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Report on the activities of the secretariat to implement the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030)

Note by the secretariat*

I. Introduction

1. In the present document, the secretariat provides a report of its activities in implementing the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030)[1] (Plan of Action) with support from the members of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP). The report covers the period from the conclusion of the twenty-eighth session of the ICC in November 2024 to July 2025 and is structured around the three modalities outlined in the Plan of Action: (i) research and knowledge-sharing; (ii) capacity-building and technical support; and (iii) intergovernmental discussions and regional practices. An independent evaluation will be conducted on the impacts of the activities every five years as part of the implementation of the Plan of Action. Accordingly, this report is factual in nature and does not attempt to assess the impacts of these activities. The next evaluation is scheduled for 2026.

II. Research and knowledge-sharing

Knowledge products and digital materials

2. Work is currently underway to release the annual update of the *Geospatial Good Practices Database and Dashboard* ahead of the twenty-ninth session of the ICC.[2] This update aims to facilitate the sharing of good practices across the Asia-Pacific region and support the monitoring of the implementation of the Plan of Action. At the time of writing, 700 practices have been captured representing nearly 3,900 actions implemented under the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018–2030). Inputs are drawn from RESAP members, online public sources, and presentations and statements delivered at United Nations meetings, including the sessions of the ICC on RESAP and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

[1] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Asia-Pacific Plan of Action on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (2018-2030)". Available at https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-plan-action-space-applications-sustainable-development-2018-2030

[2] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Geospatial Good Practices Database and Dashboard". Available at https://www.unescap.org/our-work/ict-disaster-risk-reduction/geospatial-good-practices-database-and-dashboard

* This document is being issued without formal editing.

3. The examples captured in the *Geospatial Good Practices Database and Dashboard* reinforce that Earth observation (EO), when integrated with sectoral data and innovative geospatial solutions, continues to play a vital role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, Australia, through Geoscience Australia's Earth Observation Program and its international partners, provided free satellite data and analysis tools to support disaster response, environmental protection and evidence-based decision-making. China has delivered emergency data support to 20 countries and contributed to 79 global emergencies through the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters (CHARTER). India promoted decentralized planning through Bhuvan Panchayat 4.0 exemplifying the operational use of space technology to address 14 out of 17 SDGs. This was further supported by its annual, national-level land use land cover mapping. Japan, through the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, led the Sentinel Asia initiative, a regional disaster monitoring network that shares satellite imagery with over 100 organizations across 30 countries. The Maldives Space Research Organization applies Earth observation for maritime and environmental security, including illegal fishing, coastal erosion, habitat degradation and land subsidence. Malaysia aligned its space development with the National Space Policy 2030, Malaysia Space Exploration 2030, and the Space Industry Strategic Plan 2030, fostering its growing space ecosystem and increasing the value of its space economy. Pakistan has developed a natural catastrophe model in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Management Fund, using georeferenced satellite data to assess risks from floods, droughts, cyclones and earthquakes.

4. In addition, the Philippines launched the *Space Data Dashboard* and the *Data Allocation and Operational Information* project and established the Copernicus Data Centre through the Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil). The Republic of Korea supported the *Space4Women Initiative* of UNOOSA and published a study on gender equality in the space sector. Singapore is leading the *Earth Observation Initiative* in partnership with the Mekong River Commission as a platform to catalyse the use of Earth observation by connecting users with solution providers to scale regional use cases that address sustainability and humanitarian challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. Thailand is developing *Dragonfly* for agriculture, *Check Foon* and *Life Dee* for air quality and health, and *Check Carbon* and *Carbon Atlas* for biodiversity and carbon monitoring.

5. A policy brief is being prepared to provide an overview of air pollution monitoring and management through the application of geospatial information. It draws on lessons learned from the implementation of the project, *Building the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information (PAPGAPI)*, that is funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) from 2020 to 2025. The project focuses on developing tailored, national decision support tools that incorporate remote sensing data and enhance the model simulations of air quality to include innovative ground and remote sensing data for forecasting and warning services in eight Asian countries. The policy brief presents current and future developments, relevant issues and challenges related to air pollution monitoring. It focuses on the application of geospatial information that is integrated with ground-based in-situ data, within the context of regional cooperation.

6. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee requested the secretariat to develop an online inventory of operational data and information platforms, products and services for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. In response to this request, an online inventory is being developed and incorporated into the *Geospatial Good Practices Database and Dashboard*, and publishes information from geospatial data sources, such as the Asia-Ocean Environmental Monitoring Platform; Bhuvan; Bhoonidhi; Copernicus Mirror Site in the Philippines; Geoportal and Basic Products Bank; Emergency Warning Satellite Service of Japan's Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS); Multi-GNSS Advanced Orbit and Clock Augmentation of QZSS (MADOCA); QZSS Navigation Message Authentication (QZNMA); and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Open Data Dissemination. The guidelines for using the above platforms and examples will be available in mid-September 2025. The secretariat will coordinate with RESAP members to introduce more useful and operational geospatial

information platforms to enhance the sharing of the geospatial data, tools and knowledge for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

7. The secretariat, with the support of researchers in the region, is developing a methodological tool to economically assess the benefits of investing in space technology and geospatial information applications through a compound return on investment index. The goal is to offer a practical, evidence-based mechanism to evaluate these investments in terms of cost savings, risk reduction and operational efficiency across sectors such as disaster risk management, agriculture and infrastructure. The proposed index consolidates measurable benefits into a single, interpretable metric to support strategic investment in space applications and innovations. Developed within the RESAP framework, the methodology is applied to three illustrative cases from the RESAP members with consideration to their climate exposure, technological readiness and data availability. These existing examples of India, Indonesia and Thailand demonstrate the model's functionality and highlight its scalability across different national contexts. The ongoing research will contribute to and strengthen decision-making by offering a quantifiable, economically grounded approach to empower space-enabled development through data and economic analysis.

8. The secretariat has begun preparing the 2026 edition of the publication titled *Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in North and Central Asia 2026: A Compendium*. Serving as the fourth edition of the biennial Compendium series, this edition will present 100 geospatial applications from the members of the RESAP in North and Central Asia in line with the six priority themes contained in the Plan of Action: (i) disaster risk reduction and resilience; (ii) natural resource management; (iii) connectivity; (iv) social development; (v) energy; and (vi) climate change. The Compendium will be launched at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in the fourth quarter of 2026.

External outreach

9. The ESCAP secretariat participated in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and the sixty-eighth session of the COPUOS, held in June 2025 in Vienna, Austria. The secretariat's statement,[3] delivered during the deliberations of the agenda items on Space and Sustainable Development, highlighted the support and achievements of ESCAP members in implementing the Plan of Action and contributing toward the Space2030 Agenda. It emphasized efforts to leverage digital innovations for space technology and geospatial information applications, including capacity-building, research, and sharing of knowledge and practices in disaster risk reduction and management, resilient agriculture, air pollution monitoring and regional cooperation.

10. As a member of the Space Applications for Environment (SAFE) under the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), the ESCAP secretariat participated in the SAFE CH4Rice Project Meeting, held on 21 January 2025 at the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) Thailand Headquarters. The secretariat will attend the thirty-first session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-31), which will be held between 18 and 21 November 2025 in Cebu City, the Philippines. As a member of the Satellite Applications for Societal Benefit Working Group (SAWG), the secretariat will contribute on the theme "Empowering the Region through Space Ecosystems in Action". The aim is to promote and facilitate the utilization of Earth observation and navigation satellite data, combined with ground-based information, to support global agendas on disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

11. As a participating organization of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the secretariat will continue its support to GISTDA and participate in organizing the 17th edition of the Asia-

[3] United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), "ESCAP_Agenda Item 8: "Space and sustainable development (rev.)", 2025. Available at https://www.unoosa.org/documents/pdf/copuos/2025/Statements/Thursday26PM/8_ESCAP.pdf

Oceania GEO (AOGEO) Symposium, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15 to 17 October 2025.

12. With regard to youth-focused activities, the ESCAP secretariat served as a technical resource person for the Model United Nations of the Russian Far East and briefed participants on 13 December 2024. ESCAP will also co-organize a youth forum and a capacity-building activity on GeoAI applications for disaster risk and resilience, in collaboration with the Philippine Space Agency and the University of the Philippines. To be held on 24 and 25 November 2025 in Manila, at the Philippine Geomatics Symposium, the activities will be organized with participants from ICC members in South-East Asia and the Pacific. These activities will serve as associated events of the ninth session of the Committee on Disaster Risk and Resilience, which will be held in the United Nations Conference Centre, in Bangkok, in November 2025.

III. Capacity-building and technical support

Training courses

13. During the period covered by this report, 532 individuals across the Asia-Pacific region successfully completed workshops and training activities, both in-person and online, that were organized by ESCAP. Of these, 183 individuals participated in sessions organized and hosted by project countries.

14. ESCAP also continues to implement youth-focused initiatives as called for by the Jakarta Ministerial Declaration on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/MCSASD/2022/L.4). A total of three training courses were conducted to support flood impact assessments using SatGPT.[4] Two events were hosted by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the support of GISTDA. The first training, held between 22 and 24 November 2024, focused on integrated risk management using geospatial data and disaster hotspot mapping. In May and June 2025, two thematic training workshops and youth forums were organized to strengthen institutional capacity in applying artificial intelligence (AI) and spatiotemporal data for flood analysis. The second training, held between 6 and 8 May 2025 at the Geoinformatics Center, Asian Institute of Technology in Pathum Thani, Thailand, was co-hosted by ESCAP, BRIN, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and GISTDA.[5] The third training was held between 17 and 19 June 2025, at the BRIN Headquarters in Jakarta, and convened alongside the twenty-first ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation, and the eighty-seventh ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation.[6]

15. These events brought together young professionals, researchers, policymakers and technical experts to explore the use of AI tools, like SatGPT, for disaster risk management. They also promoted inclusive innovation, youth engagement and the development of country-specific case studies using local datasets, while fostering regional collaboration and digital transformation for sustainable development. Participants also presented group projects and case studies showcasing potential applications of SatGPT based on local flooding scenarios and supplemented by locally available data. Participants from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand demonstrated how SatGPT's inundation hotspot data could be integrated into existing WebGIS platforms, while teams from China and Indonesia used the tool to estimate economic losses and analyse the link between flooding and climate patterns in Jakarta. Case studies from Jakarta also showed how SatGPT can support infrastructure damage assessment, water pump exposure

[4] SatGPT. Available at https://satgpt.net

[5] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Building institutional capacity to use artificial intelligence and spatiotemporal data for flood impact analysis: Thematic training workshop and youth forum", Geoinformatics Center, Asian Institute of Technology, Pathum Thani, Thailand, 6-8 May 2025. Available at https://unescap.org/events/2025/building-institutional-capacity-use-artificial-intelligence-and-spatiotemporal-data

[6] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Building institutional capacity to use artificial intelligence and spatiotemporal data for flood impact analysis", BRIN Headquarters, Jakarta, Indonesia, 17-19 June 2025. Available at https://unescap.org/events/2025/building-institutional-capacity-use-artificial-intelligence-and-spatiotemporal-data-0

analysis and vulnerable population mapping, providing valuable insights for urban flood management.

16. A cohort of five students from Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan began their studies in July 2025 in the nine-month postgraduate course on remote sensing and GIS for disaster management and sustainable development at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP). Their participation is supported through scholarships provided by the Government of India and fellowship support from ESCAP. The students are expected to graduate in April 2026.

17. New courses will be hosted on ESCAP's iLearn platform. These include training resources on SatGPT, a flood mapping tool developed by the secretariat, which are currently being prepared to be uploaded on the platform. Additionally, pre-training materials for SatGPT covering generative AI tools and cloud computing platforms will be made available to learners. Supplementary materials on remote sensing and geographic information systems are also under development.

Tools

18. Launched by the secretariat in 2024, SatGPT is a flood expert mapping tool that integrates Earth observation data, cloud computing and large language models. SatGPT is capable of mapping single flooding events and inundation hotspots, enabling the assessment of specific flooding scenarios and the impacts of historical flooding, respectively. It also simplifies the process of mapping flooding extent through prompt engineering, requiring users to input the date or period of inundation hotspots, the area of interest and return period along with a summary of the flooding events based on these inputs. The SatGPT code has been made public and users can use their own credentials to deploy SatGPT locally. To inform further tool development, a comprehensive needs assessment was designed and conducted during the SatGPT training workshops. The results exhibited strong institutional interest in adopting AI and spatiotemporal data for disaster risk management, particularly in flood mapping. While respondents recognized the potential of tools, like SatGPT, in enhancing geospatial workflows, they also identified key challenges in the integration of digital innovations. Some of the barriers include limited computing infrastructure, low AI literacy, lack of standardized workflows, data interoperability issues and the need for specialized training. These challenges reinforce the importance of institutional support and long-term funding to create an enabling environment that supports digital transformation and sustains innovation.

Field projects

19. The following field projects were completed:

    a) The *Building the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information (PAPGAPI)* project supported by KOICA has been successfully implemented in eight countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Over 200 participants completed various levels of competencies, strengthening training through in-person and online meetings in the eight target countries. The external evaluation report highlights positive impacts and the need to continue and expand the air pollution monitoring initiative.[7] For example, Indonesia developed a prototype decision support tool which incorporates GEMS data. Thailand developed a decision support tool by incorporating GEMS and Pandora data and is publicly accessible.[8] A project in the Philippines provided technology transfer, data-sharing, capacity-building and an international cooperation

[7] Filemon A. Uriarte, "Evaluation of the project on Building the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information", Evaluation report, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), February 2025. Available at https://repository.unescap.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0820358c-5f56-49fe-a68c-fa9752afc340/content

[8] GISTDA. Available at https://air.gistda.or.th/

initiative on air pollution.[9] This project has also supported the development of an online Partnership and Coordination Platform[10] for the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP), endorsed by ESCAP member States, which represents a guiding framework for regional cooperation on air pollution. The Platform provides a repository of collaborative work on air pollution that is being undertaken by regional and multilateral stakeholders and strengthens the impact of joint actions.

b) The project *Building resilient agricultural practices by integrating geospatial information for agricultural monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin: An emphasis on rice condition* supported by Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS) has been successfully completed. The project's most significant achievement is the adoption and institutionalization of data-driven agricultural monitoring through the CropWatch Cloud platform. Government agencies in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand have begun incorporating CropWatch-based assessments into their routine agricultural planning and decision-making. This transition from fragmented or ad-hoc data use toward coordinated, evidence-based approaches has strengthened rice production monitoring and improved resilience to climate variability. The final project meeting, which was held in Beijing from 29 to 30 April 2025, highlighted progress on building capacities to use CropWatch, shared field experiences, and discussed key lessons and suggestions for future regional cooperation.[11] The final project evaluation is underway and expected to be completed in August 2025.

c) Another initiative completed during this reporting period is *Building Institutional Capacity for the Use of Integrated Spatio-Temporal Data in Local SDG Monitoring and Decision-Making*, that is supported by China and implemented in Indonesia and Thailand. The project resulted in the institutionalization of data-driven decision-making for local SDG implementation. Local agencies involved in the project have begun incorporating newly developed geospatial databases and machine-learning tools into their official planning processes. In Bandung and Makassar, local departments have institutionalized a machine-learning-based slum mapping tool, greatly enhancing their capacity to identify vulnerable neighbourhoods and expedite interventions accurately. Meanwhile, in the Songkhla Lake basin of Thailand, local authorities have begun using the newly developed geospatial database and models for environmental management decisions, focusing on critical aspects like water quality and ecosystem preservation. This shift – from fragmented data usage to integrated, evidence-based planning – has increased local SDG monitoring and decision-making accuracy and timeliness. By identifying underserved areas more precisely and allocating resources more effectively, authorities are better equipped to provide critical services in the water, sanitation and housing sectors.

20. With continued financial and technical support from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Uzbekistan, the secretariat continues to implement the following field projects:

a) Initiated in 2024, the *Promoting Crop Biodiversity through Innovative Use of Space Applications* project is being implemented in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to improve the availability and accessibility of crop biodiversity data. Subnational focus areas were selected to be the Junrejo District, East Java (Indonesia); Batac, Ilocos Norte (the Philippines); and Tanjung Karang, Selangor (Malaysia). With

[9] Republic of the Philippines, Office of the President, Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), "Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information Project and the Pandora Asia Network (PAPGAPI-PAN) Philippines Project", 2025. Available at https://philsa.gov.ph/papgapi-pan/

[10] Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution (RAPAP) Partnership and Coordination Platform, "Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information", n.d. Available at https://www.rapap-platform.org/Multilateral-Mechanisms/Detail/?id=MCM-1008

[11] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Building resilient agricultural practices by integrating geospatial information for agricultural monitoring in the Lower Mekong Basin: Final project meeting", Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), Beijing, China, 29-30 April 2025. Available at https://www.unescap.org/events/2025/building-resilient-agricultural-practices-integrating-geospatial-information

support from the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), country teams that were led by national space agencies and partner universities conducted training sessions and coaching clinics on collecting field data to assess crop biodiversity, which included field sampling, drone mapping, socioeconomic surveys and data analysis.

b) Phase II of the *Building Institutional Capacity for the Use of Integrated Spatio-Temporal Data in Local SDG Monitoring and Decision-Making* initiative is currently underway in Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan. To demonstrate how artificial intelligence (AI) tools can enhance the integration of spatiotemporal data in support of local-level SDG implementation, each pilot country has selected a specific thematic focus. In Indonesia, the focus is on developing methods to identify potential pond retention locations in the Cimanuk-Cisanggarung River Basin, West Java Province (SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation). In Pakistan, efforts are directed toward strengthening forest monitoring in the Attock district (SDG 15: Life on Land). Thailand is developing a water quality monitoring system and sustainable marine fish cage management in Koh Yor, Songkhla Lake, while Uzbekistan is working on developing a system to monitor soil salinity in Zarbdor district, Jizzakh region (SDG 2: Zero Hunger). The thematic focus for Sri Lanka is still being finalized.

c) Systems development, field assessments and validation exercises are currently underway in Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan. In Indonesia, a series of technical focus group discussions were conducted by BRIN and Water Resources Department of West Java Province in July 2025. In Pakistan, the National University of Sciences and Technology convened a workshop on harnessing AI, remote sensing and GIS for forest monitoring in support of SDG 15 (Life on Land) from 5 to 6 August 2025 in Islamabad. The Prince Songkhla University in Thailand led a technical assessment on the feasibility of establishing a geospatial-based monitoring and early warning system for Songkhla Lake, while the Uzbek Space Agency convened a multi-agency inception meeting in February 2025 in Tashkent.

d) A new initiative to strengthen the capacity of Central Asian countries in using Earth observation and geospatial tools for drought and crop monitoring has been launched. The project aims to support countries in the region to harness recent advances in space technology and geospatial data for improved drought management. It also seeks to facilitate timely access to space-derived data, regional expertise and technical resources. Supported by the Russian Federation, the project focuses on Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and draws on the expertise of the ESCAP Regional Drought Mechanism nodes – China, India and the Russian Federation – along with national institutions, to develop an operational drought monitoring system and a cloud-based crop monitoring platform. The project inception meeting was held from 13 to 15 May 2025 at the Asian Institute of Technology, in Thailand , bringing together government officials, technical experts and key stakeholders from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as from regional and international centres of excellence.[12] National-level workshops are being organized by the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and the Uzbek Space Agency from 13 to 15 August 2025 and 18 to 20 August 2025, respectively.

e) Another initiative titled *Enhancing Capacity in Developing Countries for Digitally Driven AI and Geospatial Analytics in Disaster Risk Management*, was launched in 2025 with support from China and in collaboration with countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific. The project aims to strengthen disaster risk management in developing countries by integrating advanced AI technologies to harness their exceptional efficiency and precision

[12] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Workshop on Building Drought and Agricultural Monitoring Capacity in Central Asia through Earth Observation and Geospatial Technologies", Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand, 13-15 May 2025. Available at https://unescap.org/events/2025/workshop-building-drought-and-agricultural-monitoring-capacity-central-asia-through

in analysing large datasets for disaster mapping, particularly floods. It will work with Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand to build institutional capacity within national space agencies and disaster management authorities to adopt AI-driven innovations.

f) The Government of India continues to provide scholarships to support young professionals from developing countries in pursuing a nine-month postgraduate course on remote sensing and GIS for disaster management and sustainable development at the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP). Since 2018, ESCAP has partnered with CSSTEAP to provide fellowships under this programme. Through this collaboration, 33 young geospatial professionals from 14 developing countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar (pre-2021), Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand and Uzbekistan, have graduated. Of these, 18 are women. The testimonials from fellows of the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth courses are available on the ESCAP and CSSTEAP websites.[13, 14] In December 2024, ESCAP joined the Governing Board CSSTEAP as an observer.

IV. Intergovernmental discussions and regional practices

21. The Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific has been working closely with the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) and the regional committees in Africa, the Americas, the Arab States and Europe to ensure that Asia-Pacific members remain engaged in global processes. Serving as the secretariat for the UN-GGIM-AP, ESCAP has continued to provide support in line with its mandate and guidance from the UN-GGIM.

22. The ESCAP secretariat has provided support for organizing the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in November 2024 in New Delhi, which brought together 110 participants from 29 member countries to discuss regional priorities, under the leadership of the UN-GGIM-AP President from the Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia.[15] In addition, the ESCAP secretariat is also supporting the UN-GGIM-AP to strengthen collaboration with key geospatial partners, including the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence and the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, to promote knowledge-sharing, technical cooperation and the exchange of good practices.

23. During the period covered by this report, the secretariat facilitated the timely provision of approximately 20 gigabytes of satellite imagery and products. This data was provided by China, Japan, India, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, to disaster-affected countries in the Pacific, Central Asia and South-East Asia, to conduct damage assessments for floods and earthquakes through the RESAP network and in collaboration with the United Nations Satellite Centre, the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, and Sentinel Asia.

V. Guidance requested from ICC members

24. The members of the ICC are requested to provide the secretariat with further guidance on the following:

[13] United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Building geospatial skills to empower the next generation for a resilient future", Blog, 11 October 2024. Available at https://unescap.org/blog/building-geospatial-skills-empower-next-generation-resilient-future

[14] Toon Thiti, "CSSTEAP-28th P.G. Course in RS and GIS 2025", YouTube video, Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), 22 March 2025. Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa4Z7WztfgA

[15] Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), "Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP", n.d. Available at https://un-ggim-ap.org/meeting/thirteenth-plenary-meeting-un-ggim-ap

a) Offering guidance and support to address key challenges in integrating digital innovations in space and geospatial information applications for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Such challenges include limited capacity in AI applications and infrastructure, data interoperability and specialized training. These challenges reinforce the importance of institutional support and long-term funding to create an enabling environment that supports digital transformation and sustains innovations;

b) Recommending approaches to further enhance substantive cooperation on space science and technology and their applications to leverage innovative digital applications, manage data and information more effectively, engage end users and enhance partnerships with national, regional and global stakeholders;

c) Identifying approaches and practices related to the integrated applications of remote sensing, GIS, and satellite navigation and positioning for disaster preparedness and risk reduction, and for engaging the youth to actively participate in innovative geospatial applications; and

d) Finding opportunities to mobilize financial, technical and human resource support to implement the Plan of Action and for potential contributions from ICC members.

25. The secretariat would also like to invite offers from members to co-organize the thirtieth session of the ICC (ICC-30) in 2026 and the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (MC-5) in the fourth quarter of 2026.