

# BELIZE

## NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

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San Ignacio

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# BACKGROUND

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- The unprecedented growth of GIS use in Belize brought about many advantages as well as disadvantages;
- In view of the exponential GIS development in Belize and with the effort to guide its proper development to maximize its use, the Land and Surveys Department submitted a proposal to the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) to develop Belize National Spatial Data Infrastructure (BNSDI);
- In 2008, the PAIGH approved a grant to Belize to start the development of the BNSDI;
- Due to unforeseen circumstances the BNSDI is being implemented in 2009

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# THE DRIVERS OF THE BNSDI

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- Need for better and more informed decisions;
- Poor/limited institutional arrangement and user/producer relationships;
- Inconsistencies in the availability and quality of spatial information;
- Non-existent policies/legislations governing the development of GIS in Belize;
- Undefined, sometimes conflicting, responsibilities for the generation and maintenance of fundamental datasets;
- Incomplete knowledge about the availability and quality of information;
- Duplication of efforts in the generation and maintenance of GIS information resulting in an inefficient and expensive system;
- Data compatibility issues;
- No National strategy for GIS development in Belize;
- Recognition of the potential and availability of GIS technology;
- International requirements.

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# THE GOAL

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The goal of the BNSDI is

*“to promote national competitiveness and productivity by ensuring coordinated actions amongst government, NGOs, CBO, private sector, academia and the public in general by promoting awareness and implementing adequate policies, common standards and effective mechanisms for the development and availability of interoperable digital geographic data and the relevant technologies to support decision making at all scales and levels.”*

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# OBJECTIVES

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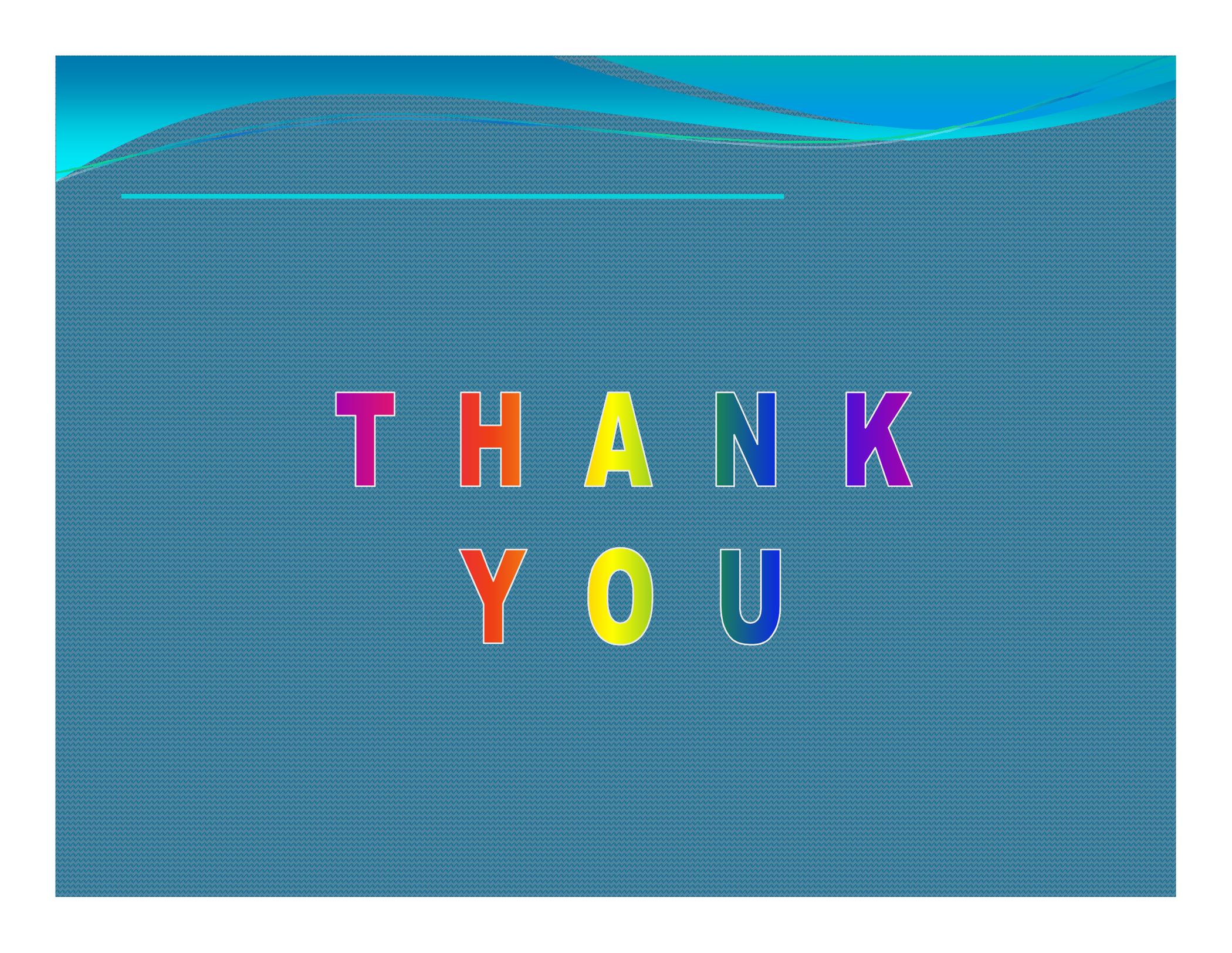
- Promote partnership, institutional coordination and collaboration for efficient, timely and accurate data collection and maintenance of data systems;
- Develop policies/legislations, guidelines (standards) and processes to facilitate ease of information flow;
- strengthen national capacities for geospatial data collection, exchange, research, and analysis;
- strengthen national statistical, cartographic, and Earth observing capacities in order to produce reliable and timely decision support tools for national, regional, and local development policies and strategies;
- improve scientific exchange within and between government agencies, non-government organizations, educational institutions, and individuals;

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# OBJECTIVES (CONT..)

- Establishment and promotion of a required metadata core set;
- Document availability and quality of data;
- Close data gaps;
- Develop a strategy for the timely dissemination of information;
- Improve on data accessibility (does not mean data will be free of charge);
- Define responsibilities for data generation and maintenance;
- Establish a system for the approval and validation of official datasets;
- Agree on copyright issues;
- Develop and implement a plan for capacity building.

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THANK  
YOU