

GIS as a practical tool for evaluation

From location data to evaluation evidence

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IFAD at a Glance

Investing in rural people since 1977

UN specialized agency and international financial institution dedicated to reducing rural poverty and transforming food systems.

92 countries

51 country offices

850 staff worldwide

191 active projects

US$9.4 billion portfolio

What IFAD does

- Finance rural development through loans and grants
- Support governments in project implementation
- Engage in rural policy dialogue
- Mobilize public and private investment

Where, exactly, is the investment?



Rural road



Canal & plantation



Irrigation scheme



Water reservoir

Satellites already see all of this. The only missing ingredient is the location.

THE BUSINESS CASE

One location. Four things we can finally do.

Monitor

Follow what is built, season after season, without waiting for the next mission.

Verify

Compare reported outputs with spatial and field evidence.

Target

Identify where field verification or further investigation is most needed.

Evaluate

Connect investments with environmental and socioeconomic change.

None of this is a GIS problem. It is a data problem.

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GUIDE

Geospatial Unified Investment Data Environment

One data model. One validated pipeline. One place where every investment location can be found, trusted and used.

WHAT WE ARE BUILDING

Data Environment

01

Collect

Project data
FIELD app

02

Validate

QA/QC

03

Integrate

GeoNode repository

04

Analyze

EO data + indicators

05

Use

Monitoring &
Evaluation

Earth Observation adds space and time

A consistent location lets us move from a one-off observation to systematic observation of conditions and change.



Ebonie, Nigeria *(6.4079, 8.0555)*

What EO can add

SPACE

Observe areas beyond the points visited in the field

TIME

Compare conditions before, during and after implementation

CONTEXT

Track vegetation, water, land cover/use and environmental conditions

SCREENING

Identify patterns or locations that merit closer investigation

Combining multiple sources of evidence

Once project locations are reliable, they become the anchor for connecting complementary sources of information.



PROJECT DATA

What was financed, and where?

Investment type • location • implementation status

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

What can we observe and verify on the ground?

GPS • observations • photos • verification

EARTH OBSERVATION

What is happening around these locations over time?

Vegetation • water • land cover/use • change

Together: a richer evidence base



A dot on a map is not the goal.
The decision it makes possible is.

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