



Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM

Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative “CGDI”

Friday, 9 August 2019

1:15 - 2:30 pm

Venue: Conference Room E - Conference Building
United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

This session will introduce a new initiative the “Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative” (CGDI). The CGDI is meant to build on initial work begun in 2014 led by Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) and UN GGIM Americas in cooperation with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS); “Project for the Strengthening of Spatial Data Infrastructures in Member States and Territories of the Association of Caribbean States”.

The CGDI aims to support the application of GIS across the Caribbean region inclusive of all member and associate member states of the ACS, CARICOM and the OECS. To be done within authoritative data producing agencies to provide accurate, reliable and accessible geospatial information. Geographic information plays a key role in the planning, design and implementation of policies that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and the construction of resilience in the social, economic and environmental realms.

The mission of the CGDI is also to promote the use and sharing of geospatial information across the Caribbean and encourage application in evidence-based decision making and national planning, disaster management, risk reduction and economic development as well as the formulation of sustainable development policies.

Background

Within the framework of the XIX ordinary session of Foreign Ministers held in Port of Spain on February 14, 2014, the Government of Mexico, through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), offered the member countries of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), to carry out a cooperation in the region, aligned with the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management UN-GGIM.

In this sense, through a collaboration agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, the terms of reference were established to carry out the project, in order to reduce the gap in Spatial Data Infrastructure in the region, strengthen the use of geospatial information and support the integration and participation of 17 Caribbean countries in the UN-GGIM Initiative, through the Regional Committee for the Americas (UN-GGIM Americas). For its attention, the project was structured in four main components: Diagnosis, Capacity Building, Strengthening of the Infrastructure and Incorporation of the countries to UN-GGIM.

“This is an open side event and all Session Attendees are invited”





Derived from a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad & Tobago, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the University of the West Indies (UWI) Campus St. Augustine and the INEGI, a Data Center was hosted in the facilities of UWI. This Center concentrated on processing the geodetic data of the 16 stations installed in the region.

Another specific project developed under the framework, is a computer application, designed to serve as a means to integrate, support and disseminate geographic information of the countries of the region. The development of this computational tool is in charge of the INEGI technical team and is still ongoing.

Work is also underway to create a map of Land Cover for the Caribbean region, through a classification system called MAD-MEX that was created by the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) of Mexico.

The CGDI is planned to continue and expand on this work and is to be structured with several key pillars: Diagnosis, Capacity Building, Strengthening of Technology, Data Sharing and Community Engagement. It is recognized that regional coordination is key to success. While key focus agencies include: National Mapping, Statistics and Land Administrations, other agencies critical to NSDI are also invited and encouraged to participate.

The evolution of technology will be a key driver in enabling the creation of geospatially enabled datasets as identified in the Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes by UN GGIM. These themes range from Geographic Names, Addresses, to Land Cover and Imagery. Implementing the themes will necessitate the integration of information from National Mapping Agencies, National Statistical Offices and other institutions to produce standardized, fundamental data, for use within the region, and also, to support initiatives such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Accordingly, this open side event provides a platform for all to discuss this regional development initiative.

The session consists of two discussions, one will address questions on gaps and needs across the region including areas such as system(s) of addressing, data governance, legal frameworks/policies, standards, open data (data sharing), and more.

The second panel will then discuss how to progress this initiative, terms of reference, subject matter experts, stakeholder coordination, the path forward and required working groups.

Initial Stakeholders:

INEGI, Esri, Spatial Innovision, Kellogg Foundation, CARICOM, PAIGH, National Land Agency (Jamaica), StatCAN, URISA, ECLAC, OECS, UNAM – National Autonomous University of Mexico, UWI – University of West Indies

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Proposed Agenda

<p>1:15 – 2:00</p>	<p>Discussion #1: Needs Assessment</p> <p>The CGDI is intended to help promote the generation, use and sharing of geospatial information across the Caribbean, for use in policy making, disaster management, risk reduction and economic development. To do so, an understanding of current needs and gap assessment is required. This will be an open discussion on questions on gaps and needs across the region including areas such as system(s) of addressing, buildings and settlements, land cover and use, population distribution, data governance, legal frameworks/policies, standards, open data (data sharing), and more.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Paloma Merodio <i>INEGI, Mexico</i></p>
<p>2:00 – 2:30</p>	<p>Discussion #2: The Road Ahead</p> <p>In this session we will discuss how to progress this initiative, terms of reference, subject matter experts, stakeholder coordination, the path forward and required working groups. Topics to be discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating technology - Capacity building - Sharing of Data - Standards and Best practice - Community engagement <p>Moderator: Ms. Linda Peters <i>Esri, USA</i></p>
	<p>Discussant: Ms. Simone Lloyd, Sr. GIS Manager National Spatial Data Management Division (secretariat of the Land Information Council of Jamaica) of the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change, Jamaica</p> <p>Discussant: Mr. Alvaro Monett UN-ECLAC, Chile</p> <p>Discussant: Mr. Alejandro Jiménez Director of the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell” National Geographic Institute, Dominican Republic</p> <p>Discussant: Ms. Gabriela Garcia Seco <i>INEGI, Mexico</i></p>

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