**REPORT FROM THE METADATA CATALOG WG : CSI DATA SC**

**2012/09/27**

The Metadata WG of the Committee on Spatial Information (CSI) Data Sub-Committee (SC) currently focuses on a few initiatives in order to fast-track progress w.r.t. a revamped metadata catalog for South Africa:

* Retain awareness on the Proof of Concept project between the NSIF and SAEON as an interim solution;
* Obtain confirmation from the Standards SC on the metadata requirements/ standards which must form part of the user requirements mentioned-above; and
* A meeting with a core group of the Systems SC to confirm the user requirements for a metadata catalog.

1. **Metadata Standards Status Quo**
   1. CSI

The chair of the CSI Standards SC has been contacted via e-mail. The Standards SC has not yet selected any standards. The Standards SC must still interrogate the standards in detail to determine how they will be used for SASDI, what the relevant parts are, what problems there are with applying them in a South African context, etc. Standards to most likely to be considered are mentioned further below.

* 1. NSIF

At the last Data SC meeting NSIF staff communicated the NSIF has selected 23 metadata fields. These fields were only received this week from the NSIF. Antony Cooper, Chair: Standards SC, reviewed the 23 fields and while similar to the core metadata in ISO 19115, it is not quite the same. So most probably the 23 fields are based on the old FGDC metadata standard (The Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM)) - which is what NSIF would have used way back at its start, as ISO 19115 was only published in 2003. This still needs to be confirmed with the NSIF.

1. **Proof of Concept (PoC) project between the NSIF and SAEON**

This project has the intention to implement an existing open-source solution developed at SAEON as an interim solution. A proposal has been submitted to the CIO of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. No further update could be obtained at this stage.

1. **Proposed metadata standards and metadata elements to be catered for in the metadata catalog**

* ISO or SANS 19115-1/SANS 1878-1 (Mandatory Fields)
* ISO 19115-2 (Mandatory Fields)
* Check ISO/CD 19115-1
* Additional mandatory fields proposed by SAEON, if not included in the above
* 23 fields proposed by the NSIF (source and currency of these fields to be verified)

1. **Proposed way forward**
   1. It is suggested that core teams are formed within the Systems SC and Standards SC to deal with the metadata catalog topic. The Data SC already has a Metadata Catalog Work Group (WG) to deal with this project. Feedback to Sub-Committees (SCs) would then be given to the rest of the relevant SC members at SC meetings or via other means of other established ways of communication e.g. e-mail.
   2. It is suggested that the mandatory metadata fields of the standards and documents listed under paragraph 3 above be documented (e.g. in tabular format) so that it can easily be compared and a consolidated list can be compiled. The Metadata WG of the Data SC will take the lead and circulate it to the Standards SC for input (SAEON’s draft excel spreadsheet can be used as basis).
   3. The SAEON catalog URS was updated after the stakeholders workshop held earlier this year. It is proposed that the updated SAEON URS document again be circulated to at least the metadata core team members of the Data, Systems and Standards SC. A subsequent meeting will be held between the metadata core team members of the Data SC and the Systems SC (attendance from the Standards SC will be optional).
   4. It is proposed that the respective NSIF secretariats of the three SCs in question (Data, Standards & Systems) compile a metadata catalog core team contact list for communication and collaboration purposes. It will also be required that the respective NSIF secretariats of the three SCs in question assist in setting up a meeting(s) as required, and to minute proceedings and outcomes of such a meeting (s).