



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development in SIDS

**28 MAY, 12:00pm-13:30pm, Room 1, American University of Antigua,
Antigua and Barbuda**

Organized by:

United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC);
United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE);
Land Satellite Remote Sensing Application Center, Ministry of Natural Resources of P.R. China (LASAC,MNR);
National Satellite Ocean Application Service, China (NSOAS, MNR) ;
Chinese Academy of Surveying and Mapping (CASM);
SDG Data Alliance;
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

Background on the event (one paragraph)

Taking the SIDS4 theme of "Charting the Course towards Resilient Prosperity", the essential role of geospatial information and mapping technology is called up, towards addressing matters related to sustainable development. Geospatial information now underpins everything we do and is critical for sustainable development across countries, including SIDS. Given the geographical remoteness and the prone weather-related disasters location of SIDS, geospatial information provides innovative solutions for planning, managing and indeed "charting" their course to sustainable development. In resolution 2022/24 entitled 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements', the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recognized the sustained efforts of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) to establish the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC) in Huzhou (Deqing) China to provide opportunities to develop and expand global geospatial capacity, competence and capabilities, and to strengthen geospatial information management arrangements in countries,

especially developing countries. The overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) set by Member States to develop capacity, promote and support the required innovation, leadership, coordination and standards to develop, strengthen, integrate and deliver national geospatial information policy, data, systems, tools, services and capabilities for national government development policies, strategies and arrangements.

Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)

The side event on Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Development of SIDS led by UN-GGKIC provided the occasion to share data, platforms, frameworks and experiences in utilizing geospatial information and technologies for the benefits of countries including for natural resources management, geological survey and mining, ecological environment, marine fishery, economic development, and disaster prevention and mitigation. The event also shared experiences in leveraging the UN-IGIF and the development of Country-level Action Plan to develop geospatial capabilities that enable the implementation and acceleration of the SDGs, address the needs of SIDS, advance early disaster warning systems, in a global partnership. Highlights during the side event included

- a Global Initiative to Enable SIDS with Geospatial Technology introduces pathways for SIDS to use data and services adapting from the cutting edge geospatial technologies for ‘Leveraging data and digital technologies and building effective institutions for a resilient future in SIDS’ .
- an UN strategy and an comprehensive observation system framework was briefed to show the geospatial technologies and information playing a more central role in monitoring the SDGs and emphasized their integral role in facilitating the solutions for the SIDS development. The activities taking place in China through the UN-GGKIC and other initiatives are also introduced.
- a talk on the land and ocean satellite observation system for SIDS dedicated to offer high resolution satellite data and satellite application. A specialized dynamic monitoring platform on using Earth Observation satellites was designed to generate geospatial information to detect the environmental , social and economic features in SIDS areas.
- a talk on Geodetic Technology for Monitoring Islands and Sea Level explain how geodetic framework will benefit the SIDS and the globe.
- a speak regarding to the SIDS Global Data Hub and the advisory on Geospatial Data Framework for Sustainable Development of SIDS was provided by addressing the data challenges faced by SIDS and the connecting to governments, industry, organizations, academia, and citizens.

- the introduction of the first Imagery Album of the Beautiful SIDS with the main idea of “ Small Islands, Big Views ” which aims to increase global awareness to the priorities of the SIDS and call for global engagement especially the data providers to acquire and produce more satellite data to improve the image album with joint efforts. The Album was presents also as a gift to SIDS Global Data Hub launched at Antigua.
- open discussions concerning ocean plastic and waste monitoring, ocean species discovery and conservation, approach to grantee the satellite data precision at local level were raised from the audience.

Key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points)

Geospatial technologies enable data-informed decision making for the globe and SIDS. In support of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), the Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity, the following actions were reaffirmed.

- the mobilization of the geospatial technical, scientific, and data knowledge and resources to support the implementation of national development priorities and the SDGs in SIDS is noted to ensure the sustainable development of the natural resources.
- land and ocean satellite data, geodetic solutions, the implementation of SDG Data hubs and available data services, multi-sensor and multi-source satellite data image acquiring and processing are recognized as the high effective tools for implementing and evaluating SDGs in SIDS.
- an exchanging platform for geospatial data to monitor natural resources and environment will be a innovated digital infrastructure to provide national and regional solutions for SIDS.
- joint efforts on demonstrating how geospatial technologies benefit SIDS are encouraged from Member States, UN System entities, national authorities, other professional associations. The showcases based the variety of geospatial technology, applications, innovative approach, data services and frameworks to raise awareness solutions and strategies toward the implementation of the UN IGIF in the context of SIDS will be promoted.
- global cooperation initiated by UN-GGKIC will be formulated and foster innovation with geospatial technologies, enrich the availability of data resources, and strengthen capacity of Geospatial Information Management for SIDS.