

SIDS4 Conference Side Event Summary

CARIGEO Side Event #V24

“Location Intelligence the Panacea to Accelerated Development in SIDS”

May 30, 2024 at 8:00 - 10:00 am (EST) via Zoom

Organized by:

The United Nations Regional Committee for Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) through the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) in collaboration with the following partners:

1. United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), High level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Framework (HLG-IGIF), United States Census Bureau
2. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)
3. UN-GGIM: Americas Academic Network
4. International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
5. UN-GGIM: Americas - Private Sector Network, GeoTechVision, Esri
6. Barbados - Lands and Surveys Department
7. Jamaica - Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation - National Spatial Data Management Branch

Background:

The United Nations Regional Committee for Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) through the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) planned and staged an online side event on Thursday 30, May 2024 as part of the activities of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Antigua and Barbuda.

The event aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the relevance of location intelligence (geospatial data, tools, frameworks) in accelerating national development and the achievement of sustainable development goals across various sectors in SIDS.

Overview & Key Issues discussed:

The side event was attended by 50 policymakers, researchers, technologists and geospatial experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, Gambia and Singapore. Opening remarks were delivered by the UN-GGIM Americas Caribbean Vocal (Jamaica) and head of the statistical innovation and dissemination and SDG unit of the Statistics Division of ECLAC. The three-part event featured the importance of location intelligence in propelling growth, highlighting geospatial challenges, including data availability, access, and usage, financing, leadership and national mandates in SIDS.

This was followed by short presentations by experts from the United States Census Bureau, the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Esri, University of the West Indies - St. Augustine and the National Spatial Data Management Branch of Jamaica's Ministry of Economic Growth and Job

Creation. They delved into solutions that leverage location intelligence and geospatial technologies (eg. 3D mapping, GeoAI, mobile GIS) and shared the tiers of institutional arrangements which exist globally and regionally to support the development and strengthening of national geospatial data management. The panel members also highlighted some data platforms, tools and applications that are available in the Americas, such as CARIGEO's Caribbean GeoPortal, the Geospatial Observation Centre - UWI, and the SIDS Global Data Hub which was launched during the 4th SIDS conference. Also featured was the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) which is being used by many SIDS to build their geospatial information management networks. This segment concluded with a lively interactive discussion segment led by the representative of the UN-GGIM Private Sector Network.

The third section shared real-life geospatial applications from Barbados, Jamaica, and Singapore, on how location intelligence accelerates development across various sectors. Paul Collymore from Barbados shared the geospatial application used to solve the mischief of not having an official address system. With this new application Barbadians now have efficient delivery, emergency response and other address management services. Simone Lloyd showcased how the Government of Jamaica through strategic partnerships was using location intelligence and geospatial tools to support tourism sustainability through sargassum modelling, enhance national security measures and strengthen climate resilience monitoring and response efforts. Lim Liyang of Singapore highlighted the importance of strong collaboration among government agencies and having partnered with their Ministry of Health, using location intelligence to build inclusive communities that provided for barrier free routes for wheelchair users. This was one of many applications and services provided by the Singapore Land Authority.

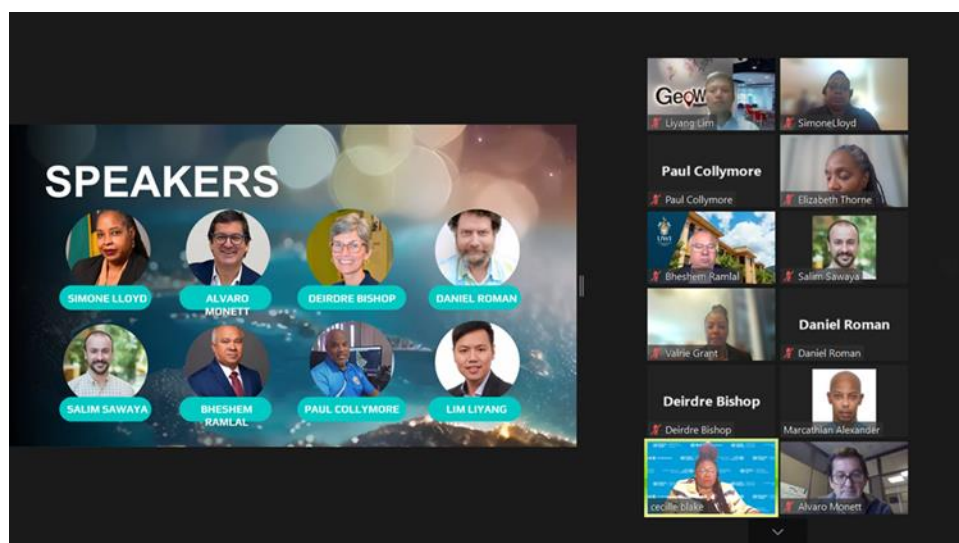


Figure 1: Speakers at the UN-GGIM Americas side event (30th May2024)

Key recommendations for action:

To conclude the side event, a representative of the UNSD gave a summary of the key takeaways. They were as follows:

- location intelligence can be a panacea to development, as it facilitates planning, monitoring and responding to national priorities and challenges.
- There was a call to action for stakeholders to focus on forging strong partnerships, identify synergies across collaborating organizations, make solutions accessible across these organizations and thereby enhance development efforts.
- The need to strengthen capacity development particularly in the areas of Earth Observation, invest more in research and innovation and to engage in technical professional support.
- There are existing international, regional, and national institutions and arrangements (such as UN Statistics Division - UN-GGIM, FIG, UN-GGIM Private Sector Network, the



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SDG Data Alliance, University of the West Indies – St. Augustine) that support the work of organizations using geospatial data and location intelligence.

- Data, tools, frameworks, and solutions exist and are accessible. There is the SDG data hub, the recently launched SIDS Global Data Hub, the Geospatial Observation Centre at the University of the West Indies- St. Augustine, and the Caribbean Geoportal.
- Country representatives were encouraged to use the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to create and or strengthen their own technical networks, while not being afraid to test new approaches.

For additional information, including concept note and agenda, biographies, presentations and event recording, please see the side event page at: [CARIGEO Virtual Side Event #V24 - "Location Intelligence the Panacea to Accelerated Development in SIDS" | CEPAL](#)