

National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: The Journey So Far

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SUMMARY

Geospatial Information (GI) are essential to socio-economic planning and development, and are much a part of the nation's infrastructure as its other elements (e.g., the transportation network, the health care system, telecommunication) and should be accorded the same level of support and priority because they provide information on the geography of the country in terms of her assets and potentials. Thus there is a strong economic justification for investment by government in the collection and management of fundamental GI as component of National Information Infrastructure in order to ensure that GI permeate every aspect of society and are readily available as and when needed.

The successful launch of Nigeria's Earth Observation Satellite (NigeriaSat-1) and its immediate impact on development activities in the country has also served as catalyst to the development of the country's national geospatial data infrastructure (NGDI). The paper presents the achievements made so far in the development of NGDI in Nigeria including the generation of fundamental datasets from NigeriaSat-1. The National Committee has been inaugurated with necessary sub-committees. The task of these various committee and sub-committees and laid down strategies are discussed in the paper. A summary of the policy on which the development of SDI is based is also presented. When analyzed against the developments at regional level in Africa, the Nigerian approach may serve as one of the best practices for the development of SDI at national levels.