

New development in Global Map: An Operational GSDI for Sustainable Development

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Global Mapping is a project to provide fundamental digital geographic information of entire land area of the Earth on 1:1 million scale under international cooperation of national mapping organizations. The data are distributed free of charge for non-commercial use through the Internet.

The number of participating countries is now 130. Data of eighteen countries have already been released on the Internet. At the Tenth Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) held in Okinawa, Japan in July 2003, new tasks were decided that the project should be implemented in order to enhance the use of Global Mapping. These are

- 1) to create a web portal that provides Global Map data through web mapping technology and
- 2) to allow releasing data that are not fully compliant to Global Map specifications with appropriate metadata. It also re-confirmed the decision of the previous meeting to develop global scale land cover data by its Working Group 4 and to revise the Global Map specifications to meet the latest international standards and to incorporate larger scale data for Phase 2 of Global Mapping.

This paper describes the status and these new challenges of the Global Map project and discusses its future directions.

Full paper not available .