

**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**

July 2025

1. Reporting Period

This report highlights the activities carried out by the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), hereafter referred to as “the Regional Committee”, since the Fourteenth Plenary Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) held from 7-9 August 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

2. Activities and Achievements

2.1. Contribution to UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM-AP operated effectively in line with its mandate and guidance given by the Committee of Experts. The Regional Committee has closely cooperated with UN-GGIM as well as the other regional committees, to ensure that Member States are well informed of and involved in the work of the Committee of Experts such as:

- a. The Regional Committee led the development of a joint report for Agenda #4: Contribution of regional committees to the global geospatial information agenda to the Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management at its Fourteenth session in August 2024.
- b. The Regional Committee collaborated with the UN-GGIM Secretariat to convene a Cross-Regional Committee Meeting as an official side event during the Fourteenth session, to improve coordination, promote knowledge-sharing frameworks, and align strategies across all UN-GGIM Regional Committees.
- c. The President/Vice President of the Regional Committee attended plenary meetings of UN-GGIM regional committees in the Americas, Arab States and Europe for in-depth cooperation and communication. The President also attended the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF) fifth plenary meeting in person.
- d. The Regional Committee held a Workshop on Enhancing the Management of Geospatial Data Sharing for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Deqing, China on 21-23 October 2024.
- e. The Regional Committee designed the Questionnaire on IGIF Capacity Building in collaboration with the UN-GGKIC to evaluate member countries' needs, facilitating the sharing of lessons and surveys from UN-IGIF and the GSGF, to support regional capacity development.
- f. The Regional Committee contributed to monthly virtual meetings of the UN-GGIM Geospatial Network and some GeoCommunities meetings.
- g. The Regional Committee will continue to work on identifying and reporting regional issues to the upcoming Fifteenth session of the UN-GGIM.

2.2. Plenary Meeting

On 26 to 29 November 2024 the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP was convened in New Delhi, India in-person and hosted by the Survey of India, Department of Science & Technology (SOI/DST) as a significant adjoining event to an international conference themed Geo-enabling the Data Economy for Sustainable Development.

It was the sixth plenary meeting under the Secretariat services of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the first in-person plenary meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 110 participants from 29 member countries, regional Committees for Arab States and Europe, international organizations and networks attended the meeting.

Under the leadership of the UN-GGIM-AP President, Mr Antonius Bambang Wijanarto from the Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia (BIG), the Resolution of the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP was adopted by consensus. It includes the establishment of a Virtual Technical Advisory Group to support Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as a Young Geospatial Leaders Network, which will engage and promote young professionals, students, and youth in geospatial technology, innovation, and leadership.

The resolution encourages Member States to actively engage with the Regional Committee and accelerate the implementation of the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), including the modernization of national geospatial operations in line with national contexts. It highlights the importance of establishing clear national geospatial mandates, strategies, and action plans, while also emphasizing the need to address regional priorities, strengthen regional capacities, and advance national geospatial information management. Furthermore, the resolution underscores the critical role of coordination, coherence, and alignment among all regional committees, functional groups, thematic networks, and United Nations global geospatial centres to ensure synergy and avoid duplication of efforts.

2.3. Executive Board meeting and the fourteenth Plenary meeting

The Regional Committee has enhanced meaningful dialogue, fostered deeper exchanges, and strengthened collaborative learning and partnerships among Member States through in-person engagement and regular meetings. As part of this effort, the Executive Board Meeting 2025 was held on 3 June 2025 in Deqing, Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of China (MNR). During the meeting, the Board reviewed the implementation of the current work programme and discussed key items, including the nomination procedures and timeline for the upcoming Executive Board election for the 2025-2028 term. The continuation or potential restructuring of the

existing four Working Groups was also considered, with Members emphasizing the need to align regional priorities with the forthcoming UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025-2030.

Looking ahead, the 2025 workplan of UN-GGIM-AP includes organizing the Fourteenth Plenary Meeting in Ilsan, Republic of Korea, tentatively scheduled for 25-26 September 2025, in conjunction with the K-Geo Festa and the Global Seminar on 24 September. An important agenda item will be the election of the new Executive Board, alongside formal decisions on the status of existing Working Groups and the potential establishment of new ones. These discussions and decisions will be guided by the priorities expected to be adopted at the Fifteenth Session of UN-GGIM under the new global strategic framework.

2.4. Working Group Activities

A. Working Group 1 on Geodetic Reference Framework

Working Group (WG) 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.

Four main activities were implemented over the term 2022-2025: (1) cooperation and contribution to the UN global geodesy initiative, the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy and the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE); (2) densification of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) in the region (the Asia-Pacific Reference Frame (APREF) project and the Asia Pacific Regional Geodetic Project (APRGP)); (3) support to sustainable realization and maintenance of modernized national height systems in the region; and (4) geodetic capacity development and networking in the region (the Asia-Pacific Geodetic Capacity Building (APGCB) project).

The Chair and eight of Vice-chairs of the WG participated in the Joint UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy fifth Plenary and third UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee meeting at the UN Campus Bonn in March 2025 and shared progress at the country level, identified unique geodetic needs and challenges in the region. The Chair and a Vice-chair also participated in the UN-GGCE International Workshop on the Integration of Terrestrial, Maritime, Built and Cadastral Domains which was hosted by BIG Indonesia in Bogor, Indonesia in December 2024. The WG also co-organized a International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Technical Seminar on Reference Frame in Practice which was held in Brisbane, Australia in April 2025, and the chair delivered presentations on activities of UN-GGIM-AP and the WG.

During the intersessional period, the APREF project welcomed new CORS stations into the network and the whole network is routinely processed to generate APREF solutions of over 1,000 stations which are fully consistent with the ITRF. Since 2 February 2022 (GPS week 2352), the APREF weekly solutions were further transitioned to the latest version of ITRF, ITRF2020/IGB20. All solutions including station coordinate time series are openly accessible via the APREF website. As in previous years, the WG conducted the regular annual GNSS campaign observation, APRGP2024 in September 2024. All data are under processing by Geoscience Australia. The report of APRGP2024 will be published and uploaded to the UN-GGIM-AP website shortly. .

The working group held a [Capacity Development Workshop on Sustainable Operation of GNSS CORS Network](#) during the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP on 27 November 2024. The workshop focused on challenges in national CORS operation and maintenance in the Member countries and international efforts to support GNSS CORS operation. The workshop was co-organized by the WG, the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and the Survey of India (SOI) as an opportunity to provide capacity development in geodesy and enhance networking among related stakeholders in the region.

The WG's activities were presented during the [thirteenth Plenary](#) and [Executive Board](#) meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

B. Working Group 2 on Integrated Geospatial Information for Effective Land Administration

Working Group 2 (WG2) 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 Goals.

Recognising the importance of the strategic plan of the UN Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (EG-LAM) for 2023-2025, WG 2 updated and aligned its resolution with the strategic plan during the twelfth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary meeting held in Bali from 6-10 November 2023. The aim is to support the implementation of the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) at the national and sub-national levels.

To strengthen its partnership beyond Asia and the Pacific region, together with UN-GGIM-Americas, WG 2 updated and shared its activities with the members of EG-LAM at the fifth meeting of EG-LAM in Aguascalientes, Mexico from 8- 11 April 2024.

The WG held a [Regional Seminar on Effective Land Administration & Management](#) during the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP on 26 November 2024. The seminar highlighted recent advances in land administration and cadastral systems across Member States—sharing both successes and challenges—to provide practical insights for countries at all stages of modernizing their land administration frameworks. The seminar was co-organized by the WG, the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and the SOI to foster knowledge exchange, inspire cross-border collaborations, and identify potential solutions to common challenges in the evolving landscape of land management.

The WG’s activities were presented to the [thirteenth Plenary](#) and [Executive Board](#) meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

C. Working Group 3 on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics

Working Group 3 (WG 3) on Integrating Geospatial Information and Statistics aims to integrate statistic and spatial data to monitor targets and indicators of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2023, a 3-year plan of action with time budgeting was discussed, with the consideration of priorities in the region and sharing of ideas with the Vice Chairs. There are plans to hold webinars to discuss the feasibility of the plan and convene opinions to strengthen and implement stages.

WG3 held a [Regional Seminar on Integration of Geo-spatial & Statistical Information](#) during the period of the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP on 26 November 2024. During the seminar, Member States shared case studies on applying the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, highlighting benefits, technical challenges, and policy impacts. Experts reviewed tools—GIS platforms, big-data analytics, AI, and remote sensing—and discussed standards, data-sharing practices, and capacity needs.

The activities of WG3 for the current year encompass a comprehensive review of the principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), along with a regional assessment of their implementation. Considerable efforts have been undertaken to identify and engage key stakeholders to facilitate the integration of spatial and statistical data. The group has also investigated and employed practical approaches for incorporating statistical geospatial data into existing spatial data infrastructures. Based on these findings, a set of recommendations has been formulated to strengthen and advance regional spatial data infrastructures. These initiatives are intended to promote the effective implementation of the GSGF throughout the Asia and the Pacific region.

The presentations on the working group’s activities were made during the [thirteenth Plenary](#) and [Executive Board](#) meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

D. Working Group 4 on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

Working Group 4 on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework aims to support, coordinate and plan for developing awareness and capacity through collaboration and sharing in the Asia-Pacific member countries for implementation of the IGIF.

The working group held a [Regional Seminar on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework \(IGIF\)](#) during the period of the thirteenth Plenary meeting of the UN-GGIM-AP on 27 November 2024. The seminar promoted geospatial data integration for sustainable development, focusing on awareness, best practices and addressing challenges. Discussions covered global progress, funding strategies, case studies, governance models, and SDG alignment. The seminar was co-organized by the WG, the UN-GGKIC, SOI, and BIG-Indonesia to strengthen regional geospatial ecosystems through innovation and knowledge-sharing.

The presentations on the working group's activities were made during the [thirteenth Plenary](#) and [Executive Board](#) meetings of the UN-GGIM-AP.

2.5. Inter-Regional Committee Collaboration and Inter-Agencies Collaboration

The Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) emphasizes robust inter-regional and inter-agency collaboration to address shared geospatial challenges and advance sustainable development. UN-GGIM-AP welcomed active participation from other regional committees in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States, and Europe during its thirteenth Plenary meeting, underscoring the need for enhanced coordination to avoid duplication. Collaboration with the UN-GGKIC is prioritized to strengthen national geospatial capacities, particularly in implementing the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF).

Additionally, the UN-GGIM-AP reinforces engagement with the Academic Network, Geospatial Societies, and Private Sector Network to cultivate youth talent through initiatives like the Young Geospatial Leaders Network, ensuring cross-sectoral mentorship and resource-sharing. By aligning inter-regional priorities, sharing best practices, and mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships, UN-GGIM-AP aims to build a cohesive, inclusive geospatial ecosystem that drives innovation and resilience across Asia and the Pacific.

2.6. Publications

The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat, ESCAP's third biennial compendium in the “Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development” series—Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in East and North-East Asia 2024: A Compendium—was officially published on the ESCAP website in October 2024. It brings together over 100

country- and subregion-level case studies across six thematic areas—Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience; Natural Resource Management; Connectivity; Social Development; Energy; and Climate Change—to showcase how satellite imagery, GIS, AI and related tools are being used to modernize national operations, bridge development gaps and strengthen resilience in ESCAP members and associate members of East and North-East Asia participating the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development.

2.7. Other Activities

The UN-GGIM-AP Secretariat remains committed to sustaining and enhancing the regional geospatial network to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It consistently maintains and updates the UN-GGIM-AP website—ensuring seamless links with other Regional Committees and UN-GGIM portals—and actively shares information on free online geospatial courses, webinars, e-Learning programme, virtual training, and funded scholarships.

In addition, the Secretariat has facilitated the roll-out of key regional surveys—including the UNGEGN/UN-GGIM collaborative project questionnaire, a survey on integrating land, marine, and cadastral domains via geospatial technologies, and an assessment of National Geospatial Information Management (NGIM) adoption among Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—to foster stronger collaboration, guide capacity building, and inform policy across Asia and the Pacific.

3. Regional Priority Issues

Financial and budgetary constraints remain persistent challenges for both Member States and the Secretariat in the region. The thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP emphasized the critical importance of sustained financial and in-kind contributions to ensure the continued delivery of Secretariat services that support regional priorities and advance geospatial innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development.

The Regional Committee expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for its financial contribution to the Secretariat's work during the 2022–2024 period. It also acknowledged with gratitude the Government of China for the secondment of a Junior Professional Officer during the same period. These contributions have been instrumental in strengthening the Secretariat's operational capacity and in advancing the Committee's shared objectives.

Looking ahead, Member States are strongly encouraged to continue exploring opportunities for in-kind and financial contributions to further reinforce the Secretariat's ability to support the Regional Committee, especially in light of the expanding evolving demands and persistent resource gaps.

The thirteenth Plenary Meeting outlined a cohesive set of regional priorities, including: enhancing geospatial capacity in developing countries and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through targeted technical and financial support, particularly for foundational infrastructure such as geodetic reference frames (e.g., ITRF adoption) and open data-sharing mechanisms; accelerating the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) to modernize national geospatial operations and align with global initiatives like the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) for SDG monitoring; and integrating the Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA) to strengthen land governance across the region.

The region remains committed to fostering cross-regional and cross-functional collaboration to avoid duplication of efforts. This includes strategic partnerships with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), regional initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame (APREF), and global platforms like the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC). Real-time geodetic data sharing is also promoted to support disaster risk management, including GNSS-augmented tsunami warning systems and sea-level rise monitoring to address climate change impacts.

Youth engagement continues to be a priority, particularly through the establishment of a Young Geospatial Leaders Network, aimed at developing the next generation of geospatial professionals through mentorship and capacity-building opportunities. Innovation in 3D geospatial datasets and analysis-ready SDG indicators further supports the region's advancement.

Tailored assistance to Pacific SIDS, including the creation of a Virtual Technical Advisory Group, remains a key priority to help these countries customize UN-IGIF action plans in accordance with their unique needs and resource constraints. The Committee also acknowledged the potential for establishing a UN-GGIM-AP Geospatial Information Service Centre as a means to provide long-term, sustainable support for regional geospatial development.

At the upcoming Plenary Meeting in September 2025, where the current Executive Board (in office since November 2022) will conclude its term, Member States will elect a new Executive Board and consider proposals to reorganize and realign the structure of existing Working Groups. This transition provides an important opportunity to strengthen the Committee's institutional framework and to ensure that its subsidiary bodies remain fit-for-purpose to meet the region's emerging challenges and priorities.

Collectively, these efforts will help build an inclusive, resilient, and technologically advanced regional geospatial ecosystem, positioning geospatial information as a cornerstone for sustainable development, climate action, and disaster preparedness across Asia and the Pacific.

4. Future Meetings

The Regional Committee is cooperating with the National Geographic Information Institute, Republic of Korea to organize the fourteenth Plenary meeting in Ilsan, Republic of Korea on 25-26 September 2025.

The Regional Committee is encouraging Member States to consider hosting the Executive Board Meeting in 2026.

The Regional Committee is also encouraging Member States to consider hosting the fifteenth Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in 2026.