GEOSPATIAL OPERATIONAL SUPPORT TEAM (GOST)

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MISSION

The Geospatial Operations Support Team (GOST) brings geospatial insight to WB lending, while reducing costs and waste. The team advises operational teams, analyzes geospatial data, and coordinates data and technology investments with external partners. Most of the team members are geographers. The team's skillsets range from remote sensing analysis, to data science and machine learning, to python programming, to information design, to spatial statistics and economic geography. The team mission is to support field staff in gaining useful insights for lending and supervision decisions. In comparison with other geospatial units, GOST prioritizes direct support to country offices and acting and investing on their behalf to generate relevant public goods, such as lower cost data access, better licensing terms, templates, and tools.

CAPACITY

TEAM
6 staff and 14 consultants

WORKSHOPS/EVENTS
The team hosts an informal "Show and Tell" every other Wednesday where teams from around the WB present and discuss their work involving geospatial data and analysis. Capacity assessments and training missions are their forte. Moreover, the team has a monthly newsletter with updates on events, new datasets and services. Please email gost@worldbank.org if you'd like to be part of the mailing list.

SERVICES OFFERED

SUPPORT

Tier 1 - Short Term
GOST can help you access data and tools, or connect you with people who can create basic maps for smaller projects and quick-response requests.

Tier 2 - Institutional Knowledge Generation:
For longer projects, GOST can set up a structured arrangement, involving a mixture of GOST core staff and STCs as appropriate and as client budgets and operational priorities permit.

Tier 3 - Geospatial Public Goods
Even greater support from the core team for long term, funded projects that aligns with their geospatial public goods mandate. GOST's support to ESMAP's Global Electrification Platform is a prime example.

TYPES OF SERVICES
Technical advice
- Provide insights on how geospatial data can help solve your problems
- Purchasing support for high resolution satellite imagery and derivative products (DTM, DSM, building rooftops, roads, etc)

Data processing
- Mobility analysis of vehicle or foot traffic and routes
- Infrastructure change assessments
- Crisis monitoring through imagery inspection

Standard Geospatial Products
- Local mobility and access assessments
- Transport asset inventory and analysis
- Mapping energy infrastructure

GIS skills
- Support for cartography and geospatial data visualization
- Extracting statistics from imagery/gridded data
- Street view imagery / pilot road data collection

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PRODUCTS
- Analytical outputs for task teams
- GOSTNets: Python library useful to conduct network analysis at scale using open source data.
- GOSTrocks: A collection of processing scritps to transform spatial data into tables useful to economists.

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PARTNERSHIPS
Internal
- DEC
- Other GPs
- Country offices

External
- Imagery vendors (Maxar, Planet, BlackSky)
- GIS and technology consulting companies (Development Seed, Mapbox)

- ESA Consortium
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

To know more about GOST:
- Details of services: http://gost.wbgalacarte.org/PostcardList.aspx
- More detailed explanation available on the team wiki:
  http://wiki.worldbank.org/display/GEOS/Geospatial+Operations+Support+Team+-
  +GOST
- Geospatial Community of Practice:
  http://globalpractices.worldbank.org/groups/geospatial/Pages/en/GroupHome.asp
- All the analytical tools developed are open on the team Github:
  https://github.com/worldbank/GOST_PublicGoods