

The History and Development of Global Map: A Spatial Data Infrastructure for Sustainable Development in the Middle East and North Africa

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Key words:

SUMMARY

A key element in the development of spatial data infrastructures is policies. Sustainable development in the Middle East and North Africa requires effective environmental policies on the part of the governments of the region. This applies to a wide range of environmental issues including the key issue water resources. SDI's are an important way of coordinating and integrating the data required for effective policy decision making. This paper will examine the role of global mapping in this process by examining the history and development of Global Map and its utility in helping address the development challenges facing the region.

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