

## Why 'Where' Matters in the Post-2015 World

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Presentation to the

### **Spatial Innovations and Best Practices (SIBP) Forum**

**Jointly Organized by the World Bank and FIG**

**Following the Annual Conference on Poverty**

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Washington, D.C.

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## Outline

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- *A Geospatial Review of “A New Global Partnership” – a Starting Point*
- *The Millennium Development Goals: Spatial Issues?*
- *The “GeoEconomy”*
- *What is infrastructure in today’s world?*
- *The role we see for geo-information in the Post-2015 World described by the High Level Panel*
- *Conclusion*



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## A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: ERADICATE POVERTY AND TRANSFORM ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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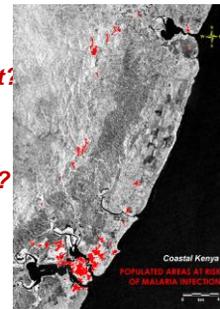
The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on  
the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- *I am assuming that we have all read this excellent report*
- *In it you will find the following words:*
  - *“land” repeated 23 times;*
  - *“location” and “geography” (used interchangeably) 13 times; and*
  - *“information” is used 40 times.*

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## A Call to Geospatial Action!!

- *Every issue mentioned, every problem addressed, and every goal suggested seems to require someone to answer a question that begins with one word: “Where....?”*
  - *Where are the inequalities?*
  - *Where is the risk of disease (e.g. malaria) highest?*
  - *Where are resources being illegally depleted?*
  - *Where is the property boundary?*
  - *Where must the quality of statistics be improved?*
  - *Where should we be monitoring?*
  - *Where has the disaster struck?*
- *Simply put, at first glance the report reads like a call to action for the world’s geospatial community!*



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## But on second thought....

*There is no specific reference to maps or geospatial information, and there is no indication that anyone sees either a need for or use of such information.*

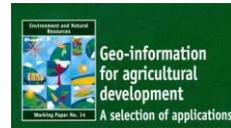
*However...*

*Without geospatial information and tools how can we answer the “Where” questions? And thus...*

*How can the goals be met, or progress measured?*



*Or put another way:*



*‘Where’ Matters in the Post-2015 World!*

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## Taking a More Positive Geospatial View...

- *Since everyone does or should understand the value of geographic information, we will work on the basis that it is simply another case of geo-information being taken for granted...!*
- *The balance of this presentation will address:*
  - *Where the High Level Panel believes the Millennium Development Goals fell short – and how that relates to geo-information;*
  - *The GeoEconomy;*
  - *The UN’s view of infrastructure;*
  - *The role we see for geo-information in the Post-2015 World described by the High Level Panel*



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**Where the High Level Panel believes the Millennium  
Development Goals fell short...**

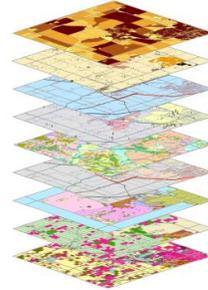
or Geospatial to the Rescue!

***The MDGs fell short “by not integrating the economic,  
social and environmental aspects of sustainable  
development”***

***The obvious question is “How can one begin to integrate the  
economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable  
development?”***

***The answer is: “You begin by integrating  
information on all of these aspects”***

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**More questions and answers...**

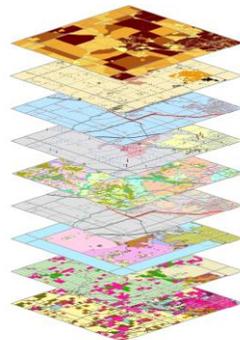
***And the next question is: How can one organize  
and portray that integrated information?***

***The answer is: By location...on a “map” or the digital  
equivalent in a GIS or spatial data infrastructure...***

***What is the result? Every aspect ends up with a  
specific location identifier so that any one aspect  
can be compared to any other aspect or attribute  
anywhere else.***

***And why do you want to do this? To allow  
comparisons/monitoring, to communicate  
information, and do so in a transparent and  
consistent manner***

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## The GeoEconomy



- *The economy we are now in*
- *Is driven by and dependent upon geographic information*
- *Historic links to the past when human survival depended on an individual's understanding of local geography*

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## Why are geo-information and geo-technologies so important?

- *They have had major impacts on society.*
- *They have changed the way people think, what they perceive to be possible, and what actions they choose to take*
- *Access to and control of geospatial data and technologies shifts the distribution of power*
- *Countries with limited geomatics implementation have the potential to realize proportionately greater benefits from geospatial data and technology*

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## Why have they had such impacts?

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*There are many reasons – here are but a few points:*

- *We are inherently a visual species*
- *Geo-information allows us to discover, understand, and communicate different perspectives*
- *By communicating the information, we can influence and inform – leading to changes in policy and behavior*
- *Consider the writing of McLuhan – think of geo-information and technology as being a medium that can contain a message*



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## Infrastructure in Today's World

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*Motion adopted by the United Nations in 1999:*

*“Whereas maps and geospatial data derived from a combination of Earth observation information and other data were as much a part of a nation’s infrastructure as the transportation network, the health-care system, telecommunications and education, **the creation of a national geospatial infrastructure should be accorded the same level of support as the other elements of national infrastructure.**”*

**Need we say more? Actually, yes!**

- *The data must be accurate and believable...crowd sourcing may not be the answer*
- *This is especially so in two cases:*
  - *For land tenure accurate LEGAL descriptions are needed*
  - *In disaster response where people’s lives are at stake one also needs accurate (for the purpose), credible and reliable information*

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## The Role for Geo-information in the Post-2015 Goals and Targets set by the High Level Panel

- *There are twelve illustrative goals and fifty targets*
- *1. End Poverty*
- *2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality*
- *3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning*
- *4. Ensure Healthy Lives*
- *5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition*
- *6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation*
- *7. Secure Sustainable Energy*
- *8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth*
- *9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably*
- *10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions*
- *11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies*
- *12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance*



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## Criteria for Assessing the Importance of “Where”

- **Key** = “where” information is important in meeting the target
- **Monitor** = “where” information is definitely needed to monitor or track results and achievements
- **Analyze** = “where” information is used in analysis relating to results of activities
- **Organize** = “where” information is important in organizing, communicating or displaying results
- **Contributing** = “where” information usefully contributes to the goal and target
- **Limited** = “where” information is limited in use and importance, but may be useful to map/compare the situation from one place to another
- **None** = there will be little or no use for where information



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## So how does “where” relate to the 54 targets?

- **“Where” information**

- *Is key in 12 of 54 – or 22%*
- *Is important for monitoring in 11 of 54 – or 20%*
- *Is used in analysis related to results in 11 of 54 - or 20%*
- *Is important in organizing, communicating or displaying results in 14 of 54 – or 26%*
- *Usefully contributes to the goal and target in 11 of 54 – or 20%*
- *Will play a limited role for comparisons from one place to another in 35 of the 54 – or 65%*
- *Does not appear to play a role in 7 of 54 – or 13%*

- **We believe “where” will play a role in 47 of the 54 targets...or 87%**



## Conclusion

*There is one inescapable major conclusion from this simple analysis: ‘Where’ will matter a great deal in the Post-2015 World*

*The secondary conclusions are:*

- *Limiting access to geospatial data will negatively impact development and attaining most of the targets identified*
- *Policies for accessing and using geospatial data will be of increasing importance - and (in my experience) should be country specific and not “borrowed” from others.*
- *Standards associated with geospatial data will be important – and must be amenable for use in the development context*

*Some remaining questions:*

- *Do decision-makers understand the importance of geospatial ?*
- *What will the role of crowd-sourcing be?*
- *Are there enough trained people to do the work? And if not, how will people be trained?*



**Skiing in British Columbia**

**Thank you!**

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**Sunset in British Columbia**

**THE END!!**

