



NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION POLICY

United Arab Emirates

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The geospatial information sector and associated technology are seen as crucial elements that assist countries in reaching their sustainable development goals within their communities, as it is the main engine of development in most economic, social and environmental fields, as developed countries have developed this sector and enabled it to play its effective role in supporting the economy, vital sectors, technological development and digital transformation support.

The UAE leadership has developed an ambitious digital transformation and knowledge economy program to encourage and stimulate investment across various fields, including artificial intelligence, medical technologies, space exploration, and pioneering systems and innovations in the economic and social sectors.

The issuance of the National Geospatial Information Policy (the "Policy") is based on Federal Decree-Law No. (5) of 2019 on the establishment of the Federal Geographic Information Center, to establish the general framework for regulating the geospatial information sector in the UAE.

The policy also aims to consider geospatial information as a key enabler for the development of all sectors of the country and urges all government and private entities to make optimal use of it, to improve the quality of their services, and educate and raise awareness of all segments of the community on how and how to use it.

In addition, all geospatial information produced at the federal and local levels (especially from municipalities, road authorities, and information and statistics centers) is necessary for use at the national level. The producers must provide this information to the Federal Geographic Information Center and continuously update it so FGIC can align it with national standards and integrate it nationwide to form the nucleus of the national geospatial information infrastructure.

The overall framework for sector governance has been considered: the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the recommendations of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and best global practices and lessons learned from similar experiences worldwide.

Accordingly, 14 categories of national geospatial information have been identified as the basis for the national geospatial information infrastructure and classified into 1- basic information (needed by most entities) and 2- specialized main information.

The policy also aims to regulate and govern the issuance of licenses. It permits, in this field, in coordination with the competent authorities in each emirate, the establishment of a national register to record all companies

operating in the sector.

This policy defines the strategic direction of the geospatial information sector in the country by placing geospatial information at the heart of emerging modern technologies such as digital twinning and self-moving mechanisms, spatial knowledge infrastructure, and as a key enabler of the country's digital transformation and smart cities strategies.

1. DEFINITIONS

Country	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
FGIC	Federal Geographic Information Center
Emirate	Any member emirate of the UAE Federation.
Stakeholders	Federal or local government entities concerned with the management, creation, collection, use, dissemination, distribution, and storage of geospatial information, and any other entity of any nature that establishes, publishes, distributes, or stores geospatial information.
Competent Authority	It is the competent authority for regulating the geospatial information sector at the Emirate level.
Custodian	A federal or local government entity that is officially mandated to be the authorized source of significant or essential geospatial information set necessary for use at the federal level, specifying the tasks, responsibilities, obligations entrusted to it, and the powers granted to it.
Geospatial information (or geospatial data)	It is all data or information that includes a specific geographical location and includes basic and primary geospatial information.
Fundamental Geospatial Information	<p>It is the information that provides a spatial and objective reference to link all other geospatial information and data based on a standard national geographic reference system, and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Geodetic Reference 2. International and administrative borders 3. Corrected aerial and satellite imagery 4. Heights and depths 5. Transportation networks 6. Buildings & Installations

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Vegetation and land uses 8. Land parcels 9. Water and hydrographic characteristics 10. Infrastructure Facilities for Key Services 11. Any information that FGIC deems necessary to be needed based on the needs of government agencies
Foundation Geospatial Information	<p>Specialized geospatial information that is of interest only to specific sectors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional areas 2. Sub-Services Infrastructure Installations 3. Geology and Soil 4. Population distributions 5. Any information slide that FGIC deems necessary to add based on the needs of the entities.
Geospatial Information Community	FGIC includes the concerned authorities, the competent authorities, any governmental, academic, or private-sector entity interested in geospatial information and services, and the public.
Geospatial	It is all information, services, technologies, solutions, or facilities related to data with a spatial dimension, defined by geographic coordinates.
National Geospatial Information Infrastructure	It is the institutional framework for regulating the geospatial information sector in the country and includes policies, legislation, standards, data, technology, human element, and services related to geospatial information.
National Official Maps and Geospatial Products	<p>These are the maps and products issued by FGIC in coordination with the concerned authorities, which FGIC approves in accordance with the law, and include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Maps 2. Road Maps 3. Topographic Maps 4. Nautical Charts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5. Aerial Maps6. National Atlas7. Any other maps
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2. SCOPE OF POLICY

The National Geospatial Information Policy applies to government entities engaged in the production, collection, management, storage, use and dissemination of geospatial data and information, or to contribute to geospatial products, solutions or services, and the various segments of the geospatial community in the country, including academia and companies, are required to be aware of the principles stipulated in the policy document, and to maintain the necessary coordination with FGIC and the concerned authorities to achieve compatibility and compatibility with these Principles.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FGIC AND THE ENTITIES CONCERNED

Decree-Law No. (5) of 2019 on the Establishment of the Federal Center for Geographic Information (FGIC) clarified the roles and responsibilities of FGIC, the most important of which is to coordinate efforts, procedures, and policies related to geospatial information with all concerned authorities, and to work to unify standards, specifications, and procedures in the country. The National Geospatial Information Platform, managed by FGIC, in addition to spreading awareness of the importance of geospatial information, represents the country in international forums and agreements, and exchanges knowledge and experience with other countries.

As for the concerned authorities, the decree clarifies their role in providing FGIC with Fundamental and Foundational geospatial information, as well as any other geospatial data and information requested by FGIC, and in updating it and providing supporting information.

To achieve the objectives of the National Geospatial Information Policy, on the one hand, and to implement its enablers, on the other, the various policy items included descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of both FGIC and the concerned authorities.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- The adoption of the National Geospatial Information Policy aims to achieve a set of objectives, including the following: Establishing the legislative and legal framework for the governance of the geospatial information sector in the country.
- Enhancing the use of geospatial information and the power of location to accelerate economic growth, improve productivity, and foster technological progress across all sectors.
- Enabling decision-makers to benefit from reliable, standardized geospatial information, technologies, and associated services.
- Promoting collaboration among relevant entities in the country to maximize the use of geospatial information.
- Building the national geospatial information infrastructure to facilitate the development, dissemination, and sharing of geospatial information, and enabling various stakeholders to benefit from it
- Facilitating access to geospatial information, making it available, and ensuring its reuse in accordance with internationally recognized best practices
- Aligning the geospatial information sector in the country with approved government plans, strategies, and priorities, and enhancing its use
- Establishing the concept of integrated geospatial information management as a foundation for supporting sustainable development and improving public safety and security
- Raising the level of geospatial awareness and knowledge in the country by building capacities and specialized skills in the field of geospatial information

5. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL POLICY AND THEIR ALIGNMENT WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIC PLANS AND POLICIES

The National Geospatial Information Policy is based on a set of Fundamental principles, including:

- **Integration:** The policy aims to bring all stakeholders in geospatial information together, ensuring comprehensive, integrated provision of geospatial data and services.
- **Transparency:** The policy seeks to promote transparency in the management and use of geospatial information, ensuring that all beneficiaries have easy access to this information.
- **Responsibility:** The policy highlights the responsibility of all stakeholders for geospatial information, including data quality and information accuracy.

- **Alignment:** The purpose of the policy is to develop and use geospatial data, technologies and services in the country to support government policies and strategic plans, in particular the We Are the UAE Plan 2031, the UAE Centennial 2071, the UAE Digital Government Strategy 2025, the Technology Transformation Program, the UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence, and the UAE Strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- **Quality:** The policy emphasizes the importance of controlling the quality of geospatial information, including the accuracy of the location of associated geographical features, the correctness of the Data describing these milestones, the freshness of the information, and the degree to which it corresponds to reality. The policy also indicates that standards and specifications, as well as Work procedures and techniques, are essential elements in the process of controlling the quality of geospatial information.

6. GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

FGIC was established pursuant to Lw No. (5) of 2019 regarding the establishment of the Federal Center for Geographic Information to supervise the management and organization of the Geospatial Information Sector in cooperation and coordination with the concerned authorities, where FGIC works to coordinate efforts, procedures, policies, standardization, and specifications to build, manage, and sustain the national geospatial information infrastructure

Geospatial information is one of the most essential elements of the national infrastructure, as it has been categorized into Fundamental information and Foundation information.

To establish the geospatial information infrastructure, the valuable entities in each emirate or at the federal level provide FGIC with each of the following Fundamental and Foundation geospatial information segments and update them so that FGIC integrates and aligns them with national standards and specifications and compiles them into segments and databases covering the entire scope of the country's geography and works to update them continuously.

6.1 FUNDAMENTAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

FGIC, in coordination and cooperation with the concerned authorities, assumes the role of the official reference authority at the level of the emirate to manage and coordinate the development and maintenance of basic geospatial information assets, which include Fundamental geospatial information, topographical, marine, and atmospheric information at various scales, including:

6.1.1 Unified National Geodetic Reference Framework

The National Geodetic Reference Framework is the backbone of the geospatial information infrastructure, serving as the basis for assigning all national geospatial information for unified geospatial management. It includes both horizontal and vertical references.

6.1.2 International Borders and Administrative Borders

It is the official border of the country and includes the country's borders, the emirate's borders, and the borders of municipalities, regions, and neighborhoods within each emirate.

FGIC is the official source for issuing maps showing international and administrative borders, in coordination with the authorities concerned in the country.

6.1.3 Corrected Aerial and Satellite Images

Corrected aerial or satellite imagery refers to remote sensing images that have been processed to remove distortions caused by differences in altitude and platform tilt during acquisition.

6.1.4 Heights and Depths

Height refers to the vertical distance of a given location measured from sea level, and depth is the perpendicular distance of a given location below the reference level.

6.1.5 Transport Networks

It includes primary and secondary roads and associated landmarks, as well as air transport landmarks such as airports and runways, and maritime transport landmarks such as ports.

6.1.6 Buildings and Installations

Buildings and permanent installations are used for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, services, or other public facilities and infrastructure.

6.1.7 National Address

The national address system is a unified addressing system that allows locating any building or land in the emirate. It includes the essential components: building number, street name, area name, city name/Emirate name.

6.1.8 National Geographic Names Database

It is an official national rule that includes the approved names of geographical landmarks in the country, whether natural, such as valleys, al-Suyuh, and Sabakh, or artificial ones, such as the names of establishments, which aims to document these names to preserve the historical and heritage of the country, which contributes to protecting the national identity.

6.1.9 Land Cover and Existing Uses of the Land

Land cover data is geospatial information on the different types or categories of land cover, such as vegetation, urban infrastructure, water, and exposed soil.

6.1.10 Land Plots

It includes geospatial information on plots and parcel descriptive details, as set out in the National Geospatial Information Standards.

It is essential for land acquisition and registration at the local level, infrastructure management, and spatial planning, which contribute to economic development by enabling investments at the regional and federal levels. It can serve as a basis for developing land reform policies.

6.1.11 Water and Hydrographic Properties:

Data related to the geographical distribution of water, whether in valleys, lakes, or marine features.

6.1.12 Major Service Infrastructure Installations:

Includes infrastructure data associated with major service lines for electricity, water, gas, and petroleum utilities.

6.2 FOUNDATION GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

The primary sets of Geospatial Information include, at a minimum, the following categories of data:

6.2.1 Functional Areas

Functional areas are defined within a geographical area and have characteristics related to organizational, electoral, and statistical regions, service delivery, and the management of activities.

6.2.2 Sub-Service Line Infrastructure Installations

Includes infrastructure data associated with sub-service lines such as electricity, water, gas, and petroleum utilities.

6.2.3 Geology and Soil

Geological data refers to the solid material that forms the earth at different depths, including rocks, soils, minerals, and gemstones, as well as spatial information on soil that represents the various categories and types of soils and their physical, chemical, and biological properties.

6.2.4 Population Distributions

It is data on the distribution of the population in a specific geographical area that indicate the pattern of their distribution, concentrations, and other characteristics of the population's spatial distribution, which contribute to urban planning and sustainable development.

6.3 OFFICIAL MAPS AND GEOSPATIAL PRODUCTS

FGIC shall issue the following official maps in coordination with the concerned authorities:

- General Maps
- Road Maps
- Topographic basemaps (multiple scales).
- Illustrated maps (multiple levels).
- Nautical Charts (Multiple Scales).
- Aerial maps (multiple scales).
- National Atlas of the UAE: FGIC, in coordination with all relevant authorities in the country, develops, updates, and publishes the National Atlas of the UAE in paper and digital editions that reflect the geographical diversity of the country and provide the reader with Fundamental geospatial information.
- Other types of maps and products specified by FGIC.

7. UAE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION POLICY ENABLERS

Achieving the objectives of the National Geospatial Information Policy requires the development of a governance framework to regulate the creation and management of geospatial information, the requirements of its specifications and rules for its exchange, as well as the qualification of the human element and the strengthening of cooperation between government and private entities in the field of geospatial information to facilitate the exchange of information and collaboration in the field of research and development.

This section examines the enablers needed to achieve policy objectives, categorized into three primary domains: governance, data and technology, and skilled professionals.

7.1 **GOVERNANCE**

FGIC is responsible for regulating and supervising the Survey and Geospatial Information Sector in the UAE, and defining and setting the general strategic direction of the Geospatial Information Sector so that it is an effective and integrated sector that supports sustainable development and meets the requirements of beneficiaries and concerned authorities by facilitating access to and obtaining accurate and high-quality geospatial information, services and products, and this will be implemented through the following axes:

7.1.1 Legal and regulatory framework

FGIC is working to develop the general legal framework that regulates the Geospatial Information Sector in the UAE to achieve the objectives stipulated in Law No. (5) of 2019 regarding the establishment of the Federal Geographic Information Center, including all subsidiary legislations, policies, regulations, foundations, controls, and manuals.

7.1.2 Committees and Working Parties

FGIC develops a framework grounded in policies and regulations governing geospatial data and services. It has the authority to form national-level committees and task forces to carry out specific tasks and activities to achieve strategic objectives, policies, and plans, and to advise and assist on technical aspects and other functions that FGIC deems necessary for the implementation and conduct of its work.

7.1.3 Licensing and Permitting Geospatial Information Activities and Works

- To protect the security and safety of the UAE, regulate activities and works, and harmonize projects at the federal level, pursuant to the provisions of Law No. (5) of 2019 on the establishment of the Federal Geographic Information Center, this regulatory framework aims to integrate and comply with the legislation and regulations in force at the level of local governments to facilitate procedures for service providers from the public and private sectors.

- FGIC shall coordinate and cooperate with the concerned authorities and the competent authority in the following:
 - Develop a regulatory framework for the licenses and permits of the Geospatial Information Sector, including the necessary regulations, principles, and guiding procedures.
 - Issue a list of activities related to geospatial information to be licensed.
 - Coordinate with all concerned authorities and competent authorities on the requirements and procedures for licensing service providers and practitioners in the fields of geospatial information.
 - Issue specific business and project permits according to considerations set by FGIC related to the location and geographical coverage of the activity, the scope of work to be carried out, the implementation mechanism, the techniques used, the time frame, the target results, the parties and service providers involved, and other considerations.
 - Establish a national register for geospatial information service providers, accredited practitioners, projects, and activities in coordination with the concerned authorities, provided that all companies operating in this field register in the national register through FGIC's website.

7.1.4 Alignment of Geospatial Information Projects

FGIC coordinates with the concerned authorities to develop an operational framework for the harmonization of projects related to geospatial information at the national level, including a governance model and tools that enable access to and advise on projects implemented or planned by government entities to achieve efficiency, improve the level of operations and services in government, prevent duplication in the implementation of projects, benefit from government spending, financial efficiency, and increase the return on investment.

7.2 DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Information and data are considered the basis of the national geospatial information infrastructure, as they are the elements that federal and local entities need as a basis to carry out their tasks, provide their services, and improve their level, through the employment of innovative tools and artificial intelligence technologies that allow entities to access and obtain this data and ensure its readiness and availability.

7.2.1 Organizing the Responsibility for the Production and Management of Geospatial Information

- FGIC coordinates with the concerned authorities to establish a national framework to supervise the Fundamental and foundational geospatial information that is used at the federal level in terms of its production, updating, and management, and identifying the entities that are valuable to it and the mechanisms for providing it to FGIC.
- This framework outlines the technical aspects related to geospatial information sources, rights and ownership, compliance, and accountability.

7.2.2 Requirements, Standards, and Specifications of Geospatial Information

- FGIC, in coordination and cooperation with the concerned authorities, sets the requirements, standards, and specifications for geospatial information necessary for use at the federal level.
- The requirements, standards, and specifications for geospatial information aim to meet the needs and requirements of the work of the concerned authorities, meet the requirements of ensuring the quality of geospatial information, facilitate its exchange and dissemination, and regulate its access from private sector service providers.

7.2.3 Rules for the exchange and dissemination of geospatial information

FGIC, in coordination and cooperation with the concerned authorities, shall develop regulations to regulate the procedures and agreements related to the exchange and dissemination of geospatial information between the valuable entities, FGIC and the beneficiaries, provided that the regulations include open data guidelines, data licensing procedures, privileges and controls for access to systems and data, data dissemination channels and procedures, terms of use, and data acceptance procedures.

7.2.4 National Security and Public Safety Requirements Related to Geospatial Information

Some geospatial information is of vital importance or has a significant impact on national security and public safety, and this type of information will be treated according to the following principles:

- FGIC coordinates with the concerned authorities in the security and safety sector, on the security requirements and controls necessary for the production, access, use, transfer, storage, and dissemination of geospatial information to prevent any security threat or hazards and protect access to data of sensitive sites.
- FGIC, in cooperation with the competent authorities, provides the security, public safety, and emergency sectors with geospatial information to reduce potential risks and respond to emergencies and crises.

7.2.5 Geospatial Information Assurance – Information Security, Privacy and Intellectual

Property

To achieve a balance between the requirements for the safe use of geospatial information and the protection of national security and public safety, and the need to use this information for economic growth and development in the country, FGIC works on the following:

- Develop general principles for classifying geospatial information according to the degree of data sensitivity, and determine the powers, privileges, and controls of data access for each category.
- Develop a secure database and geospatial information exchange platform based on the secure ICT infrastructure of the Federal Government and the competent authority, and compliant with the standards and requirements of government information assurance and appropriate security standard operating procedures.
- Coordinating with the competent authorities in the preparation of legislation, regulations, guidelines, and standards related to cybersecurity that contribute to the regulation, storage, use, and dissemination of geospatial information in the country.
- Cooperating with the competent authorities regarding legislation, regulations, and guidelines, regarding the management and use of geospatial data and services.

7.2.6 National Platform for Geospatial Information, Data Services, and Applications

- FGIC develops and manages the National Geospatial Information Platform and provides an electronic directory of metadata to search, access, and use geospatial information in the Federal Meta Database.

- FGIC develops and manages shared application services and identifies, develops, disseminates, and operates shared application models to support various stakeholders in the use of the National Geospatial Information Platform.

7.2.7 Outlook on the Evolution of Geospatial Information Infrastructure

FGIC promotes the latest trends in technological development and innovation, including digital twins, geospatial knowledge infrastructure, and 3D city models, through partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders and leading service and technology providers in the private sector at the local and international levels.

In addition, FGIC promotes the optimal use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, digital twinning, the Internet of Things, advanced 3D modeling, including BIM, advanced robotics, web, automation, augmented and virtual reality, voluntary geospatial information, collective geospatial resources, and any other technology available in the future.

7.3 SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

Qualified professionals are considered a fundamental and pivotal pillar of the geospatial information infrastructure, where the dissemination of geospatial knowledge, research and development, capacity building, communication, media, and partnerships between the concerned authorities contribute effectively to the sustainability of the national geospatial information infrastructure, which can be detailed as follows:

7.3.1 Dissemination of Geospatial Knowledge

The practical and correct use of geospatial information aims to achieve sustainable social, economic, and environmental development, enable the governance of geospatial data, generate returns on investment and financial efficiency, and foster cross-sector cooperation.

- Promote and disseminate geospatial knowledge through the development of awareness and training programs to achieve growth in the number of specialists in geospatial information technologies.
- Develop specialized skills in the field of policy, law, and project management in the field of geospatial knowledge.

- Spreading awareness of the value of geospatial information and the benefits of using it, to support innovation and provide the requirements for access to geospatial information.

7.3.2 R&D, Capacity Building, and Training

- FGIC works with all concerned emirates institutions, including universities, academic institutions, research centers, and international partners, to develop strategies, programs, and initiatives for research, development, and capacity building in the geospatial fields, to meet the requirements and development plans in the country through qualified national cadres with advanced skills in the geospatial fields.
- FGIC coordinates with educational and academic entities in the public and private sectors, including schools, universities, technical colleges, and institutes, in providing guidance and advice for national geospatial programs and related curricula, starting from kindergarten to undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- FGIC facilitates access to and access to geospatial information and related products based on the policies adopted for the purposes of supporting education, research, development, and innovation in the geospatial fields in the country.
- FGIC develops a joint framework to assess the geospatial maturity and readiness of government entities, including planning, implementing, and sponsoring these programs to build the capacities of government entities and their staff in various areas of geospatial, technical, and administrative expertise.
- Partnerships with leading geospatial service providers at the local and international levels should be actively employed to obtain training and employment opportunities that provide field training for geospatial specialists with the aim of building, strengthening, and developing capacities in these areas.

7.3.3 Communication and Information

- FGIC works to communicate with the media to explain the importance of geospatial information and the ways to use it, which contributes to building spatial awareness among various segments of the community.

- To enhance spatial awareness and stimulate the exchange of experiences and knowledge, FGIC and the concerned authorities participate in and sponsor local and international events in various geospatial fields.

7.3.4 Partnerships at the Local, Regional, and International Levels

- FGIC forges strategic partnerships with partners from the government, private sector, research, and academic institutions at the local, regional, and international levels.
- The partnerships aim to strengthen cooperation across various sectors and fields, enhance community participation and interaction with civil community institutions in the country, promote research and innovation, exchange experiences and resources with the regional and international geospatial information community, and keep pace with best practices followed internationally.
- FGIC, in cooperation with the competent government agencies, works to organize partnerships with regional and international institutions to achieve the effective representation of the geospatial information community and preserve the interests of the country.
- The country's geospatial information community should strive to play a leading role at the regional level by adopting, adapting, and applying international best practices to suit the local and regional context.

8. BENEFITS AND PROSPECTS OF THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION POLICY

Effective implementation of the National Geospatial Information Policy will bring a range of benefits to the UAE, including:

- Improving the quality of government planning and administration: Geospatial information helps in making administrative decisions and better planning, which contributes to improving the quality of life in the community, the efficiency of government services, and providing access to Fundamental services for citizens.
- Supporting the vital and security sectors in the country allows the ability to analyze and visualize geolocation data in directing security operations more efficiently, which contributes to enhancing national security and effective response to crises.

- Promoting economic and social development. Geospatial information promotes economic and social development by supporting sectors such as tourism, trade, and transportation, and by attracting foreign investment.
- Improving natural resource management, infrastructure planning, and environmental monitoring. Geospatial information contributes to protecting the environment and addressing natural hazards, such as natural disasters and climate change.
- To make the UAE a global leader in management and use of geospatial information.

9. FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The policy shall be implemented, reviewed, and updated according to the following principles:

- This Policy shall be effective from the date of its issuance, and its provisions shall remain in effect unless a decision is made to cancel or amend it.
- In case of any inquiries, suggestions, or observations regarding the content of this policy or the requirements for its implementation, they should be directed to FGIC.
- FGIC is working in coordination with the concerned authorities to develop a plan for the implementation of this policy.
- This policy is reviewed and updated in coordination and cooperation with the concerned authorities. Its review and update consider alignment with the government's strategic directions and priorities, the adoption of best practices and international recommendations in geospatial information, and the adoption of emerging trends in innovation, technological advancement, and the use of artificial intelligence.