
MAPME
Initiative
MAPS FOR PLANNING,
MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



It’s Open Source.
And it’s open to everyone.

MAPME is a community-driven initiative that connects people, fosters synergies, and jointly develops tools and solutions to support project planning, monitoring, and evaluation through Earth observation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). We bring together and support users, developers, and donors alike.

Supported by

AFD Agence Française de Développement

KfW Bank aus Verantwortung

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement France

MAPME Community

The MAPME community provides a space to:

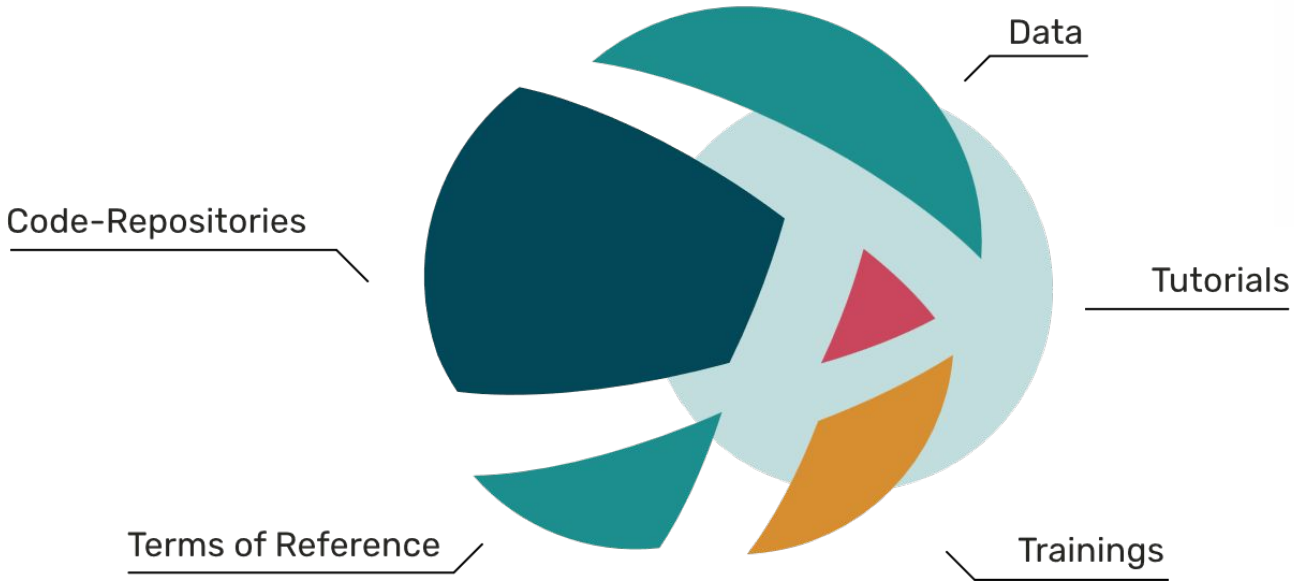
- Exchange with all members or specific groups
- Share best practices and experiences
- Ask questions, share challenges, and receive support from the community
- Stay closely informed about MAPME news and activities
- Discover and participate in key events and initiatives

All this with the aim of:

- Supporting project planning, monitoring, and evaluation through Earth observation and GIS
- Leveraging geospatial data to address climate change, poverty, and environmental degradation
- Strengthening collaboration in international development cooperation
- Advocating for the value of open-source tools, data, and approaches



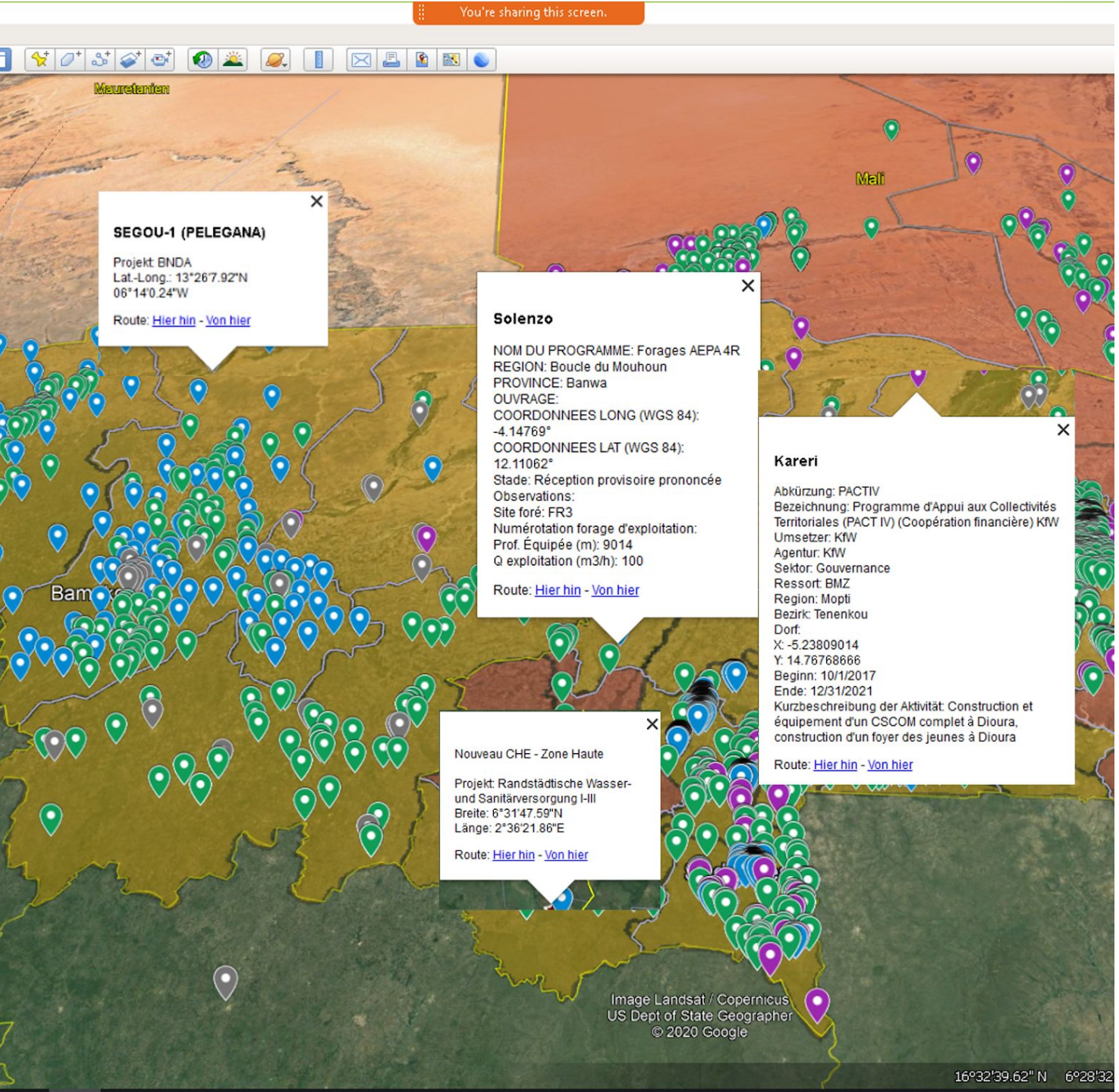
MAPME Resources



MAPME Resources provide a curated set of open-source tools, tutorials, and reference materials to support the use of geospatial data in development planning, monitoring, and evaluation. Developed under the MAPME Initiative, these resources help practitioners and researchers apply GIS and Earth observation through reproducible workflows, technical guidance, and shared standards across a wide range of development sectors.

MAPME Projects and Collaborations

- **BETSAKA Project** (Biodiversity-economy Tradeoff and Synergy Assessments for Conservation Areas) examines the environmental and socio-economic impacts of protected areas across Madagascar from 2000 to 2024. A collaboration between AFD, KfW, and IRD's UMI SOURCE under the MAPME initiative, it investigates whether protected areas reduce deforestation and fires and improve local livelihoods, and how financing, governance, and management influence these effects. Using mixed methods—including quantitative and qualitative analysis and data from rural observatories—the project aims to generate evidence and tools to inform conservation policy and support sustainable development outcomes.
- **Monitoring and evaluating land conservation projects**: monitoring and evaluating land conservation projects in Latin America (KfW) and Africa (AFD). By leveraging open-source and remote sensing data analyzed with the mapme.biodiversity package, the approach provides a robust method to assess the impact of conservation efforts on forest cover.
- **Project Location Data Model workshops**: The **MAPME workshop on advancing project location mapping** brought together development banks, funders, technical agencies, and NGOs to address key challenges in spatially documenting development projects, such as limited standards, data quality issues, and institutional capacity gaps. Participants exchanged experiences on current practices, identified critical uses of project location data for planning, monitoring, evaluation, collaboration, transparency, and accountability, and co-designed ideal workflows to improve data collection and use. The workshop concluded with proposals for shared tools, standardized data models, and greater interoperability, laying the groundwork for ongoing community collaboration toward a common project location mapping standard across the development sector.

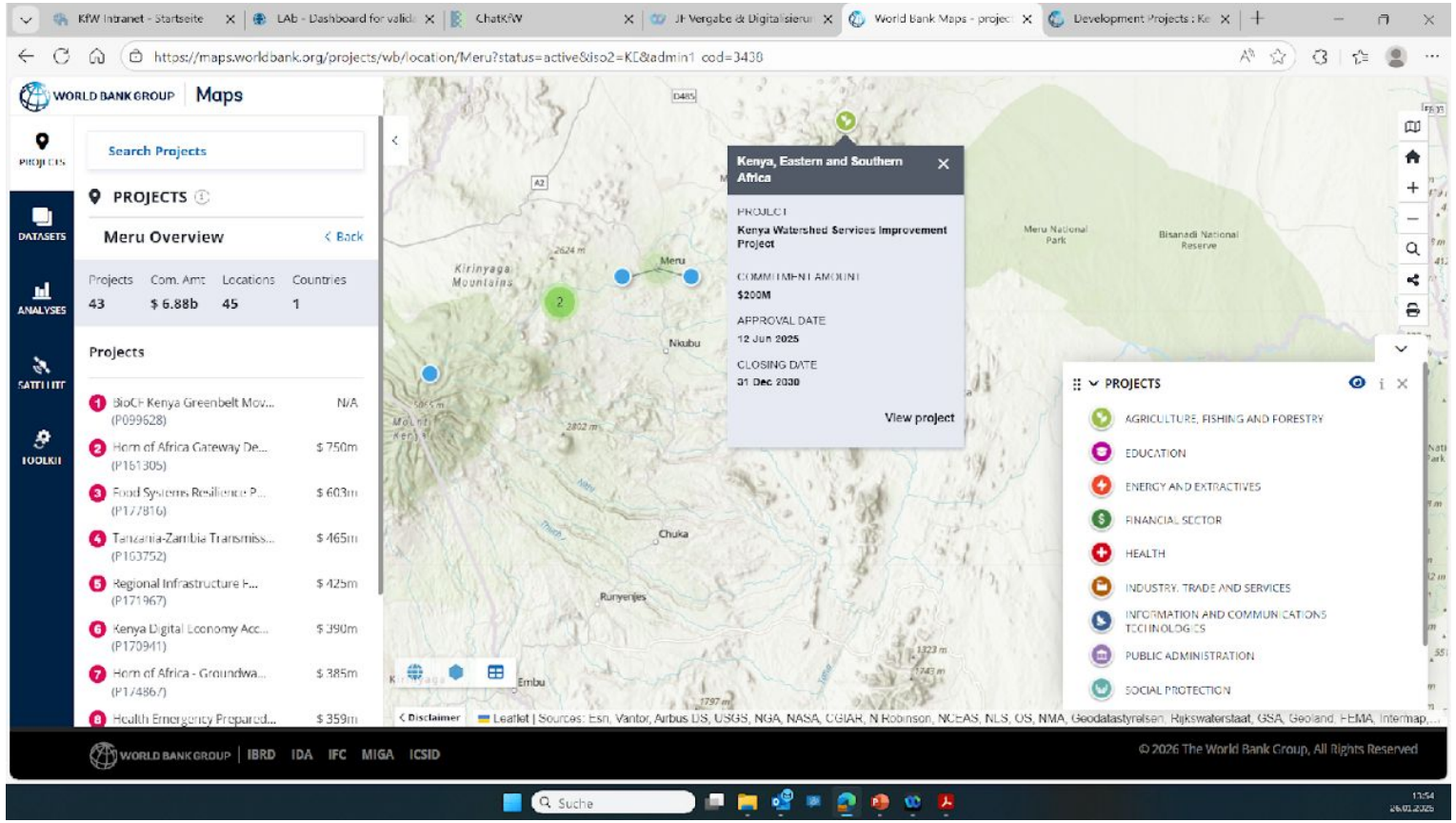


Project Location Data Model

Where we are coming from: project locations without common data standard

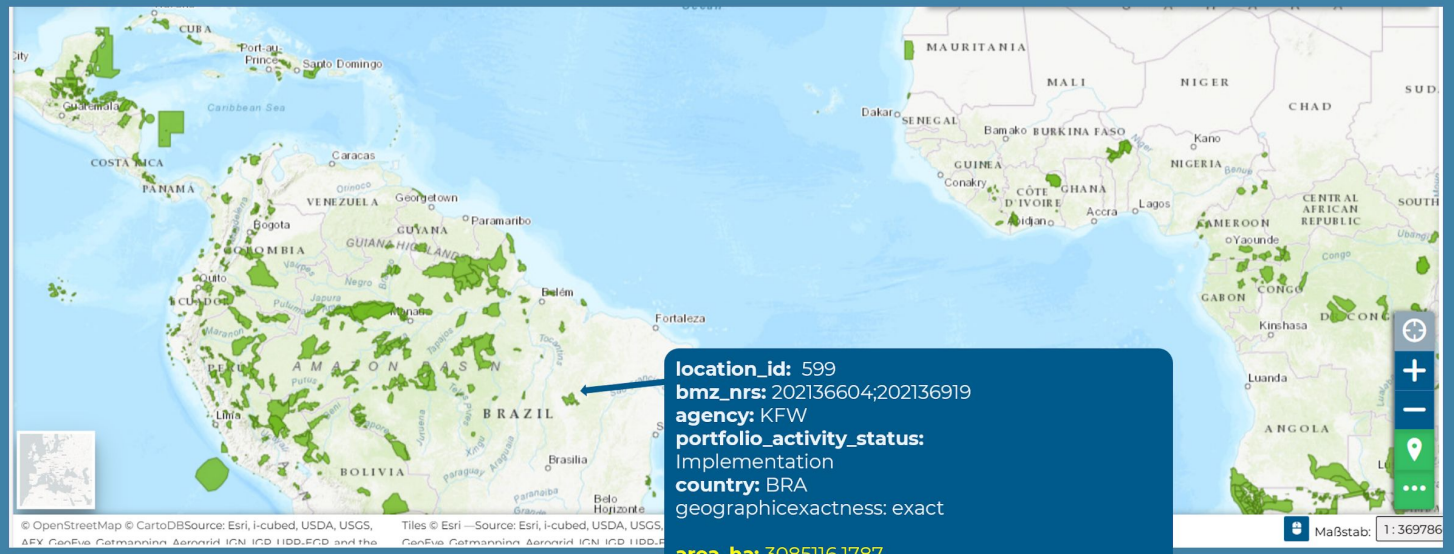
Step one: assign IATI- and other project data to coordinates

No disaggregation of project data between locations



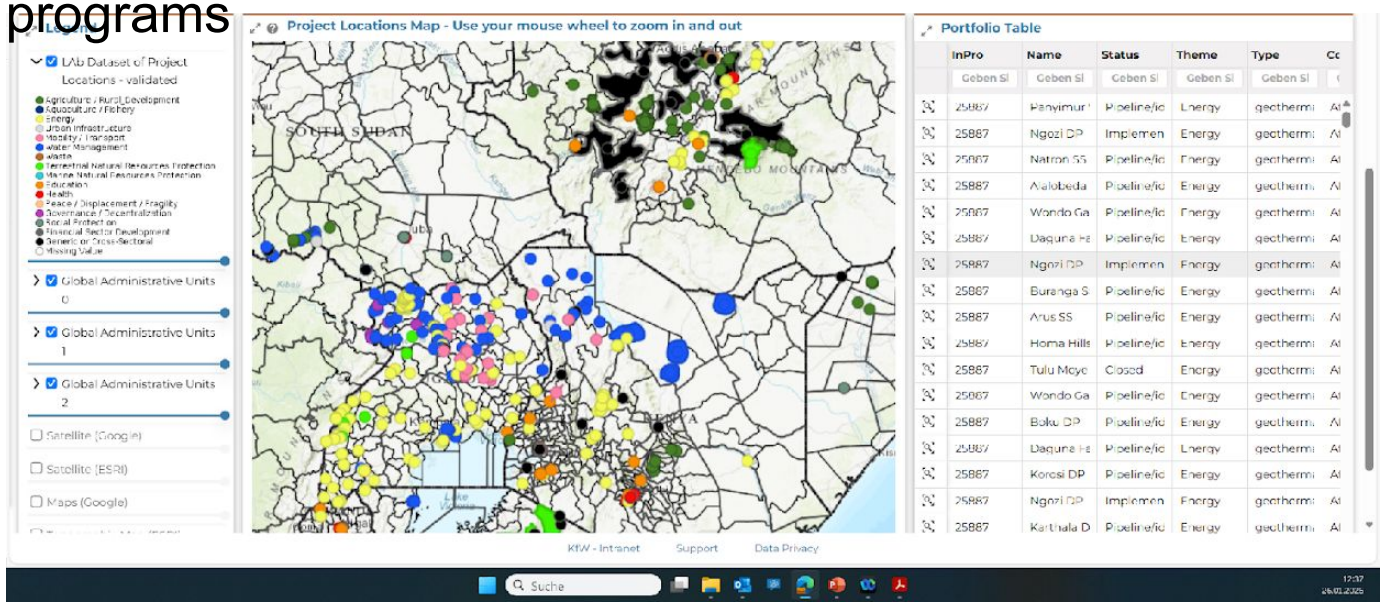
Next Step: disaggregate IATI and other project data between project locations using standardized metadata – one sub sector

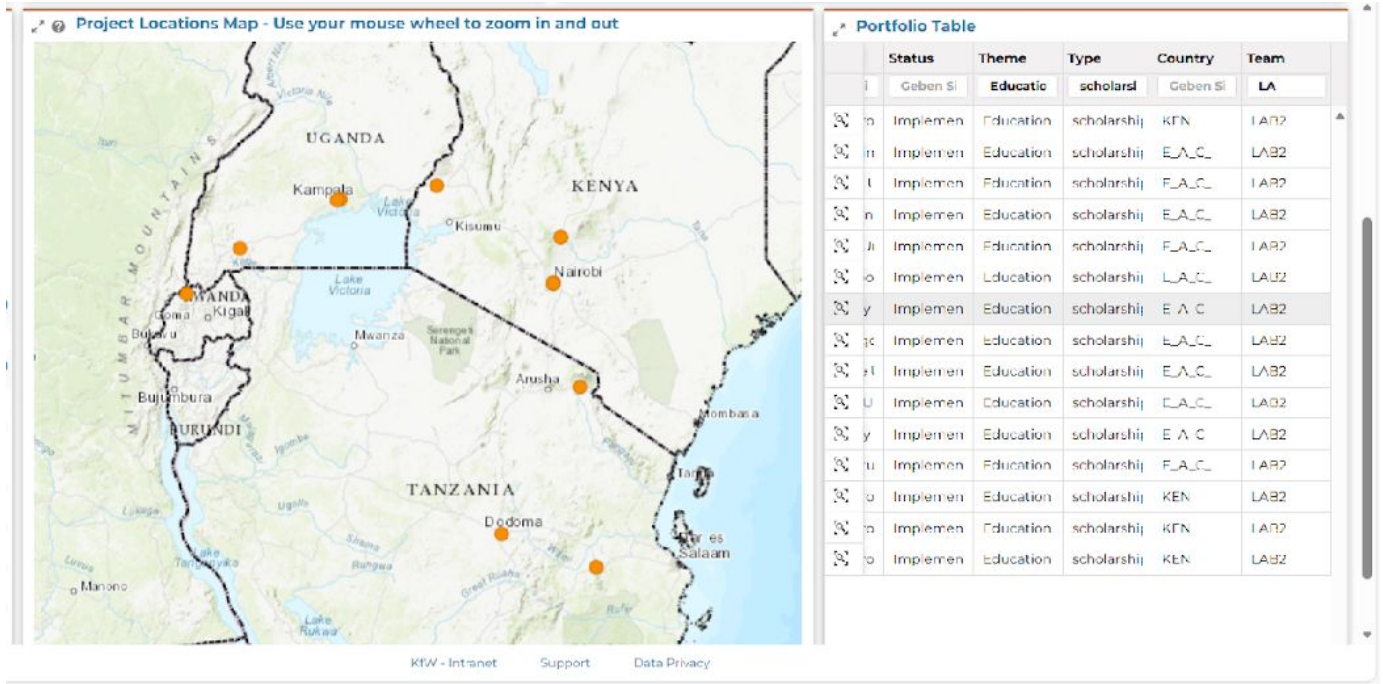
Visualize all Protected Areas financed by KfW globally



Next Step: disaggregate IATI and other project data between project locations using standardized metadata – all sectors

Visualize all projects in EAC and look for scholarship programs





Why Stakeholders Need Standardized Project Location Data

- **Population in our Partner Countries:**
  - Benefit from more targeted, coordinated and effective project interventions
  - Improved service delivery
  - Enhanced transparency and accountability

- **Partner Governments, Implementing Agencies, NGOs:**
  - Compare locations with satellite imagery, crowdsourced data & other baseline data e.g. for planning, ESG/climate risks and impact analysis
  - Plan and coordinate activities and share consistent location information
  - Manage and mitigate local risks

- **Donors & Financing Institutions:**
  - Identify financing gaps and imbalances and inform strategic decisions
  - Assess impacts and ESG/climate risks
  - Design & coordinate financial support more efficiently
  - verify the use of funds at subnational levels
  - Improve overall monitoring effectiveness and meet IATI transparency/reporting standards

MAPME Workshop and Results

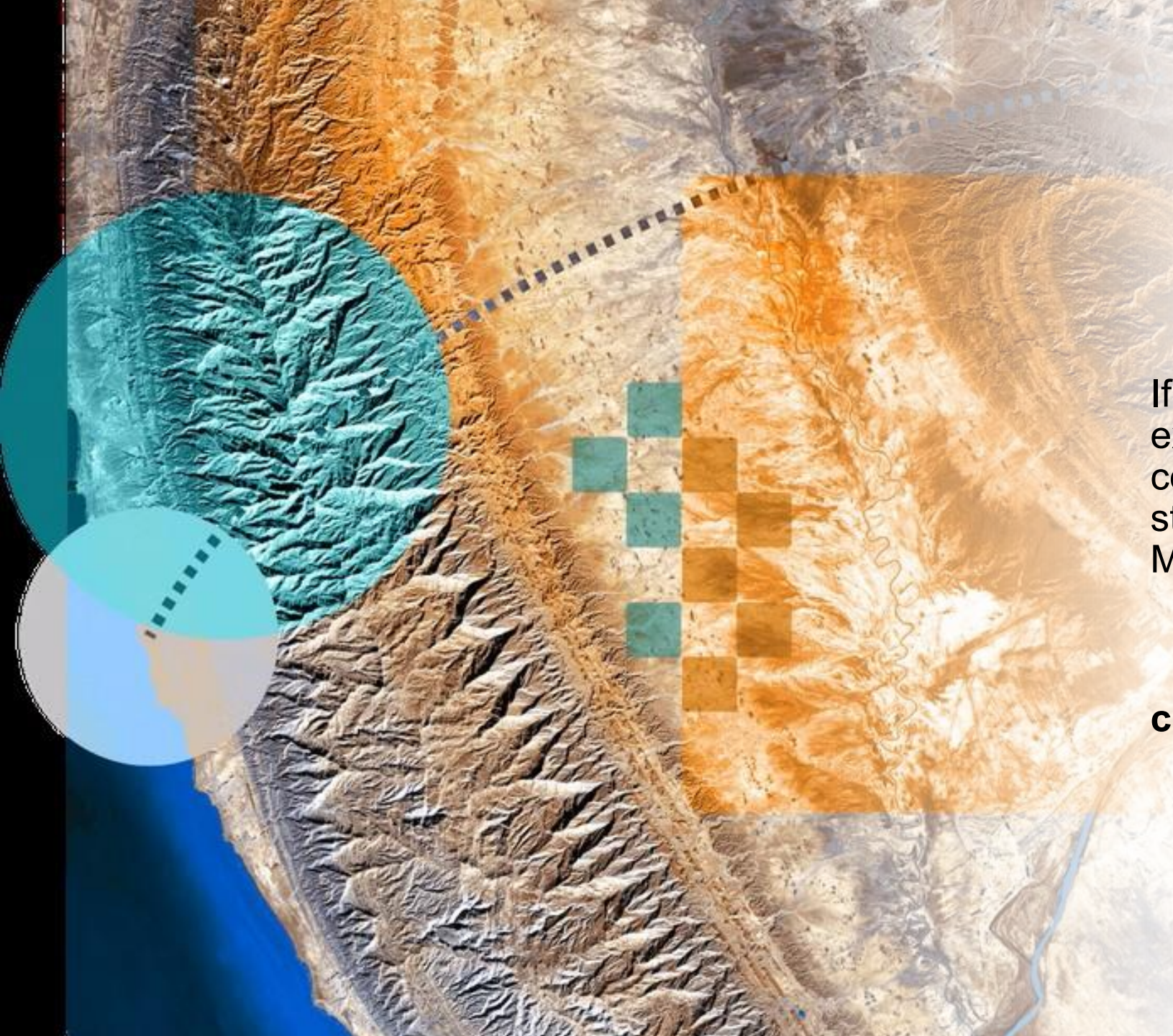
Who: 27 Participants from the MAPME CoP- from KfW, GIZ, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank's Geo-Enabling initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Food Program (WFP), the World Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), and Development Gateway

Recommendations:

- **Admin Unit Boundaries**: Frequently used global admin unit boundaries repositories were compared assessing their features, governance models, and operational suitability. A dedicated working group will now work on recommendations.
- **Activity-related project location attributes:** The data models of six institutions were compared to identify commonalities: Despite differences in structure, terminology, and implementation, this exercise revealed a strong convergence around a core set of attributes, providing a concrete basis for discussing a minimum viable project location data standard aligned with IATI.

Result: A working group within the MAPME CoP was positively voted on to jointly develop a proposal for a IATI project location standard to be reviewed by the IATI secretariat and IATI community.

→ KfW developed an open-automated project location data validation tool using its current data model which could help making such a standard operational.



If you are a GIS- or IATI data expert and interested in co-developing a joint data standard, please join our MAPME CoP working group at:

contact@mapme-initiative.org


THANK YOU
www.mapme-initiative.org