Implementing geospatial data quality standards – motivators and barriers

Presented (remotely) by Serena Coetzee

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Make today matter

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2

International Cartographic Association
Association Cartographique Internationale

ICA Commission on SDI & Standards

SDIs – What is the impact and use of cartography, **standards**, spatial semantics, ontologies, volunteered geographical information (VGI), data quality, virtual globes and other technological developments?

Research, Education, Publications
- With other ICA Commissions
- With other organizations, e.g. ISO/TC 211, OGC, EuroGeographics…
- Reports, conference papers, journal articles, educational material

Register on the Commission website to get notifications
http://sdistandards.icaci.org/

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ICA Commission on SDI & Standards

Commission Chairs

Serena Coetzee
Centre for Geoinformation
Science
University of Pretoria

Franz-Josef Behr
Laboratory for Open Geospatial Software, Data and
Standards
Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences

Upcoming event:
Collaborative custodianship and
collaborative cloud mapping

14-15 Sept 2018 in South Africa

ICA Commission on SDI & Standards

Selected publications

- **SDI-Open**
  - With ICA Commission on Open source geospatial technologies
  - SDI-Open 2015 proceedings
  - SDI-Open 2017 presentations

- **Academic SDI**
  - The Academic SDI – Towards understanding spatial data infrastructures for research and education
  - SDI implementations at universities and research institutes

- **SDI model**
  - A spatial data infrastructure model from the computational viewpoint
  - Extending the formal model of a spatial data infrastructure to include volunteered geographical information
  - An initial formal model for spatial data infrastructures

- **Standards**
  - Standards Wiki
  - World of spatial metadata standards (book)
  - Spatial Database Transfer Standards: Current International Status (book)

https://sdistandards.icaci.org/resources/

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QKEN Questionnaire

- Is your NMCA using
  - Quality Principles in **ISO 19157**?
  - Quality Evaluation Procedures in **ISO 19157**?
  - Data Quality Measures in **ISO 19157**?
  - **ISO 19158** Quality assurance of data supply?
  - **ISO 19115-1** Metadata?
  - **ISO 19115-2** Metadata Part 2: Extensions for imagery and gridded data?
  - Metadata section of **ISO 19119** Services?
  - **ISO 19131** Data product specifications?

- Do you have reference documents that
  - describe how the standards are implemented?
  - could be of interest to other NMCAs?

- Have you used
  - "Guidelines for Implementing the ISO 19100 Geographic Information Quality Standards in National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies"?

Distribute the questionnaire to ICA Commission members?

Responses from ICA Commission members
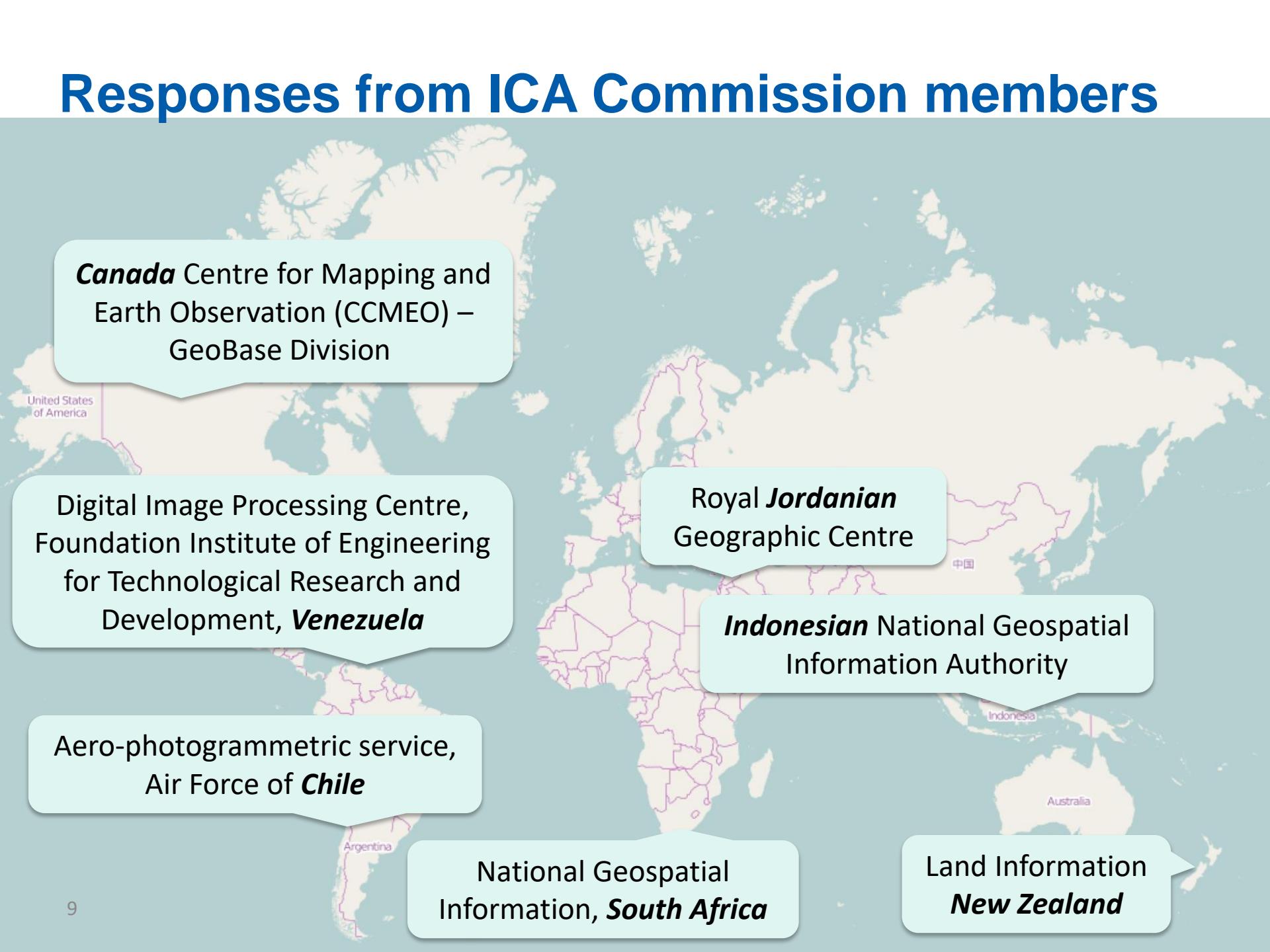
Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) – GeoBase Division

Digital Image Processing Centre, Foundation Institute of Engineering for Technological Research and Development, *Venezuela*

Royal *Jordanian* Geographic Centre

Indonesian National Geospatial Information Authority

Aero-photogrammetric service, Air Force of *Chile*

National Geospatial Information, *South Africa*

Land Information *New Zealand*

9

Responses to QKEN questionnaire
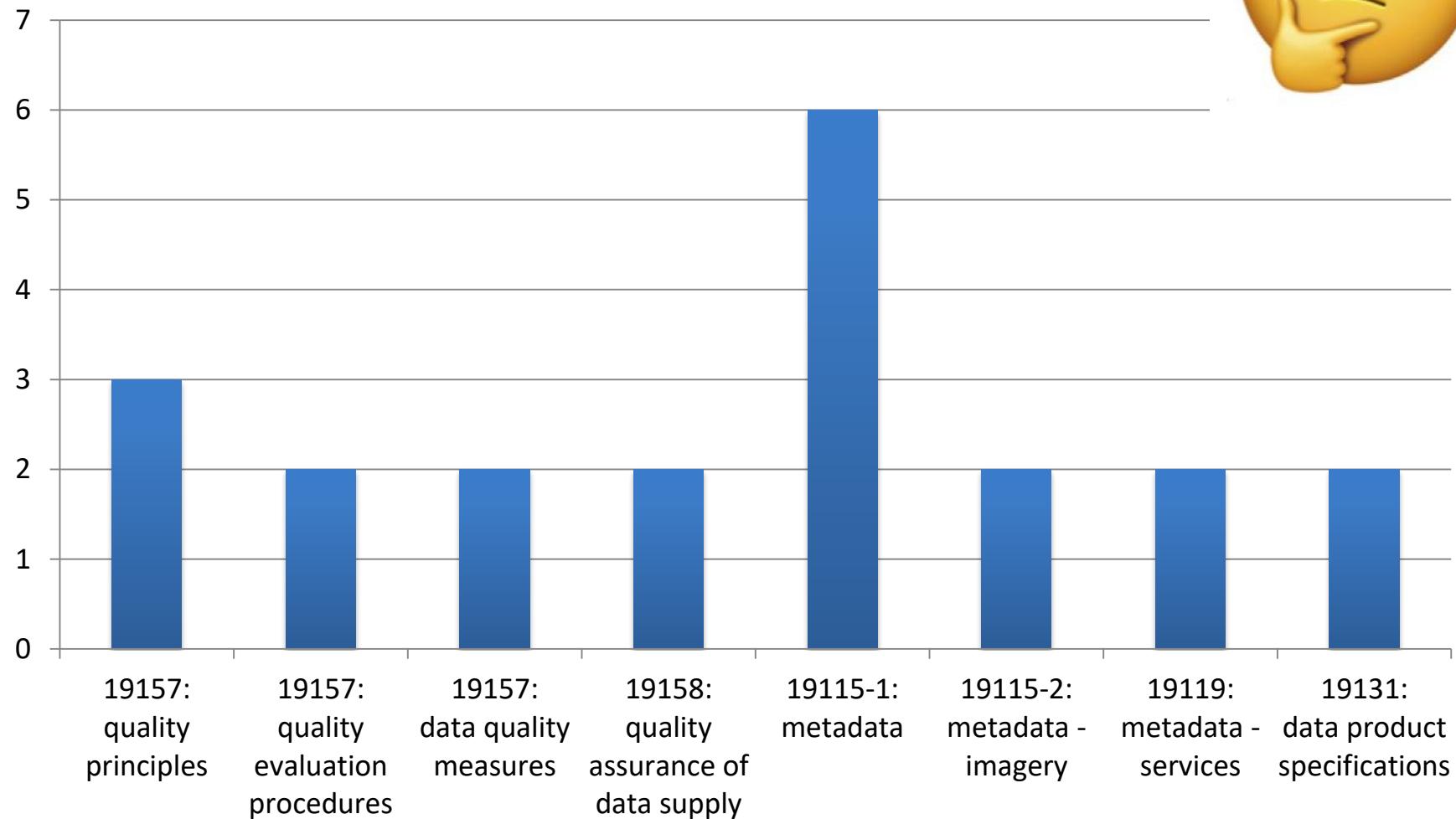
In-depth interviews with 4 organizations
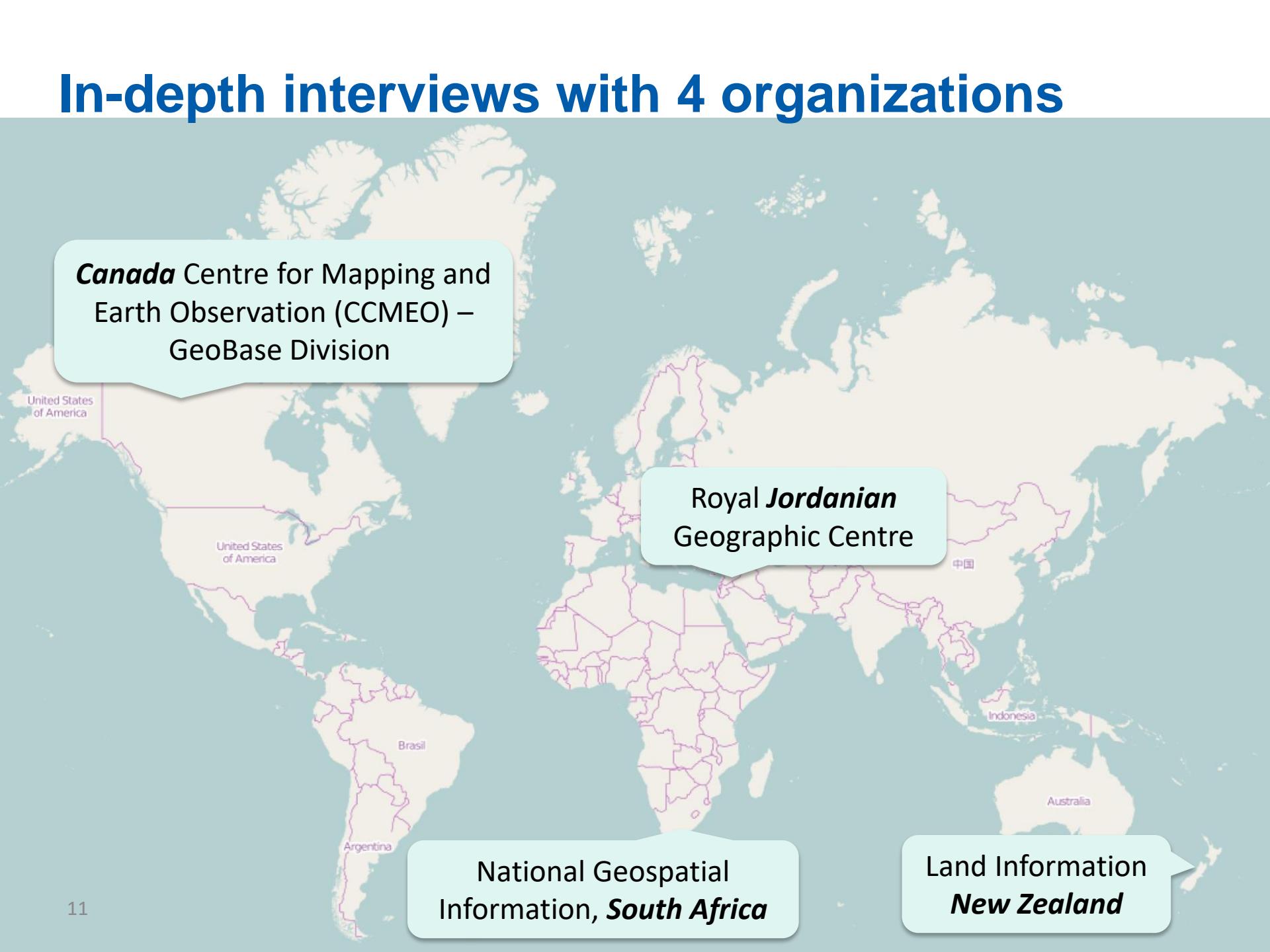
Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation (CCMEO) – GeoBase Division

Royal *Jordanian* Geographic Centre

National Geospatial Information, *South Africa*

Land Information *New Zealand*

11

Questions for the in-depth interview

(based on ISO methodology toolbox)

- **Part 1: About the organization**
  - History, number of employees
  - Market
  - Strategic direction

- **Part 2: About geographic information quality standards**
  - Involvement
  - Motivators for implementing
  - Barriers to implementing
  - Perceived benefits of implementing

Interview discussions digressed from quality standards to standards in general, because three countries had not implemented quality standards…

	Canada	**Jordan**	**New Zealand**	**South Africa**
	NRCan-CCMEO www.nrcan.gc.ca	RJGC www.rjgc.gov.jo	LINZ www.linz.govt.za	NGI www.ngi.gov.za
Founded	1842	1975	1876	ca. 1920
# employees	240 (CCMEO)	200	600	185
Main data products/services	Geospatial **data** for CA government	All kinds of maps, **data** and imagery Surveying work Geodetic network Training courses	Land title register LINZ **data** service Notices to Mariners Portal for NZ geodata GNSS data streams LINZMaps (internal)	National control survey system, mapping, topographic **information**, aerial imagery
Main purpose	Produce authoritative data for government and citizens	Surveying (terrestrial, air and space) for all types of maps to meet the Kingdom's needs, and to provide services	Create value for NZ through the use of geographic information	Facilitate national geodetic framework, mapping, aerial imagery; implement SASDI; provide geoinformation and services to the country
Strengths	Ability to partner and collaborate	Legal protection from competition Own MSc program	LINZ datasets Policies & mechanisms to make data accessible Technical expertise	NGI data Internal standards Data is free

	Canada	Jordan	New Zealand	South Africa
	NRCan-CCMEO www.nrcan.gc.ca	RJGC www.rjgc.gov.jo	LINZ www.linz.govt.za	NGI www.ngi.gov.za
Attitude towards standards	Culture of understanding the value of standards, adoption of standards for Canada's needs Advocate for ISO and OGC standards	Mostly internal standards and procedures. Some international standards in new products, e.g. ISO metadata, WFS	*Bottom-up* promotion of standards and standardization. Statements of intent and strategic planning documents highlight standardisation and interoperability	Internal standards well developed. Positive attitude but lack of understanding of value of national & international standards
Involvement	ISO/TC 211 OGC UN GGIM W3C IHO DGIWG	None	ISO/TC 211 OGC Standards Australia & Standards NZ ANZLIC	ISO/TC 211 SABS/TC 211

Motivators for implementing (quality) standards

- Standards help to improve the quality of the data
  - Assess and describe quality (ISO 19157), then it can be improved

- Standards contain good practice or 'wisdom'
  - Valuable for first-time implementations
  - e.g. data product specifications (ISO 19131) in Canada

- Compliance with international agreements
  - e.g. Arctic SDI, Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention

Motivators for implementing (quality) standards

- Data sharing / integration beyond the organization
  - Metadata
  - Quality metadata
  - Standards facilitate interoperability and consistency

- Shift focus to data/information and its use
  - Rather than on cartographic products
  - Users need metadata to determine fit for purpose

Barriers to implementing (quality) standards

- Well established internal quality standards
    - No value proposition for implementing international standards

- 'Fatigue' from metadata implementation
    - Evidence of return on investment required before commencing with quality standards…

- Metadata 'easy' to capture
    - For quality metadata, technical expertise is required

- Nobody else implements the quality standards
    - No value proposition for implementing national or international quality standards

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Barriers to implementing (quality) standards

- Focus on internal data use only
  - No need to share / integrate data beyond organization

- Standards are difficult to read and understand
  - Need tools to implement them!

- Resistance to change
  - "My way works, why should I change?"

- Value proposition of metadata not understood
  - Better to have 3 products with poor metadata, than 2 products with good metadata

Barriers to implementing (quality) standards

- Resources
  - Technical expertise
  - Money

- ISO standards not freely available
  - Slow development / implementation refinement

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Perceived impacts (based on ISO methodology toolbox)

- More effective implementation of quality management
    - Describe quality and then improve it
    - Internal standards can achieve the same…?

- Streamline internal operations
    - Internal standards can achieve the same…?

- Reduced liability costs
    - Possibly because metadata describes the data
    - Terms and conditions of use actually reduce liability

Perceived impacts (based on ISO methodology toolbox)

- Expanded network of suppliers
  - Metadata / data product specifications useful for describing requirements

- New product lines?
  - Maybe, but tools still need to mature (e.g. linked data)

- Market uptake?
  - More organizations and people use the data…?

- Enter new markets?
  - n/a

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Conclusions

- Standards implementation requires patience ☺

- Effective motivators are sometimes external (e.g. legislation), not necessarily driven (internally) by measurable benefits

- Requires resources, technical expertise, strategic buy-in

- Impacts in ISO methodology toolbox not suitable for geographic information (aimed at manufacturing environment)

- Implementation of quality standards for geographic information much higher in Europe than in other parts of the world

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Exploratory research so far, ideas for taking this research further…

- Improve understanding of motivators and barriers
  - More in-depth interviews and/or more detailed questionnaire
  - Focus on one (type of) standard, such as metadata or web services?
  - Focus on one kind of data, e.g. topographic data or foundational/base layers?
  - Adapt questions for public sector, e.g. type of government instead of market
  - Involve European countries

- Identify/describe motivators: Evaluate the impact of standards
  - Case studies of standards implementations in organizations
  - Adapt ISO methodology
    - Seems to focus on manufacturing, supply chains, private companies
    - Adapt questions on perceived benefits for public sector / geospatial data
  - Will help to understand how to overcome the barriers…

Acknowledgements

- Respondents to QKEN questionnaire

- Interviews
  - Canada
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    - Byron Cochrane, Land Information New Zealand
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Thank You