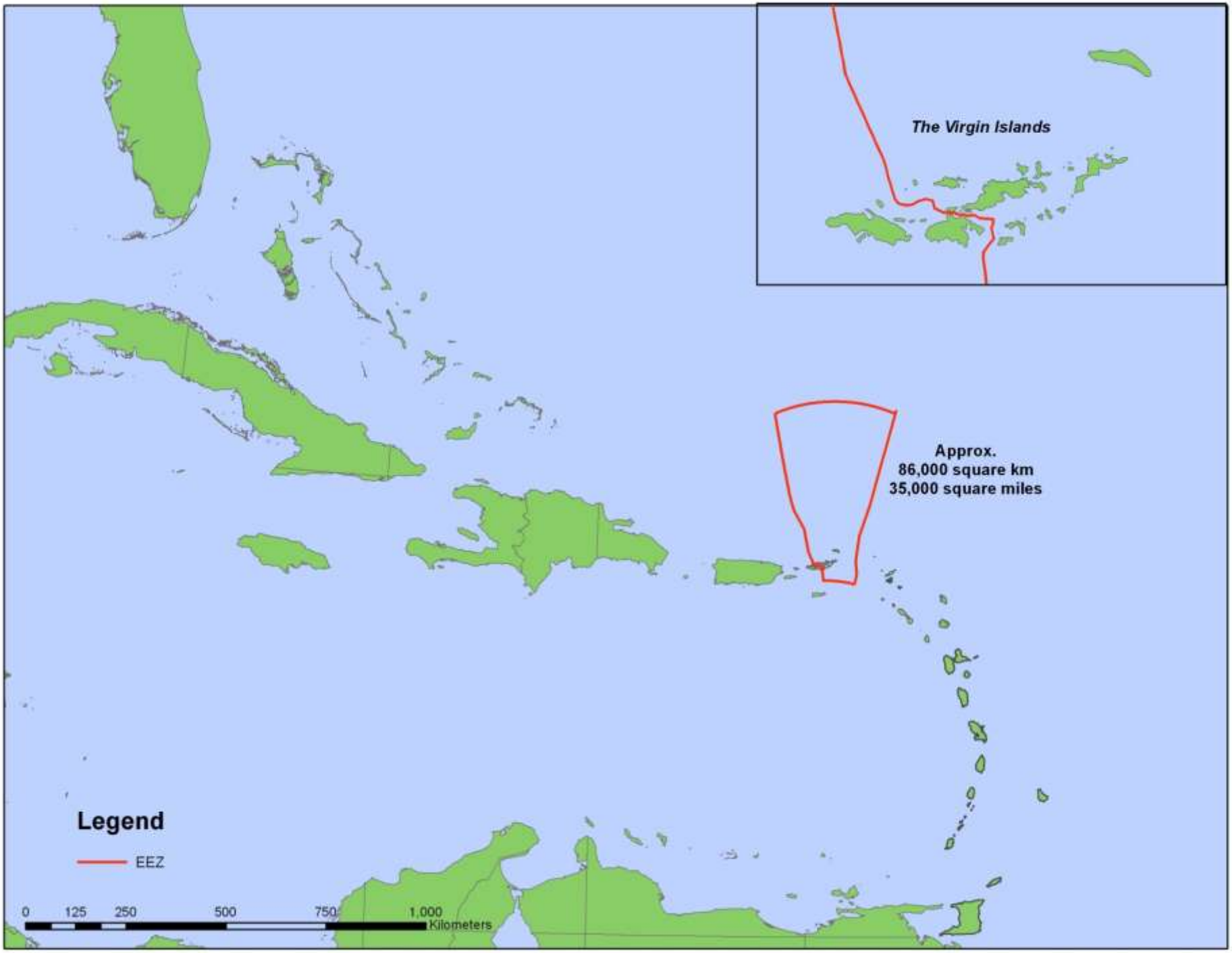
The Opportunities and Challenges around Data Access, Data Sharing and Data Use in the British Virgin Islands

Rozina Norris-Gumbs
Conservation and Fisheries Department
Government of the British Virgin Islands


The Virgin Islands
Approx.
86,000 square km
35,000 square miles
Legend
EEZ
0
125
250
500
750
1,000
Kilometers

ATLANTIC OCEAN
0 5 10 Kilometers
Anegada
The Settlement
Horseshoe Reef
Road Town
Great Camanoe
Jost van Dyke
Tortola
Beef
Virgin Gorda
Spanish Town
Gt. Harbour
East End
BVI
USVI
Sage Mountain
West End
Sea Cow's Bay
SIR FRANCIS DRAKE CHANNEL
St John
Peter

Creation of a Collective Body

National GIS Committee (NGIS)

- Promotes individual responsibility over data development and maintenance
- Ensures less duplication
- Fosters coordination and cooperation
- Assists in determining and filling data gaps

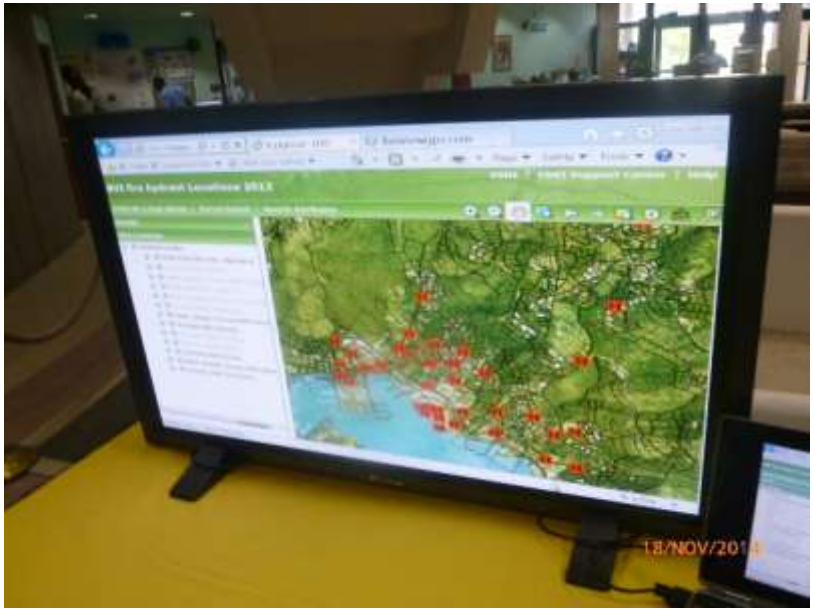
NGIS Members

Consists of 14 departments

- Conservation & Fisheries
- National Parks Trust
- Town & Country Planning
- Land Registry
- Survey Department
- Environmental Health
- Royal VI Police Force
- BVI Fire & Rescue Services
- Public Works
- Water & Sewerage
- Disaster Management
- Agriculture
- Inland Revenue
- Department of Information Technology

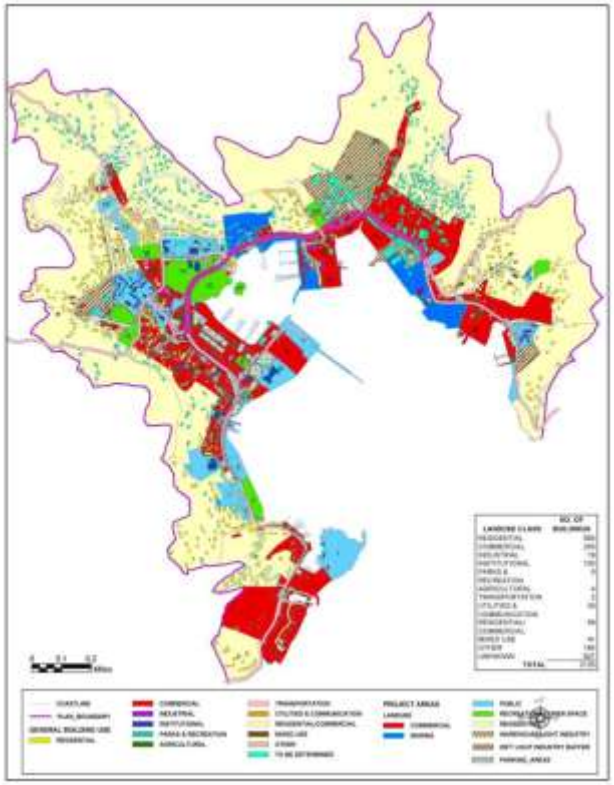
Current Activities

- Monthly meetings
- Dataset creation and sharing
- Training (informal)
- Annual GIS Day Celebrations



Initiatives - Development of a Core Unit

- Update data
- Create metadata
- Generate revenue
- Technical support
- Capacity building
- International/
  Regional Conference



Functions "Over 80% of all government decisions have a spatial component."

Challenges – Technical Staff

- Need for more experts
  database design, inputting (digitizing and data entry), analysis, data provision, hardware, software, networks, programming and cartographic/output skills

- Exclusive GIS Staff
  GIS staff currently filling other roles

- No succession planning
  increased workload makes GIS non-priority

Challenges – Data

- Poor scale
- Some outdated data
- Slow data creation process
- Outdated topographical base
- Lack of Data Quality Assessment Protocol

Challenges – Software (ArcGIS)

- No Funding
  - *New licenses for current software*
  - *Software maintenance*
- Outdated Server (AS 400)
  - *Operating System no longer support Windows 2003*
  - *GIS Software needs upgrading on Server*
- Limited space on Server

Challenges – Training

- More *formal* training for users of various levels
- Time to implement training in a coordinated way
- Need for knowledge transfer system (*train the trainer)*

Challenges – Funding

- Cost of Equipment
  - *GPS, Desktop machines, field equipment*
- Software Maintenance/cutting edge improvements
- Budget
  - *creation of GIS related posts*
  - *approval major projects (National Addressing System)*
  - *Establishment of Core Unit*
- Expert Training
- New topographical data/aerial photography

Co-operation / Buy-in

- Full support from HODs *(heads of departments)*
- Open attitude of all stakeholders (shared vision)
- More technical training
- Creation of posts
- Data Access Policy *(Government & Private Industry)*

Future Initiatives

- GIS in classrooms
- Provision for online GIS services *(public data access/online subscriptions)*
- Automated services (uploading of data)
- Core Unit

Thank You