

D. Strengthening geospatial information management in developing countries towards implementing the 2030 Agenda

Department of Economic and Social Affairs jointly with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas and the Department of Field Support (\$750,000)

Background

7. Recent advances in technology have seen the emergence of geospatial information as a major contributor to better policy formulation and responses with regard to many of the current social, economic and environmental challenges facing the world, given its ability to integrate both quantitative and qualitative information across sectors and present this to decision makers in innovative formats. Despite significant advances in the availability of geospatial information and technologies, however, there is still a lack of awareness, understanding and uptake, particular at the policy and decision-making levels, of the vital and integrative role of geospatial information and related enabling architectures such as national spatial data infrastructures in contributing to sustainable development. More specifically, the project will assist countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean to identify and develop best practices and frameworks to apply new sources of data, including earth observations and citizen-centric big data and associated analysis and modelling, to increase the understanding of the dynamics of socioeconomic, demographic, environmental and geographic location factors for measuring and monitoring progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

<i>Objective of the Organization:</i> To substantively improve and strengthen the national geospatial information management capacities of developing countries towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and evidence-based policy and decision-making	<i>Summary budget</i> (Thousands of United States dollars)
	Consultants and experts 190.0
	Travel of staff 85.0
<i>Relationship to the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019:</i> Economic and social affairs, subprogramme 4 (Statistics); and Peacekeeping operations, subprogramme 6 (Integrated support services)	General operating expenses 28.0
	Grants and contributions <u>447.0</u>
	Total 750.0
<i>Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals and targets:</i> 17.18	

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Indicators of achievement

(EA1) Strengthened capacity of governments and national institutions in selected developing countries from Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean to improve the timely production, use and dissemination of reliable and official geospatial data and information in support of national implementation of the 2030 Agenda

(IA1.1) Increased number of developing countries where the national mapping and national geospatial information agencies have improved and strengthened technical capabilities and capacities to collect, produce and disseminate timely and reliable geospatial data through better and updated tools and approaches, and to utilize and integrate geospatial information to report annual progress in sustainable development

(EA2) Increased capacity for national integration of geospatial and statistical data and information through the adoption of regional and global frameworks and of internationally agreed standards and methodologies for evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation in selected developing countries

(IA2.1) Increased number of developing countries adopting internationally agreed frameworks, standards and methodologies for the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information to enhance policy formulation and decision-making within an information society

(IA2.2) Increased number of developing countries where the national mapping and national geospatial information agencies have strengthened technical capabilities and capacities to integrate, disseminate and share timely and reliable geospatial data with national statistical offices and other users

Main activities

8. The main activities of the project will include:
- (A1.1) Undertake needs assessments and develop and prepare guidance and training materials addressing the collection and production of timely and reliable geospatial data, the usefulness and importance of data sharing, data accessibility and data integration, and the development of national coordination mechanisms to share and integrate information related to the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (A1.2) Prepare and organize study visits to create awareness and understanding for the adoption of internationally agreed frameworks, standards and methodologies;
 - (A1.3) Organize and convene regional workshops to discuss and provide practical guidance and examples for the implementation and adoption of internationally agreed frameworks, standards and methods for the sharing and integration of data;
 - (A2.1) Assess capacity-development needs, formulate and develop guidance and training curricula and programmes required to strengthen technical capabilities and capacities of national mapping and national geospatial information agencies and national statistical offices in the integration of geospatial and statistical data and information;
 - (A2.2) Prepare and organize study visits to strengthen technical capabilities and capacities of national mapping and national geospatial information agencies to facilitate knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning;
 - (A2.3) Organize and convene regional workshops to demonstrate the fundamental principles of the global statistical geospatial framework and provide practical examples and approaches.