

# Catalogue of fundamental geo-spatial datasets for Africa: Country report for Central African Republic



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## 1. Background

A continental-wide study was conducted in 2006 to catalogue the existence of fundamental geo-spatial datasets in Africa. This study was contracted to a consortium consisting of the HSRC and EIS-AFRICA as lead organisations and numerous sub-regional partners. It was conducted under the auspices of the UNECA.

The study used a questionnaire to obtain information about the 30 fundamental geo-spatial datasets. Several international agencies also had data for this country this forms the analysis of data for the Central African Republic.

## 2. Data availability

Table 1: Availability of fundamental geo-spatial datasets

Dataset	Have it?	Source
Geodetic control points	No	
Height datum	No	
Geoid model	No	
Aerial photography	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale
Satellite imagery	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ Institut centrafricain pour la recherche agronomique/ Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
DEM	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ UNECA
Spot heights	No	
Bathymetry	Yes	GEBCO
Coastline	No	
Water bodies	Yes	Institut centrafricain pour la recherche agronomique/ Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
Government boundaries	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ Agence nationale pour le développement de l'élevage/ Institut centrafricain pour la recherche agronomique/ Société centrafricaine de télécommunication/ Energie centrafricaine/ Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
Populated places	Yes	Société centrafricaine de télécommunication/ Energie centrafricaine/ UNECA
EA	No	
Place names	Yes	Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
Feature names	Yes	UNECA
Land parcels	Yes	Energie centrafricaine

Dataset	Have it?	Source
Land tenure	No	
Street address	Yes	Société centrafricaine de telecommunication/ Energie centrafricaine
Postal code zones	No	
Land use planning zones	No	
Roads	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
Road centrelines	No	
Railways	Yes	Map Maker Trust/ UNECA
Airports	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ UNECA
Bridges	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale
Power	Yes	Energie centrafricaine
Telecommunication	Yes	Société centrafricaine de télécommunication
Land cover	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ Agence nationale pour le développement de l'élevage/ Institut centrafricain pour la recherche agronomique
Soils	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale/ Institut centrafricain pour la recherche agronomique
Geology	Yes	Agence de développement de l'information environnementale

Central African Republic (CAR) has access to 20 of the 30 fundamental geo-spatial datasets and the country therefore has fairly good access to these datasets. Since it is a landlocked country there would be no datasets on coastlines or bathymetry.

## 2.1 Data characteristics

Data characteristics were very poorly completed and it is therefore difficult to determine whether the geo-spatial datasets available are indeed of good quality. The table indicates for example that satellite imagery is available at the scale of 20 – 80m, it is fully complete and available in a GIS format. Empty cells in the table indicate that no response was received.

Table 2: Dataset metadata

Dataset	Scale at which available (000/ resolution m)	Completeness (%)	Format	Accessibility
Geodetic control points				
Height datum				
Geoid model				

<b>Dataset</b>	<b>Scale at which available (000/ resolution m)</b>	<b>Completeness (%)</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
Aerial photography				
Satellite imagery	20-80	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Authorisation/ Free
DEM	125-1000	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Spot heights				
Bathymetry	All scales	100	Db/ GIS	Unrestricted/ Authorisation/ Payment
Coastline				
Water bodies	62.5-100/ 125-500	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Government boundaries	125-250	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Populated places	12-50	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
EA				
Place names	12-50/ 500-1000	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Feature names	12-50/ 500-1000	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Land parcels				
Land tenure				
Street address				
Postal code zones				
Land use planning zones				
Roads	125-250	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Road centrelines				
Railways	125-250	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Airports	125-250	100	GIS	Unrestricted/ Free
Bridges				
Power				
Telecommunication				
Land cover				
Soils				
Geology				

Most datasets with completed data scale characteristics are available at a medium scale. The data completeness is 100% for the various datasets, while most data is available in a GIS format and with unrestricted and free access.

### **3. Conclusion**

Despite the fact that it seems that the Central African Republic has access to many of the fundamental geo-spatial datasets, the lack of data characteristics complicates the final decision on the quality of the data. Based on this one cannot conclude that the existing geo-spatial data is useful.