



Spatial Information Management Advisory Group

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Some FAO priorities

- **Putting information within reach**
Statistics, knowledge networks, analyses, data dissemination
- **A meeting place for nations**
A neutral setting where rich and poor nations can work toward common, global objectives
- **Bringing technical knowledge to the field**
Know-how to collect and use information - biodiversity, land quality, climate variability, agronomy, rural livelihoods → food security
- **Policy analysis**
Agricultural, forestry, fishery policies to achieve rural development, alleviate hunger, reduce poverty (MDG's)

Some challenges we ALL face ...



- Variable quality of most of the key terrestrial data and information
- Generating information that is genuinely demand-driven
- National policies that restrict data access
- Poor data and information management, update, assembly, assimilation
- Weak mechanisms (habits?) for data and information sharing, collaborative analysis

... more challenges



- Uncoordinated investment in end-to-end institutional capacity
- Unharmonised data and information collection and dissemination methods and standards
- Unused data and information – point data, field analyses, archived satellite data ...
- Limited awareness of information sources and related benefits



Factors in addressing user needs

- Drivers having an impact on food security dynamics
- Inter-dependencies in analytical objectives – e.g. watersheds, landscapes, biomes, countries, regions
- Diversity of stakeholders and their specific interests, concerns
- Political, institutional, socio-economic and environmental users' context
- Temporal and spatial requirements of data and information



Why SIMAG?

- **Learn** from complementary experiences and expertise
- Address **common challenges** to our respective institutions
- Build toward a **multi-scale membership** - users, providers, managers
- **Synergies** that can build habits of collaboration
- **Networking** through inter-linked projects to promote technical quality and vocational education and training
- Serve as a **catalyst and a voice** for national, regional, and global cooperation

What is SIMAG



- A collaborative association
- An operational and strategic partnership
- Enhanced international cooperation in spatial information management
- Capacity development to address users needs

March meeting: Expectations



Improved use of resources:

- Reducing duplication
- Promoting harmonization of data and information systems, standards, protocols
- Facilitating interoperability, information sharing and data quality
- Integration of bio-physical and socio-economic data
- Education and capacity building

Bridging technological divides:

- Involving international, national and local partners
- Advocating the spatial information management needs of members to a variety of groups (GEO, IGOS, ...)
- Encouraging cooperation and capacity building activities

March meeting: Proposed activities



- Implementation of test beds addressing real country situations
- Organization of capacity building activities
- Creation of spatial information management working groups in selected countries/regions (e.g. Mozambique)

Members ... so far ...



- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • CGIAR - CSI | • ITC |
| • CIESIN | • IVM |
| • CSE | • PPF |
| • EC-JRC | • UNEP |
| • EOGEO | • UNGIWG |
| • FAO | • UNICEF |
| • GCIRC | • URISA |
| • GLCF | • Waterpartners |
| • ISDE | • WFP – VAM |
| | • WHO |

Vision



- **Consultative and inclusive** process to encourage cross-sectoral communication, and be based on inter-disciplinary management approaches
- Learn from **"best practice"** procedures, and facilitates the possibility of procedural convergence
- **Country-driven** capacity development efforts – tools, information management, analysis
- **Partnership-oriented**
- **Institutional commitment** to information networking sharing, and capacity-building

Conditions for success



- A shared and clear **vision and strategic framework**
- **Alignment** with other information management initiatives at national and global levels
- Coordination of **funding efforts**
- Members **institutions' commitment** and ownership of SIMAG
- Maximize **collaboration and partnerships** in regard to information sharing, expertise and in-kind support
- **Communication** of progress
- Vertical **integration of stakeholders** from local to global and horizontally across sectors

Taking the next step



- Clear terms of reference: objectives, activities and outputs
- Definition of members' roles
- A sustainable and coherent strategy for implementing tor's
- Tangible collaboration opportunities leading to pilot projects
- Commitment and support for implementation of the strategy
- Identification of potential new partners - gaps in the geographic/thematic diversity

... from this workshop



An *ad hoc* group to develop:

- **TORs**
- **A draft action plan** (based on a SIMAG strategy) with a few key outputs in a defined timeframe
- **Criteria for success**
- Potential national and regional **activities**
- **Funding opportunities** in support of SIMAG

... by 25 September? 😊



Advice – start modestly with some achievable goals ... build gradually on those successes.

Good luck!

<http://www.eogeo.org/projects/SIMAG/>