

Moving Towards Global Spatial Data Infrastructure: Improving Data Integration at the Global Level

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Abstract

There is general agreement in the international community about the need for establishing a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) to ensure interoperability, enhance return on investment, and improve geospatial data sharing among the geographic information user community. However, to realize such a global SDI, the international community needs to effectively adopt common practices and geospatial data standards.

This paper therefore proposes a framework with suggested practices and standards that would improve data integration, data quality, and sustainability at the global level. If applied by the geographic community around the world, this framework would maximize investments and minimize redundant creation of geospatial information for use in many areas such as public health, disaster response, land use management, urban planning, agriculture, forestry, education, and other important sectors needed for social and economic development.

The opinions expressed in this paper are solely those of the authors and do not represent official policy of their respective organizations.

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