Detailed Proposal for 1.03 Schema Version of IATI <location> Element

# Proposed Elements and Attributes for 1.03 Decimal Upgrade

## Location Name

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<name>* | *Contains a string giving the name of the location.* |
| Attributes | Values |
|  |  |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Required* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Unlimited* | |
| Notes | |
| *Can recur but only once for each language.* | |

## Location ID

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<location-id>* | *Contains a string with the unique location id code, based on a specific vocabulary.* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@vocab* | *Contains a code representing the vocabulary used to specify the unique ID (e.g. UNSALB, geonames.org, etc.). Code list of allowed vocabularies is maintained by the IATI Secretariat.* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once Per Reporting Language* | |
| Notes | |
| *This element contains the actual unique ID code describing the location according to a known gazetteer or administrative boundary repository. For an internal primary key reference for the location element, I’d recommend using an @ref attribute for the <location> element (e.g. <location ref=”CIDA-4”>) similar to what is done with the <transaction> element.* | |

## Location Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<location-description>* | *Contains a string with a free text description of the location.* |
| Attributes | Values |
|  |  |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once Per Reporting Language* | |
| Notes | |
| *The previous element <description> was ambiguous as to what should be described (the location itself of the activity taking place at the location) and so it has been divided into two elements <location-description> and <location-activity-description>* | |

## Location Activity Description

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<location-activity-description>* | *Contains a string with a free text location of the activity actually taking place at this location.* |
| Attributes | Values |
|  |  |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once Per Reporting Language* | |
| Notes | |
| *The previous element <description> was ambiguous as to what should be described (the location itself of the activity taking place at the location) and so it has been divided into two elements <location-description> and <location-activity-description>* | |

## Administrative

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<administrative>* | *Contains a string with the unique* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@code* | *Contains a code representing a unique id for an admin area, based on one of the vocabularies supported by IATI.* |
| *@level* | *Contains a number representing ADM level for the country according to the chosen vocabulary (e.g. ADM1, ADM4, etc.)* |
| *@vocab* | *Contains a code representing the vocabulary used to specify the location code (e.g. UNSALB, geonames.org, etc.). Code list of allowed vocabularies is maintained by the IATI secretariat.* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Unlimited* | |
| Notes | |
| *Publishers can specify multiple <administrative> elements for one <location>.* | |

## Coordinates

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<coordinates>* | *Empty* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@lat* | *Contains a float value for the latitude of the location point.* |
| *@lng* | *Contains a float value for the longitude of the location point.* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once* | |
| Notes | |
| *We might want to explore if we should change the <coordinates> element to be in-line with the ISO standard for geospatial information (e.g. use markup from the Geography Markup Language supported by the Open Geospatial Consortium). We may also want to add standard metadata to every <location> element specifying the coordinate system and datum for these coordinates.* | |

## Precision

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<precision>* | *Contains a string giving a human readable version of the precision code* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@code* | *Contains an integer value selected from a code list for precisions, managed by the IATI Secretariat* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once* | |
| Notes | |
| *This is different from the @precision attribute of the <coordinates> element under schema version 1.01. It is recommended that the @precision attribute be deprecated, and replaced with two elements - <precision> and <feature-class-type> - which, when combined, account for all of the previous precision codes, but also provide more flexibility.* | |

## Feature Class Type

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<feature-class-type>* | *Contains a string giving a human readable version of the feature class type.* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@code* | *Contains an integer value selected from a code list for feature class types, managed by the IATI Secretariat* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once* | |
| Notes | |
| *This is related to the @precision attribute of the <coordinates> element under schema version 1.01. It is recommended that the @precision attribute be deprecated, and replaced with two elements - <precision> and <feature-class-type> - which, when combined, account for all of the previous precision codes, but also provide more flexibility.* | |

## Location Category

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Element | Value |
| *<location-category>* | *Contains a string giving a human readable version of the location category.* |
| Attributes | Values |
| *@code* | *Contains a code selected from a list managed by the IATI Secretariat* |
| Required/Optional | |
| *Optional* | |
| Recurrence | |
| *Max Once* | |
| Notes | |
| *This was called “Location Type” in the Ottawa proposal, but the name has been changed because a <location-type> element had already been suggested by the Secretariat.* | |

# Example XML

Below is an example XML element for a specific activity segment taking place in Nchalo, a mid-sized town in Chikwawa District, Southern Region, Malawi.

<location ref=”internalRef1”>

<name>**Nchalo**</name>

<location-idvocab=**"geonames"**>**925092**</location-id><!--this gives the

definitive location id-->

<location-description>**Medium sized town in Chikwawa District,**

**Malawi**</location-description>

<location-activity-description>**Distribution of bednets.**</location-

activity-description>

<administrativelevel=**"0"**code=**"MW"**vocab=**"ISO"**>**Malawi**</administrative>

<administrativelevel=**"1"**code=**"MWI003"**vocab=**"UNSALB"**>**Southern**

**Region**</administrative>

<administrativelevel=**"2"**code=**"MWI003003"**vocab=**"UNSALB"**>**Chikwawa**

**District**</administrative>

<coordinateslat=**"-16.26346"**lng=**"34.86889"**></coordinates><!--the point

to use for display purposes-->

<precisioncode=**"1"**>**Exact Location**</precision>

<feature-class-typecode=**"2"**>**Populated Place**</feature-class-type>

<location-categorycode=**"1"**>**Activity**</location-category>

</location>

However, if the specific location of “Nchalo” was unknown, the activity could also be specified to the Chikwawa District as a whole. Note that the most significant changes are to the <feature-class-type> and <location-id> elements, which make it clear that the <location> in question is now a general administrative area.

<locationref=”internalRef2”>

<name>**Chikwawa District**</name>

<location-idvocab=**"UNSALB"**>**MWI003003**</location-id><!--this gives the

definitive location id-->

<location-description>**Chikwawa is a hot, arid district just down the**

**escarpment from Blantyre.**</location-description>

<location-activity-description>**District-wide program for Malaria**

**prevention.**</location-activity-description>

<administrativelevel=**"0"**code=**"MW"**vocab=**"ISO"**>**Malawi**</administrative>

<administrativelevel=**"1"**code=**"MWI003"**vocab=**"UNSALB"**>**Southern**

**Region**</administrative>

<administrativelevel=**"2"**code=**"MWI003003"**vocab=**"UNSALB"**>**Chikwawa**

**District**</administrative>

<coordinateslat=**"-16.16667"**lng=**" 34.75"**></coordinates><!--the point to

use for display purposes-->

<precisioncode=**"2"**>**Approximate Location**</precision>

<feature-class-typecode=**"3"**>**Administrative Area**</feature-class-type>

<location-categorycode=**"1"**>**Activity**</location-category>

</location>

# Proposed Modifications/Deprecations and Justification

## <description> (deprecated)

This element was somewhat ambiguous, and so it is recommended to deprecate it and replace it with <location-description> and <location-activity-description>.

## <administrative> (deprecated)

The <administrative> element previously allowed the specification of @country, @adm1, and @adm2 attributes. However, with the newly proposed flexible approach of allowing ADM1-n specification (e.g. ADM2, ADM6, etc.), it no longer makes sense to have a specific administrative element limited to only ADM1 and ADM2 specification.

## @precision (deprecated)

The @precision attribute of the <coordinates> element used to explain the precision with which a location was specified (e.g. exact location, approximate location, coordinates for the centroid of a country specified b/c no other information available, etc.). However, this was somewhat awkward as the @precision attribute had really become a hybrid of precision, administrative level, and program implementation approach, and was fairly limited and difficult to extend. More importantly reliance of the @precision attribute on specific country, ADM1, and ADM2 divisions (for codes 3, 4.1, and 4.2, 6, and 7) no longer fit with the more flexible approach to <administrative> elements allowing specification at ADM>2 levels. To address this, in this proposal the @precision attribute of the <coordinates> element has been replaced with two new elements: <precision> and <feature-class-type>. Every @precision code from the list can be mapped to one combination of <precision> and <feature-class-type> using the new code lists. This has been shown in a separate document entitled “**Proposal for Refactoring the Precision Coding Structure for the IATI <location> Element**”.

## <gazetteer-entry> (deprecated)

The gazetteer entry element was specific to individual points, and didn’t clearly allow the flexible specification of locations as administrative areas (e.g. countries and ADM1-n areas). In this proposal it has been replaced with the <location-id> element, which can contain a reference to either a gazetteer entry or an administrative division.

## @percentage (deprecated)

It is proposed that the @percentage attribute be deprecated from the <location> element standard. The @percentage attribute wasn’t included in the Ottawa Proposal because of concerns that with a more flexible standard, allowing the geocoding of beneficiaries and activities, the meaning of the @percentage attribute will be unclear and percentages will often sum to values greater than 100.

## <activity-scope> (maintained)

The Ottawa Proposal recommended the inclusion of an <activity-scope> element, detailing whether a project is global, regional, national, province-level, etc. The <activity-scope> element would be a child of the <activity> element (occurs once) and not included in the <location> element. The working group maintains this recommendation, but suggests further discussion before implementation.

## <location-type> (deprecated)

It is recommended that the <location-type> element be deprecated. The <location-type> element has many overlapping codes with the new <feature-class-type> element, but the <feature-class-type> element is considered more applicable because it deals with the specific distinctions between location types which are most crucial for publication and visualization of data on foreign aid activities.

# Other Issues

## Support for Multilingual Reporting

All relevant child elements of the <location> element should be specified in a way that supports multi-lingual coding of information. Per the current specification, this means that the <location-name>, <location-description>, and <location-activity-description> should be repeatable, with one recurrence per language and mandatory @lang attributes if the language of a recurrence is different from the default language.