



Committee Work Plan and Progress Report

Date of Report: 19 June 2009

Name of Committee

Legal & Socioeconomic Committee

I. PERSONNEL AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Committee Leadership

Name of co-Chair	E-mail Address
Roger Longhorn	ral@alum.mit.edu
Name of co-Chair	E-mail Address
Gabor Remetey (newly appointed co-Chair)	gabor.remetey@gmail.com
replacing Kate Lance (past co-Chair)	lancekt@aya.yale.edu

Subcommittees (if any)

Title of any Current Subcommittee or Working Group	Names of Subcommittee Chair(s)	E-mail Address
Legal Issues Subcommittee	Roger Longhorn & Gabor Remetey (protem)	ral@alum.mit.edu
Economic Issues Subcommittee		gabor.remetey@gmail.com
Social Issues Subcommittee		

Broad Objectives and Responsibilities of the Committee

The Legal and Socioeconomic Committee explores legal, ethical, economic, societal and policy frameworks within which spatial data infrastructures are developed locally and across individual nations, multi-nation regions and globally. It encourages dialogue and action in regard to varying legal, economic, public policy and societal approaches and explores models, approaches, and experiences that may enhance cooperation among nations in sharing spatial data and spatial technologies.

The committee identifies, acquires, analyzes, and reports to GSDI Association members' policies or legislation being adopted or considered by national, regional (multi-nation) or international law bodies that might be relevant to the goals of the GSDI Association or otherwise affect the global development of spatial data infrastructures. The committee shall propose and develop statements if needed in support of the goals of the organization, propose and draft responses to legislation that may be adverse to those goals, and develop approaches for communicating with legislators, agency personnel, and other policy makers.

II. EXISTING WORK PLAN

A. List of All Existing Projects and Initiatives of the Committee and its Subcommittees

Dear Committee Chair, Please list the titles of all projects or initiatives in the existing work plan of this committee and its subcommittees.

1. Updating Chapter 8 of the SDI Cookbook wiki – “Legal Issues and Economic Policy”.
2. Awareness for “SDI Best Practice”.
3. Monitoring national and regional SDI implementations with respect to legal and socioeconomic issues via the L&SE e-mail list.
4. Liaison with OGC “Spatial Law and Policy Committee” (recommended new activity, post-GSDI 11)

B. Details for Each Project

For each major project or initiative in the above, please duplicate the following table and fill in the requested information. Feel free to expand the number and size of table cells as needed. Each individual project should also have a list of detailed tasks and deadlines for your committee use but those details need not be reported here.

Title of Project or Initiative		
SDI Cookbook Chapter 8 Updating		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
None – all members to participate, co-Chairs are nominated Chapter Editors.		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
To continually expand and improve coverage of current legal and economic issues in the SDI Cookbook, with material pertinent to those currently involved in implementing SDIs locally, nationally and regionally.		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
1. First full draft of Chapter 8 complete	end-May 2009	Not yet complete
Project Personnel		
Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)	
1. Roger Longhorn (Chapter main Editor & legal issues)		
2. Kate Lance (Chapter co-Editor & socioeconomic issues)		

Title of Project or Initiative		
SDI Best Practice Awareness Raising		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
None.		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
To continue to raise awareness of SDI Best Practice as regards legal and economic issues, including data sharing and re-use policies and cost-benefit analysis methodologies for SDIs or SDI components.		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
1. Seminars & Workshops on “SDI Best Practice”, including economic issues – Best Practice workshops held in: Dublin, May 2008; UNGIWG, Geneva, June 2008; FAO, Rome, June 208; UNGIWG-9, November 2008; Littoral 2008, Venice, November 2008; SDI & PSI workshop, Paris, Feb 2009; Dublin Institute of Technology, March and May 2009; EuroSDR (SDI Cost-Benefit), May 2009.	Ongoing	See dates opposite
2. Published papers relating to “SDI Best Practice” – collect for publishing via GIKN or similar	end-May 2009	Not yet completed
Project Personnel		
Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)	
1. Roger Longhorn & Kate Lance (co-Chairs) direct the activity		
2. Committee members are to contribute papers (action not yet complete – for discussion at GSDI-11 Roundtable)		

Title of Project or Initiative		
Moderating and monitoring L&SE e-mail list		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
None – all members to participate, co-Chairs are nominated Chapter Editors.		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
To proactively encourage participation from Committee members (via their list membership) to raise or respond to legal and socioeconomic issues identified by the co-Chairs and other contributors.		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date

1. Monitor relevant geospatial government, industry and academic news sources to inform Committee members and others in the Association on current issues under debate.	Ongoing	Ongoing
2. Feed news/notices with respect to articles and publications of interest, recent legal developments, funding/research opportunities, calls for papers, upcoming events, etc. This is a low-volume listserv which enables L&SE members to periodically share information. On average, there are 11 messages per month, and a total of approximately 150 since GSDI-10.	Ongoing	Ongoing
3. Increase the number of list members.	Ongoing – (target should be 150)	Ongoing – target not met (84 members today)
Project Personnel		
Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)	
1. Roger Longhorn & Kate Lance (co-Chairs) – and main contributors (so far)		
2. All Committee members (84 current list members)		

C. Narrative Summary of the Progress on All Existing Projects and Initiatives

Using the information from the above project reports and other sources, please provide a cogent narrative summary of the progress on all projects and initiatives in the existing work plan of this committee and its subcommittees.

Since the last GSDI Conference (February 2008), the Legal and Economic Working Group was renamed, with added societal focus, as the “Legal and Socioeconomic Working Group” (now Committee). The 80+ members of the group (based on current e-mail statistics) are those interested mainly in legal and economic aspects of SDI implementation, e.g. IPR, charging and cost recovery, open data and open source, cost-benefit analysis methodologies, etc.

The main means of contact, discussion and information dissemination is the e-mail list, which has remained stable at about 85 members for the past three years. In the past 16 months, approximately 150 e-mail messages were exchanged via the list, from participants based in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia. We have yet to more fully engage with our African colleagues via the list. Issues covered related to IPR (copyright and software patents), privacy, INSPIRE, SDI cost-benefit, open source/open access, issues surrounding national SDI implementations, etc. Co-chair Kate Lance was a major contributor to news on the e-mail list and regularly informed the list of the availability of the valuable SDI regional newsletters (which information we also pass on to relevant GI/GIS journals for their announcements pages).

Cookbook wiki Chapter 8 – “*Legal and Economic Aspects*” was created and initial content supplied. More work is needed and this is the focus of discussion at the GSDI-11 L & SE Roundtable meeting at GSDI-11, i.e. new sub-sections based on topics of interest.

Numerous (10) presentations or workshops on “SDI Best Practice” were conducted by co-Chair Roger Longhorn in the inter-conference period, as a GSDI Association representative, including representation at two UNGIWG/UNSDI planning meetings (Geneva and FAO, Rome) and one half-day workshop in Vienna at UNGIWG-9, November, 2008. These have been well received and more are planned in the forthcoming inter-conference period. We are still developing a way forward to support UNGIWG and the on-going development of the UNSDI. The co-Chairs maintain e-mail contact with the co-Chairs of the UNGIWG and monitor announcements relating to the UNSDI initiative, which are reported back to the group.

Please include any additional reporting from your committee members or address additional items outside of your work plan as you think appropriate.

III. PROPOSED WORK PLAN – 1 July 2009 TO 30 June 2010

A. List of All Proposed Projects and Initiatives of the Committee and its Subcommittees

Dear Committee Chair, Please list the titles of all projects or initiatives in the proposed work plan of this committee and its subcommittees. Please include the titles of any continuing projects.

1. Promote the e-mail list more widely. (see prior Workplan)
2. Complete content uploading for the SDI Cookbook wiki Chapter 8 and continue adding new material as appropriate. (see prior Workplan)
3. Information activities relating to legal issues (via new Subcommittee).
4. Information activities relating to economic issues (via new Subcommittee).
5. Information activities relating to social issues (via new Subcommittee).

B. Details for Each Project

For each major project or initiative in the above list that is not already included in the existing work plan under II, please duplicate the following table and fill in the requested information. Feel free to expand the number and size of table cells as needed. Each individual project should also have a list of detailed tasks and deadlines for your committee use but those details need not be reported here.

Title of Project or Initiative		
Information activities relating to Legal Issues		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
<p>Legal Issues Sub-committee.</p> <p>A sub-committee has not yet been formally constituted, but this will be discussed via the e-mail list in the next two weeks. The goal is to have a member appointed to oversee these activities. (Two group members showed interest in taking on this responsibility at the GSDI-11 L&SE Roundtable meeting). In the meantime, co-Chair Roger Longhorn will be responsible for this activity.</p>		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
<p>The main objective is to develop a significant body of knowledge covering current legal issues relating to geospatial data, SDI implementation and related public sector information provision. All materials collected will be published via the GIKN and announced via members' list and promoted via other related e-mail lists and the press.</p>		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
1. Update of “ Legal Issues in the Use of Geospatial Data and Tools for Agriculture and Natural Resource Management: A Primer ” co-authored by	end August 2009	

R Longhorn in 2002 for CGIAR, plus create a new (shorter) Executive Summary – to be published via GIKN and promoted via the e-mail list. (Remove current theme-specific material and update the IPR, database protection, and other material to reflect latest developments).		
2. Identify and submit a wide collection of studies, research papers and government reports relating to legal issues surrounding SDI implementation and/or public sector information provision. These to be announced via the e-mail list and published via the GIKN.	On-going from July 2009	
3. Develop a ‘canned’ presentation on “Introduction to legal issues for SDI implementation” that can be used by members in local conferences, workshops and seminars. This to be a Powerpoint presentation with detailed supporting speaker’s notes and handout material. Provide this also on GIKN for wider dissemination and use. Identify venues (and presenters!) for such presentations. Target should be minimum of 6 per annum, globally.	Content Outline (from RAL) by 31 July; Content by end-October 2009	
4. Create a central repository for “Legal cases relating to spatial data and services use or misuse” , from as many countries and legal jurisdictions as possible. Provide via GIKN and promote via various e-mail lists to raise profile. Also promote for use in education curriculums.	On-going beginning July 2009.	
5. Monitor, record, publish (in a central repository) and produce an analysis of EU Member State national INSPIRE transposition legislation , to determine similarities and differences in approach to implementing the Directive – for lessons learned.	On-going beginning July 2009.	

Project Personnel

Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)
1. Roger Longhorn (Sub-committee chair, promoter and lead on actions 1, 2 and 3 above)	ral@alum.mit.edu
2. Katleen Janssen (lead on action 5 above)	katleen.janssen@law.kuleuven.be
3. Laila Aslesen (action 4 above)	
4. Carmelle Terborgh (actions 2 & 4 above; gathering material from past NCGIA Conference and related GIS Law reports)	cterborgh@esri.com
5. Matthias Van Hoogenbemt, KUL ICRI	matthias.vanhoogenbemt@law.kuleuven.be

Title of Project or Initiative		
Information activities relating to Economic Issues		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
<p>Economic Issues Sub-Committee.</p> <p>A sub-committee has not yet been formally constituted, but this will be discussed via the e-mail list in the next two weeks. The goal is to have a member appointed to oversee these activities. In the meantime, co-Chair Gabor Remety will be responsible for this activity.</p>		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
<p>The main objective is to develop a significant body of knowledge covering current economic issues relating to geospatial data use, SDI implementation and related public sector information provision. Main topics (initially) are different business models in use, actual business cases published, ROI studies and reports relating to SDI, development of indicators for monitoring SDI implementation and management, and cost recovery v. 'free' data debates. All materials collected will be published via the GIKN and announced via members' list and promoted via other related e-mail lists and the press. Announce also to curriculum developers as an available teaching resource.</p>		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
1. Build "SDI Economic Issues Information Repository". This activity focuses on socio-economic issues other than business models and business cases (see below). Publish via the GIKN and promote via the members' list and allied e-mail lists.	On-going beginning July 2009.	
2. Build "SDI Business Models and Business Cases" Repository. Publish via the GIKN and promote via the members' list and allied e-mail lists.	On-going beginning July 2009.	
3. Contribute to "economic issues" section of the SDI Cookbook wiki Chapter 8.	On-going from July 2009.	
4. Identify, collect and make available (via GIKN) reports and studies relating to SDI programme management.	On-going beginning July 2009.	
Project Personnel		
Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)	
1. Gabor Remety (leader pro tem and lead on Action 1)		
2. Roger Longhorn (co-leader and lead on Actions 1 & 3)		
3. Dr. Pramod K. Singh (Institute of Rural Management Anand) (lead on Action 4 and co-lead on Action 2)	pramod@irma.ac.in	
4. Miles Gabriel (support on Actions 2 and 4)	milesgabriel@usa.net	

Title of Project or Initiative		
Information activities relating to Social Issues		
Name of Subcommittee (if any) Accomplishing this Project		
<p>Social Issues Sub-Committee.</p> <p>A sub-committee has not yet been formally constituted, but this will be discussed via the e-mail list in the next two weeks. The goal is to have a member appointed to oversee these activities. In the meantime, L&SE co-Chair R Longhorn will be responsible for this activity.</p>		
Objective of Project or Initiative		
<p>The main objective is to collect and update material relevant to a range of social issues relating to SDI development and use/potential abuse of geospatial information and related services. Some overlap occurs with Legal Issues in relation to, for example, privacy issues (regarding location based services). The initial focus will be on “ethical issues” relating to geospatial information, tools and services. All materials collected will be published via the GIKN and announced via members’ list and promoted via other related e-mail lists and the press. Announce also to curriculum developers as an available teaching resource.</p>		
Describe the Expected Products or Results	Target Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
<p>1. Update the 2004 report “Ethics and GIS: The Practitioner’s Dilemma” co-authored by R Longhorn and Prof. Mike Blakemore. This includes a compendium of most know ethical codes of practice relating to GIS and geospatial data existing at mid-2004.</p>	End of October 2009.	
<p>2. Create, publish and announce a central repository for all identified “Ethical Codes of Practice” from organizations working in the geospatial sphere, e.g. RICS, URISA, etc.</p>	On-going beginning July 2009.	
<p>3. Update and publish a set of workshop materials for use by Committee Members on “Ethical Use of GI and GIS” based on pre-existing workshop guides (R Longhorn, 2006).</p>	End of November 2009	
Project Personnel		
Name	E-mail (if not already listed above)	
1. Roger Longhorn (leader pro tem and lead on Actions 1 & 3)	ral@alum.mit.edu	
2. Carmelle Terborgh (lead on Action 2)	cterborgh@esri.com	

C. Narrative Summary of the New Work Plan for the Committee and All Subcommittees

Using the information from the above project reports and other sources, please provide a cogent narrative summary of the plans for all projects and initiatives in the proposed work plan of this committee and its subcommittees.

A change in the management structure of the Legal & Socioeconomic Committee took place as a result of the Roundtable meeting at GSDI-11. Following several years of valuable contributions to the Legal and Economic Working Group (later L & SE Committee), current co-chair Kate Lance is stepping down from the co-chair position, although she will remain a valued member of the Committee. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the time and effort that Kate has put into this role during her tenure as co-Chair.

Gabor Remetey, of HUNAGI, has agreed to assume the role of co-Chair as from the GSDI-11 Conference. He is well qualified for this and we very much welcome his offer to contribute more fully to the Committee and its activities.

For the next inter-conference period (July 2009 to September 2010), the Legal & Socioeconomic Committee has adopted a vigorous Action Plan, based on suggestions received at a very well attended L&SE Committee Roundtable meeting at GSDI-11 in Rotterdam. Prior year actions relating to further updating of the SDI Cookbook wiki, Chapter 8, plus moderation of the e-mail list will continue. A wide range of other interests and activities were discussed and promoted by different members of the group. For management and implementation purposes, these have been collected into three primary sets of actions that will be led by Sub-committee chairpersons or co-leaders, with support from the membership.

The three main lines of activity fall into the areas of “Legal Issues”, “Economic Issues” and “Social Issues”, the latter added during the Roundtable (and new to the Committee) to focus on ethical issues surrounding GI, GIS, and SDI. Response from attendees at the Roundtable was very encouraging, with different individuals coming forward with offers to initiate and/or help support the targeted activities and topics listed in Section III-B Proposed Work Plan.

Operationally, we intend to create central repositories of information covering these three main topics, using the newly established GIKN, with links back to the GSDI Association, L & SE Committee web page(s). The goal is to develop, over time, a robust collection of materials for researchers, SDI managers and developers, and students, accessible from a central point, via the GIKN.

Activities already part of the Committee’s remit, i.e. promoting the e-mail list more widely and completing content uploading for the SDI Cookbook wiki Chapter 8 (see prior Work Plan), remain key on-going actions to which Members will be proactively encouraged to contribute. Access to the Cookbook wiki for L&SE Committee members, as contributors, needs to be arranged as soon as possible, for this purpose.

Please include any additional reporting from your committee members or address additional items outside of your work plan as you think appropriate.