ICA is keeping a strong position in the development of cartographic science, methodology and methods of analysis, elaboration, handling, using, implementation and interpretation of spatial (geographic) and non-spatial (non-geographic) data.

ICA is the world authoritative body for cartography, the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps.

The ICA was founded on June 9, 1959, in Bern, Switzerland. The first General Assembly was held in Paris in 1961.

The activities of the ICA are important for promoting and advancing the theory and praxis of cartography. Throughout its 50-year history, ICA has brought together researchers, government mapping agencies, commercial cartographic publishers, software developers, educators, earth and environmental scientists, and those with a passion for maps.

The mission of the International Cartographic Association is to promote the discipline and profession of cartography in an international context.

**The International Cartographic Association exists:**

- to contribute to the understanding and solution of world-wide problems through the use of cartography in decision-making processes.
- to foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping.
- to provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography.
- to facilitate the transfer of new cartographic technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations.
- to carry out or to promote multi-national cartographic research in order to solve scientific and applied problems.
- to enhance cartographic education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences.
- to promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography.

The Association works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to achieve these aims.