Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in South-East Asia 2022: A Compendium





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The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacitybuilding services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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United Nations publication

Sales No.: E.22.II.F.16 Copyright © United Nations 2023 All rights reserved Printed in Bangkok ISBN: 9789211208481 eISBN: 9789210021968 ST/ESCAP/3052

Photo credits: Cover: Earthstar Graphics (ESRI) Chapter 1: LAPAN, Indonesia 2020 Chapter 2: University of Hong Kong, 2022 Chpater 3: GISTDA,Thailand Chapter 4: Chulalongkorn Flood and Early Warning System (CULFEWS) Team, Thailand, 2022 Chapter 5: ipopba: Istock

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FOREWORD

The depth and range of geospatial practices featured in this Compendium are proof of the steady progress that countries in South-East Asia are making to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Compendium features their achievements under the Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (2018–2030) whose priority thematic areas are fully aligned with the regional priorities to achieve the SDGs.

Alongside well-established space applications in drought prediction and monitoring, we see emerging applications of space science and technology that improve the spatial mapping of poverty incidence; increase the availability and accessibility of air pollution data; accuracy and tracking of greenhouse gas emissions; and enable evidence-based accounting of land and other natural resources. In the context of the ongoing effort to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, geospatial information proved useful in understanding, tracking, and targeting the response to the epidemiological aspect of the pandemic, as well as its socio-economic impacts.

The demand for knowledge-sharing, technical support and expert training remains consistently high for many member countries to make geospatial information and space applications available, accessible, affordable, and actionable. Regional cooperation within ESCAP can help countries in responding to these demands as many examples in this Compendium show. The regional cooperation enabled by the Plan of Action can significantly facilitate sharing and access to satellite imagery and other required data, technical expertise, and resources. Countries in Asia and the Pacific appreciate the results delivered during the first phase of implementation of the Plan of Action and commit to strengthen their collaboration for scaled-up contributions of space applications and geospatial information to sustainable development.

The guiding theme for accelerating progress in implementing the Phase II of the Plan of Action has converged around "Space+ for our Earth and future" which comprises four components, namely (a) leveraging innovative digital applications; (b) engaging end users, including the private sector and youth; (c) managing data and information more effectively; and (d) enhancing partnerships with national, regional and global stakeholders.

As Ministers and Heads of Space Agencies convene at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Jakarta, we hope that this Compendium will contribute to recognising the achievements of countries, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and replication of good practices across the region, while also providing a direction in further strengthening regional cooperation to further accelerate the Phase II of implementing the Plan of Action . We also hope that the achievements and innovations of countries featured in this Compendium will inspire and increase the involvement of young people in the space sector.



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in South-East Asia 2022: A Compendium is a biennial publication series produced under the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030). With a South-East Asia focus, this 2022 edition was prepared under the leadership of Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary and Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) provided direction and advice.

This report benefited from the guidance of the members of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme (RESAP) who reviewed the Compendium in various stages of its development at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth session in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Under the guidance of Keran Wang, Chief of the Space Applications Section, IDD, Kareff Rafisura led the preparation and writing team. Members of the core drafting team consisted of Hamid Mehmood, Chul Min Lee, Ayeisha Sheldon, Armita Behboodi, and Rhys Newman Persoon. Patricia Budiyanto managed the collection of inputs from ICC members.

ESCAP staff and consultants who provided inputs and comments include Sanjay Srivastava, Madhurima Sarkar-Swaisgood, Maria Bernadet Karina Dewi, Sapna Dube and Nazira Alimzhanova of IDD; Ayodele Marshall of Statistics Division, Shailja Sharma and Makoto Shimizu of Statistical Training on Disaster and Environment. UN volunteers Mashal Riaz, Gene Rankey, and ESCAP interns Jing Ling, Katharine Mairin Rockliff, Rui Lui, Nanxun Shen, Zherong Wu, Yuhong Gao, and Jingqi Zhang provided research support. Tarnkamon Chantarawat, Yukhontorn Suewaja; and Pradtana Limkrailassiri provided administrative and coordination support.

The submissions received from national space agencies and authorities on space and geospatial information applications in South-East Asian countries made this Compendium possible: Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, Thailand; National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia; the Philippine Space Agency; and the Centre for Remote Imaging, Sensing and Processing; and the Office of Space Technology & Industry, Singapore. The Compendium was further enriched by inputs received from United Nations agencies and other international organizations: United Nations Satellite Centre of UNITAR; United Nations World Food Programme; and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

The following experts provided important insights as peer reviewers: Tatiya Chuentragun (Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, Thailand); P. G. Diwakar (National Institute of Advanced Studies, India); Khaled Mashfiq (United Nations Satellite Centre of UNITAR); and Sanath Panawennage (Arthur C Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies, Sri Lanka).

The manuscript was edited by Anoushka Ali. The graphic design and layout were created by Jeff Williams.

This Compendium may be used in conjunction with the Online database of geospatial practices and dashboard for reporting on the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030), which serves as a living repository of regional and national activities implemented during Phase I of the Plan of Action. Submissions received from non-South-East Asian members and associate members are uploaded to this database.

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