Panel Discussion:
Support of geographical names data files and gazetteers to UN-GGIM activities – like the SDGs / 2030 Agenda

Wednesday, 16 August 2017

The panelists …

- Naima Friha (Tunisia)

- Eman Orieby (Egypt)

- Steve Westley (Canada)

- Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)

- Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany), chair
  - Gerhard Rampl (Austria), rapporteur

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What we know…

- Geographical names standardization is key element of communication
- Geographical names form a core theme in any geospatial data set
  - „fundamental data theme" @ GGIM
- Geographical names have to be integrated into national, regional and international spatial data infrastructures (SDI)
- Geographical names' value is often not well recognized
- The importance of geospatial data in the 2030 Agenda / Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a well known and recognized topic within UN-GGIM
  - SDIs constituting a centerpiece for monitoring the SDG indicator framework under the geospatial lens

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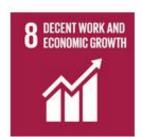
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17 goals and 169 targets… 231 indicators

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition.

By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.

Source: UN

Promoting the collection, standardization and dissemination of geographical names

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

- […]

- 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

- […]

Source: eda.ch

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Proposed indicator 6.6.1:

- *„Percentage of change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time"*

→ *indicator needs geospatial data for measurement*

Key question: How can geospatial data serve the indicator measurement and support the analysis for the measurement?
- Identify catchment areas, lakes, rivers, basins, and water bodies
- Identify transboundary water resources
- Identify proximity to urban settlements
- Monitor the changes in the regions
- …

Geographical names data!!!

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SDGs analyzed under the "geospatial lens"

- Report @ UN-GGIM-7 of the *Working Group on Geospatial Information established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators* emphasizing which SDGs have to be analysed under a "geospatial lens"

http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM7/E-C20-2017-11%20Geospatial%20Information%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20Report.pdf

The IAEG SDG WG GI has selected a list of 15 indicators for which geospatial information has a direct contribution:

Goal	Indicator	Tier	#
...indicators for which geospatial information has a direct contribution			
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.4.1	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	III	1
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	III	2
	6.5.2	Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	II	3
	6.6.1	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	III	4
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.1.1	Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	III	5
	9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	I	6
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	II	7
	11.3.1	Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate	II	8
	11.7.1	Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	III	9
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.2.1	Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	III	10
	14.5.1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	I	11
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1.1	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	I	12
	15.1.2	Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	I	13
	15.3.1	Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	III	14
	15.4.1	Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	II	15

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Statements by the panelists…

- *What is the current* *involvement of your institution/you* *with regard to UN-GGIM activities and particularly on the national monitoring for the Sustainable Development Goals?*

- *Has there been already any* *coordination effort in your country,* *explicitly requesting the use of geographical names data / gazetteers?*

Statements by each of the distinguished delegates

Questions for the discussion…

- *How can we generally make better linkages between UNGEGN's work and UN-GGIM's activities?*

- *How can we better promote and make aware of non-technical issues like language, romanization, cultural heritage etc. to UN-GGIM' activities?*

- *How do geographical names data and gazetteers fit within the big picture of the SDGs? Are the issues related to production or accessibility?*

- *Is toponymic information like language, status of a name/language, etc. needed for all SDG indicators where geospatial data is needed?*

- *What is UNGEGN's contribution to this overall UN/DESA - ECOSOC work program - 2030 Agenda – leaving no one behind?*

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