

Geospatial Data Taxonomy for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

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Abstract:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data for measuring, monitoring and reporting on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The relevance of Data, including geospatial data, is evident to fulfil the responsibilities and mandates of the United Nations, to accelerate the attainment of the sustainable Development goals (SDGs) and African Union Agenda 2063. In particular, fundamental geospatial datasets are crucial for addressing these global and regional development goals and aspirations.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in its effort to strengthen the capacities of African member States, promotes and supports countries in building their fundamental datasets in order to make geospatial information readily available and easily accessible. In this regard, ECA conducted a study in the identification of fundamental geospatial datasets that are relevant for the SDGs. This study is published, in November 2020, as technical document titled: 'Geospatial Data Taxonomy for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa'. The study identified geospatial datasets that are important for the SDGs indicators. The geospatial information has been organized into geospatial feature classes using the global fundamental geospatial data themes. For semantic reasons it is important to provide a geospatial data taxonomy for these geospatial feature classes. The geospatial data taxonomy describes the geospatial feature class, its logical data model, the collection and maintenance of the features and their use in the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The assessment was conducted at the level of the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and found that 126 (51.4%) of the indicators require geospatial information, and that some such information is required for all 17 Goals. This study furthers the work of the African Action Plan on Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development¹.

This presentation will discuss the Geospatial Data Taxonomy developed by ECA.

References:

1. UNECA, 2017. Geospatial information for sustainable development in Africa: African action plan on global geospatial information management 2016-2030, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), October 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.