MAPME
Initiative
MAPS FOR PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
www.mapme-initiative.org

It’s Open Source.
And it’s open to everyone.

MAPME is a community-driven initiative that connects researchers, sector experts, impact evaluators, field organizations, and funders. Together, they foster synergies by pooling resources around shared projects and collaborating on open Earth Observation and Geographical Information Systems tools and solutions for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation in development cooperation.

Supported by

AFD AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

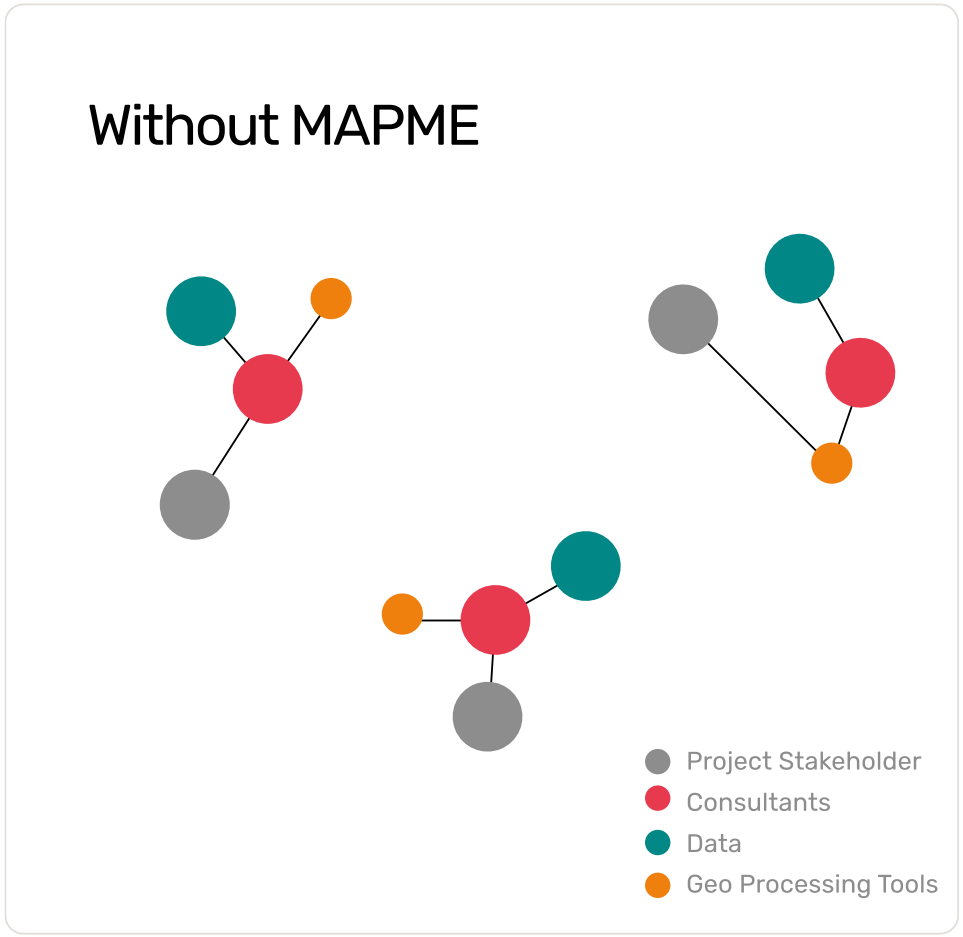
KFW Bank aus Verantwortung

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

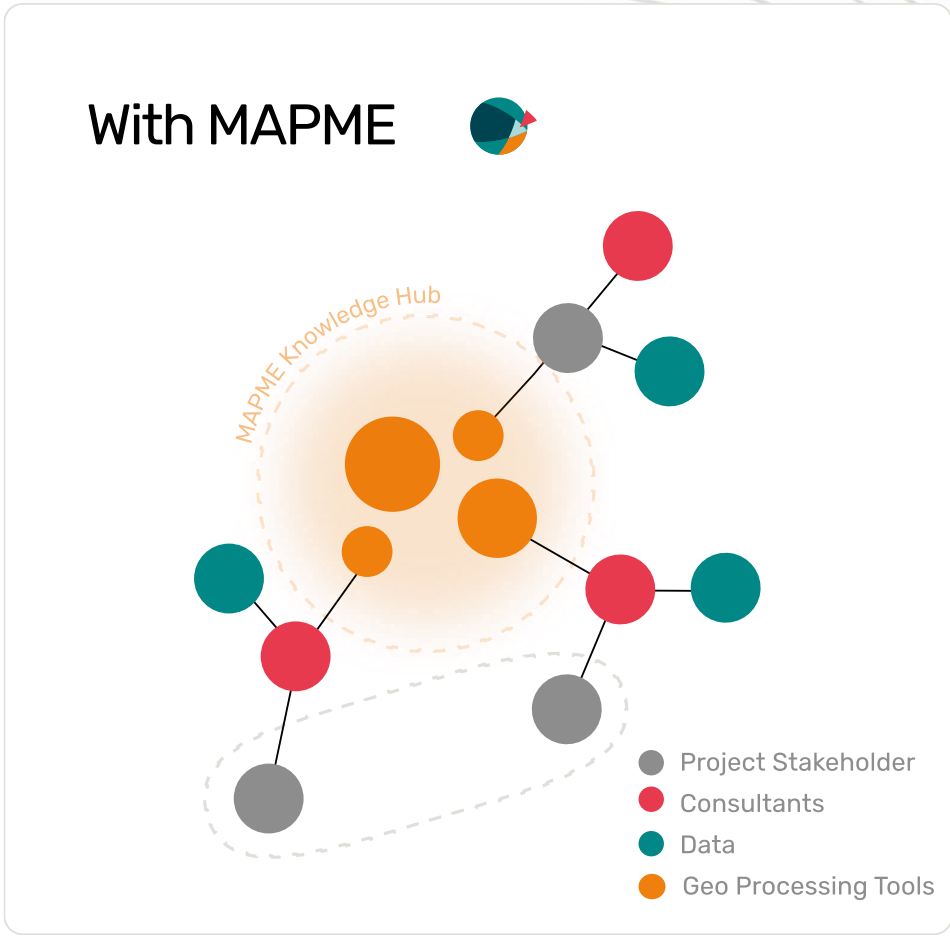
IRD Institut de Recherche pour le Développement FRANCE

Our Approach

Create synergies amongst multiple projects, institutions and stakeholders



Without this collaboration, each organization builds its own isolated tools, duplicating effort across institutions without the benefits of mutualization.



Within MAPME, partners share a common space to showcase and pool their open-source tools, avoiding duplication and expanding what everyone can access.

What is MAPME?

The four axes defining its activities

MAPME Resources

MAPME Community

MAPME Projects

MAPME Geo4Impact Event

MAPME Community

The MAPME community provides a space to:

- Foster collaboration and synergies through shared tools, data and projects
- Share best practices and experiences
- Exchange with all members or thematic groups
- Ask questions, share challenges, and receive support from the community
- Stay closely informed about MAPME news and activities
- Discover and participate in key events and initiatives

All this with the aim of:

- Supporting project planning, monitoring, and evaluation through Earth observation and GIS
- Leveraging geospatial data to address climate change, poverty, and environmental degradation
- Strengthening collaboration in international development cooperation
- Advocating for the value of open-source tools, data, and approaches

MAPME Governance

MAPME ORGANIZERS

Who they are

- Members who signed the Collaboration Agreement or volunteers
- Participation is voluntary

Responsibilities

- Guide the community's strategic direction
- Coordinate events and working groups
- Facilitate contributor meetings
- Onboard new members
- Manage the community's various communication channels
- Animate and engage the Discord community

→ Meeting Schedule: Once a month — remote support session

MAPME CONTRIBUTORS

Who they are

- Anyone interested in exchanging:
  - Experiences & knowledge
  - Data, tools & methodologies
  - Events & opportunities
- Focused on MAPME's domain: open tools, GIS & Earth Observation for development

→ Meeting Schedule: Once a month — remote support session

MAPME WORKING GROUPS

Purpose

- Address specific themes or challenges *(e.g. Geo4Impact events, data standards, capacity building)*

How they operate

- Managed by Community Organizers

→ Meeting Schedule: On purpose

→ Existing working group: Project Location Data Model

MAPME Resources

Training

QGIS courses and tutorials on mapme.biodiversity

Other resources

Project Location Standard, Earth observation guide, Biodiversity Reports

Code repositories

mapme.biodiversity, mapme.pipelines, oda-portfolio, mapme-docker

Developed under MAPME to help practitioners apply GIS and Earth observation through reproducible workflows, technical guidance and shared standards.

MAPME Projects and Collaborations

BETSAKA PROJECT

BETSAKA Project = Biodiversity-economy Tradeoff and Synergy Assessments for Conservation Areas

Objectives

- Measure environmental and socio-economic impacts of protected areas (2000–2024) across Madagascar
- Test effects on deforestation, fires, and livelihoods
- Identify the role of governance, financing, and management

Expected Impact

- Generate evidence and tools to inform conservation policy
- Support sustainable development outcomes.

Contributors: AFD, KfW, IRD (UMI SOURCE)

IE OF PROTECTED AREAS

Objectives

- Evaluate support to protected areas in Latin America (KfW) and Africa (AFD) on forest cover using high-resolution remote sensing data and robust impact evaluation methods
- Provide evidence to inform future project design and decision-making

Expected Outputs

- Evidence-based assessment of conservation effectiveness
- Support for adaptive management of projects
- Enhanced decision-making for funding agencies and conservation practitioners

MAPME tools : mapme.biodiversity package

Contributors: AFD, KfW

PROJECT LOCATION MAPPING

Two workshops and launch of a working group focused on project location mapping standardization.

Objectives

- Share best practices and experiences
- Standardize project location data model across development institutions
- Align institutional data models with IATI standards

Expected Impact

- Improved data quality, consistency, and usability
- Supports strategic planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting
- Facilitate collaboration, transparency, and accountability
- Strengthens MAPME community collaboration and lays foundation for a common data standard

Contributors: IFAD, World Bank GEMS, GEF IEO, KfW, WFP AIMS, ADB

= Project ongoing

MAPME Geo4Impact Event

About the Geo4Impact Series

What it is

A biennial convening of researchers, practitioners, and development professionals focused on advancing open geospatial technologies for evidence-based decisions

Who attends

GIS/EO experts, development agencies, NGOs, government, academia, and civil society.

Mission

Promote reusable, open tools and data, foster cross-sector partnerships, and inform evidence-based policy.

What happens

Knowledge exchange, hands-on demos, case studies, and collaboration across sectors.

Geo4Impact 2025 at a Glance

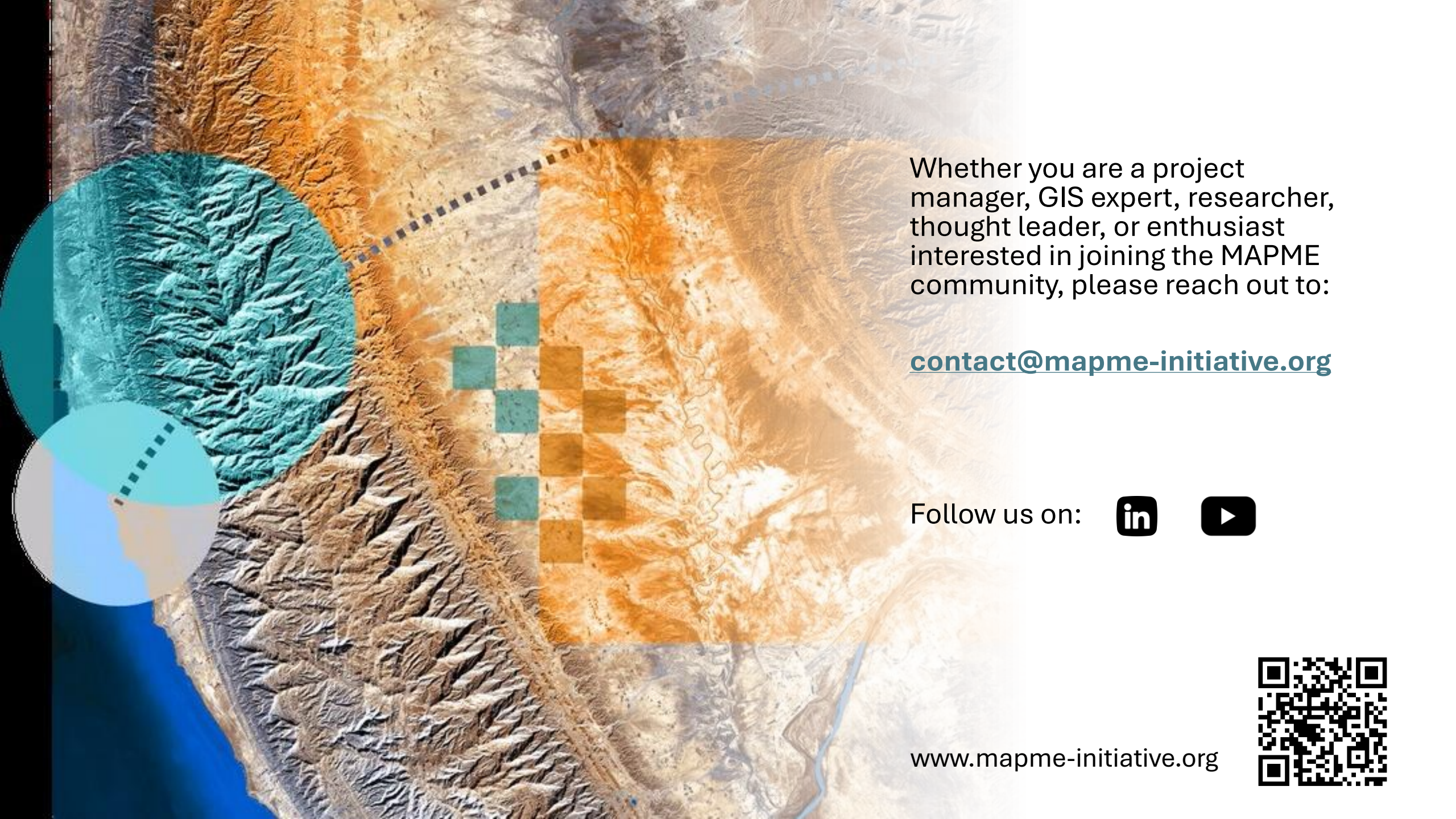
Participants: 90 in-person, 100+ remote, 45 organizations — AFD Headquarters, Paris

Day 1 — From Tools to Impact

Practical applications of open geospatial solutions across various development contexts, showcasing field experiences and lessons learned.

Day 2 — Geospatial Impact Evaluation in Practice

Deep-dive discussions on chapters of the *Geospatial IE in Practice* textbook, highlighting scalable, cost-effective geospatial evaluation methods.



Whether you are a project manager, GIS expert, researcher, thought leader, or enthusiast interested in joining the MAPME community, please reach out to:

contact@mapme-initiative.org

Follow us on:

www.mapme-initiative.org