

# 1. Overview of Global Mapping Project

Global Mapping Project is a collaborative international project of developing Global Map for sustainable development, environmental protection and disaster mitigation. The International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was established to implement the Project. The Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI) served as the Secretariat of ISCGM for the whole duration of the Committee from February 1996 to March 2017, and supported the Project activities.

ISCGM implemented the Project by defining core elements of Global Map, including what data to be developed, who to develop it, and how it should be distributed. ISCGM first developed the Global Map Specifications that are consistent for the whole globe at the scale of 1:1 million. ISCGM also decided that the Global Map should be developed and verified by National Geospatial Information Authorities (NGIAs) in the world so that it is considered as “authoritative data.” The Global Map thus developed was agreed to be released from the website of ISCGM and provided free of charge for non-commercial uses. In other words, ISCGM defined Global Map with three distinct features: 1) Based on consistent specifications at the scale of 1:1 million; 2) Developed and authorized by respective countries; and 3) Provided free of charge for non-commercial uses.

During the Project period of ISCGM, 168 countries and 16 regions (184 countries and regions in total) voluntarily participated in it. Among them, 114 countries and eight regions developed and released their own Global Map data. Besides the development of country-wise Global Map, the Center for Environmental Remote Sensing (CEReS), Chiba University in Japan and participating NGIAs developed, released and updated Land Cover and Percent Tree Cover data for the whole globe as Global Map Global Version.

In order to facilitate data development and applications, workshops and meetings have also been organized by ISCGM, and attended by experts from NGIAs and the geospatial information community. Technical transfer activities to developing countries have also been conducted since 1994. These activities include training courses provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Global Mapping Seminars for Africa hosted by Kenya and Senegal. A total of 197 people from 79 countries participated in them. In addition, two GIS software application companies offered their grant programs that provide their GIS software to those developing countries that participated in the Project.