



GSDI in transition

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Presentation

- Describes the NSDI phenomenon
- Considers the evolution of GSDI since its beginning in 1996
- Outlines work in progress on the creation of a GSDI Association
- Considers some issues and challenges that must be faced in the future

The NSDI phenomenon - 1

■ Landmarks

- 1986 Australian ALIC set up
 - To coordinate the collection and transfer of land related information between the different levels of government
- 1990 US FGDC set up
 - To coordinate the development, use, sharing and dissemination of surveying mapping and related spatial data
- 1993 MSC report on ‘Toward a coordinated spatial data infrastructure for the nation’

The NSDI phenomenon - 2

■ Landmarks

- 1994 Clinton Executive Order 12906
 - Coordinating geographic data acquisition and access: the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- 1996 First Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Conference in Bonn, Germany
- 1999 The first generation of NSDIs paper
 - 11 nations identified up to 1996
- 1998-2000 53 countries respond to GSDI survey
- 2002 120 countries considering SDI projects

GSDI survey findings

- 53 countries reporting NSDI progress up to 2000
- Geographical spread
 - Europe - 13
 - Americas - 21
 - Asia and the Pacific - 13
 - Africa - 6

What is a SDI?

- The GSDI definition

- “The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure supports ready global access to geographic information. This is achieved through the coordinated actions of nations and organisations that promote awareness and implementation of complimentary policies, common standards and effective mechanisms for the development and availability of interoperable digital geographic data and technologies to support decision making at all scales for multiple purposes.”

Four main components

- Overriding objective to maximise the use of national geographic information assets
- This requires some form of coordinated action on the part of government
- It must be user driven ‘to support decision making at all scales for multiple purposes’
- This involves a wide range of activities including technical and institutional matters and human resource development

The GSDI Conferences

- GSDI 1 Bonn Germany Sept 1996
- GSDI 2 Chapel Hill NC October 1997
- GSDI 3 Canberra Australia November 1998
- GSDI 4 Capetown South Africa March 2000
- GSDI 5 Cartagena Colombia May 2001
- GSDI 6 Budapest Hungary September 2002
- GSDI 7 Bangalore India February 2004

The evolution of GSDI - 1

Early days

- GSDI 1 Bonn Germany Sept 1996
 - Time to start thinking about the GSDI concept
 - Need for a global forum to facilitate the exchange of ideas and develop joint activities
- GSDI 2 Chapel Hill NC October 1997
 - Need to get support from decision makers in business, government and academia
 - Establishing an organisational nucleus to promote SDI at all levels

The evolution of GSDI - 2

Initial formalisation

- GSDI 3 Canberra Australia November 1998
 - Creating an organisational framework: Steering Committee, GSDI surveys and Working Groups
 - Importance of capacity building in developing countries and countries in transition
- GSDI 4 Capetown South Africa March 2000
 - FGDC offers to host interim secretariat
 - First edition of cookbook

The evolution of GSDI - 3

Towards a GSDI Association

- GSDI 5 Cartagena Colombia May 2001
 - Moving beyond a conference organisation towards a GSDI Association
 - Start of consultation process
- GSDI 6 Budapest Hungary September 2002
 - Board of Directors tasked to create a GSDI Association
 - And prepare a Strategic Plan for the Association

GSDI Achievements - 1

- Creation of a multidisciplinary forum for exchange of SDI ideas and experiences at the global level
 - Through its Conferences and publications
 - Through activities of its Working Groups
- Strong links with other transnational and global bodies
 - Global level - UNGIWG, Global Map etc
 - Regional level - EUROGI, PCGIAP etc

GSDI Achievements - 2

- Institutional creation at the regional level
 - Establishment of PCIDEA in March 2000
 - Establishment of CODI in May 2003
- Growing importance of capacity building
 - GSDI 5 launch of ESRI Global Map/GSDI grant programme
 - GSDI 6 launch of Intergraph Open Inter-operability grant programme

Creating the GSDI Association

- Incorporated in Virginia in June 2002
- Board of Directors operating since September 2002
 - Past, present and incoming Presidents, chairs of Technical and Legal and Economic Working Groups and secretariat
- Byelaws approved by GSDI Steering Committee/ Council in January 2003
- Plan to have Association fully operational by GSDI 7 at Bangalore in February 2004

Mission of the GSDI Association

- To serve as a point of contact and effective voice for those in the global community involved in developing, implementing and advancing SDI concepts,
- To foster SDIs that support sustainable social, economic, and environmental systems integrated from local to global scales,
- To promote the informed and responsible use of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society.

Membership goals - 1

Primary goal inclusiveness

- Three membership categories
 - Full members - national regional and international organisations
 - Associate members - national and sub national organisations
 - Individual members
- Governed by Council made up of Full members

Membership goals - 2

- Inclusiveness goal reflected in subscription levels
- Distinction between public/private, academic and not for profit organisations
- Distinction between countries with high, medium, low and very low per capita incomes

Draft strategic plan

- Currently in preparation by the Board of Directors and the Secretariat for approval by the Council at GSDI 7
- Vision
 - To foster development of an infrastructure that will allow all users simple access to global spatial data at a variety of scales to support all spatial data needs

Strategic plan goals

- To develop awareness and exchanges on infrastructure issues for all relevant levels from local to global
- To facilitate standards based data access/discovery through the Internet
- To promote, encourage, support, and conduct capacity building
- To foster SDI development research
- To establish active fund raising programs to conduct these activities

Develop awareness and exchanges

- Provide forums for SDI professionals, scientists, and applications people on a regular basis to share and exchange ideas
- Collaborate with other global organisations in developing SDI awareness and interaction by contributing technical papers, building mutual technical sessions, providing workshops on SDI topics, conducting training, etc within their technical forums
- Provide for direct interaction with policy makers around the world to develop SDI awareness and encourage SDI development

Goal 1 continued

- Maintain and update the GSDI Cookbook and other relevant publications related to SDI development
- Maintain a current web presence through the GSDI web page with appropriate linkages to related organisations promoting the same principles
- Publish a GSDI Newsletter
- Build an awareness within other disciplines as to the application of geospatial decision support tools for their mission needs.

Facilitate standards based data access/discovery through the Internet

- Create simple and effective Internet catalogue services based on international specifications
- Develop standardised metadata that accurately defines the data, how to access it, and its integrity
- Develop data models for common data themes using a SML that allows transformation between local, national, and international spatial data schemes
- Support the development of business cases for spatial data access through the development of return on investment models

Encourage capacity building

- Conduct SDI awareness training for both officials responsible for SDI activities and those responsible for other disciplines that make use of spatial data
- Conduct training for those that may be coordinating SDI activities within any country
- Facilitate the sharing of information and case examples of best practice
- Provide on-site support as requested for hands-on work to accomplish the above activities
- Conduct follow-up with those trained in order to determine progress
- Establish a knowledge infrastructure

Promote and conduct SDI development research

- Stimulate the academic community to conduct research relating to SDI development
- Maintain an online SDI library of reference material
- Implement a small grant program in support of SDI research
- Facilitate networking of SDI researchers around the world

Establish an active fund raising program to support these activities

- Enlist professionals and decision makers to build a fund raising (grant seeking) programme
- Identify and partner with global donor organisations to seek out and obtain funds to conduct capacity building throughout the world
- Keep abreast of the current/changing state of funding mechanisms for regional and global public good
- Prepare requisitioning instruments and follow up with donors

Issues and challenges

- Getting the Association off the ground
 - December 2003 deadline for Founder members
 - Achieving inclusiveness in its membership
- Creating a sustainable organisation
 - Supporting an Executive Director
- Contributing to global, regional, national and local SDI debates
- Representing its members in Global forums -
eg UN World Summit on the Information Society
Geneva Dec 2003 and Tunis 2005

Useful URLs

- www.gsdi.org
- www.gsdi7.org.in

- www.eurogi.org
- www.pcgiap.org
- www.pcidea.org.co
- www.uneca.org