

## **Geo-Information: A Critical Tool for Development Planning and Management**

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### **Abstract**

Geographically referenced information has become indispensable for numerous aspects of development planning and management. The increasing importance of geo-information has been due to recent strides in spatial data capture and management, as well as the development of analytical techniques such as high resolution mapping of poverty and inequality. This presentation will discuss some of the implications from the perspective of the World Bank, a multilateral development bank whose main task is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth in its partner countries. An important conclusion is that the donor community needs to work more closely with its national counterparts, private sector and non-governmental partners to ensure that investments in spatial data development yield the greatest possible benefit. Developing and implementing a spatial data infrastructure should be seen as an integral component of a country's overall social and physical infrastructure planning.