**DATA MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY**

The goal of the Eastern Caribbean Data Management Community site isto facilitate discussions, raise issues, propose solutions and help to guide future decisions on measures that improve data sharing and management to better inform decision-making processes. This Community aims to establish greater collaboration to tackle the technical challenges of both national and regional geospatial data management in the Eastern Caribbean. These objectives were the priority and impetus for the Eastern Caribbean Open-Source Geospatial Data Sharing and Management workshop that took place on October 6-7, 2011 in Grenada, where this online community was initiated.

Since October 2011, this Community has brought together spatial data managers and programmers for spatial data infrastructure (SDI), and regional development partners to discuss tools and platforms to improve geospatial (GIS) data sharing and management in the Caribbean. The **Geonode** is an open-source spatial data platform that is intended to facilitate geospatial data sharing and management among national ministries and across numerous countries and agencies in the Eastern Caribbean.

As a follow up to the first initiative in Grenada, another workshop about Caribbean Risk Assessment & Open Geospatial Data Management took place in Trinidad and Tobago on February 2-3, 2012, bringing together practitioners from the fields of disaster risk modeling, geospatial analysis and information systems. The goal of this initiative was to improve the risk modeling practice, as well as data management systems to support national and regional decision making for reducing risk to hazards. The Community helped to define the content and objectives for the workshop and continues to help improve spatial data training through online discussions and feedback to proposed regional activities.

This online Community also serves as a central venue to share resources, information and events that relate to data management and risk applications in the region. This is a secure online Community that is open to practitioners that are interested in the region or want to improve data accessibility in the region. For more information, please contact Bradley Lyon, the community site manager.