



Minutes of the Zimbabwe SDI Workshop – 27 November 2003, Jameson Hotel, Harare

- Many thanks go Mr. Garikayi Mpande of ICRISAT who speedily came up with these minutes; the spirit of this nature is what we are encouraging in our ZSDI initiative. I have also used the notes from Mr. Tendayi Manyumwa of UZ to beef up the minutes. The notes from the other two Rapporteurs are also welcome so that we can come up with an even more correct record of our workshop.

This workshop could not have been a success without assistance from the following organizations :

- Surveyor General's Department and the SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit for jointly organizing the workshop.
- The United States Geological Survey (USGS) – EROS Data Centre for providing technical assistance as well as facilitating the funding of the workshop.
- Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) for providing the grant that was used to fund the workshop.

Present:

See Appendix II

1) Introduction of the Guest of Honor and distinguished guests

Mr. Mavima welcomed the Honorable Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural resettlement Dr. Joseph Made. For the purposes of appreciating the diversity of the participants, he asked each and every participant to identify him/herself, noting the organisation represented and what the person in the organisation.

Mr. Mavima went on to explain the purpose of the SDI workshop. He briefly explained that program of the day, the presentations that were to be made; he explained that he had received apologies from Mr. Gowera on his intended presentation; he highlighted the nature of the discussions expected for the plenary session and the subsequent election

2) Opening speech by Honorable Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement

The Minister started by recognizing the Master of Ceremony (Mr. Reuben Mavima), The Acting Surveyor General Mr. Guvaza, The Director of Meteorological Services - Dr. Amos Makarau, The Manager for Standards Development (SAZ) Mrs. Romana Marunda, The Projects Manager (SARDC) Mr. Stanley Mubako, The Data/GIS Specialist (RRSU) Mrs. Dorothy Nyamhanza and all the other participants present.

The Minister's General Remarks (outside the prepared speech)

The Minister noted that the forum should carry out its discussions taking into account the fact that the government is engaged in a major land reform exercise that is going to result in a lot of some institutional changes. He indicated that when the participants start looking at the issues listed for the plenary session, they should consider how some of these issues can assist in the land reforms being carried out by government. The Minister also reminded the forum that it is the government that is the overseer of policies in this country.



He also took note of the representation from the Meteorological Department, expressing his worry (food security worry) over the delay in the coming of rains and in the end challenged the Met Dept to improve their accuracy in terms of predicting rainfall and weather patterns in general.

The Minister then went on to deliver his prepared speech (copy still to be obtained).

After he finished Mr. Mavima thanked him for his speech and for sparing time within his tight schedule to come and officially open the workshop. He requested that the Minister should stay and listen to his presentation that covered the overall objectives of the workshop. The Minister concurred.

3) SDI Concepts, Lessons from other countries and Pertinent Issues in the Zimbabwe context. (by Mr. Mavima)

Mr. Mavima started by defining and explaining what Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) was all about. He noted that this is an initiative taking place the world over. There is no mechanism at the moment to inventory all the data sets on the work that has been done since GIS projects started in Zimbabwe. ZSDI is envisaged to take care of that through the establishment of a metadata clearinghouse.

He informed the workshop that the SDI Africa cookbook is now available and this is a good reference for those working in SDI related issues in Africa. Datasets should be available to the people through the documentation of all data (metadata) sets that have been created to date.

He indicated that the metadata/clearinghouse training held on Tuesday the 25th and Wednesday the 26th of November 2003 was very successful and that it was expected that those trained will go back and implement what they learnt. This was highlighted as one of the examples that showed that the current ZSDI effort is committed and they are willing to surge ahead despite the limited resources at hand.

It was stressed that the real problems that we face are institutional rather than technical. It was therefore a challenge on us as a nation to overcome these hurdles and leverage our resources for the effective management of spatial data.

The big question that the group was facing at the moment was on how to formalize the ZSDI. He indicated that the way forward should be to maximize coordination in order to promote sharing of data sets to avoid duplication that can cost the country unnecessary resources (time, money etc). Mr. Mavima went on to give examples of the organizational structures of the SDI initiative in other African countries. He cited examples from Benin, Ghana, Zambia and South Africa and went to present the proposed structure for the Zimbabwe initiative. See the diagram in Appendix III.

After his presentation the Minister went on to give his remarks before he left at his own pleasure for his next engagement. Dr. Made said that the area that we were discussing is the heart of social, economic and political security of the country and he urged us to consider this issue when we have discussions. The Minister stressed that Zimbabwe has its own peculiarities and our society is not as homogeneous as the societies you find in Europe and other continents, the issue of security of information should therefore be looked at very carefully. He recommended that we consider the way South Africa and Ghana have set up their SDIs. He added that initiatives such as these should always be taken to the legislature for consideration.

On the issue of the security of information, Mr. Mavima responded clarifying the fact that information or data that was of a confidential nature will always remain so (not accessible). Mechanisms are available to ensure that.



The Minister ended his remarks by extending a hand to the Committee to come up with a proposal that he would table before parliament for further consideration and hopefully formalization of the SDI initiative.

While the next speaker was preparing for her presentation, the Minister then left at his own pleasure.

4) Spatial Data Handling in Zimbabwe – A Private Sector view (Mr. Kingray Gowera)

Mr Gowera could not make it to the workshop.

5) Digital mapping initiatives in the Surveyor General's Department (Mrs. Chima)

She outlined what the Surveyor General's office has been doing in terms of digital mapping – progress that has been made to date and the constraints that they have encountered, which mainly had to do with lack of adequate funding. The full details of the presentation will be posted on the ZSDI website. As a way forward she promised that the Department was going to continue doing its best to complete the automation process.

Questions (1) Mr. Kwesha – He requested that the Surveyor General's department should update users on the progress on their work or any other new developments.

Answer – They will try but this cannot happen as often as once in 3 months as requested, maybe once in 6 months.

Comment (1) Mr. Mpande – The Surveyor General should speed up and seriously consider the issue of setting up a website.

Response – Mrs. Chima, She noted that this is currently being worked on through a project that will hopefully produce results by the end of next year or even by mid next year.

Mr. Ndambakuwa went on to add that their Cadastral section has also automated their information and this now available in digital form.

NOTE: Further details from the presentation.

6) Use of RS/GIS in Land use and Land Cover Change Mapping in Zimbabwe (Mr Kwesha)

He made a presentation that was based on a project that the Forestry Commission is carrying out in Zimbabwe. It is a study on seven districts and they were capturing vegetation changes and the increase in settlements due to the land reform exercise that started in 1998.

NOTE: Further details from the presentation.

Experiences from the SADC Development GIS Project in accessing information and its contribution to developing a spatial information system for NEPAD (Mr Stanely Mubako)

He first outlined the role of SARDC and its mandate. SARDC's mandate is to monitor the environment in SADC and produce some state of the environment reports.



They have a pilot project that was initiated in Zimbabwe in 2001. It focuses on census info, since the changes that normally take place in the environment are influenced by population density.

NOTE: Further details from the presentation.

Question – Mr. Njike asked why SARDC chose to work with SIRDC instead of the CSO since its core data was going to come from there.

Answer – Mr. Mubako, He indicated that they were a regional organisation so it was easier for them to partner with those that they have been working with before rather than building new partnerships.

7) Evolution of Environmental Information Systems

NOTE: Further details from the PowerPoint presentation.

8) Plenary Session (Discussions) – Convened by Canaan Ndambakuwa

a) Formalization of the ZSDI initiative

Mr. Kwesha noted the examples from other countries that had been outlined in Mr. Mavima's presentation and asked if it was possible to find out how they went about their initiatives, then take it up from there.

Mr. Mavima responded by indicating that he was not sure how they did it in SA. He also explained that it really depends with a particular country because there are other issues that are influenced by country specific policies. He recommended that we take it the Minister's way – present our proposal through the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Rural Resettlement.

Mrs. Chima suggested that the ZSDI be housed under SIRDC.

Mr. Murambadoro responded by saying that if its going to be SIRDC then it has to be through the Ministry of Science and Technology since it is SIRDC's parent ministry.

Mr. Chinjekure suggested that we split the issues of where the infrastructure is going to be housed and the other issues relating to how we can formalize it. He suggested that we get an entry point to the Cabinet. Some countries have actually come up with pieces of legislation to cover the setting up of such initiatives.

Convener– We seem to be in agreement that the issue has to be formalized through the government and a proposal must be prepared to go through the Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement.

b) Awareness Campaign

Convener – How can we increase awareness of the SDI initiative in Zimbabwe?



Mpande – Since the issue of advertising through the formal media eg radio, TV and newspapers has become very expensive I suggest that the people who are present here spread the word to whomever they think would be relevant to this initiative.

Njike – this should be the mandate of the committee (SDI Committee) that is going to be elected.

Paradzayi – I second Mpande

Christopher Mavima – I suggest a road show with banners/posters and PA system

Manyumwa – through meetings by continuing to invite more and more people to these meetings. Once the initiative is formalized we can use Dr Made to bless our initiative.

? - Target technocrats and executives of ministries

Convener- Consensus seems to be that we should spread the information through the various ways and means at our disposal.

c) Funding

Convener/Chair – How can we get funding for SDI activities in Zimbabwe?

Paradzayi – If formalized and legislated we can get funding from the fiscus.

Mubako – lets find out how SDI initiatives in other countries are funded and then learn from them.

Mavima - The committee should develop bankable project proposals that can be submitted to donor agencies.

d) Institutional Arrangements

Convener/Chair – How can we deal with issues of getting/accessing data from institutions without dealing with red tape?

Mavima – lets have a data policy that participating organizations can subscribe to.

e) Inconsistencies in the availability and quality of data

Manyumwa – a working group on data policy should be set up.

f) Access

? – can be tackled under data sharing policy

? – there should be a marketing arm of the ZSDI once it has been formalized

Mpande – lets not have too many working groups since this can create some coordination problems.

g) Knowledge of data availability

Convener/Chair – this is going to be executed by the Metadata working group – the creation of a clearinghouse can be an important step towards solving this problem.



h) Lack of best practices in the utilization of enabling technologies

- The ZSDI initiative will have to take care of this.
- Recommendations of software and technology to be used should be made.
- We need a website where this information can be availed.
- Mr. Mavima, lets agree that one way or the other we will need the website – actually its not very difficult or expensive – all we need to do is to identify committed people who have the time to develop the site.

9) The proposed ZSDI structure

The Executive SDI Committee – lets have people at a higher level than us who can bless this initiative. Examples being government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Organisations.

The SDI Steering Committee – the technocrats (us), the people with the knowledge of what we really want to achieve. Members to include chairpersons of the working groups.

Standards Working group – (Surveyor General)

Metadata Working group – (ERSI-SIRDC)

Funding – this should be made a function of the SDI Steering Committee.

Let the functions that are not yet catered for come under the SDI Steering Committee.

Then came the elections of representatives to the SDI Steering committee. It was agreed that each organisation that was present at the workshop should be represented in the ZSDI Steering Committee. The following members were then elected to be members of the ZSDI Steering Committee.

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1) Mrs. Chima | DSG |
| 2) Dr Gomez/Murambadoro | ERSI |
| 3) Mr. Dominic Kwesha | Forestry Commission |
| 4) Mr. Chirimanyemba/Jeche | CSO |
| 5) Mr. Samuriwo | Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and rural resettlement |
| 6) Mr. David Njike | Midlands State University |
| 7) Mr. Tendayi Manyumwa | University of Zimbabwe |
| 8) Mr. Garikayi Mpande | ICRISAT |
| 9) Mr. Reuben Mavima | RRSU |
| 10) Mr. Stanley Mubako | SARDC |
| 11) Dr. Makarau/Matsikwa | Meteorological Services |
| 12) Mr. Servious Ndino | Harare Polytechnic |
| 13) Dr. Rob Brett | IUCN |

Elections of the Chairperson, Secretary, and Vice Chairperson

Mr. Mavima (RRSU) was retained as the Chairperson of the ZSDI Steering Committee.

Mr. Paradzayi (MSU) was elected as the Vice Chairperson, and

Mrs. Chima (DSG) volunteered to be the Secretary of the ZSDI.



10) Immediate Actions to be followed up on

- Develop / revise terms of reference of the ZSDI Steering Committee
- Through the Surveyor General, request the Attorney General to draft the legal working document for the initiative.
- The ZSDI and the sub-committees should have a meeting to synchronize their working relationship
- Develop a website for the ZSDI initiative
- The Metadata Working group to develop a national metadata development plan.
- The Standards and Metadata Working groups to report their progress at the monthly SDI meetings.
- Develop a metadata clearinghouse node for Zimbabwe.
- Distribute minutes of this workshop to all the participants and other relevant people.
- Confirm meetings at least a week before the meeting.
- If there is any funding pledge, then we can sit down and agree on how best it can be received depending on the issues at hand.
- Develop a logo for the ZSDI, and hence a letterhead
- Request Minister's prepared speech for our records
- ZSDI Committee to report on their progress at the 8 January 2004 meeting.

The workshop was officially closed through a vote of thanks from Mr. Chimusoro.

- end of the workshop -



Appendix I – Workshop Programme

THE ZIMBABWE SDI WORKSHOP PROGRAM
Organized by The Surveyor General's Department, SDI Steering Committee and the SADC-
Regional Remote Sensing Unit
Jameson Hotel – Zambezi Room, Harare, 27 November 2003

Item	Date / Time	Activity	Action by
1	8:30-09:00	Registration of participants and tea	
2	09:00 – 09:05	Introduction of the Guest of Honour and distinguished guests	Mr. Reuben Mavima SADC RRSU
3	09:05 – 09:20	Opening speech by the Honorable Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement	Dr. Joseph Made Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement
4	09: 20 – 09: 35	SDI Concepts, Lessons from other countries and Pertinent Issues in the Zimbabwean context.	Mr. Reuben Mavima SADC RRSU
5	09:35 – 09:50	Spatial Data handling in Zimbabwe – A Private Sector view	Mr. Kingray Gowera
6	09:50 - 10:05	Digital mapping initiatives in the Surveyor's Department	Mrs. Chima
7	10:05 – 10:20	Use of RS/GIS in Land use and Land Cover Change Mapping in Zimbabwe.	Mr. Dominic Kwesha Forestry Commission
8	10:20 – 10:35	Experiences from the SADC Development GIS Project in accessing information and its contribution to developing a spatial information system for NEPAD.	Stanley Mubako SARDC-IMERCSA
9	10:35 – 10:50	Evolution of Environmental Information Systems	Mr. Charles Paradzayi Midlands State University
10	10:50 – 11:10	Tea Break	
11	11:10 – 11:45	<p>Pertinent issues to be addressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formalization of the ZSDI initiative ▪ Awareness campaign ▪ Sustainable funding strategies for the ZSDI initiative ▪ Immature institutional arrangements and user/provider relationships; ▪ Inconsistencies in the availability and quality of spatially referenced data; ▪ Inconsistent policies concerning access to and use of spatially referenced data; ▪ Incomplete knowledge about the availability and quality of existing spatially referenced data; and ▪ Lack of best practice in the utilisation of enabling technologies. 	<p>Plenary Session Convened by Mr. Canaan Ndambakuwa (DSG)</p>



12	12:00 – 13:00	The proposed ZSDI structure, working groups and possible membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee – membership – draft TOR ZSDI Steering Committee-membership – draft TOR ZSDI Working groups-Status 	
13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electing members to the Executive Committee Electing members to the ZSDI Steering Committee 	
14		Immediate Action items for the ZSDI initiative	
15		Further recommendations and Resolutions	
16		Vote of Thanks	Mr. Chimusoro

Appendix II

	NAME	ORGANIZATION
1	Minister Dr. J. M. Made	Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement
2	Admire Ndhlovu	Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre
3	Alfred J. Maenzanise	Surveyor General's Department
4	Audrey Ward	Surveyor General's Department
5	Bens on Zenda	Surveyor General's Department
6	Booker Masasi	Land Surveyor
7	Canaan Ndambakuwa	Surveyor General's Department
8	Charles Paradzayi	Midlands State University
9	Christopher Mavhima	Lands
10	Constantino Rwizi	Surveyor General's Department
11	David Njike	MSU
12	Dominic Kwesha	Forestry Commission
13	Dorothy Nyamhanza	SADC RRSU
14	Dr. Amos Makarau	Meteorological Services
15	Dzingirai Murambadoro	Environment and Remote Sensing Institute
16	Edwin Guvaza	Surveyor General's Department
17	Elijah Ganja	Surveyor General's Department
18	Emmanuel Mbazima	Surveyor General's Department
19	Enias Chinjekure	Surveyor General's Department
20	Fabian Jani	Surveyor General's Department
21	Florence Murungu	Surveyor General's Department
22	Garikai Crispen Mpande	ICRISAT
23	Herbert Matsikwa	Meteorological Services
24	Isaac Gwatidzo	Central Statistical Office
25	James Mwedzi	Surveyor General's Department
26	James Makunike	IUCN
27	Kenneth Matombo	Lands
28	Khumbulani Muntuyedwa	Lands
29	Lloyd Mashamba	Surveyor General's Department
30	Lloyd Goliath	Surveyor General's Department
31	Munyaradzi Kunyavapa	Harare Polytechnic

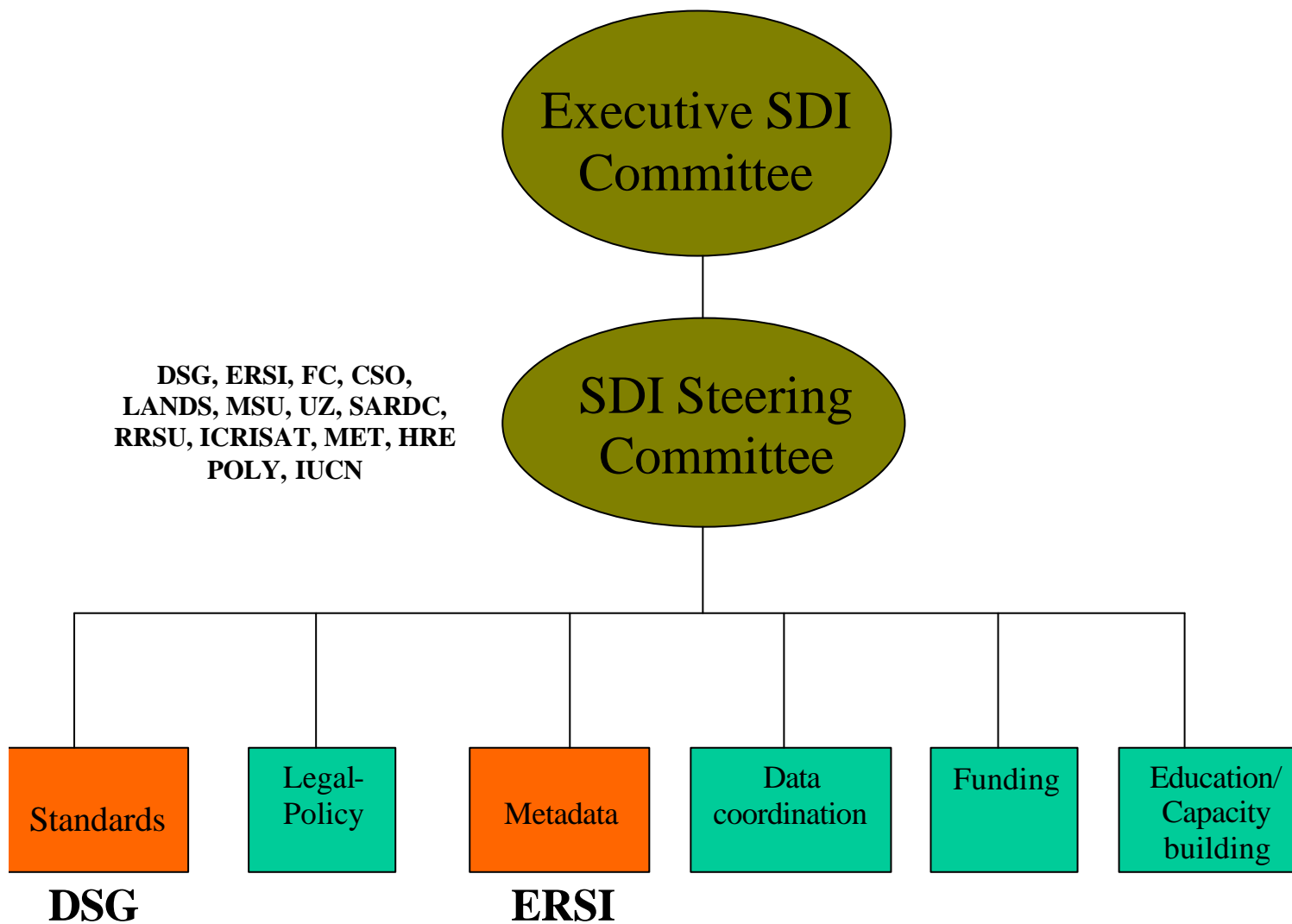


32	Munyaradzi Magama	Lands
33	P Nyamhute	Surveyor General's Department
34	Pathias Ruzvidzo	Surveyor General's Department
35	Patrick Mapika	Surveyor General's Department
36	Precious Jeché	CSO
37	Reuben Mavima	SADC RRSU
38	Romana Marunda	SAZ
39	Ronald Chawatama	Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre
40	Servious Ndino	Harare Polytechnic
41	Shupikai Chimusoro	Surveyor General's Department
42	Stanley Mubako	Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre
43	Sydney Togarepi	Surveyor General's Department
44	Tabitha Chima	Surveyor General's Department
45	Tendai E. Musimike	Surveyor General's Department
46	Tendayi Manyumwa	University of Zimbabwe
47	Tsitsi Bandason	Meteorological Services



Appendix III – ZSDI Organizational Structure

- The Executive Committee still to be proposed, this will be part of the proposal to the Minister of Lands
- Members elected to the ZSDI Steering Committee (Mavima – Chair, Paradzayi – Vice chair, Chima – Secretary)
- Two working groups formed (Standards – DSG (Chair) and Metadata (ERSI - Chair)



End of report