



United Nations



4th International Conference on SIDS
27-30 MAY, 2024 - ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

CONCEPT NOTE

SIDS4 Virtual Side Event

Leveraging Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

29 May 2024

08:00 – 09:30am (Eastern Daylight Time)

Convened by



UN-GGIM
UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

UN-GGIM Task Team on Geospatial Information for Climate Resilience

in collaboration with

Lands and Surveys Department, Barbados

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Kingdom of Tonga

Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom

Event Objective

The primary objective of the side event is to build awareness and explore innovative applications of geospatial information for climate resilience. By fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and dialogue, we seek to identify best practices, lessons learned, and opportunities for integrating geospatial solutions into climate resilience initiatives for Small Island Developing States.

Background

Our changing climate is increasing the fragility of the most vulnerable countries, making adaptation and mitigation even more difficult, leaving those that are already the furthest behind in terms of development further behind still. Although strengthening climate resilience is essential for all countries, it is especially crucial for SIDS hampered by their unique vulnerability to exogenous shocks due to their small size, geographical remoteness and the limited scale and undiversified nature of their economies. Moreover, the intensification of extreme weather events caused by climate change can severely damage infrastructure, agriculture, and public health systems, resulting in high economic and social costs. Bluntly, while SIDS contribute less than one per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, they disproportionately suffer from climate change impacts. Around 75 per cent of their coral reefs are threatened by climate change. The cost for environmental adaptation is estimated between USD 22 billion and USD 26 billion yearly, underscoring the need for urgent global cooperation and support.

As the basis for understanding what is happening when, where, and why, geospatial information is crucial towards identifying how communities are, and could, be impacted by climate change. With this knowledge, we can take action. Whether it's assessing the impact of climate change, determining loss and damages, or developing effective mitigation strategies, all these efforts are intrinsically tied to a geographic location. In this respect, geospatial information will be crucial in assisting decision-makers in SIDS to make suitable decisions that align with government priorities and support national resilience, adaptation, and mitigation policies. By harnessing the power of geospatial data, we can enhance resilience, promote sustainability, and create more efficient and equitable societies.

Objectives

The primary objective of the side event is to build awareness and explore innovative applications of geospatial information for climate resilience, showcase the UN-GGIM discussion paper *Applying Geospatial Information to Climate Challenges*, and shares national examples of the use of geospatial information for climate resilience. In particular, participants at the side event will be informed of the following:

- High-level statements and perspectives on the importance of geospatial information for climate resilience by global leaders from Member States.
- How Member States are leveraging geospatial information for climate resilience
- Highlighting national good practices of integrated geospatial information management in SIDS

Target Audience

Policymakers, environmentalists, academia, researchers, technologists, and other key stakeholders involved in climate resilience and policy formulation for Small Island Developing States.


Provisional Agenda

Time	Topic	Potential speakers
5	Welcome and introduction	H.E Ambassador Francois Jackman, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, Barbados
15	High-level keynotes setting the context for SIDS and the relevance of geospatial information for climate resilience	H.E. Elizabeth Thompson, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary with Responsibility for Climate Change, Small Island Developing States and Law of the Sea, Barbados Ms Rebecca Fabrizi, SIDS Envoy, United Kingdom
10	The role of geospatial information for climate resilience	TT-GICR Convenors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr David McCollin, Lands and Survey Department, Barbados • Mr David Henderson, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom
20	Showcasing how geospatial information fosters climate resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Victor Khoo, Singapore Land Authority, Singapore • Dr Mark Bynoe, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
20	Panel discussion Exploring the changing global context. What geospatial information can provide.	TT-GICR Convenors Case Study presenters
5	Wrap up and concluding thoughts.	TT-GICR Convenors