

## Position Paper on Open Access To Geospatial Data

Created by EGGI Project Coordinators at the EGGI Project Coordinators Meeting  
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EGGI provides integrated Geographic Information products in support of Scientific and other activities in Antarctica. These products include

- the SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (the compilation of officially approved place names in Antarctica),
- the Antarctic Digital Database (continent wide topography)
- the SCAR Map Catalogue (lists the Antarctic maps published by SCAR member countries)
- the SCAR King George Island GIS (integrated topographic and infrastructure data for King George Island)

The integrated EGGI products are built on data provided by SCAR member countries. Under the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty (Antarctic Treaty, section III.1.c), the spirit of the SCAR constitution (paragraph 2.3c) and specifically under

### **Recommendation SCAR XXVIII–3** *Concerning geodetic and geographic information*

SCAR member countries should make available existing geospatial data. However, EGGI project work in the last two years has been less effective resulting in less consistent products due to some countries reluctantly making available their geospatial data, including geodetic, topographic, bathymetric, and toponymic data.

Consequently, EGGI recommends to re-enforce ATS and SCAR principles on free and open access to data. EGGI proposes the following recommendation to SCAR:

#### **Recommendation**

*Concerning geodetic and geographic information*

*Noting* the Antarctic Treaty Article III (1c) requirements regarding data exchange,

*Recognizing* that the information products produced by the SCAR Scientific Standing Group on Geosciences are all derived from the work of National Committees and Programmes:

SCAR *recommends*

that National Committees request National Programmes to provide **timely** access for all SCAR members to fundamental geodetic and geographic information, including:

- geodetic observations and databases;
- geodetic control point and tide gauge records;
- remotely sensed data (including satellite imagery and aerial photography)
- topographic and bathymetric data;
- and place names data.