

Communications working group update

Fourth Plenary Meeting

August 5-6, 2024



UN·IGIF
INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

Alignment of Goals and Actions



Progress over the last 12 months

- Welcomed our new co-chair from Indonesia: Tandang
- Acquired more resource from UK to support Communications Working Group
- Developed and agreed on a new work plan with focus actions and tasks
- Continued development of a Decision Makers Brochure
- Established regular meetings with the UN-IGIF Regional Working Leads Group
- Updated 2024 and 2025 Events Calendar enabling coordination and promotion of work undertaken in the regions.



Events calendar: So far

January

Third Plenary meeting of the HLG

AMR: SDG Data Alliance Americas workshop on IGIF Implementation

February

March

April

AMR: 24 April webinar on strategic pathway 1.

EUR: 23 April webinar: toolbox for implementing the UN-IGIF. A practical discussion on putting the framework into action.

May

GWF Rotterdam, including sessions on IGIF implementation throughout

June

AMR: 26 June webinar on strategic pathway 2.

19-20 June UN-GGIM Europe Eleventh Plenary meeting, Geneva.



Events calendar: Yet to come

August

5-9 August: UN-GGIM 14th Session.

24th – 30 August
35th International Geographical Congress

September

EUR: 8 September
International Cartographic Associations workshop on "Building the Road to AI - how cartography links data integration, meaning and geospatial knowledge transmission.

October

8-10 October: 7th High Level Forum on UN-GGIM

November

December

AP:
Capacity building workshop being held in the next plenary meeting in December.

2025



Regional Collaborations

Regional
Committee
Chairs




UN-IGIF Regional
Work Group Leads
Bi-monthly meetings



Ministerial One-Pager

A4 Version - p1-2



Unlocking National Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

In today's rapidly changing world, government leaders have responsibility for some of society's most essential and pressing national issues, such as climate change adaptation, land administration, and public health delivery. Leaders are required to make increasingly rapid decisions about complex topics, with outcomes that can profoundly impact the lives of citizens. To make effective decisions within this context requires not only vision but also actionable insights. The ability of governments to harness the needed information, integrate it, add context, visualize it, and put it in the hands of decision-makers is essential for sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

THE POWER OF LOCATION DATA

At the heart of today's most urgent challenges lies a common factor: location. Whether it's managing natural hazards, optimizing agricultural output, or planning urban development—understanding the location context is crucial. This location information (otherwise known as geospatial information) provides a unique perspective through which government leaders can view and address national priorities and issues. By integrating geospatial information with data across other sectors, such as public health, energy, transportation, and more, leaders can gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing their communities.

THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION FRAMEWORK (UN-IGIF)

Recognizing that countries need support in unlocking the full potential of geospatial information and its application, the United Nations and the World Bank developed the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF). This framework offers a comprehensive and adaptable blueprint for enhancing geospatial capabilities, which is crucial for addressing national sustainable development priorities.

The UN-IGIF provides tools to support effective land administration, statistical data management, disaster management, climate resilience, and more. It is anchored by and implemented through nine strategic pathways across three key areas:

- **GOVERNANCE** - Assisting countries to develop robust geospatial policies, governance structures, legal frameworks, and approaches to identify sustainable funding mechanisms to enable effective geospatial information management.
- **TECHNOLOGY** - Promoting the use of common standards, interoperable systems, and innovative technologies to facilitate seamless data exchange across sectors and organizations, enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of data integration, analysis, and dissemination.
- **PEOPLE** - Emphasizing the importance of engaging stakeholders and building the skills and expertise of the workforce, the UN-IGIF provides resources and guidance for effective communication and collaboration with local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders who have a critical role in managing geospatial data in the collective pursuit of meeting national development goals.

A4 Version - p1-2

The nine pathways guide governments toward implementing effective integrated geospatial information management necessary to deliver their national vision for sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.



KEY BENEFITS OF UN-IGIF: A STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Geospatial information is a strategic enabler of national development. By adopting the UN-IGIF, countries can unlock the full potential of geospatial data, facilitate informed decision-making, foster collaboration, and drive sustainable growth. As we aim to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities, the role of geospatial information in achieving these goals cannot be overstated. Leaders are encouraged to leverage this powerful tool to navigate the complex landscape of national challenges and steer their countries toward a prosperous future.

Investing in geospatial information and infrastructure is not only a strategic necessity but also an economically sound decision. Studies, including those by the World Bank, have shown that improved geospatial data can yield significant returns on investment (of up to 250%). For example, the UK Public Sector Geospatial Agreement documented an 8:1 benefit-cost ratio, highlighting both direct and indirect economic benefits.

Beyond the direct financial benefits, improved geospatial data supports indirect benefits, such as increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of citizen services, improving resource allocation, management, and deployment, and raising living standards. In environmental terms, improved measurement and modeling of environmental impacts lead to more effective management and more sustainable use and exploitation of natural resources.

GETTING STARTED

To help you get started, the UN-IGIF provides guidance to build and strengthen geospatial information management through three key components:

1. **OVERARCHING STRATEGY:** Provides the vision and mission for geospatial information management.
2. **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE:** Offers detailed guidance, standards, and recommended actions to implement the framework.
3. **COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION PLAN:** Includes a recommended process and resource materials to help countries develop specific plans tailored to their national priorities.

Many UN Member States already utilize the UN-IGIF to achieve their development goals, making it a tried-and-tested approach. To get started, visit <https://ggim.un.org/UN-IGIF/> to review the UN-IGIF materials and determine how your country can start the process today.

By utilizing the UN-IGIF to improve geospatial information management and supporting infrastructure, you will be empowered to deliver the change needed at national and global levels to improve people's lives, protect the environment for future generations, and deliver sustainable economic prosperity for all.

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INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION FRAMEWORK



Forward look



Expand the membership.



Strengthen engagement with the thematic networks to advance the promotion and implementation of the UN-IGIF.



Explore LinkedIn as another potential communications channel for promotion of work, events and spreading awareness.



Support and work with the Secretariat on the evolution of the UN GGIM website in order to create a location to store and disseminate resources



Undertake a stakeholder analysis to help identify key decision makers and to check we are still targeting the right UN departments and people, as well as identifying new stakeholders we should be engaging



Questions?

