

NSDI NAMIBIA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

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NSA staff and their Swedish Counterparts outside the Lantmäteriet

ABOUT THE NSDI NEWSLETTER

The development of a quarterly NSDI Newsletter is critical to communicating progress of NSDI implementation in Namibia. The Newsletter aims at narrowing the information gap between producers and users of spatial data in the country. In addition to reporting on NSDI development, the Newsletter gathers some important activities from the GIS industry e.g. projects, technological advances, workshops, sponsorships, NSDI related initiatives and milestones.

The quarterly publication serves as one of the key communication tools for NSDI socialisation and stakeholder engagement as specified in the approved NSDI communication plan. Its success will be assessed based on the relative performance measures outlined in the communication plan.

NSDI custodians, users, innovators, and researchers can contribute to the Newsletter by following the guidelines available on the NSDI Website. To publish in the Newsletter, kindly send your article to the address provided at the back. Articles should reach the NSA before or on the last day of the second month of a quarter. Note that NSA financial year starts in April.

For more information, please contact the NSDI Secretariat.

NSA TO PRIORITISE NSDI PARTNERSHIPS AGREEMENTS IN 2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR

To drive the process of implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is intensifying the initiation of cooperation agreements between responsible Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMA's). Four (4) ministries have already been engaged with a draft memorandum of understanding. NSA has conducted management presentations to some of the ministries. More ministries and state-owned enterprises who are custodians of identified fundamental datasets will follow.

Approximately 21 agencies mainly OMA's are targeted in the first phase of cooperation agreements.

The second phase shall target local authorities (about 54 are targeted) starting with regional head quarters.

It must be stated that strong coordination is essential for a proper functioning spatial data infrastructure. Therefore management support and willingness from all participating institutions and actors is crucial. The NSA is thus taking a long term approach and stepwise actions to achieve the desired NSDI benefits.

DRAFT NSDI SPECIFICATIONS FOR NAMIBIA p 3

The NSA which is coordinating the establishment of the NSDI in accordance with the Statistics Act, No. 9 of 2011, has scheduled a public technical consultation workshop on the draft national specifications for geospatial data in Namibia. The specifications to be discussed are the manner of capturing and publishing metadata for both spatial data and services in Namibia and Data quality specification for the purchase, capture, collection and dissemination of spatial data.

NSA VISITS THE SWEDISH LANTMÄTERIAT p 3

A four (4) member NSA team recently undertook a study tour to Sweden to learn more about the Swedish NSDI. NSA is in its initial phase of implementing the Statistics Act with regards to NSDI development in the country. Sweden is hosting one of the most successful NSDI in Europe having successfully integrated most of the NSDI components in various participating agencies.

NSDI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A governance structure for any NSDI should strengthen partnerships among participating organisations. Partnerships promotes long term organisational commitments to build, maintain and manage data and services in a NSDI. (Continued on page 3)

SPATIAL DATA SPECIFICATIONS FOR NAMIBIA



Alex Muluti Mudabeti

Deputy Director: Spatial Data and NSDI

According to the Namibia Standards Institution (NSI), the development process of standards involves major collective effort. Standards, particularly national standards are not developed from an individual and it should reflect prevailing situations and requirements in the country. This is normally achieved by a process of extensive consultation with experts representing all sides of opinion and all interested groups. The consultation process is usually activated through a system of Technical Committees (TCs).

The first consultation workshop will take place on Tuesday, 2nd February 2016 from 07:45 – 13:00 at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) in the Mining Auditorium. Key NSDI stakeholders and the general spatial community will be accorded a platform to review, comment, and suggest changes to the draft specifications.

All national standards that are aligned to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) must be developed through the NSI. However, national profiles can be developed and gazetted as regulations only, not as national standards.

*“Standards, particularly national standards are not developed from an individual and it should reflect prevailing situations and requirements in the country”
(NSI)*

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The current NSDI Strategic Plan runs from 2015–2020 and will cost the NSA approximately N\$45 million to implement.
- A regulation on the manner and specification for capturing spatial data, including any application for exemption from such manner was approved by the Committee for Spatial Data in July 2015.
- Any application for new spatial data collection, except those exempted from the above regulation must reach the NSA well in advance, at least three (3) months before the new annual budget hearing or 3 months before the product is required if it is part of an approved budget to allow the normal procurement procedures to be followed.
- Geospatial data requiring frequent updating is understood: Geospatial data that was previously acquired but is part of a programme requiring frequent updating, i.e. at less than five year time intervals.
- Existing geospatial data is understood: Geospatial data that was previously purchased, collected or captured as a one off activity and that is not part of a programme requiring frequent updating.
- The current Committee for Spatial Data has 10 members and is chaired by the Surveyor-General of Namibia as per the Statistics Act.

Consequently, the NSA has initiated the process of formulating national profiles which shall form a framework for the national standards to be developed and aligned to the TC 211 series of ISO standards. National profiles to be developed shall serve as regulations/guidelines for the immediate government needs. The profiles shall be gazetted as NSDI regulations and enforceable. These will be withdrawn once standards are fully developed and registered through the NSI.

The immediate priority for Namibia, among many others, include issues of data quality, geospatial data documentation, avoidance of duplication, widespread sharing of geospatial data, protection of copyright of the state, and building NSDI competence in the country. Three priority areas in terms of standardisation process are depicted in figure 1.

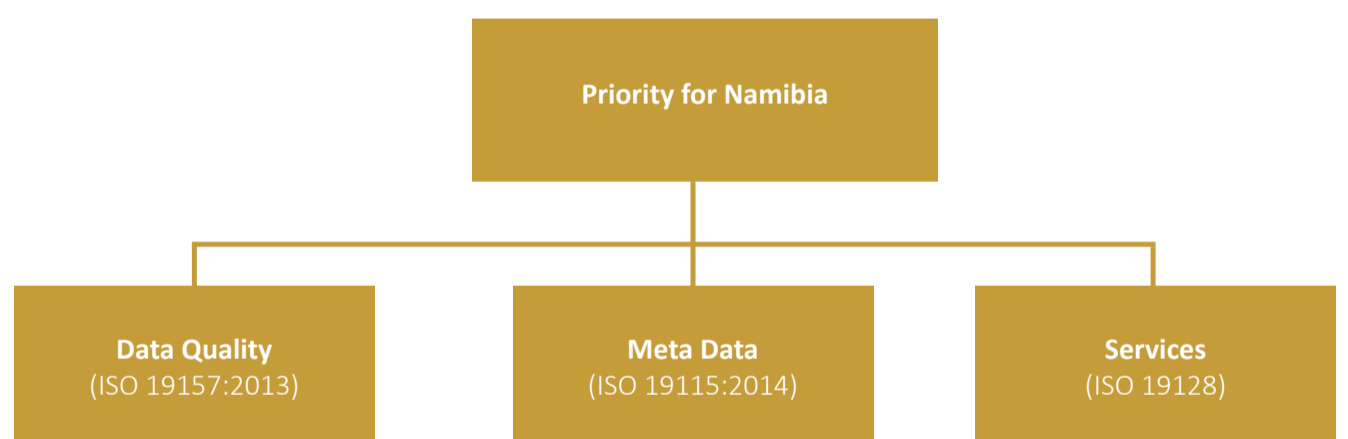
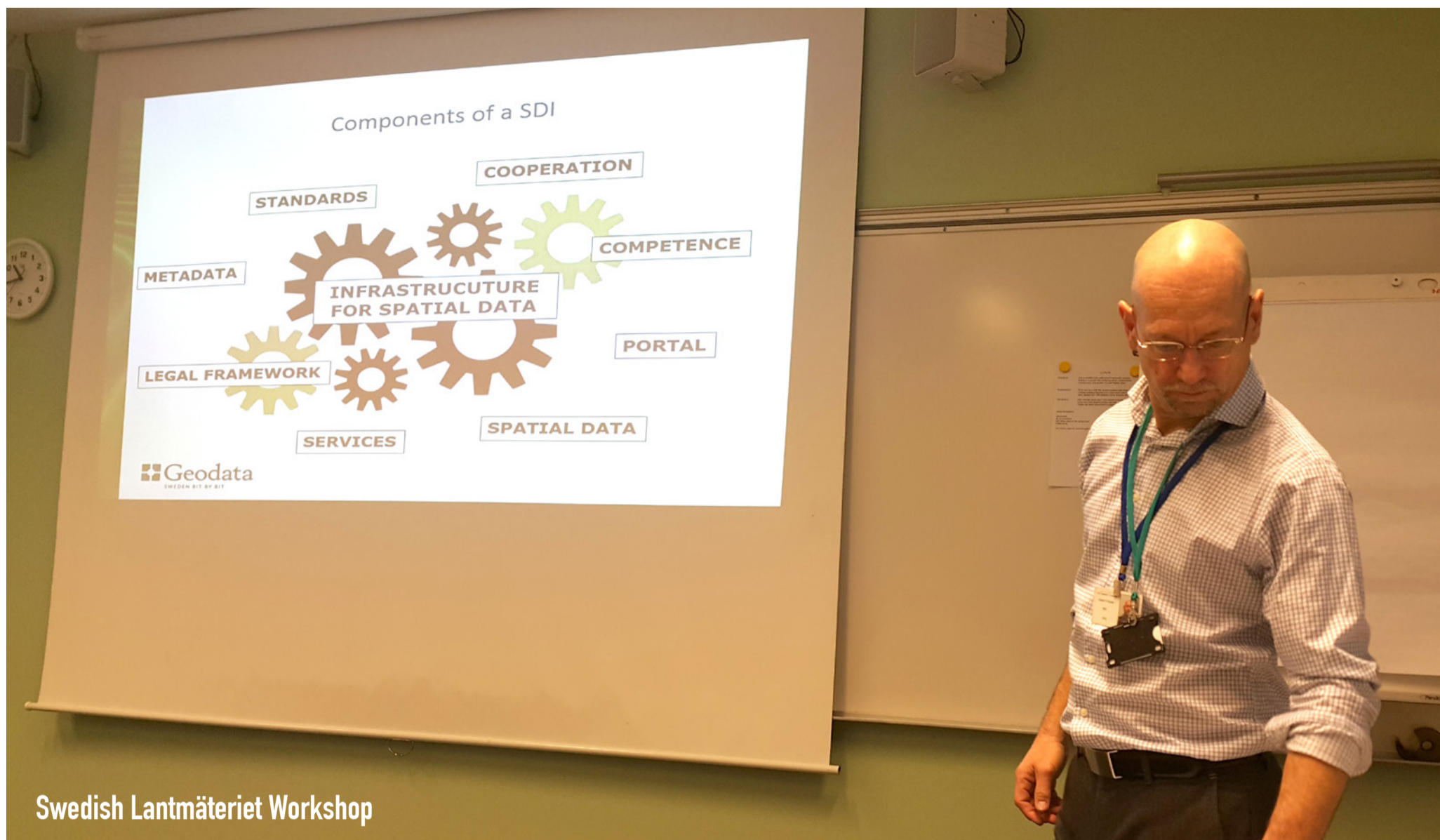


Figure 1: Three priority areas of standardisation in Namibia

Other specifications or regulations to be prioritised are:

- The manner and specification of access and dissemination of spacial data.
- The spatial referencing standard for Namibia to document all applicable reference systems in the country. These will also have to be registered with NSI.



Swedish Lantmäteriet Workshop

NSA VISITS THE SWEDISH LANTMÄTERIET

Four (4) staff of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) recently undertook a study tour to Sweden to learn more about the Swedish National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). NSA as the NSDI coordinating body in Namibia is in its initial phase of implementing the Statistics Act, No. 9 of 2011 with regards to NSDI development in the country. Sweden is hosting one of the most successful NSDI in Europe having successfully integrated most of the NSDI components in various participating agencies.

The team was headed by the Acting Statistician General, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo and included Mr. Alex Mudabeti, Deputy Director for Spatial Data and NSDI, Ms. Tabitha Mbome, Assistant Company Secretary and Legal Advisor and Mr. Nevel Ngahahe-Hangero, Senior GIS Analyst. A week long course took place from 30th November - 4th December 2015 and was prepared by the Lantmäteriet (the Swedish Land Survey) in Gavle which included specialised presenters in different aspects of NSDI.

A summary of the key topics covered included:

- **Geodata cooperation - the Swedish example** - currently 39 public sector authorities and 205 municipalities are part of the Swedish Geodata cooperation.
- **Business Model** - the session described how the Swedish business model was created, and the different criteria used by the model to determine each cooperating parts yearly fee. The lesson also touched on examples of spatial data sharing with neighbouring countries.

- **Legal frameworks, licensing, terms of conditions** - the session gave an overview of legal issues to consider when it comes to dissemination of spatial data including different types of licensing schemas and terms of conditions that can be used for dissemination of spatial data.
- **Standards** - an overview of the different standards that relate to spatial data, how they are developed and how to read and apply standards in everyday work.
- **Competence** - in order to secure future resources for development of the Swedish NSDI, the NSDI Secretariat has an ongoing communication with the research community and are also actively engaged in the development of tools based on spatial data that can be used in lower grade education.
- **National Coordination structure and the Swedish NSDI secretariat** - the session was about the Swedish concept to organize the implementation of NSDI and to support involved stakeholders in developing necessary data and services.
- **The metadata catalogue** - the Swedish metadata catalogue is the common registry for spatial data in Sweden. The session technically unpacked the Swedish metadata catalogue and its profile.

NSDI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A governance structure for any NSDI should strengthen partnerships among participating organisations. Partnerships promotes long term organisational commitments to build, maintain and manage data and services in a NSDI. Partnerships especially in the context of Namibia ensure participation of government at the level necessary to ensure the long term viability of the NSDI.

As per the Statistics Act, the Minister responsible for Statistics in consultation with the Minister of Lands is the highest decision maker. The Committee for Spatial Data through the NSA administers the NSDI. NSA is the NSDI Secretariat thus coordinator of the NSDI. The Committee for Spatial Data recommended the addition of two Working Groups (Technical Standards and Governance) which will be assembled through the NSA when needed. A steering executive subcommittee (SEC) shall be constituted drawing directors from different NSDI data custodians. This will be a collaborative platform through which NSDI initiatives shall be channelled down to participating government agencies.

The NSDI Secretariat can provide other platforms that promote wide spread collaboration e.g. online platforms to engage users and producers.

NSDI TIMELINE IN NAMIBIA

Date	Event
2003	Draft NSDI Policy under the MET and MLR
2006	A nationwide GIS study commissioned 1990 – 2006, updated in 2012
2008 / 2009	NSDI discussions reignited (Lux Development and NPC)
18 August 2011	Statistics Act, No. 9 of 2011 (NSDI incorporated into the Act)
November 2013	Minister of Economic Planning & NPC appoints first Committee for Spatial Data
February 2014	1st Meeting of the Committee for Spatial Data
06 March 2015	NSDI Policy gazetted in government gazette No. 103
12 October 2015	Minister of Economic Planning & NPC approves NSDI Strategic Plan. Formal NSDI governance structure approved too.

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