

# The Fall and Rise of Survey & Mapping in Government and Its Societal Impacts

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## SUMMARY

Come explore the trends, innovations and future directions of National Survey, Mapping and Geospatial Authorities and reflect on lessons learned from our rich history.

National Survey and Mapping organizations have a long legacy of helping our nations in conquering new frontiers and reinventing themselves as they protect our countries, societies, and our world. They have also experienced many setbacks and in some cases even found themselves perceived as dinosaurs to the very nations they serve and that hold their purse strings. As they traversed cycles of highs and lows of importance to their countries, they have frequently transformed themselves to respond to their nations' societal needs. From the creation of National Survey and Mapping agencies in the 18th Century, to their recent fall from grace earlier this century, they are now evolving into National Geospatial Authorities. In fact, they are re-emerging to address the socio-economic, environmental and security issues facing our global society today, and significantly improving our future world.

These revitalized National Geospatial Authorities are collaborating in many communities. We will navigate the 'alphabet soup' of acronyms like; UN-GGIM, GEO, WGIC, MGCP, CC, UCG, NGEF, IMIA, ICA, and their growing significance. This will be done in the context of the work the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is doing with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations 2030 agenda and protecting our world. The Survey and Mapping profession has a proud history of innovation and serving society, and they are rising again to sustainably conquer new frontiers.

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