

Executive Summary

Regional Report **UN-GGIM:Americas** **2014-2015**



UN-GGIM:Americas

REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS

June 26, 2015

1. Activities, Areas of Work –Achievements

a. Contribution to UN-GGIM activities

According to the resolutions of the 10th UNRCCA the following Working Groups (WG) of the Regional Committee were developed.

1. WG on geospatial data collection and management
2. WG on access and use of geospatial information for disaster risk reduction and climate change
3. WG on Standards and Technical Specifications
4. WG on Promotion and Consultancy of Spatial Data Infrastructure.
5. WG on International Coordination and Cooperation

During the First Session of the Committee in September 2014 in Mexico City, the working groups' coordinators led sessions with their new members to give continuity for planning objectives, steps and responsibilities distribution. One of the main results is the creation of a single questionnaire for the Diagnosis on Geospatial Information Management for the 38 member countries, unifying the questionnaires completed by each group focused on its particular subject.

In order for the Regional Committee to continue to be aligned to the global agenda of UN-GGIM, and with the relevance of the topic of the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, the decision was made to change the name and objectives of the WG on Geospatial Data Collection and Management to Working Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. All National Statistical Institutes of the member countries were invited, of which the following responses of acceptance were obtained by Statistical counterparties: IBGE Brazil, INE Chile, ONEI Cuba, Department of Statistics and Censuses of El Salvador, ONE Dominican Republic, ABS/GBS Suriname.

b. Legal and Policy

To date, the website run by the SNIT of Chile, is currently under migration, it is expected that in the month of July 2015, the site <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/> will be administered by the INEGI in Mexico.

In March, the Minister of National Assets of Chile, informed the Committee that Mr. Galvarino Melo left his position as SNIT Executive Secretary, pledging continuity of the Vice-Presidency by the nomination of the new Executive Secretary Mr. Alvaro Monett.

c. Administrative Arrangements

1. The PAIGH supported the UN-GGIM:Americas project with \$ 6,500 USD for 2015 which will be used for carrying out the Second Session of the Regional Committee in November 2015 in Mexico City.
2. From the support of \$ 4.5 million USD from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, through the Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), in this 2015 project activities were aimed at strengthening the Geodetic Network and Capacity Building with an investment of \$1.3 million USD.
3. For the second year agreed with UN-GGIM:Americas to host the second session of the Committee during the Latin America Geospatial Forum 2015 in Mexico City in November, financing assistance of 20 members of the Regional Committee.

d. Capacity Development

Under the frame of the Capacity Building stage of the Project for Strengthening of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in the Caribbean, it was carried out the first training course on Geodesy, taught by Dr. Keith Miller, Professor of the University of the West Indies (UWI), which was conducted in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from December 8th to 12th, 2014.

e. Publicity and Outreach

The Regional Committee has international presence by the participation of the President of the Committee, Mr. Rolando Ocampo in international forums.

f. Technical

The Caribbean Project is divided into three main actions: Diagnosis, Capacity Building and Infrastructure Acquisition.

Regarding the second phase of the Project, as already mentioned the Geodesy Course was performed and the one on Standards will be carried out in New York this August.

For the third stage of the project, there are plans to purchase equipment for the strengthening of the geodetic network in the region, in addition to the construction of a Land Cover Map, for which there were acquired Satellite Imagery and received donations from the NAGS China.

It was decided to conduct a diagnosis of the geospatial information management across the continent. The coordinators of the working groups, made each module for a joint questionnaire, which will be distributed for response in June 2015.

2. Partnerships and Regional and International Collaboration.

The Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (SRE) through AMEXCID and INEGI has been the framework for collaboration between the two institutions to develop the Project for Strengthening the Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Caribbean.

Under the Caribbean Project framework, was decided to create a Technical Committee formed by ACS, INEGI, AMEXCID, CDEMA, URISA Caribbean Chapter, University of Guyana and University of West Indies.

In March of this year, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with University of the West Indies (UWI), where it was agreed to host the data center of the Caribbean Project.

Mr. Ocampo has made several tours of duty in the Caribbean region, where they have delivered satellite images to the Foreign Affairs Minister of Barbados, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago.

In November 2014, was held a joint meeting between representatives of PAIGH, SIRGAS, GeoSUR and UN-GGIM:Americas, where was signed a Commitment Document where the purpose of manifests is to strengthen, harmonize and accelerate in a coordinate and effective way the SDI development in the Americas

Priority Issues and Challenges

One of the priority issues is to continue the integration of the Caribbean Region to the activities of UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM:Americas, this through the continuity and sustainability of the Caribbean Project. Another important objective of the Regional Committee is the active participation of member countries in Working Groups.

The main challenges of the Regional Committee, are to ensure continuity and active participation of representatives of member countries, the political support of their countries and the financial support for meetings of the Committee and its Working Groups

Perspectives and Future Plans.

The immediate plan for the Regional Committee are the activities to be carried out within the framework of the 5th Session of UN-GGIM in New York City, including a training course on standards for Caribbean countries and two side events of the Regional Committee.

On November 11th and 12th the second session of UN-GGIM:Americas will be held in Mexico City. The program includes the progress and activities of this year; regional and international cooperation; working groups' progress; future plans for the Regional Committee, among others.

The Caribbean Project work program includes actions and future training courses and the purchase of computer equipment for the creation of geomatics solution that allows for a Digital Map of the Caribbean. In addition, the acquisition of 14 geodetic stations for strengthening the Caribbean Geodetic Network

The Working Groups coordinators of the Regional Committee will analyze and use the results of the questionnaire to create a joint diagnosis of Geospatial Information Managing

Conclusions

The Regional Committee is in a consolidation phase in which the support of all member states is needed, they have made great strides in a short time and the main challenge is to keep pace and achievements as a region.

There are some key players for the exponential growth experienced by UN-GGIM:Americas, regional and international agencies and the Government of Mexico through AMEXCIDM for the support and encouragement to the Caribbean Project.

At the inside of the Committee, has been fundamental the active role of the Vice-President of the Regional Committee, represented by Álvaro Monett, which has served as an active coordinator of the Working Groups tasks and a key to the development of the region's General Diagnosis.

Some representatives of member countries that have been active with highly responsible activities, including the coordinators of the Working Groups, representatives of Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi and the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia; Geographic Institute and the National Registry of El Salvador; National Territorial Information System of Chile; and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico.

To all of them, our recognition and gratitude

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