

Data Governance Strategy in Lesotho Based on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

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SUMMARY

Good data governance should ensure that the relevant actors in the production and use of geographic information in a sector benefit from quality and fit-for-purpose data. If data is shared, used and managed effectively, it contributes to optimal and sound decision making. The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) developed by the United Nations (UN-GGIM) and the World Bank provides a basis and guidance for developing and strengthening geospatial information management arrangements and related infrastructures, giving strategic direction for developing specific action plans.

The use case presented revolves around the application of IGIF to the development of a strategy for improving data governance in integrated watershed management in Lesotho. Specifically, Lesotho is experiencing several challenges such as accelerated land degradation and climate change that threaten economic development and the well-being and prosperity of the population. To this end, improving data governance for effective integrated watershed management is a necessity, aimed at making and supporting timely and informed watershed decisions.

Thus, under the analytical framework provided by IGIF and in the framework of the ReNoKa project funded by the European Union and implemented by GIZ, the data governance strategy based on IGIF was developed including an implementation plan, which details the specific recommendations to be made to support integrated watershed management, so that transformational change is enabled, visible and sustainable. These recommendations are implemented considering Lesotho's circumstances and priorities. Key elements of the action plan are the adaptation to the legal framework and procedures established in the country. Other aspects such as standards to enable interoperability and data quality, change management in institutions, capacity building, innovation and stakeholder participation are also

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considered.

The article develops the application of the IGIF framework from the assessment of the current data governance situation, the definition of the strategy and action plan with concrete recommendations and the development of some concrete baselines, using templates provided by IGIF. The article ends with an assessment of the applicability of IGIF and the strengths and opportunities for improvement based on the authors' experience.

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