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Author: Mr. Olasunkanmi Oladejo
Centre for Space Research and Applications, FUTA, Nigeria, Nigeria

Ms. Bukola Babalola
Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Victor Ademoyero
Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Oluwafemi Adeyemo
Federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria, Nigeria

OPEN MAPPING FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: EMPOWERING
YOUTHMAPPERS AND OPENSTREETMAP COMMUNITY

Abstract

Universal access to Earth Observation data is heavily changing the rate sustainable development goals were being achieved. The transformative potential of open mapping in addressing societal and economic challenges through Earth Observation cannot be over emphasized. This paper underscores the critical role that open mapping plays in advancing sustainable development globally. The methodology involves mapping satellite imagery integrated into OpenStreetMap (OSM) platform and integrating Earth Observation technologies to enhance the accuracy and relevance of mapped information. The results showcase the tangible impact of open mapping on disaster response, urban planning, and resource management, demonstrating actionable insights derived from Earth Observation data. The collaborative efforts of YouthMappers and the OSM community exemplify a grassroots approach to responsible space practices, emphasizing inclusivity and community-driven initiatives. The paper concludes by advocating for continued support and recognition of these communities' contributions to responsible space practices. It reveals the practical application of open mapping in addressing real-world challenges using YouthMappers community project as a case study and emphasized the responsible use of space assets. The paper also addresses challenges faced by the open mapping community, including data accuracy concerns, while highlighting benefits such as open access to geographic information, fostering global collaboration, and empowering local communities to participate actively in sustainable development efforts. In summary, the integration of open mapping and Earth Observation emerges as a potent strategy for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with the YouthMappers and OSM community playing a pivotal role.