

# **THE ROLE OF GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION IN ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – THE GHANAIAN SITUATION**

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# Outline

- Sustainable Development Goals and geospatial technology
- Initiatives of the Government of Ghana in application of geospatial technologies
- Challenges
- Possible solutions and Conclusion

# Sustainable Development Goals and Geospatial Technology (1)

- SDGs shows that they all deal with information which has some relationship to the location of events or activities in various parts of the world including Ghana
- as the international community moves forward with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the spatial dimension should not be forgotten
- geospatial data is becoming more relevant and an important factor, contributing directly and indirectly to the development of countries, especially in Africa
- they enable agencies to carry out their functions quickly and more efficiently with reliable, accurate, and relevant information at the right time, place and cost

# Sustainable Development Goals and Geospatial Technology (2)

- With geospatial technologies and data, Policymakers, such as my Ministry, can make decisions on land management, mining, forestry, agriculture, water resource management, environment and urban development.
- In the same vain, investors can use spatially defined infrastructure and population data to understand existing service coverage and opportunities for future investment
- Citizens can use mobile devices to find their closest public transportation options, government offices for voter registration, or schooling options

# Geospatial Technology and Data Application in Ghana

## Land Management

- National Land Policy
- National Geospatial Policy
- National Spatial Development Framework
- Establishment of a Geodetic Reference Network, and updating of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) nationwide
- Provision of up to date maps for Land Management purpose
- Ghana Enterprise Land Information System (GELIS)
- a GIS based Land Use Planning and Management Information System

# Agriculture, Research and Environment

- Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERGIS)
- spatial databases for mapping land use and land cover changes, desertification and flood hazards
- The deployment of geo-enabled technologies in agriculture
- Use of LiDAR technology to support rice cultivation in the rice growing areas
- A Street Naming and Property Addressing exercise
- The established the National Information Technology Agency

# CHALLENGES

- foundations such as clear legal basis, adequate funding, a robust governance structure, adequate number of people with the right skills, agreed standards, standardised technologies and investment in core or fundamental spatial datasets to cover the entire country
- most developing countries, including Ghana, are yet to benefit fully from these technologies
- most developing countries including Ghana only have open access to low-resolution imagery, since higher resolution imagery can be cost prohibitive
- Need to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

# CONCLUSION

- But of course several questions still have to be answered;
- what investments have to be made and on what platforms;
- how do we connect our visions to realities;
- who takes decisions and who takes the responsibilities;
- which technology to adopt and which business processes to follow;
- how do all the individual interventions converge to provide the needed integration;
- and finally, “*where is the money*” and how do you make a good business case to convince Governments to make such investments.



THANK YOU