

Improving Data Sharing and Access through National Spatial Data Infrastructure



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1. Rationale

Geospatial data is a very important resource in all sectors of development and government, private, academic and public institutions all experience challenges in collection, processing, and managing the data. Most data is duplicated in different forms within different institutions. Geospatial data sharing remains a big challenge mainly due to lack of policies to guide the process, inadequate infrastructure to enable data dissemination and lack of proper institutional frameworks. Most institutions still decry of the low levels of geospatial skills needed to manage data.

3. Approach/Project Activities

- ▶ Engagement with the lead institution in a country
- ▶ Do a situation analysis to determine skills and institutional geospatial needs
- ▶ Conduct Stakeholder awareness and engagement workshops.
- ▶ Train participating institutions' staff on data management best practices and data sharing mechanisms.
- ▶ Develop geospatial data sharing portals
- ▶ Deployment of portal and training on administration and usage



Figure 2: Ethiopia Mapping Agency's data Server after installation



Figure 4: Screen shot of Ethiopia Mapping Agency's Portal

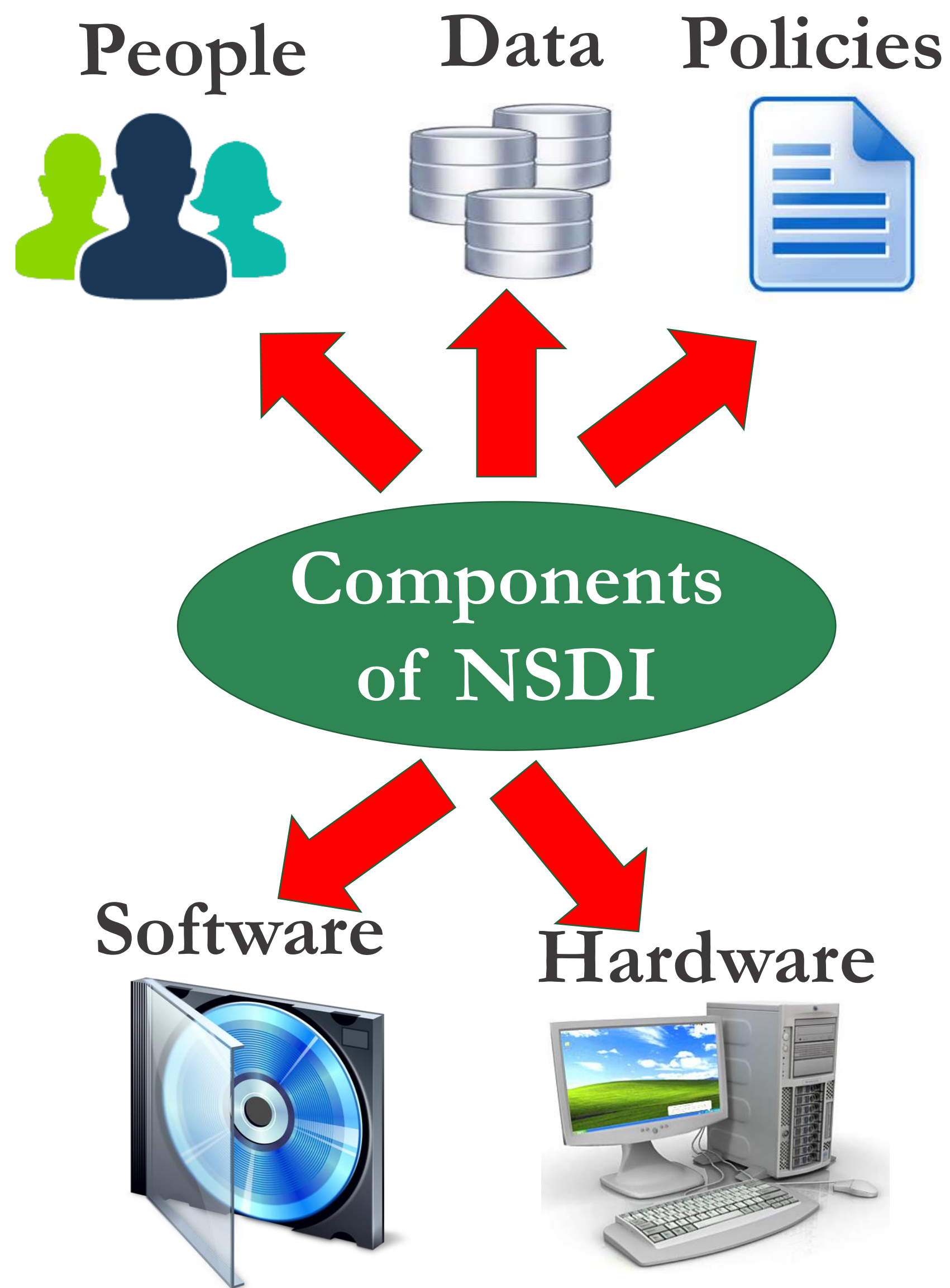


Figure 1: NSDI Components



Figure 3: Capacity Building: Maseru, Lesotho



Figure 4: Rwanda Natural Resources Minister launches the Rwanda data portal during the Regional NSDI Forum in Kigali.

2. Objectives

- ▶ To improve the capacity and understanding of national agencies in various aspects of Spatial Data Infrastructure especially the technical components.
- ▶ To enhance participating agencies' staff capacity on data management and data sharing mechanisms.
- ▶ To assist member states in the development of solutions for discovery, access and sharing of spatial data.

4. Results

- ▶ A total of 8 countries had at least one training on data management and data sharing mechanisms : Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, South Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia).
- ▶ Two countries were able to form interim National Geo-Information Committees (Malawi and Rwanda).
- ▶ Data sharing portals developed:
 - Ethiopia: <http://www.emageportal.gov.et>
 - Lesotho
 - Rwanda
 - Swaziland:
 - South Sudan

Indicator	Number
No of countries covered	8
No of stakeholders (individuals) trained	186
No of data sharing tools developed	5
No of stakeholder engagement events	6
No of agencies engaged (Government, academic, private, NGOs)	87

5. Outcomes/Anticipated Impacts

- ▶ Increased awareness on spatial data infrastructure among stakeholder institutions in Member States.
- ▶ Improved geo-spatial data management capacity within the institutions;
- ▶ Improved utilization of geospatial data within member states to enhance decision making;
- ▶ Increased data sharing and accessibility among institutions.

6. Project Partners & End Users

- ▶ Government institutions and departments in all sectors;
- ▶ NGOs
- ▶ Academic institutions
- ▶ Private institutions
- ▶ General public