

UNGIWG



UNITED NATIONS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

New York, May 2014

UNSPACE & UNGIWG 14



INTRO.

The United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) is a voluntary network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science.

Since 2000 UNGIWG has been able to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and coordination on specific issues in the fields of cartography and geographic information science and promote the use of geographic information within the United Nations System in the delivery of various mandates (including in support of a number of sustainable development goals)

UNGIWG AIMS TO:

- Improve the efficient use of geographic information for better decision-making;
- Promote standards and norms for maps and other geospatial information;
- Develop core geospatial data to avoid duplication;
- Build mechanisms for sharing, maintaining and assuring the quality of geographic information;
- Provide a forum for discussing common issues and emerging technological advances.

MODUS OPERANDI

- UNGIWG functions in a task-driven, goal-oriented and flexible manner.
- The Co-Chairs – the focal point, elected by the voting members every two years (currently UNOOSA & UNDSS: 2013 – 2015).
- UNGIWG works through:
 - Annual Plenary Meetings
 - Time-bound, specific and ad-hoc Task Groups
 - Longer-term Special Interest Groups

UNGIWG MEMBERS:

More than 30 UN Departments, Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies



PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS (PARTNERS)

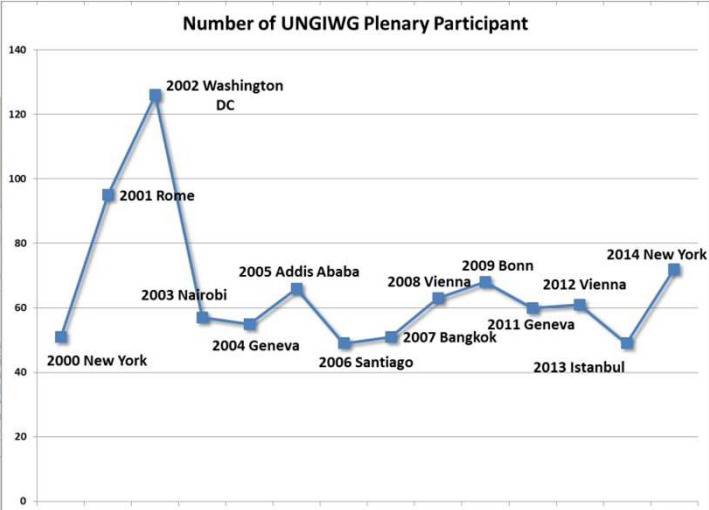
External partners -

- Representatives of Member States
- Relevant NGOs
- Other external organizations
- Private industry partners with specific expertise

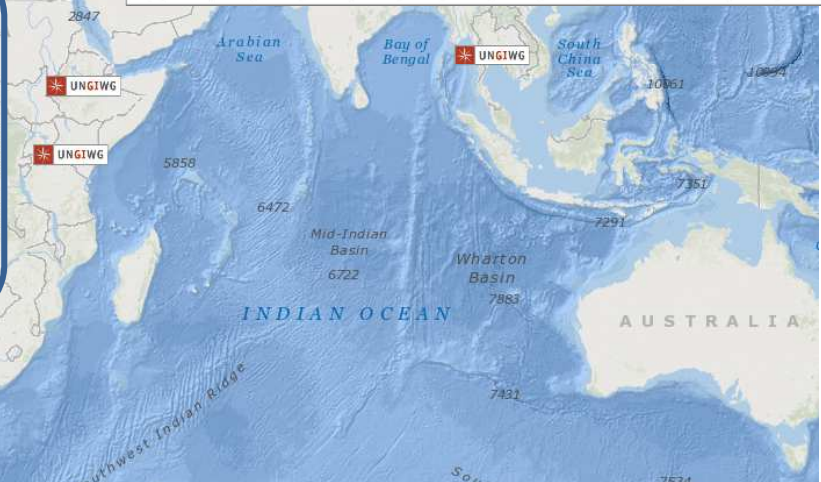
Partners may participate in plenary meetings of UNGIWG by invitation

Partners may participate in the work of any Task Group or observe Special Interest Group discussions

UNGIWG ANNUAL PLENARY MEETINGS



- To review the progress of Task Groups and Special Interest Groups
- To establish and revise the goals and the vision of the UNGIWG
- To identify the specific tasks to be addressed
- To establish ad-hoc Task Groups



REPORTING

A report of each plenary meeting and a half-year update on UNGIWG activities to be submitted to the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) through the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP).

The Plenary reports and other related documentation are also published on the UNGIWG web site (www.ungiwg.org)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Organized Task Groups & Special Interest Groups**
 - Remote Sensing Task Group
 - Core Database Task Group
 - GNSS Task Group
 - Interoperable Service Task Group
- **Supported Development of System-wide Contracts:**
 - Satellite Imagery purchase contract (2005)
 - ESRI, ERDAS products
 - Google grants, specific Google Earth imagery coverage over developing countries
- **Developing SALB (Secondary Administrative Level Boundary) and International Boundaries datasets:** Open, seamless, validated, standardized coding
- **Developing UNSDI (United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure)**

(...)

- **Developed various Studies and Reports:**

- UN Geographic Information Strategic Plan, request of Deputy SG at that time and with support from OGC (2002, *UNSDI Compendium precursor*)
- UNSDI Compendium (2005)
- UNSDI Technical Governance Framework
- An inventory and comparison of globally consistent geospatial database and libraries (FAO 2005: [Global geospatial database](#))
- Various Task Group Progress Reports

- **Meeting & Workshops**

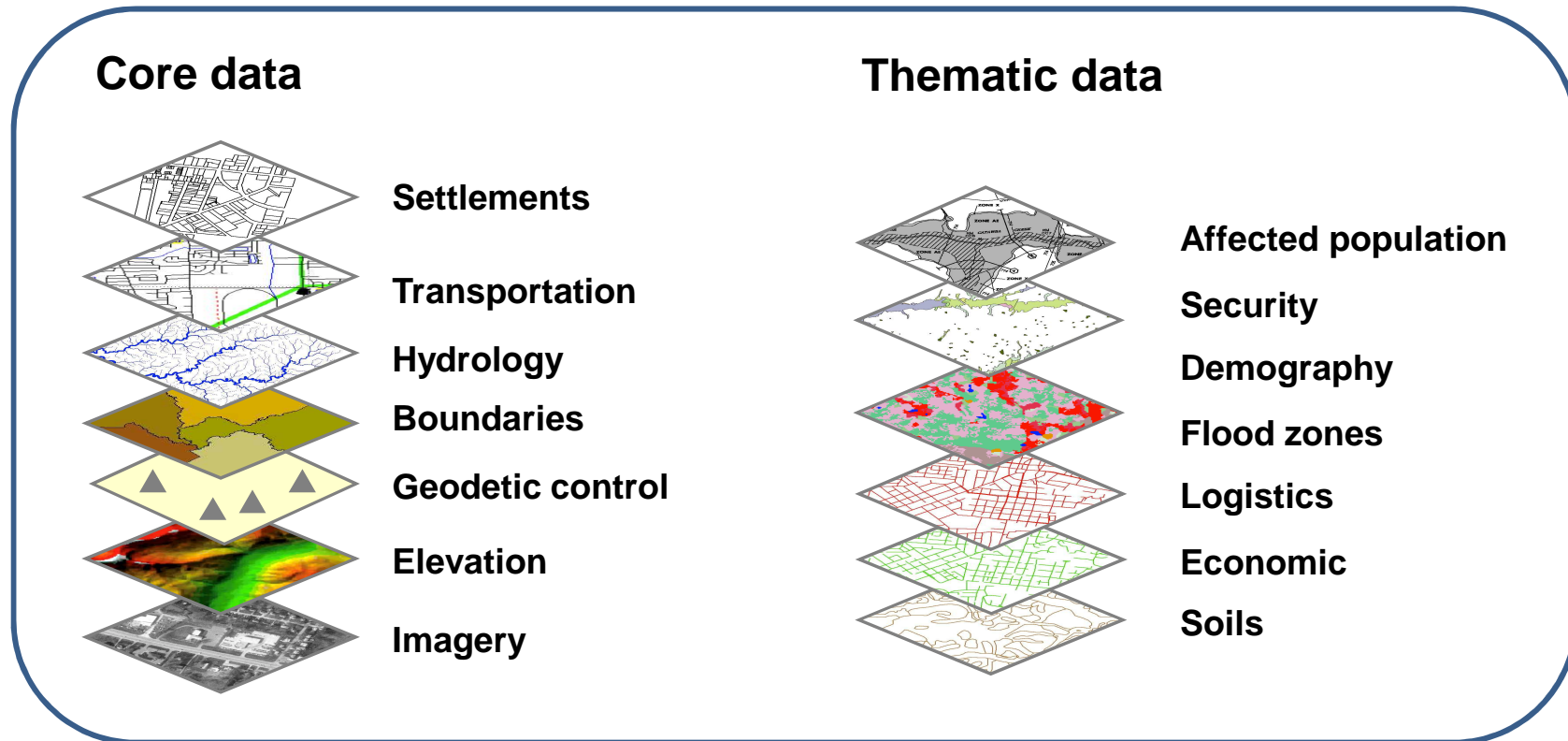
- Hosted three OGC Plenaries, two at UNHQ (2004, 2005) and in Bonn (2011)
- UNSDI Global Partners Meeting (2007)
- UNSDI Deliverables Workshop (2008)
- Global DEM utilisation and needs assessment, championed by ITU (2013)

- **Cooperates with:**

- UNGGIM – Global (Intergovernmental) Geospatial Information Management Initiative (UNDESA)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): Class A liaison ISO/TC211
- Open Geospatial Consortium, Principal Member (OGC)
- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, GSDI (joint meeting Chile, 2007)
- Consortium for Spatial Information (CGIAR-CSI)
- European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information (EUROGI)



CORE AND THEMATIC DATA NEEDS IDENTIFIED



Sustainable Development, Humanitarian and Peacekeeping Operations, Security are major focus areas

Focus: The SALB project

Started in parallel with the early geodatabase work (seed funding from UN Foundation, 2002) and the International Boundaries dataset development

(<http://www.ungiwg.org/content/united-nations-international-and-administrative-boundaries-resources>) ;

Esri also provided in-kind support

Open, seamless, validated, standardized coding and global dataset of second-level administrative boundaries

The SALB Project status website (currently in maintenance!) <http://www.unsalb.org/>

(coded historic changes from 1990-1st, 2000-2nd in 136 countries, GIS data for some 50)

THE VISION FOR A UNSDI

The vision for UNSDI - the creation of a comprehensive, decentralised geospatial information framework that facilitates decision making at various levels within the UN by enabling access, retrieval, dissemination and use of geospatial data and information (scientific, environmental, social and economic data, etc.) in a rapid and secure way.

UNSDI INITIATIVE – BRIEF HISTORY

- 2005 - UNGIWG embarked on the development of UNSDI.
- 2006 - Developed UNSDI Strategy
- 2007 - Selection of the approach to implement a UNSDI
- 2008 - Developed UNSDI Framework
- 2010 - Recognized as a UN System-wide Information and Communication Technology (ICT) harmonization initiative
- 2010 - UNSDI Framework update & development of the Center of Excellence for UNSDI Project Proposal
- 2012 – Center of Excellence Programme launched

UNSDI GOVERNANCE

- **Steering Committee** (SC - UNGIWG members)
Sets the strategic direction for UNSDI
- **Technical Advisory Group** (TAG - UN and non-UN)
Advises the Steering Committee on technical matters
- **Partners' Group** (PG - non-UN)
Is the advocacy group of UNSDI partners
- SC and TAG members to be nominated / elected

UNSDI FRAMEWORK – PHASE I

- **Core Deliverables:** planned to be implemented through the envisaged Center of Excellence for UNSDI Programme
 - UNSDI Gazetteer Framework
 - Geospatial Data Warehouse
 - Visualization Facility
- **Thematic Geodatasets and Services:**
 - Humanitarian
 - Peacekeeping
 - Safety and Security
 - Environment
 - Human Rights
 - Development
- **Capacity Building**

Member Agency example:

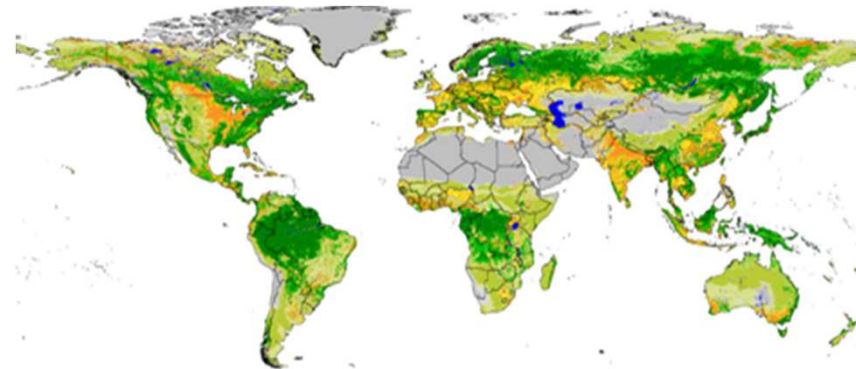
FAO Land and Water Division (NRL) Activities

- Assessment and Monitoring of Land Resources
 - Management and planning of land resources utilization
 - Land Cover/Use assessment and mapping
- Poverty Mapping / Emergencies support
 - *GIS databases in support of poverty, food insecurity, and rurality studies*
 - *Emergency preparedness support: Lao, Haiti, Pakistan, Afghanistan etc..*
- Partnership in International Programme
 - *GLCN (Global Land Cover Network): alliance for standard multi-purpose land cover data production*
 - *CARBOAFRICA: network of observations of carbon stocks and fluxes, and ecological processes in sub-Saharan Africa*
- Data Dissemination Systems
 - *Metadata/Data catalogue: FAO GeoNetwork (data.fao.org)*
- Outreach / Communication / Capacity Building
 - *Communication materials: brochures, leaflet, posters, skins, printed atlases, etc.. in support of land cover mapping initiatives*

GLOBAL AGRO-ECOLOGICAL ZONES (GAEZ)

- GAEZ is a methodology for assessing agricultural resources and potential.
- Developed in the last 30 years by FAO and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).
- It has produced a database of terabytes of spatial data, maps, tables, statistics, metadata and reports publicly available through the GAEZ WEB portal.

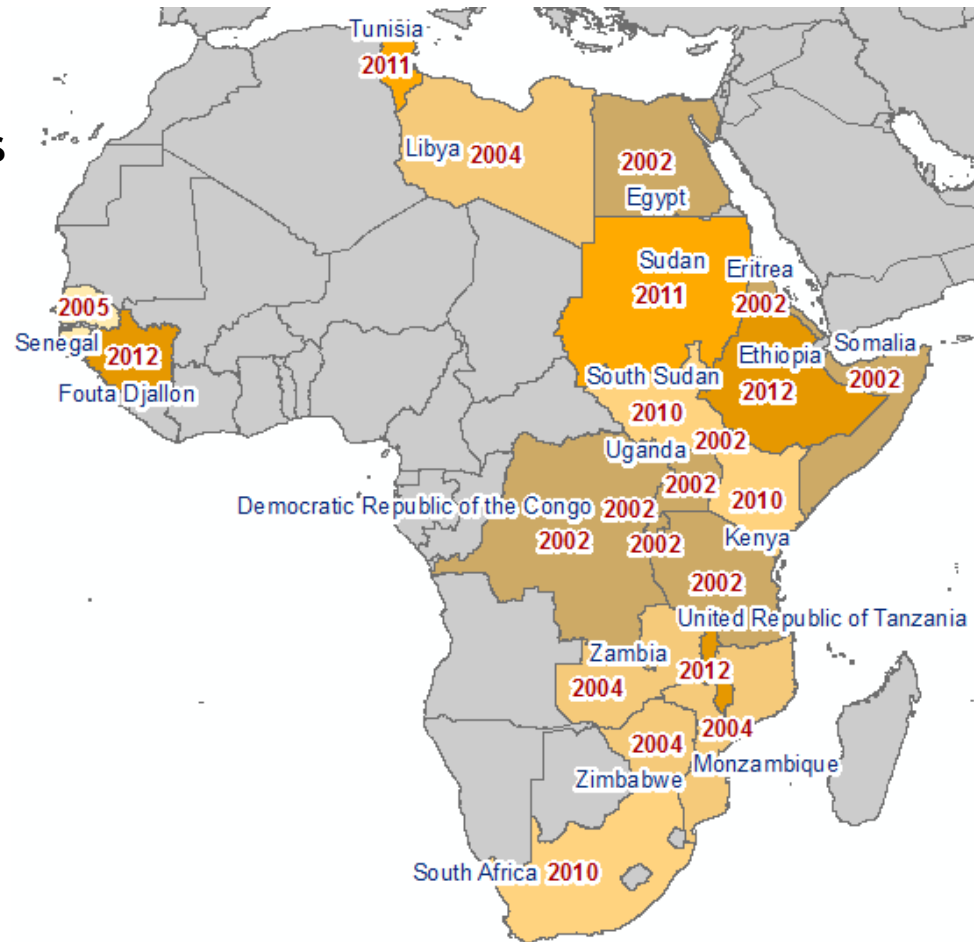
www.fao.org/nr/GAEZ



FAO's Land Cover Mapping in Africa

Country scale (30m or better resolution)

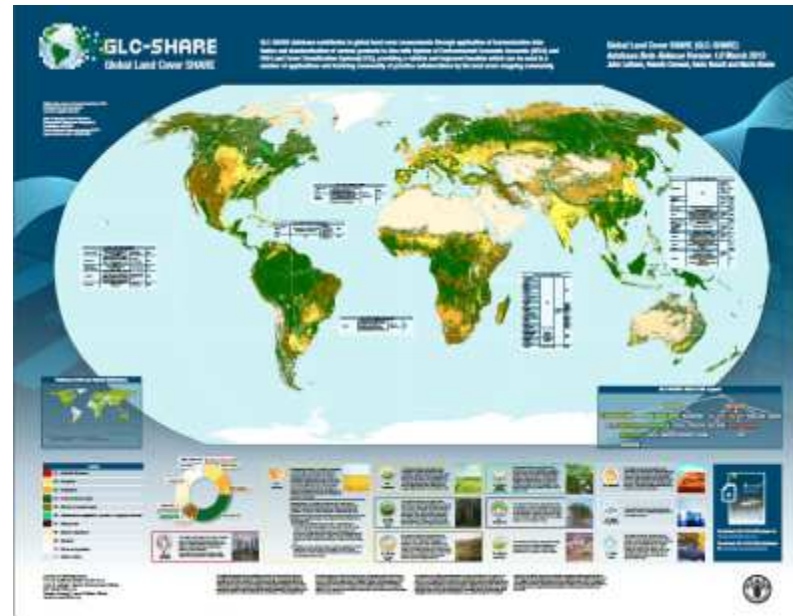
- 2013 ECUNET
Ethiopia
- 2012 Fouta Djallon Highlands
Malawi
- 2011 Sudan
- 2010 South Sudan
Tunisia
Kenya Update
- 2007 Somalia
- 2006 Kenya LCC
- 2005 Senegal
- 2004 Libya
- 1998-2004 AFRICOVER



GLOBAL LAND COVER (GLC)-SHARE

Land Cover Mapping: national....regional....**global**

New global land cover database



Methodology and datasets published in 2014 in <http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/>

Enhanced Data Dissemination : data.fao.org

The screenshot displays the data.fao.org website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "search data.fao.org" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are links for "Sign In" and "Register". Below the search bar is a navigation bar with the "DATA" logo and icons for "topics", "tags", "places", "catalogue", and "search".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Datasets (42)**: A blue box listing various agricultural data sets such as "Agricultural Producer Price Indices (FAOST...)", "Commodity Balances, Crops, Primary Equi...", "Commodity Balances, Livestock and Fish...", "Crops Processed, National Production (FA...", "Crops and livestock products, Trade (FAO...", and "Food, National Production (FAOSTAT)".
- Maps (234118)**: A green box listing map categories like "Major soil groups of the world (FGGD) (FA...", "Protected area types. (GAZ)", "World maps of climatological net primary...", "Farming Systems by Region (FAO GEONET...", and "Global Cattle Density (2005) (FAO GEONET)".
- Pictures (58475)**: An orange box listing image categories such as "Snowy peak in th...", "Degraded forest [...]", "Detail of medicina...", "Mixed broadleaf f...", and "Forest flood area [...]".
- Databases (21)**: A dark blue box listing database categories like "CIAT - GEONETW...", "FAO GEONETWORK", "FISHSTAT", "ICIMOD GEONET...", and "FORESTRY MEDIA...".
- Countries (197)**: A blue box with a search bar labeled "search countries..." and a magnifying glass icon.
- Developers**: A black box with a colorful logo consisting of two stylized human figures in blue and green.
- Data updates**: A calendar-style grid showing update dates. The numbers 10, 17, and 24 are highlighted in red.

A large image in the center shows two women in a field, one wearing a white headscarf and the other a patterned dress, both looking at something in their hands. Below this image is the text "FARMING PRACTICES & SYSTEMS (0)".

UNGIWG EFFORTS CONTINUE

- UNGIWG Homepage (<http://www.ungiwg.org>):
Past and current leaderships, reference documents, meeting reports, white papers etc.
- The past years are not all about successes, much work remains to be done
- Collaboration and transparency still not on (top of) agenda for many
- Community needs new motivation

THANK YOU

- <http://www.ungiwg.org>
- secretariat@ungiwgsec.org