



## Economic and Social Council

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### Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference of the Americas

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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Conference papers: country reports**

### Country report of Jamaica, 2009-2013

#### Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas the country report of Jamaica for the period 2009-2013.<sup>1</sup> The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Conference (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrcca10.html>). The Conference is invited to take note of the report.

#### Summary of the report

The National Land Agency is an executive agency with responsibility for the core land information functions of Government. The functions include land titling; surveys and mapping; and land valuation and estate management. The Agency is a member of the Land Information Council of Jamaica and the International Hydrographic Organization.

In 2001, Jamaica changed its geodetic datum to a geocentric datum aligned with the World Geodetic Datum 1984 (WGS 84) in order to facilitate, inter alia, the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and build a modern spatial data infrastructure. This has resulted in georeferencing the map products of the National Land Agency in the new datum and building the Agency's capacity to undertake GPS control surveys, hydrographic surveys and cadastral mapping.

As an executive agency, the National Land Agency focuses primarily on the delivery of services with a results-oriented approach to governance. The Chief Executive Officer, as the head of the Agency, is responsible for achieving the results stated in the Agency's business plan. The Agency publishes a three-year business

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\* E/CONF.103/1.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Trevor Shaw, Director, Surveys and Mapping, National Land Agency of Jamaica.



plan annually. In the plan, the Agency outlines what it will achieve over the next three years and the level of resources required for achieving the stated results.

In accordance with its institutional arrangements, the Agency's mandate is provided under several acts, including the Executive Agencies Act and other acts associated with its core land management functions.

The Agency maintains a national cartographic map production programme in order to meet the public's mapping needs. Since the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in New York in 2009, the National Land Agency has published updated maps of three major urban areas on a large scale; an updated map of the entire island on a medium scale; a road map; and four tourist pocket maps of four different resort areas.

The Agency provides access to its products and services through its commercial policy, the Access to Information Act, and the Geospatial Data Sharing and Access Council, in order to service international requests for Jamaica's geospatial data.

The Agency faces several challenges, including the high costs of hardware and software; the lack of critical training opportunities in Jamaica in respect of cartography and photogrammetry; and the lack of a geoid model for orthometric height determination using GPS data for Jamaica. However, the Agency plans to address those challenges and will continue to provide and promote its high-quality services to the public.

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