

SYMPOSIUM ON INTEGRATED APPLICATIONS (B5)
Tools and Technology in support of Integrated Applications (2)

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THE ROLE OF SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE
NIGERIAN CONTEXT

Abstract

Nigeria with its 36 States, a Federal Capital Territory, and 774 Local Government Areas is still largely underdeveloped due to the inability of private and public sectors to access reliable, accurate and timely data for decision making. High levels of activities in both sectors of the economy have resulted in the design and implementation of numerous individual geospatial database systems collecting data from diverse geographical locations across the country. Developing a platform for mapping the various data sets in these database systems to already existing geographic data using Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for information sharing among stakeholders is critical to achieving the implementation of Nigeria's National Space policy. As a result, the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) established the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI). This paper seeks to describe the current status of NGDI, outlines ways in which NGDI can drive socioeconomic development, enumerate challenges to the successful implementation of NGDI, and recommends ways to better reap the dividends of NGDI in Nigeria.