

IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information

Working Group Update + Work Plan 2024

Mary Smyth-McCarthy, CSO, Ireland

IAEG-SDGs Member



IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information

Member States

Colombia (Member HLG, Member EG-ISGI)

Ireland (Member IAEG-SDGs)

Brazil (Member IAEG-SDGs)

Canada (Member IAEG-SDGs/GWG-Big Data for Official Statistics)

Denmark (Member IAEG-SDGs)

Indonesia (Member EG-ISGI)

Italy (Member IAEG-SDGs)

Malaysia (Member EG-ISGI)

Mexico (co-Chair WGGI, Member EG-ISGI)

Netherlands

Regional Commissions and Invited Groups/Experts

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Group on Earth Observations - Earth Observations for the SDGs (GEO - EO4SDGs) (ESA, JAXA, NASA)

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)



SDG Custodian Agencies

European Commission-EuroStat

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

World Health Organization (WHO)



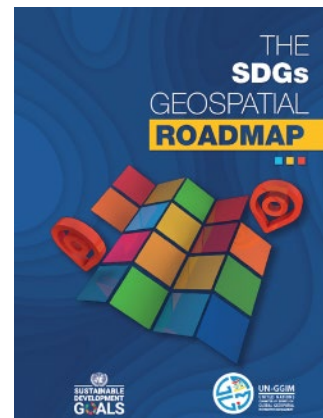
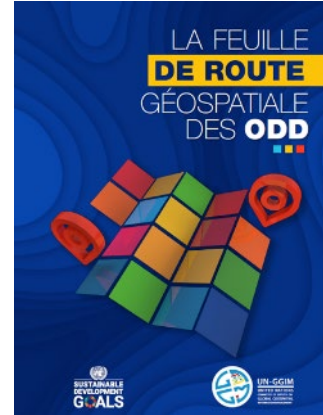
Implementing Statistical Commission Decision 53/101: Promoting the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap



The transformational vision and new data requirements called for to realise the 2030 Agenda has only been partially realised. The extent of this challenge has been underestimated and is further amplified by geospatial data, leadership, knowledge, and innovation primarily limited to some countries, the majority being the developed countries – the geospatial digital divide.

While technologies are evolving at a rapid pace, the commensurate capabilities, skills, and opportunities in the developing countries are not, and countries are being left behind. This is a gap that must be bridged; accordingly, the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap has been developed to provide simple and actionable guidance to the IAEG-SDGs, Member States and Custodian Agencies to bridge this gap.

The SDGs Geospatial Roadmap is a living resource that helps communicate, guide and enhance the awareness of geospatial information, Earth Observations, and related data sources, tools and methods, to inform and support the implementation, measurement and monitoring of the SDGs, according to national circumstances. It achieves this through three phases that detail how and why geospatial information is needed and how it can be applied to support countries in their national implementations of the SDGs.



Implementing Statistical Commission Decision 53/101: Promoting the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap



Continuing to support the implementation of the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap



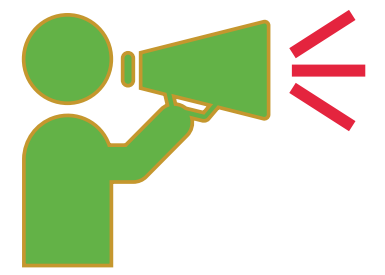
Presenting the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap at the 2022 IAOS Conference in Canada.

High-level seminar on the integration of statistical and geospatial information 28-30 November 2023

Bringing together 18+ Member States to implement the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and identify concrete actions to develop geo-statistical SDG capacity



Side Events at the Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM Supporting Functional Groups with Geo-Statistical Integration for the SDGs



Reviewing the WGGI Work Plan 2023

#	Item
1	<p>Promoting the work of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convene a side event at the Statistical Commission to promote the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and the White Paper on Disaggregation by Geographic Location• Convene meetings with countries implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to check in on progress, identify areas of improvement, and foster the sharing of experiences and cases• Participate and promote the WGGI's work at regional and international fora• Convene a virtual seminar with members of SDG Custodian Agencies and Member States to promote case studies and examples of geospatially producing SDG indicators – proposed for 2024
2	<p>Develop a Storymap to showcase how geospatial information helps with the production, monitoring, measurement, and dissemination of geospatially enabled SDGs</p> <p>Consolidate the SDGs Assessment Matrix and national case studies to showcase the importance of geospatially enabling the SDGs. This would include showcasing how countries validate the outputs of Earth observations in the production, measurement, and monitoring of the SDGs</p>
3	<p>Strengthening coordination and coherence of geospatially enabled SDGs</p> <p>Promote coordination and coherence of geospatial information with other subsidiary bodies through bilateral meetings</p>
4	<p>Liaising with the IAEG-SDGs and responding to emergent requests</p> <p>Responding to emergent requests from the IAEG-SDGs</p>

Highlights and Overview of the WGGI in 2023



The Leadership of the WGGI

- Ms. Sandra Moreno, DANE, Colombia
- Mr Kevin McCormack, CSO Ireland has stepped down as co-Chair – Ms Mary Smyth, CSO Ireland and IAEG-SDGs Member is proposed by the WGGI to assume Mr McCormack’s role as co-Chair



Item 1: Promoting the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap

The WGGI members have presented the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap at several events, including IAOS '23, regional Statistical Commissions and other forums

Item 2: Develop a Storymap to showcase how geospatial information helps with the production, monitoring, measurement, and dissemination of geospatially enabled SDGs

Storymap here: <https://arcg.is/04Orqn>



Storymap: Ireland's Governance Story

Ireland's SDGs governance story

This narrative shows how Ireland has built its institutional system to drive development and long-term monitoring of the Agenda 2030.

Proposed Work Plan 2024



#	Item	Timeline
1	<p>Promoting the work of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the IAEG-SDGs with side event(s) at the Statistical Commission that promote the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, the revised Short-list of SDG Indicators and other areas/events where geospatial information has a direct contribution; Convene a virtual seminar with members of SDG Custodian Agencies and Member States to promote case studies and examples of geospatially producing SDG indicators; Convene an in-person meeting of the IAEG-SDGs WGGI to review progress; Convene meetings with countries implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap to check in on progress, identify areas of improvement, and foster the sharing of experiences and cases; and, Participate and promote the WGGI’s work at regional and international forums. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Mid/Late 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
2	<p>Produce a discussion paper “Rescuing the SDGs: The Role of Geospatial Information and Integration”</p> <p>Produce a discussion paper that outlines the role and potential of geospatial information as a means of supporting the Mid-Term Review process.</p>	July 2024
3	<p>Strengthening coordination and coherence of geospatially enabled SDGs</p> <p>Promote coordination and coherence of geospatial information with other subsidiary bodies through bilateral meetings and updating the revised Short-list of SDG Indicators.</p>	Jan 2024
4	<p>Liaising with the IAEG-SDGs and responding to emergent requests</p> <p>Responding to emergent requests from the IAEG-SDGs.</p>	Ongoing

- The Global Indicator Framework of the SDGs was adopted by General Assembly Resolution 71/313 in 2017.
- The framework was comprehensively reviewed in 2020 and will be reviewed for a second time in 2025.
- This process comes at a critical point – the Voluntary National Reviews are being prepared by several Member States currently – Ireland is preparing their “VNR” for a **July 2023** submission and Colombia is *expected in July 2024*. Each of the elements of Ireland’s VNR has a Geospatial Component and underpinning each components of our national review are the global frameworks advanced by the Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM such as the GSBPM, GSGF and IGIF.
- As all countries are in various stages of preparing for their VNRs –whether immediately this year, or in the coming years - we offer to work with members to help strengthen their geospatial ability to realise their SDG ambition.

- At the 2022 “SDG Moment”, on the margins of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the President of the 77th General Assembly, World Leaders and Goodwill Ambassadors called to “**re-dedicate ourselves to the SDGs as the world falls behind and work together to rescue the SDGs and leave no-one behind**”.
- At the 78th General Assembly on 15 September, Member States adopted the Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development ([A/HLPF/2023/L.1](#)):
“We pledge to take action to strengthen international, national and local data systems efforts to collect high quality, timely, relevant, disaggregated and reliable data on SDG progress and to intensify efforts to strengthen data and statistical capacities in developing countries. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We commit to increasing the availability of SDG data and closing SDG data gaps at all levels, increasing financing for data and statistics, and enhancing capacity building support to developing countries.”
- Guided by the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap, we can now highlight how different sources of information are being used to produce/measure/monitor indicators and showcase how geospatial information will help rescue the SDGs. Through supporting the IAEG-SDGs, the WGGI can help the IAEG-SDGs with strategic messaging on how and be the advocate for geospatial information to the IAEG-SDGs.

Positioning geospatial information for the 2025 Comprehensive Review



Proposed Paper: ***Rescuing the SDGs: The Role of Geospatial Information and Integration***

- To support the IAEG-SDGs “geospatially” with their preparations for the 2025 Comprehensive Review over the coming 18-months, the WGGI proposes to develop a short paper that concisely articulates the opportunity and role for geospatial information in ‘rescuing the SDGs’ to the IAEG-SDGs via a small and focused writing team, composed of Member State representatives. This paper will draw upon both qualitative and quantitative experiences
 - Highlight potential gaps in reporting and potential quick wins
 - Strengthen the geospatial perspective to IAEG-SDGs process – especially when discussing methodological innovations/improvements across the indicator framework as part of the Comprehensive Review
 - Contextualise the previous work of the WGGI, including the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap and its reports on “Global and complementary geospatial data for SDGs” and “Land cover datasets for SDGs”

Work is currently underway, with the WGGI forming a small writing group advance the paper. Offers of support from the IAEG-SDGs are appreciated.

Positioning geospatial information for the 2025 Comprehensive Review



Proposed Paper: *Rescuing the SDGs: The Role of Geospatial Information and Integration*

Current Structure:

- **Introduction**
- ... what are the key guiding questions that this paper should answer?
 - How can we ensure that geospatial information is commensurately considered from now until the 2030 Agenda – what lessons can be learnt now for countries to transform and rescue the SDGs?
 - Risks/Opportunities of using GI for the SDGs
 - National/Global Data for the SDGs and the role of Non-Traditional Sources
 - What resources are available now... role of technology for the future?
 - Etc.
- **Summary and Call to Action**

Positioning geospatial information for the 2025 Comprehensive Review



Rescuing the SDGs: The Role of Geospatial Information and Integration

- WGGI proposes that the IAEG-SDG aim to submit this paper as a background document at the 2025 UNSC

Timeline

- Initial draft Q1 2024
- Finalised draft Q3 2024
- Submission to IAEG-SDGs Q4 2024
- Submission to UNSC Q1 2025

Opportunities for Consultation

- IAEG-SDGs (Concept – October 2023 | Adoption at 15th meeting in Q4 2024)
- UNECE Expert Group meeting on Statistics for SDGs (Plenary meeting in April 2024)
- The UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (ongoing)
- UN-GGIM (August 2024)

The SDG Assessment Matrix and Revising the Short List



The ‘**Shortlist results of the analysis of the Global Indicator Framework with a “geographic location” lens**’ conducted in 2017, highlights Indicators where geospatial information has a direct contribution or where indicators where geospatial information has a significant/supporting contribution.

To update the Shortlist, the WGGI developed the SDGs Assessment Matrix, the outcomes found:

- Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan/JAXA, Malaysia, México, and Eurostat responded to the survey, providing 472 responses covering many SDG indicators.
- 20 SDG indicators are directly being produced from geospatial information. Such as data from their National Geospatial Information Agency, Earth observations and other sources.
- Identifies ‘easy wins/low hanging fruit’ where geospatial information, if prioritized, would help fill some of the many data gaps in the global indicator framework.

The SDG Assessment Matrix and Revising the Short List



To further support the revision of the Shortlist, leading to its hopeful revision in the first quarter 2024, the WGGI has produced the “Survey on the use of geospatial information for SDGs”.

The WGGI aims to disseminate this to the IAEG-SDGs to collect information on how other countries are using geospatial information (or not) in their SDG indicator process.

This information will help refine the Shortlist, increasing its relevance.

KoboToolbox

Survey on the use of geospatial information for SDG indicators

▼ Please provide the following information about the person completing the survey

Your name	<input type="text"/>
Country you represent	<input type="text" value="none selected"/>
Organization you represent	<input type="text" value="none selected"/>
Your e-mail	<input type="text"/>

▼ Indicator questions

Pick an SDG indicator currently being used in your institution
You may repeat this session for every SDG indicator you use

Strengthening Coordination to geospatially enable the SDGs



Through coordinating work with other groups, the WGGI seeks to identify, align, and communicate their work to the IAEG-SDGs, reduce duplication and strengthen impact and coherence.

Communication, Coordination, and Promotion

The WGGI has established a strong bridge with the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, a subsidiary Functional Group of the Statistical Commission. This helps enhance two-way communication vis-à-vis the IAEG-SDGs and other relevant bodies, further strengthening the need to implement the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap.

Capacity Development

The WGGI welcomes the work of the Secretariat in supporting Member States with implementing the SDGs Geospatial Roadmap through the upcoming High-level seminar on the integration of statistical and geospatial information. It welcomes the IAEG-SDGs to support in mobilizing resources to enable future capacity development workshops.

IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information

Thank you

