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**Abstract**

Supporting small and developing nations to improve their geospatial capabilities was highlighted through the Mexican experience and international initiatives including the Caribbean Project. In the case of Mexico, a constitutional change in 2006 established a National System of Statistical and Geographical Information (SNIEG). The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), as the coordinating central unit of the system, regulates the operation and coordinates the SNIEG and brings together geospatial and statistics in the same organisation. As a result, the institution performs the population census as well as the economic census, the agricultural, livestock and forestry census of the country. In terms of the Caribbean Project, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico established an agreement to develop the project for strengthening the spatial data infrastructure in the Caribbean under the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee. As an example of international best practice to build geospatial capacity, the project aims to reduce the gap in the management of geospatial information in the countries of the Caribbean region with respect to the other countries of the continent, and supports the integration and participation of Caribbean countries in the UN-GGIM:Americas initiatives.

- The Mexican experience

    o The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) is a public agency and responsible for governing and coordinating the National System of Statistical and Geographic Information (SNIEG)

    o The mission of the INEGI is to generate, integrate and provide statistical and geographic information

    o this integration has allowed to geo-reference many statistics, as well as determining the exact location of economic, social and environmental issues and needs

    o The INEGI recognises the value of Open Data and makes all information it produces available as an open source that can be downloaded

    o SNIEG has four information subsystems, whose objectives are to produce, integrate and disseminate information in their respective areas: (1) Economic, (2) Socio-demographic, (3) Government and Justice, and (4) Geographical and Environmental Information

    o Two pilot projects are currently underway at INEGI, as part of the country-level work for the Satellite Imagery, Remote Sensing and Geo-Spatial Data Task Team of the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

        ▪ focus on defining long-term climatic trends, with an aim towards developing climate change modelling scenarios

- How do developing nations gain the geospatial edge?

    o Support interoperability of data to strengthen or support the development of SDIs

    o Example: The Caribbean Project

- An international best practice example for capacity building for strengthening of the Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Caribbean

- training alternatives analysed in terms of priorities and major needs of States and Territories of the Caribbean region

- The Caribbean Project is divided into three main actions: Diagnosis, Capacity Building and Infrastructure Acquisition

- an analysis of the spatial data infrastructure status in the 18 participating countries

- training courses on Practical Geodesy, Remote Sensing, Spatial Data Infrastructure and use of Free Software for Web Applications

- purchase equipment for the strengthening of the geodetic network in the region

- It is important for smaller countries to be invited to and part of UNGGIM