



## **Period Report**

**May 2012 to December 2013**

946 Great Plain Ave. PMB-194, Needham, MA 02492-3030, USA – [www.gsdi.org](http://www.gsdi.org)

### **Introduction**

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI) currently has 40 members from national and regional associations, government agencies, academia and private industry, from 20 countries, including 4 regional (transnational) organizations and the UN ECA. The individual arm of GSDI - the International Geospatial Society (IGS) ([www.igeoss.org](http://www.igeoss.org)) - now has over 380 individual members from 55 countries. GSDI has representation on both the UNGIWG and UN GGIM initiatives, promotes the open data principles of GEOSS, and is involved in SDI capacity building activities in many developing nations via its Small Grants Program. GSDI are also 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) for joint promotion of activities.

The work of the GSDI Association is accomplished via four main Committees, whose leaders and membership are drawn from individuals from GSDI member organizations and IGS individual members. These are:

- Technical Committee
- Legal and Socioeconomic Committee
- Societal Impacts Committee
- Outreach and Membership Committee.

Committees are supported by the GSDI Executive Committee (President, President-elect and Past President) and various Board members. In 2013, two new posts were created, of Operations Director and Communications Director, to assist the Executive Director in conducting the daily affairs of the Association.

The future direction of the Association (and IGS) is the focus of a working group to develop the new 'GSDI Strategy Plan 2015-2020', which is led by President-Elect Dave Lovell, and which will be presented to members early in 2014 for comment and final approval.

### **Mission of the GSDI Association**

GSDI and IGS exist 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. The mission of the GSDI Association is:

- to serve as a voice for those in the global geo community involved in developing, implementing and advancing spatial data infrastructure concepts at local, national, regional and global levels,
- to foster spatial data infrastructures that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales, and
- to promote the informed and responsible use of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society.

## **Activities of the GSDI Association**

The primary activities of the GSDI Association are:

- to support implementation and expansion of harmonized local, national, and regional SDIs that are globally interoperable, through capacity building and knowledge gathering and sharing (via the GI Knowledge Network);
- to foster international communication and collaborative efforts for advancing SDI innovations and concepts via our global and regional monthly newsletters, website, workshops and conferences,
- to support interdisciplinary research and education that advances SDI concepts, theories and methods via publications and the world conference series, and
- to promote the ethical use of, and access to, geographic information held by government in support of open data initiatives globally.

## **Outreach, Networking and Capacity Building Update**

### ***The Global Conferences***

Our main outreach and networking activities include the GSDI World Conferences, the monthly global and regional newsletters, and support to SDI initiatives in developing nations via the GSDI Small Grants Program.

The **GSDI World Conferences** are typically held in partnership with another national, regional or international GIS-/SDI-related conference, in different parts of the world, approximately every 18 months. The conference series started in 1996 in Bonn, Germany, and has a continuously successful track record ever since (see [www.gsd.org/gsdConferences](http://www.gsd.org/gsdConferences)), bringing together thousands of government staff, academics, researchers, consultants, geomatics industry vendors and SDI implementation practitioners from across the world.

Attracting almost 700 participants from 56 countries, the **Global Geospatial 2012 Conference** brought together the **GSDI 13 World Conference**, 14th GEOIDE Annual Scientific Conference, 7th 3D GeoInfo Conference, and Canadian Geomatics Conferences 2012 under one roof. Held in Quebec City, Canada, 14-17 May, delegates were treated to a mix of plenary and technical sessions appealing to senior executives, technology professionals, researchers and students alike.

More than 200 papers were presented in seven parallel sessions on each of the four days of the conference, interspersed with five plenary sessions, a poster session on 15 May, and keynote presentations across the individual conferences. The conference this year also included nearly 50 exhibitors from across multiple geomatics industry sectors.

A limited-edition book of selected papers "Spatially Enabling Government, Industry and Citizens: Research and Development Perspectives" was provided free of charge to all

conference registrants. Abstracts and Papers from the Conference may also be downloaded from the GSDI Association's website at [http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/prog\\_details.html](http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi13/prog_details.html).

Completing his term as GSDI Association President at this Conference, **Abbas Rajabifard** welcomed **David Coleman** and **Dave Lovell** into their respective new roles of President and President-elect.

The **Global Geospatial 2013 Conference**, incorporating **GSDI 14** and **AfricaGIS 2013**, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), a valued GSDI member. (See [www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/](http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi14/)). The conference comprised seven plenary sessions and more than 170 presentations were made in multiple parallel sessions at the UN Conference Centre. With leading keynote speakers, an excellent technical programme, a vibrant exhibit hall and over 500 participants from 60 countries, it has already been recognised as one of the largest geospatial conferences held in Sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades. Papers are published in extended form in both peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed publications, accessible from the GIKnet Spatial Document Depot and/or directly from the conference web site (see [http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/prog\\_details.html](http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/prog_details.html)). In addition to the technical programme, the new GEO AfriGEOSS initiative was officially launched at the conference.

The GSDI Association Global Citizen Award was awarded to Professor Jacqueline McGlade, former Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) for the past 10 years and a long-time supporter of open data for environmental planning and monitoring. Since 2003, she has overseen a significant increase in the coverage and extent of data and information processed and analysed by the EEA/Eionet, and a doubling of the resources for the agency to support this work. The GSDI Global Citizen Award was previously awarded to Jack Dangermond (2010) and Gilberto Camara (2012).

### ***Newsletters***

GSDI have published the **GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter** monthly since 2011. From May 2012 to end October 2013, 16 issues were published and distributed to the full GSDI Association mailing list (approximately 4500 addressees), comprising over 280 pages of news about the Association, the IGS and their members. Publication of the monthly global newsletter resumed in January 2014.

Three **SDI Regional Newsletters** are published monthly for **Africa** (since 2002), **Asia-Pacific** (since 2003), and **Latin America & Caribbean** (since 2004) regions. (See [www.gsdi.org/newsletters](http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters)). Between May 2012 and December 2013, 20 issues of the SDI Africa Newsletter were published, 38 issues of the Asia-Pacific Newsletter (issues are in English and Chinese), and 56 issues of the Latin America & Caribbean Newsletter (published in English, Spanish and Portuguese). Each issue of each regional newsletter is typically 20-25 pages in length.

### ***E-mail Lists***

There are also active e-mail lists for all five global regions, including Europe and North America. Traffic on the lists during this reporting period included:

- Africa = 281 messages
- Asia-Pacific = 186 message

- Latin America & Caribbean = 121 message
- Europe = 135 message
- North America = 101 messages

The message traffic spanned a wide range of topics and issues. The message archive can be seen by subscribing to the lists at <http://www.gsdi.org/newslistarchive>. The discussion lists are monitored by members of the relevant GSDI Committees.

### ***Public Relations***

Each month, the magazine GIM International publishes a one-page column in their print edition from articles submitted by GSDI Association members. These articles are also repeated in the 'Article of the Month' section of the GSDI & IGS Global Newsletter. Visit the Global GSDI & IGS Newsletters on the Newsletter section of the Association website to see these articles at: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters>.

### ***Capacity Building***

Since its launch in 2003, the **GSDI Small Grants Program** has supported more than 100 projects across the globe. Historically, the program has been sponsored through a partnership between the GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, and the GISCorps of URISA. Three types of awards are available: a cash award of up to US\$ 2500 per project; SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US\$ 2500; or a combination of cash award and SDI/GIS consulting services. The consulting services are offered through the GISCorps.

From the 2011-2012 Call for Proposals, 17 projects were supported beginning in 2012 and concluding in 2013. These were:

**China** - Multilingual (Four Languages) Place Name Data Base for Regional SDI

**Colombia** - Linked Data and Spatial Data Infrastructures

**Ecuador** - Training in the Field of Metadata for the Implementation at National Level of Ecuadorian Metadata Profile (EMP)

**El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua** - Gulf of Fonseca Surveying and Nautical Charting Stand Up and Planning Meeting

**Ethiopia** - Establishment of Geoportal (Metadata and Clearinghouse Node) with Open Source Solutions for Environment Resources Management

**FYRo Macedonia** - Increasing the Understanding of SDI within the Albanian Geo society by Promoting and Distributing SDI Cookbook 2009 in the Albanian Language

**FYRo Macedonia** - Non Governmental Organizations for Spatial Data Infrastructure - NGO4SDI

**Russia** - An Interregional Seminar "Creation of Infrastructure of Spatial Data for the Southern Urals (Russia)"

**Rwanda** - Use of GIS and SDI in Promoting Coffee Quality in Maraba Sector South Province of Rwanda

**South Africa** - Developing a Framework for South African SDI Education and Training

**Southern Africa** - Knowledge Management System and Geographic Information System Project

**Sudan** - Estimating Genocide: Using Satellite Data and Image Processing to Determine the Impact of Human Rights Violations

**Tajikistan** - Introducing Cadastral Maps into National SDI of Tajikistan: Designing and Implementing a Pilot Project

**Tanzania** - Modeling Fragmentation in Vulnerable Ecosystems Using Remote Sensing in

Morogoro Region

**Uzbekistan** - Stakeholder Analysis of Institutions in Uzbekistan Involved State Cadastres in Order to Increase Awareness on Implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure

**Zimbabwe** - Strengthening the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Effort in Zimbabwe Through the Establishment of Requisite Institution and Technological Structures

**Zimbabwe** - Zimbabwe Standards based Web Mapping and Data Access Services Online Platform/Portal

The full range of projects supported by GSDI Small Grants can be seen at <http://www.gsdi.org/sic1> along with the final reports submitted by the beneficiaries. The Association is actively seeking new funding to support the program for 2013 and beyond.

### ***On-site GIS Training***

Through Societal Impacts Committee vice-Chair, **Jeremy Shen**, Chinese Taipei, the Association were able to provide a free training opportunity for three candidates from Latin America to attend the ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training Seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei, from 12 - 25 September, 2012. Following an open competition, the applicants selected for training were:

- Ms Patricia Llanos, Bolivia (IGS member)
- Ms Leticia Hissa, Brazil (IGS member),
- Mr Norval Young, British Virgin Islands (IGS member)

Jeremy offered the same opportunity in 2013, sponsoring another three members of IGS or GSDI to attend the 2013 ICLPST (International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training) training seminar on Geographical Information Systems and Land Management in Taipei from 20 March to 2 April. Following another open competition, the following persons attended the training:

- Ms Karishma Busgeeth (South Africa)
- Ms Jannett Ibañez (Bolivia)
- Mr Juan Ardila Lopez (Colombia)

Announcement of the third training opportunity, to attend the 2014 ICLPST training seminar, was made in November 2013 at the Global Geospatial Conference, and after reviewing the 29 applications submitted, the following GSDI or IGS member were selected by the Societal Impacts Committee members:

- Mr. Ivar M. Ledezma Casablanca of Bolivia,
- Ms. Rosario Casanova of Uruguay, and
- Mr. Mathenge Mwehe of Kenya.
- Ms. Ana Alvarez of Uruguay is the alternate to avail of this training opportunity if any of above winners cannot attend the training program with any reason.

Finally, members of the IGS or staff of GSDI Association members continue to be actively involved in lecturing, conducting workshops or seminars for their organisations or for other members' organisations on a range of topics relevant to SDI implementation. The Association, in developing the new Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is considering ways in which to develop our capacity building skills and expertise into deliverable course

material that could lead to an Continuous Professional Development (CPD) certification issues by the Association or in cooperation with another recognized certificate awarding body.

### ***SDI Implementation Support***

Additional capacity building is provided via access to reports, studies and professional papers submitted to the spatial documents depot of the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKnetwork - [www.giknet.org](http://www.giknet.org)), face-to-face geomatics training opportunities, webinars (<http://www.gsdi.org/webinars>) and videos (<http://www.gsdi.org/sic3>) offered by GSDI members.

Individuals and organisations, including government agencies, can submit their profiles to the GIKnet Community Register, which also holds the profiles of all IGS members. Documents can be submitted to the Spatial Documents Depot, which currently holds more than 60 documents relating specifically to SDI implementation issues. Valuable papers are also available in the online Proceedings of all 13 GSDI World Conferences held since the first conference, in 1996 (Bonn, Germany), available at: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>.

Practical experiences for state / provincial / regional (sub-national), national and transnational SDI implementations are also recorded in GIKnet, although this is still very much a 'work in progress', with new data collection methods being investigated.

Another key source of SDI implementation information is the **GSDI SDI Cookbook**, which is maintained as an online wiki, which is maintained under guidance of the GSDI Technical Committee, at [http://www.gsdi.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.gsdi.org/GSDIWiki/index.php/Main_Page).

### **The International Geospatial Society**

The ***International Geospatial Society (IGS)*** is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association whose members have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. The IGS web site is at <http://www.igeoss.org>.

At the IGS elections for officers in spring 2013, ***Sives Govender*** (Executive Director, EIS-Africa) was elected President and ***Dev Raj Paudyal*** (Lecturer, University of Southern Queensland, Australia) was elected President-elect. In their membership and outreach activities, they are supported by GSDI Communications Director, Roger Longhorn, who is also vice-Chair, Communications, GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee.

On 20 June, they launched an **IGS member survey** seeking input from all IGS Members on a range of topics and issues, which will be used to help focus the new IGS strategy and proposed activities in the future work plan. The draft Strategy document was circulated to members and presented at the IGS meeting held at the ***GSDI 14/AfricaGIS 2013*** joint conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 November, to which all IGS Members were invited.

The team are also actively participating in the project to redesign the current GSDI and IGS web sites to better serve the membership(s) and promote the Association and Society.

### ***IGS Member Statistics***

At the end of June 2013, IGS had 280 members from 55 countries. By the end of December 2013, the membership had risen to 380 members. Our goal is to achieve a membership of 500 by the end of 2014. Learn more about IGS at [www.igeoss.org](http://www.igeoss.org) and follow IGS and GSDI news at [www.gsdi.org](http://www.gsdi.org).

### **Support to Related Initiatives**

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

- (a) helping to prepare young professionals to participate in national and global geospatial initiatives that are underpinned by SDI developments,
- (b) providing a communications and collaboration platform for government and industry professionals working directly in SDI implementation, and
- (c) offering global networking and learning opportunities between students, young professionals and SDI experts in tackling geospatial harmonization and interoperability issues that are at the core of SDI implementation globally.

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***Report submitted by Roger Longhorn  
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31 December 2013***

## **Annex I - GSDI Board Members and Committee Members as of July 2013**

*(note: several Board positions are/were up for replacement/re-election in 2013)*

### ***Official Board Members***

- Al-Haidan, Khalid - Government
- Becker, Mark - GSDI Related Global Initiatives
- Borrero, Santiago - PAIGH
- Coleman, David - President
- Cromptvoets, Joep - Academia
- DeLoatch, Ivan - Region - North America
- Farah, Hussein - Region - Africa
- Holmes, Chris - Non-Profit
- Lovell, Dave - President-Elect
- McCormack, Bruce - EUROGI
- Nonguierma, Andre - UNECA-CODIST
- Rajabifard, Abbas - Past President
- Reichardt, Mark - International Industry Organisation
- Stobl, Josef - International Geographic Organisation
- Terborgh, Carmelle - Industry Advisory Council
- Tillman, Stan - Industry Advisory Council
- Ursin, Heli - Region - Europe
- van Praag, Eric - Region - South America
- IGS President – Sives Govender
- *Regional representative: Asia/Pacific - position open*

### ***Additional Officers and Staff***

- Marilyn Gallant - Business Manager (title changed in 2013)
- Harlan Onsrud - Secretary General (title changed in 2013)
- Sives Govender - Operations Director
- Roger Longhorn - Communications Director

### ***Committee Chairs***

- Bastiaan van Loenen - Legal and Socioeconomic Committee
- Denise McKenzie - Outreach & Membership Committee
- Carmelle Terborgh - Societal Impacts Committee
- Eric Van Praag - Technical Committee

### ***Committee Vice-chairs***

- ***Legal & Socioeconomic Committee:*** Katleen Janssen (left post in 2013)
- ***Societal Impacts Committee:*** Juna Papajorgji, Jeremy Shen (Capacity Building), Brigitta Urban-Mathieux (Small Grants Program)
- ***Technical Committee:*** Chris Holmes, Doug Nebert, Arup Dasgupta, Mick Wilson
- ***Outreach & Membership Committee:*** Roger Longhorn (Communications), Sives Govender (regional Africa), Nancy Aguirre (regional Central & South America), Bruce Westcott (regional, North America), Tien-Yin (Jimmy) Chou (regional, Asia-Pacific), Joep Cromptvoets (regional, Europe), Khalid al-Haidan (regional, Middle East & India).