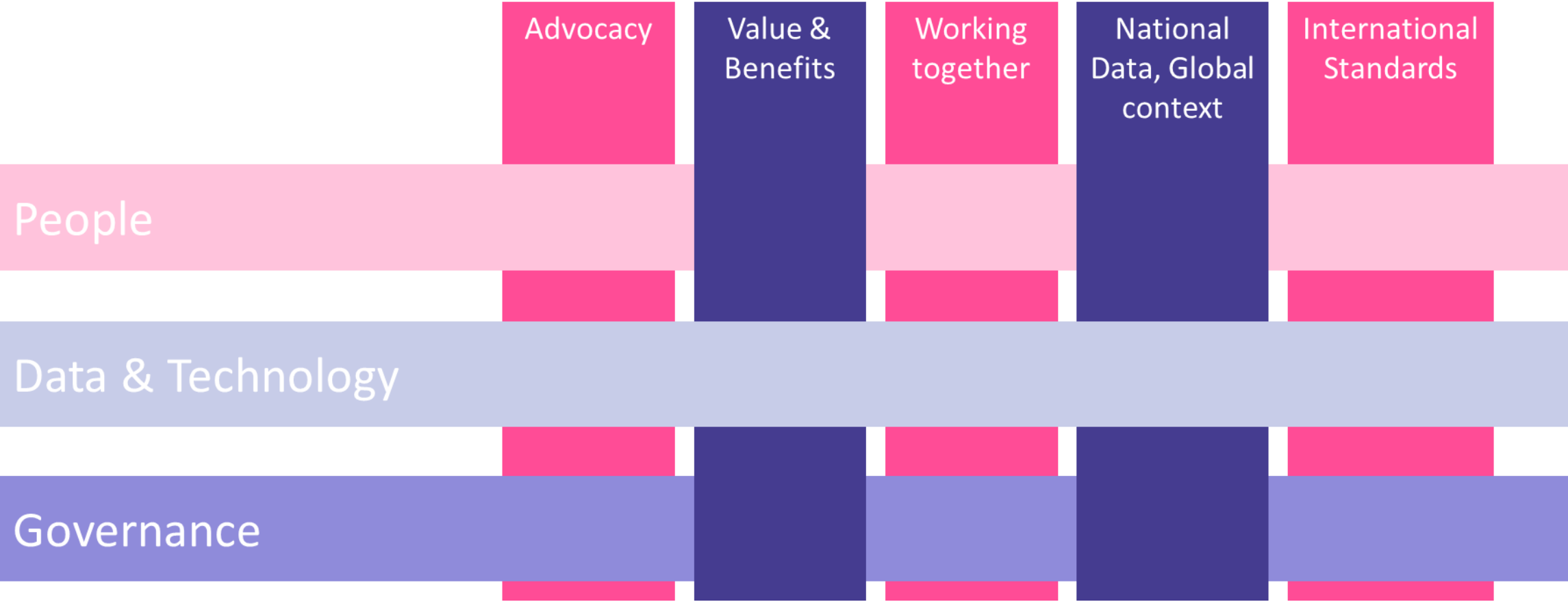
# The 'How to Guide' – our challenge

Geography puts NMGAs in a unique position to bring together people and data to address climate challenges.

We should:

1. Take an active leadership role as advocates for location data in our countries, understanding its value in supporting government priorities, and showcasing the real benefits it can bring to national adaptation and mitigation policies. We should act as drivers of change, empowering organisations and individuals to use location data in new ways and to actively respond to the current and future needs of citizens.
2. Recognise that a changing climate is a global issue that affects all nations differently. Adaptation and mitigation strategies need to be based on best-available national data and considered in a global context. In recognition of this we should work with others, not alone, creating new networks, and move to using internationally-agreed standards to enable the use of trusted data for adaptation and mitigation solutions.

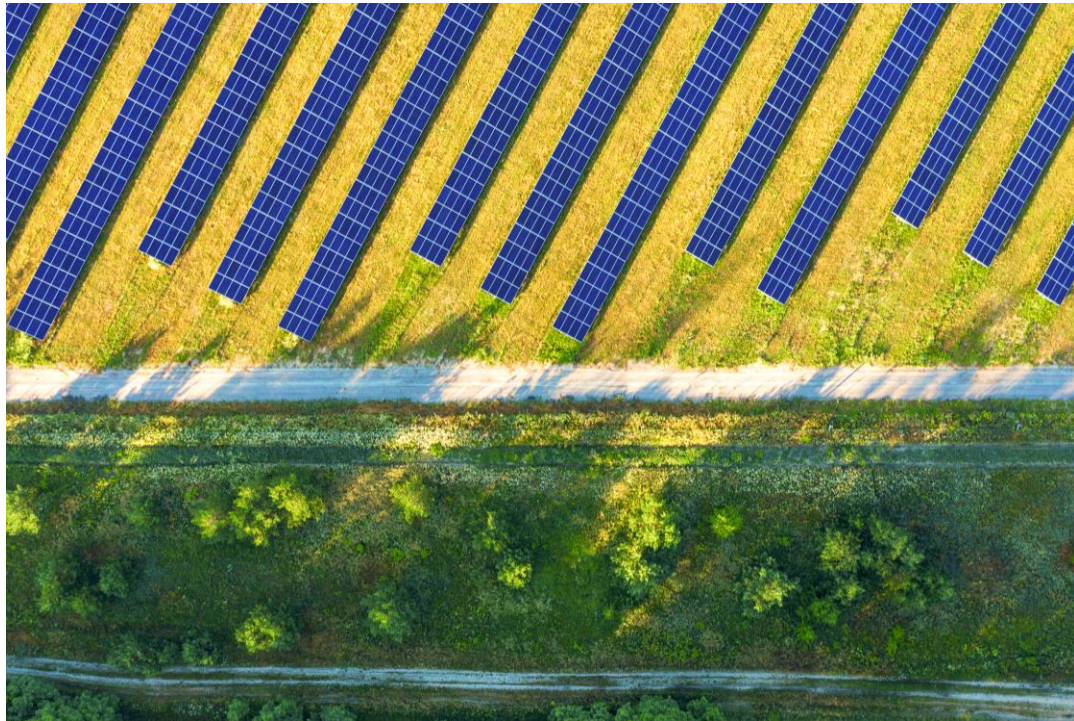
# Looking at our challenges through the lens of IGIF



**SUSTAINABILITY  
IS NO LONGER  
ABOUT DOING  
LESS HARM. IT'S  
ABOUT DOING  
MORE GOOD.**

**THE GREATEST  
THREAT TO OUR  
PLANET IS THE  
BELIEF THAT  
SOMEONE ELSE  
WILL SAVE IT.**

# Global coordination across other domains and communities



# The role of UN-GGIM frameworks and policies



## Open Session – your opportunity to contribute.

In this section we will be asking you to share:

1. What your organisation is doing to contribute to climate resilience activities.
2. How you think we as a UN-GGIM community can contribute to climate resilience activities.



# Recommendations

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## Next steps – feeding into the climate discussion

- It's over to you!
- You can contribute during Agenda Item #9: Geospatial Information for sustainable development and climate resilience later in the week.
- Can feedback on the paper until 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.
  - Please provide additional feedback on this discussion paper to [ggim@un.org](mailto:ggim@un.org), cc to [mark.iliffe@un.org](mailto:mark.iliffe@un.org).

# Closing remarks

Help us keep the conversation going.

Keep acting as a global community.

“

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Secretary-General of the United Nations