

Why ‘Where’ Matters in the Post-2015 World

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Outline

- **A Geospatial Review of “A New Global Partnership” – a Starting Point**
- **The Millennium Development Goals: Spatial Issues?**
- **The “GeoEconomy”**
- **What is infrastructure in today’s world?**
- **The role we see for geo-information in the Post-2015 World described by the High Level Panel**
- **Conclusion**



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A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: ERADICATE POVERTY AND TRANSFORM ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

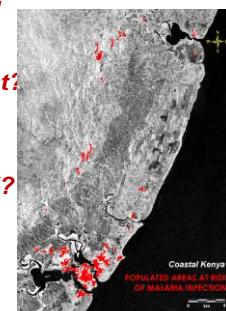
The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on
the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- *I am assuming that we have all read this excellent report*
- *In it you will find the following words:*
 - “land” repeated 23 times;
 - “location” and “geography” (used interchangeably) 13 times; and
 - “information” is used 40 times.

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A Call to Geospatial Action!!

- *Every issue mentioned, every problem addressed, and every goal suggested seems to require someone to answer a question that begins with one word: “Where....?”*
 - *Where are the inequalities?*
 - *Where is the risk of disease (e.g. malaria) highest?*
 - *Where are resources being illegally depleted?*
 - *Where is the property boundary?*
 - *Where must the quality of statistics be improved?*
 - *Where should we be monitoring?*
 - *Where has the disaster struck?*
- *Simply put, at first glance the report reads like a call to action for the world’s geospatial community!*



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But on second thought....

There is no specific reference to maps or geospatial information, and there is no indication that anyone sees either a need for or use of such information.

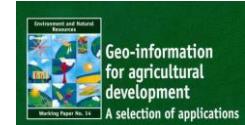
However...

Without geospatial information and tools how can we answer the “Where” questions? And thus...

How can the goals be met, or progress measured?



Or put another way:



'Where' Matters in the Post-2015 World!

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Taking a More Positive Geospatial View...

- ***Since everyone does or should understand the value of geographic information, we will work on the basis that it is simply another case of geo-information being taken for granted...!***

- ***The balance of this presentation will address:***



- ***Where the High Level Panel believes the Millennium Development Goals fell short – and how that relates to geo-information;***
- ***The GeoEconomy;***
- ***The UN's view of infrastructure;***
- ***The role we see for geo-information in the Post-2015 World described by the High Level Panel***

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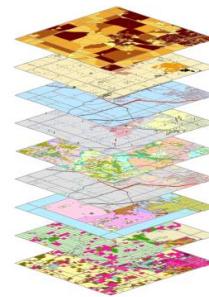
**Where the High Level Panel believes the Millennium Development Goals fell short...
or Geospatial to the Rescue!**

The MDGs fell short “by not integrating the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development”

The obvious question is “How can one begin to integrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development?”

The answer is: “You begin by integrating information on all of these aspects”

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More questions and answers...

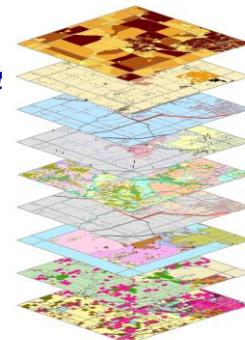
And the next question is: How can one organize and portray that integrated information?

The answer is: By location...on a “map” or the digital equivalent in a GIS or spatial data infrastructure...

What is the result? Every aspect ends up with a specific location identifier so that any one aspect can be compared to any other aspect or attribute anywhere else.

And why do you want to do this? To allow comparisons/monitoring, to communicate information, and do so in a transparent and consistent manner

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The GeoEconomy



- *The economy we are now in*
- *Is driven by and dependent upon geographic information*
- *Historic links to the past when human survival depended on an individual's understanding of local geography*

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Why are geo-information and geo-technologies so important?

- *They have had major impacts on society.*
- *They have changed the way people think, what they perceive to be possible, and what actions they choose to take*
- *Access to and control of geospatial data and technologies shifts the distribution of power*
- *Countries with limited geomatics implementation have the potential to realize proportionately greater benefits from geospatial data and technology*

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Why have they had such impacts?

There are many reasons – here are but a few points:

- We are inherently a visual species
- Geo-information allows us to discover, understand, and communicate different perspectives
- By communicating the information, we can influence and inform – leading to changes in policy and behavior
- Consider the writing of McLuhan – think of geo-information and technology as being a medium that can contain a message



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Infrastructure in Today's World

Motion adopted by the United Nations in 1999:

"Whereas maps and geospatial data derived from a combination of Earth observation information and other data were as much a part of a nation's infrastructure as the transportation network, the health-care system, telecommunications and education, the creation of a national geospatial infrastructure should be accorded the same level of support as the other elements of national infrastructure."

Need we say more? Actually, yes!

- The data must be accurate and believable...crowd sourcing may not be the answer
- This is especially so in two cases:
 - For land tenure accurate LEGAL descriptions are needed
 - In disaster response where people's lives are at stake one also needs accurate (for the purpose), credible and reliable information

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The Role for Geo-information in the Post-2015 Goals and Targets set by the High Level Panel

- ***There are twelve illustrative goals and fifty targets***
- ***1. End Poverty***
- ***2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality***
- ***3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning***
- ***4. Ensure Healthy Lives***
- ***5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition***
- ***6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation***
- ***7. Secure Sustainable Energy***
- ***8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth***
- ***9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably***
- ***10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions***
- ***11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies***
- ***12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance***



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Criteria for Assessing the Importance of “Where”

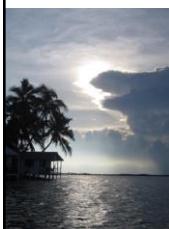
- ***Key = "where" information is important in meeting the target***
- ***Monitor = "where" information is definitely needed to monitor or track results and achievements***
- ***Analyze = "where" information is used in analysis relating to results of activities***
- ***Organize = "where" information is important in organizing, communicating or displaying results***
- ***Contributing = "where" information usefully contributes to the goal and target***
- ***Limited = "where" information is limited in use and importance, but may be useful to map/compare the situation from one place to another***
- ***None = there will be little or no use for where information***



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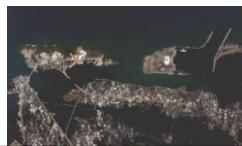
So how does “where” relate to the 54 targets?

- “Where” information



- Is key in 12 of 54 – or 22%
- Is important for monitoring in 11 of 54 – or 20%
- Is used in analysis related to results in 11 of 54 - or 20%
- Is important in organizing, communicating or displaying results in 14 of 54 – or 26%
- Usefully contributes to the goal and target in 11 of 54 – or 20%
- Will play a limited role for comparisons from one place to another in 35 of the 54 – or 65%
- Does not appear to play a role in 7 of 54 – or 13%

• We believe “where” will play a role in 47 of the 54 targets...or 87%



Conclusion

There is one inescapable major conclusion from this simple analysis: ‘Where’ will matter a great deal in the Post-2015 World

The secondary conclusions are:

- Limiting access to geospatial data will negatively impact development and attaining most of the targets identified
- Policies for accessing and using geospatial data will be of increasing importance - and (in my experience) should be country specific and not “borrowed” from others.
- Standards associated with geospatial data will be important – and must be amenable for use in the development context

Some remaining questions:

- Do decision-makers understand the importance of geospatial ?
- What will the role of crowd-sourcing be?
- Are there enough trained people to do the work? And if not, how will people be trained?

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Skiing in British Columbia

Thank you!

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Sunset in British Columbia

THE END!!