

# State Geospatial Data Coordination Procedure

## Virgin Islands

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### Purpose of the Procedure

Flood Insurance Studies search for geospatial data during Discovery tasks. If needed data are not available, studies might fund the collection of new data and would like to know about other organizations that might share in these costs. Detailed information about the role geospatial data coordination plays in studies is in the *Geospatial Data Coordination Implementation Guide*, which is available at <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/docs/GeoDataImplem.pdf>.

Resources developed through FEMA’s geospatial data coordination activities provide information about data and contacts for organizations that have geospatial data that cover large areas (like states) in which many studies are interested. Studies can avoid wasting time with dead-end searches and cold calls by starting with these proven sources of information.

One resource is this Geospatial Data Coordination Procedure. It outlines sources of geospatial data and contact information, preferences for base map data and state geospatial participation in flood insurance studies, information for the project Discovery stage, and other useful information for the Territory.

# State Geospatial Data Coordination Procedure

If you have questions about this procedure or other geospatial data coordination resources, contact the geospatial data coordination lead in your Regional Support Center (RSC):

Rosemary Bolich, Geospatial Data Coordination Lead  
Regional Support Center 2  
(646) 490-3848  
[rosemary.bolich@stantec.com](mailto:rosemary.bolich@stantec.com)

## Default Flood Hazard Base Map for the Territory

The default base map for flood hazard maps for Virgin Islands is an orthoimagery-based map.

## Geospatial Data Coverage

Find below information about and links to statewide (and Federal agencies' national) geospatial datasets. The list is provided to save time during Discovery activities when building a list of candidate geospatial datasets available for the study; it is not a prescription of datasets that must be used in a Flood Insurance Study.

## Major Territory Holdings

The Geographic Information Systems Program for the US Virgin Islands is a subdivision of the Tax Assessor's Office. The Geospatial Strategic Plan reports that a Statewide GIS Program is still under development. The Territory has geospatial holdings for some coverage on parcels, elevation, and orthoimagery and coverage and specifications on these data should be coordinated with the Virgin Islands Geographic Information Council (VIGIC). The VIGIC website is <https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/>. There are not Territory holdings for transportation, hydrography, or political boundaries.

## Data Distribution Process for Territory Data

FEMA studies should be coordinated with the VIGIC for information on data and metadata held by the Territory. There is currently no GIS Clearinghouse for the US Virgin Islands.

## Useful Risk MAP Discovery Data Sources

Preliminary information on Discovery data sources is provided in this document to reduce the level of effort needed on each subsequent Discovery data collection effort. Coordination with local community sponsors for additional local data still remains an integral part of Discovery and local data should be used where appropriate.

The *National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure* document contains information on data resources available from other Federal agencies (OFAs), including those that FEMA maintains at the national level, and should be used in conjunction with this State Geospatial Data Coordination Procedure document. In addition, FEMA and its contractors have created a geospatial Discovery Data Repository to host data that are not readily

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accessible through direct sources such as Web sites or subscription services and/or are not updated on a frequent basis. Instructions on accessing the Discovery Data Repository are given in the *National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure* document.

Table 1 identifies data resources that are available at the regional and State levels, and also if there are no data available other than the national datasets. Resources in this table have been identified as appropriate for Discovery projects and may not represent the best data sources for FIRM production (please see the Major State Holdings section of this document for geospatial data that meets FIRM production requirements).

Table 1: Discovery Data Resources

<u>Data</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
Watershed boundaries	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Jurisdictional boundaries	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a>  1131 King Street, Suite 101 Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820 Phone: (340) 776-8505 or (340) 776-6737
	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Tribal land boundaries	N/A	N/A
State lands	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a>
Federal lands	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Major roads	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a>
	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Streams	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Coastal Barrier Resource Areas	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Coordinated Needs Management Strategy	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Topographic/ bathymetric data	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a>

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<u>Data</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
AAL data from Hazus	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Coverage areas for known community and Tribal risk assessment data	Local	Local
Status of Hazard Mitigation Plans	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Flood control structure data	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Locations of stream gages	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Locations of past flood claims and repetitive loss properties	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Locations of clusters of Letters of Map Change	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Known flooding issues not represented on effective FIRMs or listed in Coordinated Needs Management Strategy database	Local	Local
Areas of planned development	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a>
Areas of land use change datasets	Local	Local
Locations of ongoing projects or updated stream studies (e.g. highway improvements)	Local	Local
Locations of wave and tide gages	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Locations of wind gages	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Proposed inland limit of the Primary Frontal Dune, if present	Local	Local
Locations of any beach nourishment or dune restoration projects Required	Local	Local
Comparison of preliminary stillwater elevations with effective stillwater elevations	Local	Local
Available effective study data	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Orthophotography	Geographic Information Systems	<a href="https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/">https://ltg.gov.vi/departments/gis-program/</a> 1131 King Street, Suite 101

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<u>Data</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
	National	Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820 Phone: (340) 776-8505 or (340) 776-6737  <i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Proposed discussion areas, problem areas, areas of proposed mitigation projects	Local	Local
Land use and soil information	Department of Planning and Natural Resources  National	Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building, 2nd Fl., St. Thomas, VI 00802 Phone: (340) 774-3320  <i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Reference points to locate areas with flooding issues	Local	Local
Hydraulic structures	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Coastal structures, including flood protection structures, shoreline structures, manmade embankments, surge conveyance pathways, and shoreline change data	Division of Coastal Zone Management, Department of Planning and Natural Resources  National	8100 Lindberg Bay, Ste.#61 Cyril E. King Airport Terminal Building, St. Thomas, VI 00802 Phone: (340) 774-3320 Fax: (340) 714-9524  <i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Local structure and topographic data from the existing hazard mitigation plans	Local	Local
Historic inundation areas and High Water Marks	Regional	Discovery Data Repository
Clusters or locations of Individual Assistance/Public Assistance grants and locations of grant projects completed, planned, or underway	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Locations of projects and structures completed or planned for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs or mitigation funds from other agencies or entities, such as the Small Business Administration	National	<i>See National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Other information on FEMA grants, as described in G&S Appendix I	Local	Local
Any data deficiencies identified in hazard mitigation plans	Local	Local

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<u>Data</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
Information from FloodSmart on market penetration	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Community Assistance Visits / Community Assistance Contacts	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Community Rating System class information	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Information from other Federal agencies	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Information from State agencies, non-profit organizations, universities, etc.	Directory of Agencies	<a href="http://ltg.gov.vi/">http://ltg.gov.vi/</a>
Current community plans, ordinances, or programs to alleviate flooding or manage stormwater	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Other known hazards with geographical boundaries (e.g. earthquake faults)	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Information on active disasters	National	See <i>National Discovery Data Coordination Procedure</i>
Campgrounds, recreational areas, emergency access routes, etc.	National	See National Operating Procedure
Any other data that might be appropriate	Local	Local

## Federal Nationwide Geospatial Data Holdings

Information about nationwide holdings and programs of Federal agencies is available from at <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/national-geospatial-program/national-map>.

## Finding and Accessing Other Existing Geospatial Data

Find below information about and links to ways of searching for additional geospatial data available for the Territory. These capabilities can be useful for finding geospatial data other than the statewide and Federal data listed above, including those of special governments, counties and parishes, municipalities, tribes, universities, and other organizations.

## Clearinghouses and Inventories for the Territory

There is currently no GIS Clearinghouse for the US Virgin Islands. Obtainment of geospatial data should be coordinated through VIGIC.

## National Elevation Dataset (NED) and 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

These systems allow the search of orthophoto and elevation project information entered by Federal and other organizations. The NEP system can be accessed at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/ngce/elevation/>. The 3DEP system can be accessed at <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/3dep>.

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## Working with People

### Useful Territory and Federal Contacts

The main contacts for the Territory's geospatial activities and Federal agencies' representatives in the Territory are available on the Mapping Information Platform web site at <https://hazards.fema.gov/contacts/statecontacts/contacts.asp?page=VI>.

### Involving the Territory's Geospatial Coordinator in Flood Studies

There is currently no Geospatial Coordinator for the US Virgin Islands. However, VIGIC is formally recognized as the US Virgin Islands entity for geospatial coordination and can be contacted through the Office of the Lieutenant Governor at <http://ltg.gov.vi/contact-information-office-of-the-lieutenant-governor.html>.

### Territory Coordination Process for Building Geospatial Partnerships

The US Virgin Islands completed its most recent Geospatial Strategic Plan in July 2012, which identifies data sharing partnerships as a current weakness of the geospatial plan. Finding and obtaining the Territory's geospatial data is reportedly difficult, with intensive coordination being necessary.

### Finding Local Geospatial Contacts

Local contacts, including those from special government districts (for example, a regional planning commission); counties, parishes, or equivalent governments; tribes, municipal governments; and other organizations (for example, local universities) also have geospatial data that can help a Flood Insurance Study. Contact information is available from the FEMA archive and web searches at government link portals such as <https://hazards.fema.gov/contacts/statecontacts>.

### Provide Feedback on This Procedure

When you find information in this Procedure or in other FEMA or Territory resources that are outdated, please tell the geospatial data coordination lead in the Regional Support Center what was wrong and the correct information (if you know it). Use the contact information for the lead listed in the section Purpose of the Procedure.

The lead will use your feedback to update this procedure.