

# Report to UN-GGIM: Americas

October 2016

GSDI welcomes the opportunity to attend this meeting of the Americas committee of UN-GGIM and thanks the committee for granting GSDI Observer Status.

GSDI has been organising Global Conferences on a regular basis since 1996 offering the opportunity for SDI researchers and Spatial Data Infrastructure implementers to present their latest work and to network with others in the field. Their next World Conference <http://gsdi15.org.tw/> is held this year in Taipei 29 November to 2 December with the theme 'Spatial Enablement in the Smart Homeland'.

GSDI was formally established in 2004 for academic, government, industry and non-profit entities and individual professionals in geomatics to come together to support SDI development at local, national, regional and global level. Today it has 38 Organisational Members from 20 countries and over 400 individual members from 55 countries with a high concentration in developing nations.

GSDI has Special Consultative status with UN ECOSOC and has supported the UN Global Geospatial Information Management initiative since the start, as well as the UNSDI and UNGIWG that preceded GGIM and operates in parallel, for UN institutions

GSDI has liaisons and Memorandums of Understanding with several global organisations, including FIG, ISPRS, ICA, and ISDE and is the current chair of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS).

The GSDI Strategy and Strategic Plan provides the framework for the association's activities. Their operational priorities for the coming period are to:

1. establish a closer alignment of GSDI activities with UN-GGIM objectives through:
  - a. relationships with all UN-GGIM Regional Committees;
  - b. contributions to Working Groups, and
  - c. membership in the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau, in their role as Chair of JBGIS;
2. take a leading position in creating a global index of National Spatial Data Infrastructures;
3. run a regional conference with a suitable partner each year;
4. implement a strong Capacity Building programme;
5. create a searchable 'SDI Capacity Building One-Stop-Shop' on the GSDI website where a wide range of resources to help in the implementation of SDI can be accessed.

The project to create a global index of National Spatial Data Infrastructures commenced in September 2016. The first phase will refine the index and assessment criteria, based upon work undertaken at the University of Oxford (UK) with the support of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and validate the criteria through a workshop held at GSDI 15 in Taiwan.

Following that, the project team will seek to secure the commitment of a number of international bodies, including the UN-GGIM Regional Committees to provide some capacity to undertake the assessment phase. The intention is to implement an assessment across the globe and publish the index in 2018.

The Marine SDI Best Practice Project running until 31 October 2017 has conducted a survey of national coastal and marine geoportals mainly in Europe. The project has already presented research papers to a number of international conferences, with more planned, including workshops at INSPIRE 2016 (9.2016) and GSDI 15 (12.2016).

The work delivers GSDI's input to the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Marine SDI Working Group, of which GSDI is a member. We would welcome input from countries in the Americas to the survey of national coastal and marine geoportals.

Thank you.