



## 2015 GSDI Annual Report

### GSDI Overview

GSDI has 38 Organizational Members from national and regional associations, government agencies, academia and private industry, from 20 countries, including 4 regional (transnational) organizations and the UN ECA. Over 400 individuals formerly members of the Association's International Geospatial Society are being invited to renew their participation in the Association as GSDI Individual Members, a new membership category introduced as a result of the GSDI Strategy 2015-2020 adopted in October 2014, and new Bylaws adopted in April 2015. The Individual Members continue to have representation on the GSDI Board.

GSDI has representation on the UN GI Working Group (UNGIWG) and Special Consultative status with the UN ECOSOC Office for Support and Coordination since 1 May 2014. GSDI promotes the open data principles of GEO/GEOSS, and is involved in SDI capacity building activities in many developing nations via the GSDI Small Grants Program and training activities. In January 2015 the Association also began contributing to the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Marine SDI Working Group, especially in capacity building activities. GSDI is also represented at and makes contributions to both global and regional UN Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) meetings in 2014 and 2015.

GSDI are members of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and have MoUs with the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), and the new Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety (CDMPS) at the Univ. of Melbourne for joint promotion of activities. MoUs are being pursued with the OSGeo Foundation and International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE).

Project oriented work is underway for two GSDI Projects, one focusing on producing a Geoinformation Legal Interoperability Map of the World (GLIM), started in 2014 under the leadership of Bastiaan van Loenen, TU Delft, and is continuing in 2015 led by Joep Crompvoets of KU Leuven. Managing the GSDI Small Grants Program has also become a GSDI Project, led by Brigitta Urban-Mathieux, USGS (see details later in this report).

Further support is provided by the GSDI Executive Committee (President, President-elect and Past President), various Board members and their organisations, and operational staff, including the Secretary-General (doubling as Operations and Communications Manager) and Business Manager.

The GSDI Council consists of the delegates from its Organizational Member institutions. The Board of Directors is responsible to the Council for administration of GSDI, and includes representation from regional bodies, from industry, government, academia, and non-profit organizations. Under the newly adopted GSDI Strategy and Bylaws, the Board has been reduced in size to permit more rapid and more effective decision making.



## **The GSDI Mission**

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) exists to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international SDI developments that will assist members to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance in their nations.

*Our Vision ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.*

*Our Purpose ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.*

*Our Mission ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.*

## **GSDI Activities**

The main activities of GSDI are:

- supporting growth of harmonized local, national, and regional SDIs that are globally interoperable;
- fostering international communication and collaborative efforts for advancing SDI innovations;
- supporting interdisciplinary research and education that advances SDI concepts and methods; and
- promoting access to, and appropriate use of, public geographic information.

Our main outreach and networking activities include the GSDI World Conferences, seminars and workshops, the monthly global and regional Newsletters and discussion forums, individual capacity building actions, and support to SDI initiatives in developing nations via the GSDI Small Grants Program and targeted training activities.

## **GSDI Conferences**

GSDI World Conferences are held in different parts of the world. Convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2013, the joint AfricaGIS-2013 and GSDI-14 conferences exceeded all expectations for numbers participating and for quality of content of papers and presentations. Our heartfelt thanks to local hosts, UN Economic Commission for Africa, founding members of the Association, and to GSDI member EIS-Africa, who conducted AfricaGIS 2014 in parallel with the GSDI conference. The GSDI 15 World Conference is scheduled to be held in Taipei, Taiwan, in November 2016 on the theme 'Innovation for Disaster Management and Smart Cities'.

## **SDI News**

Monthly SDI Regional Newsletters have been published since 2002, for Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America & Caribbean regions. Regional SDI-related news is now published via a



single Regional Newsletter covering these regions, plus Europe, Middle East and North America. Five regional email lists allow anyone to contribute to discussion threads of regional interest. GSDI published the GSDI Global Newsletter monthly since 2011 focusing on news from and about our Members, and is now produced on a quarterly basis since the beginning of 2015, with regular news updates on our website. Each month, the magazine GIM International publishes a column from articles submitted by GSDI Association members. Member and Association news is also submitted to the main geo-related magazines globally.

## **Small Grants**

Since its launch in 2003, the GSDI Small Grants Program has supported more than 100 national and sub-national projects across the globe. The program has been sponsored by the GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the GISCorps of URISA and in 2014 financial support was provided by GeoConnections, a national collaborative initiative led by GSDI member Natural Resources Canada. Awards consist of a cash grant of up to US\$ 2500 per project, SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US\$ 2500, or a combination of the two.

Small Grants Projects supported in 2014 included:

**Armenia:** Introducing EnviroSDI for Armenia: Piloting publicly accessible online platform - Primary Contact: Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia; Armen Asryan

**Belize:** Developing a reliable agriculture GIS database for Belize through partnership with key stakeholder - Primary Contact: Land Information Center, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, Belmopan, Belize; Carren Williams

**Ghana:** Establishing standards-based web mapping and data access services using open source geospatial software technologies for CERSGIS - Primary Contact: Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS), University of Ghana, Legon; Henry Kwamena Baffoe

**Uganda:** Towards GIS Interoperability for Environmental Protection And Sustainable Development - Primary Contact: Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; Anthony Gidudu

A new round of proposals are being reviewed for funding further projects in 2015. The GSDI Association is actively seeking new funding to support the program for 2015 and beyond.

## **Other Capacity Building**

Capacity building is provided via access to reports, studies and professional papers submitted to the Spatial Documents Depot of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKnet), face-to-face geomatics training opportunities, webinars and videos offered by GSDI members.

All conference papers are available in the online Proceedings of all 14 GSDI World Conferences held since the first conference in 1996. Another key source of SDI implementation information is the GSDI SDI Cookbook, maintained as an online wiki under guidance of the GSDI Technical Committee.



In January 2015, GSDI was represented at the IHO Marine SDI Working Group Technical Meeting in London and accepted work assignments in the new IHO MSDIWG Work Plan. In April, GSDI conducted a workshop on Marine/Coastal SDI Best Practice in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the CoastGIS 2015 Conference. The Association is also represented on the Steering Group of the UNESCO IOC IODE International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN) Project.

GSDI were also present at the pan-European INSPIRE GWF 2015 Conference in May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal, where several Members and Member Organisations made presentations and/or ran workshops on a range of SDI-related topics and projects in which they are involved.

The Association will also be presenting an SDI Best Practice workshop at the forthcoming Digital Earth 2015 Summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia in October 2015 and is actively seeking similar regional or global events where similar workshops can be presented.

### **Support for Related Initiatives**

Through its many different educational activities, GSDI provides support to initiatives such as GEO/GEOSS, Eye on Earth and ISCGM by:

- helping to prepare young professionals to participate in national and global geospatial initiatives,
- supporting collaboration among professionals of all sectors who are working in SDI implementation, and
- offering global networking and learning opportunities between students, young professionals and SDI experts in tackling geospatial interoperability issues that are at the core of SDI implementation globally.

### **Further Information**

You can find out more information about the governance, membership, and activities of the GSDI Association, and send your questions and comments to the addresses provided on our Contacts page. Visit [gsdiassociation.org](http://gsdiassociation.org).

You can make a donation to support specific outreach and education activities, and we hope you'll be interested in learning about membership in the GSDI Association (organizations) or the Individual Membership to support our ongoing mission and growth.

***Report submitted by Roger Longhorn, GSDI Secretary-General***

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***6 June 2015***