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**Cartography in the SDI Changing World Session:
Some reflections on the Role of Cultural Diversity
and the Current Development of SDI Initiatives**

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Culture, beliefs and the development of SDI at local and national levels

Early developments in GSDI focused on the idea of a unique global SDI concept (GSDI 1, Bonn, 1996). However, reality is proving that not only ICT infrastructure, financial or administrative situations are delaying in developing nations, aside from well known achievements, the production and availability of global data sets, the development of SDI main components or limiting the possibilities to attain a minimum level of sustainability due, to a relevant point, to cultural and philosophical reasons, frequently diminished or ignored.



GSDI Definition Revisited

"The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure supports ready global **access** to geographic information. This is achieved through the **coordinated actions** of nations and organizations 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.**

These actions encompass the policies, organizational remits, data, technologies, standards, delivery mechanisms, and financial and human resources necessary to ensure that **those working at the global and regional scale are not impeded in meeting their objectives**"

<http://www.gsdi.org>



A concern regarding the role of non technical variables in SDI building in Developing Nations

“Culturally speaking, particularly, there is a problem of attitude and a history of isolation, ill-defined ideas, language barriers, and financial challenges. In every country SDI will reflect local social and economic conditions, cultural aspects and elements related to national identity. In regions like Latin America and the Caribbean the road ahead is not easily paved for initiatives like GSDI. Why is this happening ? SDI concept and key tools not yet clear? Only a lack of a human, technological and financial base? all of them?”

(Borrero, GSDI 2, USA, 1997)

“Technology itself does not ensure the successful use and application of digital data and information technology, infrastructure, and connectivity do not necessarily equate to information access and a real bridging of the digital divide”.

(Borrero, UNSIS, CERN, 2003)



Current trends in SDI development

From a product to a process model

From data producers to data users

From database creation to data sharing

From centralized to decentralized structures

From formulation to implementation

From coordination to governance

From single-level to multilevel participation

From existing to new organizational structures

GIS Worlds
Creating Spatial Data Infrastructures
IAN MASSER
ESRI Press 2005



SDI, Development and the Evolution of Cartography

"Cartography in all its ramifications (Visualization, Virtual reality, Communication, etc.) is still a partly unexplored and un-researched facility. If it was abandoned as a field for research and merely left in the hands of technology-driven market forces, it could become fixed in a time-warp, wither and lose all of its potential for good".

Michael Wood, 2001

"Cartography begins where SDIs finished"

Milan Konecny, PAIGH, 2004



Taking this challenge into action: The Reengineering of PAIGH in 2004

<> PAIGH is innovating to change and looking for greater relevance, in scientific development, related decision making and improved understanding of the people in the Americas, in the context of spatial and historical dimensions

1. *85.71% of the respondents signaled the need to incorporate with priority and effectively new generations of GI specialists to PAIGH*
2. *76.19% indicated the need for PAIGH to contribute to capacity building activities involving the institutions in charge of basic and thematic GI production*
3. *61.9 % backed the need to promote technical cooperation projects of a multidisciplinary nature*
4. *57.14% stressed the need to regularly translate into Spanish information produced in English concerning SDI components*





PAIGH and ICA recently signed a MoU

Objective: To improve the liaison between the two organizations for the benefit of cartography and spatial data application in the Americas

Mexico, February 2005



PAIGH OAS GI Hemispheric Initiative for Integral Development

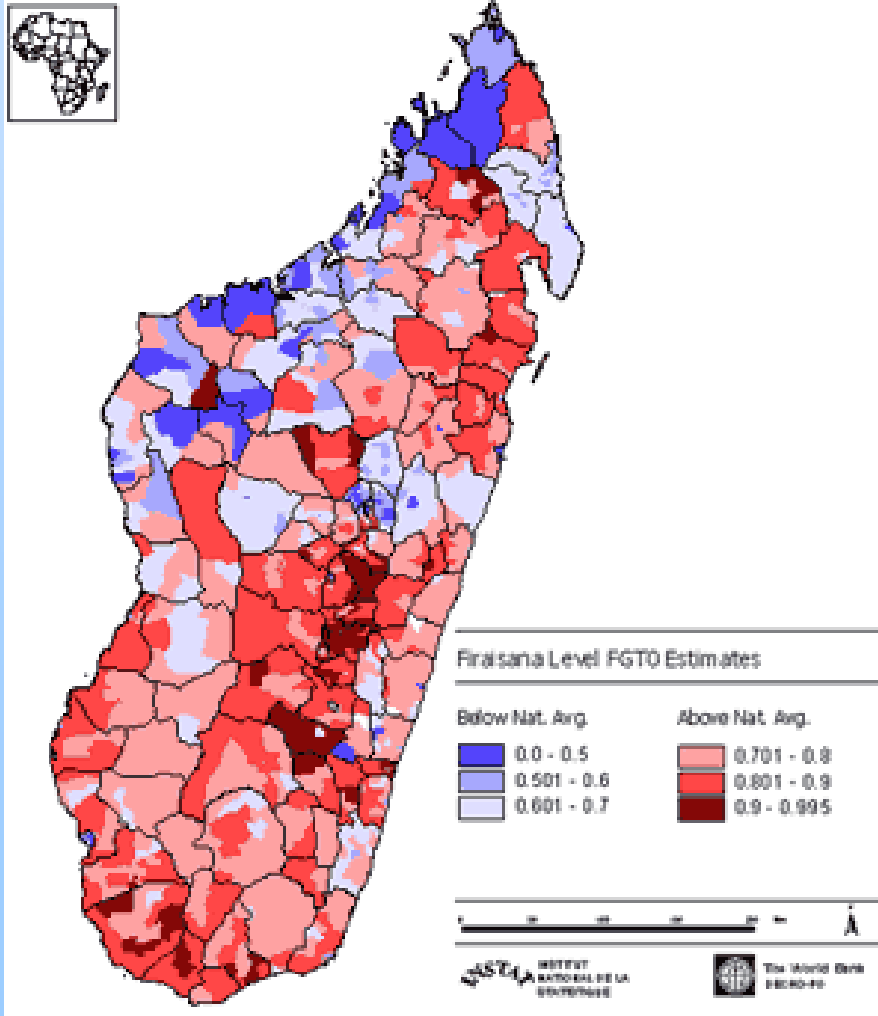
- The OAS Science and Technology Lima Declaration (2005)
- Purpose of the PAIGH OAS initiative and main components:
 1. To stimulate the formation of GI national policy
 2. To deliver capacity building services to specialized agencies producing basic and derived spatial data
 3. To promote the application of GI international standards
 4. To develop a PAIGH's Geoportal for the Americas
 5. To stimulate the production of National Digital Maps
- The new Virtual Map of the Americas
- The 2005 Summit of the Americas (Argentina, 2005)

With this Initiative PAIGH seeks to consolidate the renovated role of GI in the Americas and to facilitate that specialists see their goals and projects stimulated with the readiness of spatial or geographical, affordable and applicable data.



Beyond WB Poverty Net

Madagascar Poverty Incidence: Commune Level



From Mistiaen (2002), "Putting Welfare on the Map in Madagascar." World Bank.

There are many types of poverty maps, a variety of use for these maps, and different ways to create them. The analysis of poverty, its determinants and poverty-reducing interventions therefore requires a focus on poverty information that is further geographically disaggregated.

Mapping poverty, World Bank



Embracing Cultural Differences in a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Emerging technologies and spatial data infrastructure developments hold great promise for supporting economic and social development and enhancing individual and cultural autonomy, self-determination, and justice among all people of the world. Yet the emerging technologies also threaten cultural differences and menace personal individuality by shaping and potentially homogenizing the way we live, work and act. The tension between the ***benefits to be gained by technology and standardization*** and ***benefits to be gained by retention of cultural diversity*** needs to be recognized.

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Por su atención,

¡Gracias!

<http://www.ipgh.org>

