



## **Côte d'Ivoire: Advisory Services for the preparatory activities of the policy document formulation which will be linked to the NICI policy**

Geoinformation is neither technology, nor data itself, nor human resources. It is also a matter of lack of appropriate policies and institutional governance for information management in most of African countries. ECA continues to impulse policy development through assistance in the development and implementation of spatial data infrastructures as the appropriate mechanism for the production, management, dissemination and use of spatial data and information products at regional (ARSDI) and national (NSDI) level, and that in the context of the overall regional and national e-strategies and e-government.

One of the guiding principles of national spatial data infrastructures is the custodianship principle. This requires that every data set used by the community should have a designated custodial agency with responsibility to ensure that the dataset is produced and updated regularly, and that efforts are not duplicated. The custodianship of a dataset is usually assigned to the agency or office that needs the data for its regular line responsibilities. An important activity in the implementation of any NSDI should therefore be the documentation of geoinformation applications in the country to support the assignment of custodians through a consensual process. This process has not been followed in any of the NSDI initiatives in Africa, due partly to the lack of a structured methodology for creating the inventory of applications.

As part of the assistance to Cote d'Ivoire to develop its *Plan Géomatique National* (PGNCI), ECA has developed a Geoinformation Applications Inventory Tool (GAIT) with a view to document geoinformation applications in a standard way. GAIT is developed as standard web-based software for collecting data about geospatial data sets and applications/services that use the data for decision making, and for generating reports on individual datasets or applications. This application is now available to all ECA member States upon slight customization for specific country needs

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