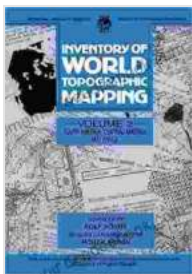


South America, Central America, and Africa: A Comparative Analysis of International Cartographic Association Membership

The International Cartographic Association (ICA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of cartography and GIS. Founded in 1959, the ICA has grown to include over 1,000 members from around the world. The organization's membership is divided into three regions: South America, Central America, and Africa.



South America, Central America and Africa (International Cartographic Association) by William Jiang

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This article compares the membership of the ICA in South America, Central America, and Africa. It examines the factors that have contributed to the growth of ICA membership in these regions, and discusses the challenges that remain.

South America

South America is the most populous region in the Americas, with a population of over 420 million people. The region is home to a number of

large countries, including Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. South America is also a major producer of agricultural products, minerals, and oil.

The ICA has a long history in South America. The first ICA regional conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1964. Since then, the ICA has held a number of other regional conferences in South America, including conferences in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1972), Lima, Peru (1980), and Santiago, Chile (1992).

The ICA has a strong membership base in South America. As of 2019, there are over 200 ICA members in South America. The majority of these members are from Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. The growth of ICA membership in South America has been driven by a number of factors, including the increasing use of cartography and GIS in the region, the growing number of universities and research institutions offering cartography and GIS programs, and the increasing awareness of the importance of cartography and GIS for decision-making.

Central America

Central America is a region of North America that is located between Mexico and South America. The region is home to seven countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Central America is a relatively small region, with a population of just over 40 million people. However, the region is of strategic importance, as it is a major transit route between North and South America.

The ICA has a relatively small membership base in Central America. As of 2019, there are just over 50 ICA members in Central America. The majority of these members are from Costa Rica and Panama. The growth of ICA

membership in Central America has been slow, but steady. The region has a number of universities and research institutions that offer cartography and GIS programs, and the use of cartography and GIS is growing in the region.

Africa

Africa is the second most populous continent in the world, with a population of over 1.2 billion people. The continent is home to a number of large countries, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, and South Africa. Africa is also a major producer of agricultural products, minerals, and oil.

The ICA has a long history in Africa. The first ICA regional conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1974. Since then, the ICA has held a number of other regional conferences in Africa, including conferences in Cairo, Egypt (1986), Abuja, Nigeria (1998), and Cape Town, South Africa (2012).

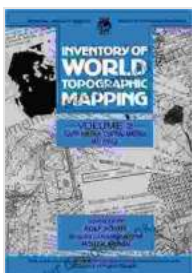
The ICA has a strong membership base in Africa. As of 2019, there are over 200 ICA members in Africa. The majority of these members are from South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt. The growth of ICA membership in Africa has been driven by a number of factors, including the increasing use of cartography and GIS in the region, the growing number of universities and research institutions offering cartography and GIS programs, and the increasing awareness of the importance of cartography and GIS for decision-making.

Challenges

Despite the progress that has been made, there are still a number of challenges to the growth of ICA membership in South America, Central America, and Africa. These challenges include:

- The lack of awareness of the ICA and its benefits
- The cost of ICA membership
- The lack of access to the ICA's resources
- The language barrier
- The political and economic instability in some regions

The International Cartographic Association (ICA) is a valuable resource for cartographers and GIS professionals around the world. The ICA provides a number of benefits to its members, including access to a network of experts, opportunities for professional development, and access to the latest trends and research in cartography and GIS. The ICA is committed to growing its membership in South America, Central America, and Africa. The ICA is working to address the challenges to growth in these regions, and is confident that it can continue to grow its membership and support the development of cartography and GIS in these regions.



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