

The Nairobi Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development

**Robert P. MAHONEY and Robin A. MCLAREN, United Kingdom and
Jes RYTTERSGAARD, Denmark**

Key words: Spatial Data, Spatial Data Management, Spatial Data Infrastructure.

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the Nairobi Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development were to:

- Contribute to the international community's effort to advance the implementation of the Habitat agenda
- Understand the role of the surveying community in implementing the Habitat agenda
- Urge governments and stakeholders to implement integrated land information management
- Strengthen and promote the relevant information to support FIG Agenda 21

The conference recommendations are intended to support politicians, senior managers and professional organisations by providing greater understanding of the need for Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) and how they can be used to support sustainable development.

The conference recognized that every National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is different due to a variety of cultural, social and economic factors unique within each country. However, there are a significant number of common elements that can be shared. It is recognized that a key success factor of implementing NSDI is the management of information as an asset, just as finance and human resources. Mature NSDI's are complex solutions involving a number of stakeholders. However, those who have a NSDI have started with clear short-term objectives and corresponding simple solutions. The use of Spatial Information to support sustainable development will only be achieved if solutions start with realistic objectives and grow incrementally through political and market needs.

Many of the key infrastructure requirements of NSDI, e.g. pervasive telecommunications and internet access are not widely available in some countries, this limits the applicability of leading edge NSDI technical solutions. Vendors are encouraged to understand the needs of developing countries and design and market appropriate technical solutions.

NSDI's are underpinned by effective partnerships and co-operation amongst a wide variety of multi-disciplinary stakeholders in public and private sectors and the end user communities. Countries are encouraged to form appropriate policy and institutional frameworks and facilitate co-operation amongst stakeholders. The creation of a 'proof of concept application' can be used to gain and continue political support whilst feeding into the formulation of NSDI policy and strategy.

TS3.1 Commission 3 in Progress

Robert P. Mahoney, Robin A. McLaren and Jes Ryttersgaard

The Nairobi Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development

FIG XXII International Congress

Washington, D.C. USA, April 19-26 2002

CONTACT

Robert P. Mahoney
ENGLAND
E-mail: robmahoney@compuserve.com

Robin A. McLaren
SCOTLAND
E-mail: robin.mclaren@knowledge.com

Jes Ryttersgaard
DENMARK
E-mail: jr@kms.dk

TS3.1 Commission 3 in Progress
Robert P. Mahoney, Robin A. McLaren and Jes Ryttersgaard
The Nairobi Conference on Spatial Information for Sustainable Development

FIG XXII International Congress
Washington, D.C. USA, April 19-26 2002