



UNGIWG

SALB

Second Administrative Level Boundaries



Integrating standardized political divisions names into the development of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI): The example of the SALB project

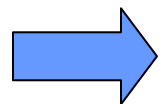
Dr Steeve Ebener

**25th session of UNGEGN
Nairobi, Mai 2009**

Addressing Regional or Global challenges

Several of the challenges that the World has to face today or those to come do not stop at country borders:

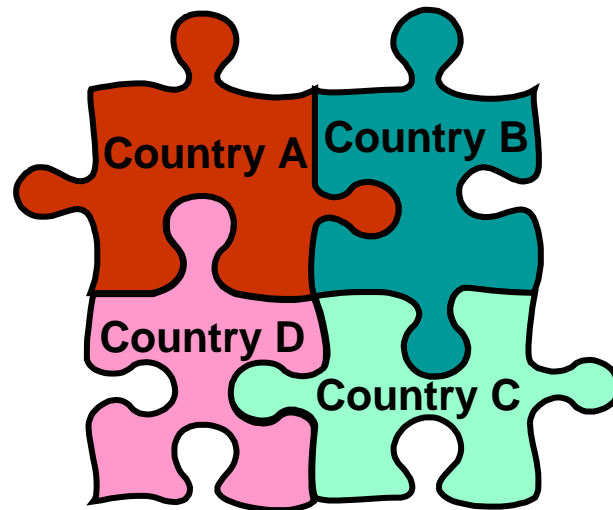
- Climate changes,
- Natural disasters (tsunami, earthquakes,...),
- Health threats (i.e. flu pandemic),
- ...



Need a regional or even a global approach

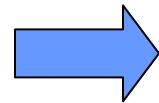
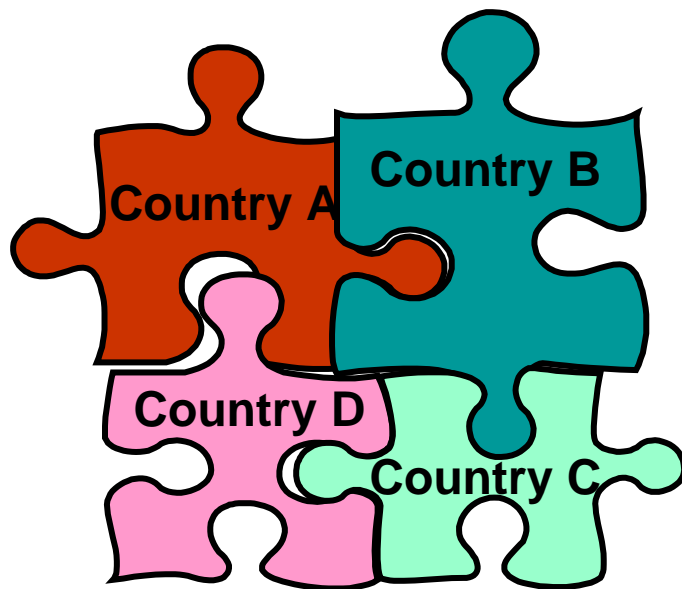
Addressing Regional or Global challenges

Being able to address these regional and/or global challenges from a geographic perspective requires National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) to be compatible between countries

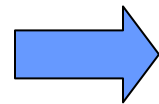


Addressing Regional or Global challenges

Being country centered by nature, NSDIs are only very seldom compatible among neighboring countries



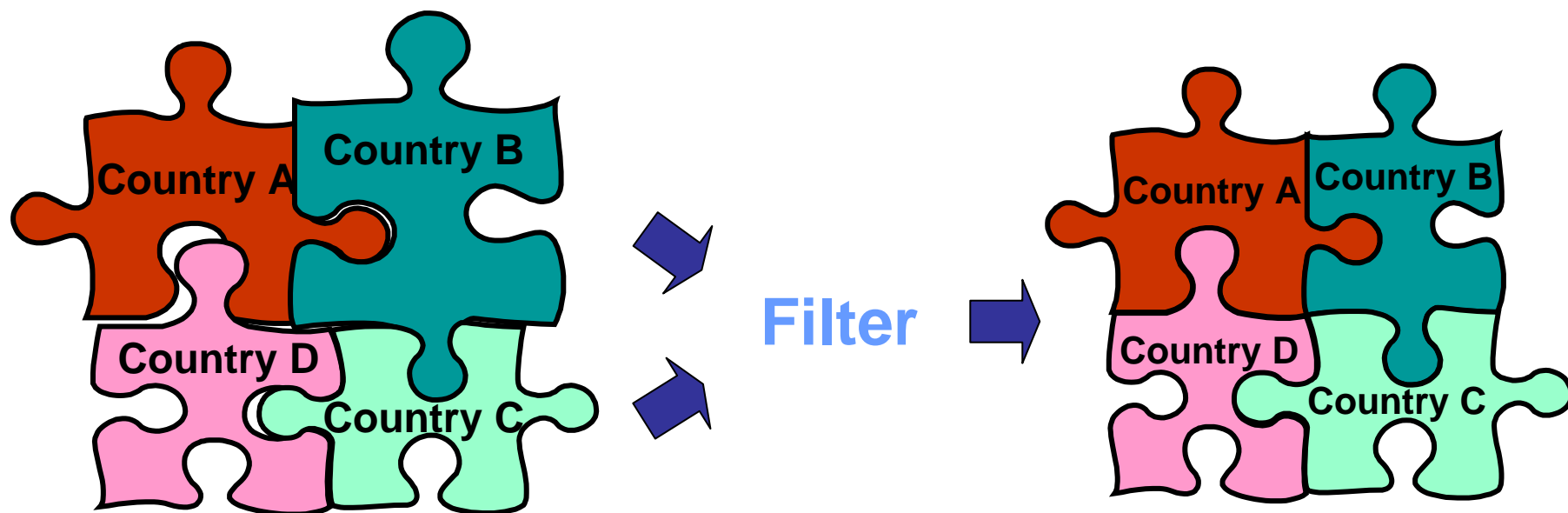
regional initiatives



but shift the problem at the border of the region

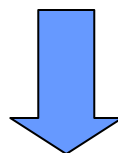
Using a filter

One way to get compatibility at the global level without putting too much additional burden on countries is to use a "filter"



Using a filter

By filter we mean a process which builds on the data developed by the country and which works with the country to obtain a consistent regional/global picture



The Second Administrative Level Boundaries dataset project (SALB) is one example of such process

http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_home.htm

The SALB project

The Second Administrative Level Boundaries data set project (SALB) has been launched in 2001 in the context of the activities of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG).



SALB has for objective to provide free access, for non-commercial use, to a working platform for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of sub national data/information.

The SALB project

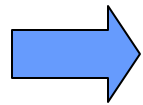
This platform...

- 1) Covers all the UN Member States
- 2) Freely redistributable (under copyright)
- 3) Validated by the National Mapping Agencies
- 4) Standardized (international border, Metadata, **spelling**, coding scheme, editing protocols)

...and results in a database which contains:

- 1) National Mapping Agencies contact information
- 2) Coded historic changes starting from 1990 for the 1st level and from 2000 for the 2nd level
- 3) GIS maps corresponding to the situations observed since January 2000

The SALB project



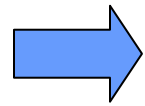
The SALB project is not only about codes and maps but also about:

- standardised administrative/ political divisions names used in the historic changes tables and in the attribute tables associated to the maps
- key correspondence tables which can be used to manage different spelling and coding schemes

01.01.1990-14.03.1991		15.03.1991-20.03.1997		21.03.1997-27.11.2000	
Moyo	UGA997	Moyo	UGA997	Adjumani	UGA001
Apac	UGA002	Apac	UGA002	Moyo	UGA033
Arua	UGA003	Arua	UGA003	Apac	UGA002
Bundibugyo	UGA005	Bundibugyo	UGA005	Arua	UGA003
Bushenyi	UGA987	Bushenyi	UGA006	Bundibugyo	UGA005
Mbarara	UGA991	Ntungamo	UGA039	Bushenyi	UGA006
		Mbarara	UGA031	Ntungamo	UGA039
Tororo	UGA993	Tororo	UGA999	Mbarara	UGA031
		Pallisa	UGA040	Tororo	UGA045
				Busia	UGA007
...	Pallisa	UGA040

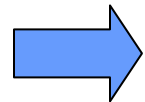
Spelling 1	Spelling 2	SALB codes
Bolesławiecki	Boleslawiecki	POLD01001
Dzierżonowski	Dzierzonowski	POLD01002
Głogowski	Glogowski	POLD01003
Górowski	Gorowski	POLD01004
Jaworski	Jaworski	POLD01005
Jelenia Góra (u.c.)	Jelenia Góra (u.c.)	POLD01006
Jeleniogórski	Jeleniogórski	POLD01007
Kamiennogórski	Kamiennogórski	POLD01008
Kłodzki	Klodzki	POLD01009
Legnica (u.c.)	Legnica (u.c.)	POLD01010
Legnicki	Legnicki	POLD01011
Lubanski	Lubański	POLD01012
Lubinski	Lubiński	POLD01013
Lwówecki	Lwówecki	POLD01014

The SALB project



By contributing to a "filter" such as the SALB project the National Mapping Agencies do provide the international community with the content for the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) which is standardized and seamless in terms of:

- **GIS format maps**
- **Coding scheme**
- **Administrative/political divisions names**



In other words, standardizing the name of political divisions contributes to data compatibility between countries and the building of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure to address regional and global challenges

Why am I here today ?

Despite the efforts put in this project since 2001 and several resolutions such as the one accepted during the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

- The historic changes are not up-to-date for 148 countries !**
- A validated map is still missing for 144 countries !**

IX/6. Geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

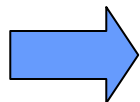
The Conference,

Recalling that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its twenty-second session, held in New York from 20 to 29 April 2004, recommended the development of an authoritative database on country and major city names,

Considering the ongoing efforts carried out by the secretariat of the Group of Experts, within the United Nations Statistics Division, towards the building of a database that includes country names and major city names of the world in a multilingual, multi-scriptural and geo-referenced format,

Recognizing that the availability of fundamental framework data sets on national administrative divisions, as provided by the Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) data set project under the umbrella of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), is crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena,



Recommends that the United Nations Statistics Division, with the support of the United Nations Cartographic Section for base maps and the Second Administrative Level Boundaries project for administrative divisions data sets, work in collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and member States to further develop, populate and maintain the geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, initially containing names of countries, capitals and major cities.



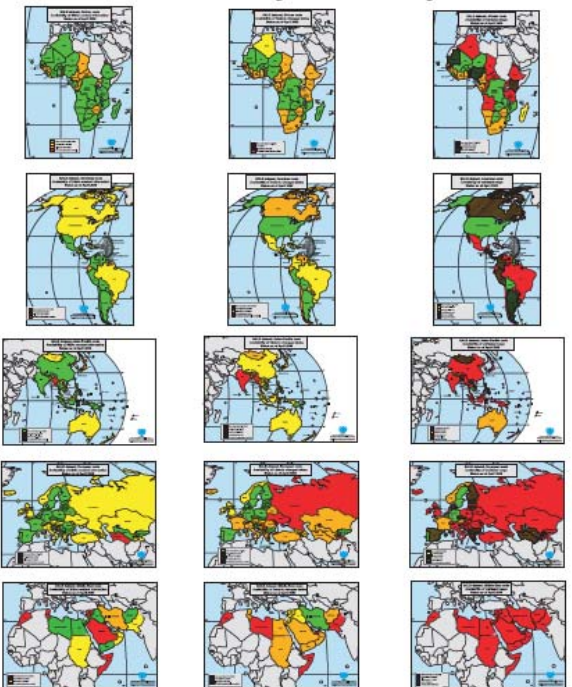
The involvement of the all the NMAs is needed

Conclusion

- I am inviting you to have a look at the poster displayed during the session and to discuss with me about how we could fill the gaps in the SALB dataset
- SALB is only one of these filters contributing to develop the content of what could become the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
- The geographical names database under development by UNGEGN is an other of these filters

 **SALB**
Second Administrative Level Boundaries 

Come and check the availability of information and data for your country ?



Please contact us in case you could help us to fill the gaps (SALB@un.org)