



GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

for the Global Geospatial Community

covering



Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

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The **GSDI Regional Newsletter** is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association’s former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at gsdi.org.



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Announce your news or information!

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at newseditor@gsdi.org and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

Support and Contributions to this Issue

Thanks to the GSDI Association for supporting the News Editor and GSDI listserv moderator Kate Lance; GSDI Communications & Operations Manager, Roger Longhorn; and Karen Levoleger, (Kadaster, Netherlands) for their contributions in creating, producing and disseminating the GSDI Regional Newsletter.

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Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Sénégal: Base de données géographiques prioritaires



Plate-forme de téléchargement de données géospatiales de l'Agence nationale de l'aménagement du territoire (ANAT)



BaseGéo Sénégal est une base de données géospatiales accessible à tous. Elle contient des ortho-images Alos (format tiff) et des données vectorielles normalisées (formats shapefile et kml) aux échelles 1:50 000, 1:200 000 et 1:1 000 000. Pour télécharger les données, vous devez être enregistré(e).

English summary: **Priority geospatial database**

Platform for downloading geospatial data from National Agency for Planning (ANAT)

BaseGéo Senegal is a geospatial database accessible to all. It contains ortho-images Alos (tiff format) and standard vector data (shapefiles and KML) at scales of 1:50 000, 1: 200,000 and 1: 1,000,000. To download the data, you need to be registered.

Effigis, with the help of Fujitsu Canada and funding from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), set up BaseGéo. Having accessible geospatial data in Senegal means being able to support decisions for the welfare of the country's people in terms of sound and long-lasting socio-economic development. BaseGéo crowns the efforts of the Canadian government, which, since 2009, has been heavily involved in developing and implementing Senegal's National Geomatics Plan.

Source: <http://www.basegeo.gouv.sn/> ; <http://effigis.com/canadian-support-project-in-senegal/>

Sénégal: Journées Nationales de la Géomatique 2015, Mise en place de la cellule de coordination de la Géomatique



Sous la présidence du Ministre des Mines M.Aly Ngouille Ndiaye et de l'ambassadeur du Canada au Sénégal M. Phillipe Baulne, le Groupe interinstitutionnel de concertation et de Coordination en Géomatique (GICC) du Sénégal a organisé avec l'appui du Projet d'appui canadien la deuxième édition des journées nationales de géomatique du 17 au 18 mars 2015 au King Fadh Palace.

Ces journées ont coïncidé avec la fin du projet d'appui canadien, qui durant 5 ans a mis en place le Plan national de géomatique (PNG, <http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/?-Le-PNG->) et a érigé les bases de l'infrastructure des données géospatiales du Sénégal. Aujourd'hui le PNG représente la feuille de route du Gouvernement Sénégalais pour la géomatique du Sénégal.

Durant deux jours ; acteurs de la géomatique, représentants du gouvernement canadien, décideurs nationaux et internationaux ont pu faire le tour de la situation géomatique du pays. Des présentations et des contributions de hautes factures orientées sur le thème « l'infrastructure des données géospatiales, un levier incontournable pour l'émergence » ont alimenté les débats tout au long des journées.

Avec le lancement de la base de données géospatiales prioritaire "BaseGéo" mais aussi la mise en ligne du GéoRépertoire, des outils essentiels dans l'acquisition et la consultation des données géographiques sont désormais disponibles gratuitement pour les usagers.

La mise en place d'une Cellule de coordination sous la coupole du GICC est largement recommandée pour poursuivre le travail entamé par le projet d'appui canadien. Cette cellule entièrement prise en charge par l'Etat du Sénégal se chargera de mener à bien l'ensemble des activités déclinées par le Plan. En terme de recommandations issues des journées, il s'agira entre autres, de :

- Réorganiser et redynamiser le GICC en élargissant secrétariat exécutif avec l'entrée du Cadastre et l'ordre des géomètres et experts ;
- Demander au Canada de prolonger son effort d'appui à la géomatique du Sénégal ;
- Trouver un ancrage institutionnel du GICC , sur la base d'une proposition faite en concertation avec tous les acteurs ;
- Mettre en place la cellule de coordination en géomatique ou tout autre cadre de suivi adéquat ;
- Mettre à la disposition de la cellule de coordination des ressources tant que humaines, techniques, matérielles et financières pour mieux supporter le processus de géomatique du Sénégal ;
- Organiser un conseil interministériel sur l'information géographique afin de booster ce processus ;
- Réfléchir sur la mise en place une loi qui fixe et organise les activités liées à l'Information Géographique au Sénégal ;
- Insérer dans le curricula universitaire la formation en géomatique ;
- Renforcer les structures de gestion de l'information géographique en les dotant de personnel qualifié et des moyens conséquents ;
- Renforcer la vulgarisation sur les opportunités offertes par la géomatique, surtout avec le secteur privé et les collectivités locales ;
- Accéder librement et de façon gratuite aux données.

English summary: National Geomatics Days 2015, Establishment of Geomatics Coordination Unit



Chaired by the Minister of Mines M.Aly Ngouille Ndiaye and Ambassador of Canada to Senegal Mr. Phillipe Baulne, the Inter-Institutional Group for consultation and coordination in Geomatics (IGCC) of Senegal organized with the support of Canadian Support Project the second edition of the

National Geomatics Days 17 to 18 March 2015 at King Fahd Palace.

These events coincided with the end of the Canadian Support Project, which for 5 years has established the National Geomatics Plan (NGP) and erected the foundations of the infrastructure of Senegal's geospatial data. Today (NGP) is the roadmap of the Senegalese Government for geomatics in Senegal.

For two days; actors geomatics, Canadian government officials, national and international policymakers have to go around the situation Geomatics Canada. Presentations and contributions of high bills oriented on the theme "Geospatial Data Infrastructure, a key lever for the emergence" have fueled debates throughout the day.

With the launch of the geospatial database priority ' BaseGéo ' but also posted the georeferenced digital library, essential tools in the acquisition and consultation of geographical data is now available for free to users.

The establishment of a coordination unit under the umbrella of the IPCC is widely recommended to continue the work begun by the Canadian Support Project. This unit fully supported by the State of Senegal will undertake to carry out all activities declined by the Plan. In terms of recommendations of days, it will be among others:

- Reorganize and revitalize the IGCC expanding Executive Secretariat with the entry of Cadastre and order of surveyors and experts;
- Asking Canada to extend its support to the efforts Géomatization of Senegal;
- Find an institutional anchor IPCC, based on a proposal made in consultation with all stakeholders;
- Fit the geomatics coordination cell or other suitable monitoring framework;
- Make available the resources coordination unit as human, technical, material and financial resources to better support the Senegal Géomatization process;
- Organize an inter-ministerial council on geographical information to boost this process;
- Reflecting on the establishment a law that sets and organizes the activities related to geographic information in Senegal;
- Insert into university curricula training in geomatics;
- Strengthen geographic information management structures with qualified personnel and significant resources;
- Strengthen education about the opportunities offered by geomatics, especially with the private sector and local communities;
- Free access and free way to data.

Source: <http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/?Journées-Nationales-de-la>

Ghana: ILGS launches Centre for Geospatial Intelligence Services



The Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS, <http://www.ilgs-edu.org/>), which aims at building capacity for local governance, has launched the Centre for Geospatial Intelligence Services (CGIS) and the Local Governance Observatory (LGO). The CGIS is an ILGS state-of-the-art facility, aimed at delivering solutions for local government in all three areas, that is, service delivery, public policy and governance and public information and community engagement.

Source: <http://www.ghanadistricts.com/news/?read=55240> <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/artikel.php?ID=352095>

Sudan: Extensive fieldwork completed for Natural Resources Mapping and Database Project in Darfur

GAF AG has successfully accomplished the extensive fieldwork programme in its Darfur Natural Resources Mapping and Database Project carried out for the Darfur Land Commission (DLC). It is the so far largest comprehensive and most up-to-date inventory and capacity-building project on the natural resources and ecological potential of this 500,000 sqkm Saharian/Sahelian region.



A wealth of Earth observation and existing data served as base for preparation, recent field data and Darfur wide mapping including change detection at different scales will deliver now accurate planning data for regional development measures. The field data collection started in 2011 and has been continued over several dry and wet seasons up to end of January 2015. Thematic areas covered are Geology and Minerals, Water Resources, Geomorphology and Soils, further Ecology, Biology and Biodiversity, Land Cover and Land Use and the changes in these over the past decades, and finally Socioeconomic Conditions and Livelihoods in selected population centres. The fieldwork was carried out by expert teams by topic and region or state, involving at peak times well over 120 national and international staff to fulfil the enormous task.

Eng. Mohamed Abdulrahman Mudalal, DLC Commissioner states: "We are first of all very satisfied that we were able to entirely complete the ambitious fieldwork programme and could even add in specific thematic aspects, this despite the security challenges we have seen the past years. The first analysis shows very promising results. They will allow considerably better management of resources and for a targeted rural and urban development of the region."

See also: GAF to establish a multi-layer Natural Resources and Land Use Database and Map for Darfur (21 March 2011), <https://www.gaf.de/content/gaf-establish-multi-layer-natural-resources-and-land-use-database-and-map-darfur>

Source: <http://www.gaf.de/content/gaf-completed-extensive-fieldworks-campaign-darfur-sudan>

Key challenges and potential urban modelling opportunities in South Africa, with specific reference to the Gauteng City-Region



Author(s): Chris Wray, Kenneth Cheruiyot
South Africa Journal of Geomatics, Vol 4, No 1
(2015)

Abstract: Urban growth and land use change models, supported by Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software and increased digital data availability, have the potential to become important tools for monitoring and guiding urban spatial planning and development. Five broad categories of urban models are utilised internationally, that is, land use transportation models, cellular automata, system dynamics, agent-based models and spatial economics/econometric models. This paper provides a broad overview of South African modelling projects that monitor or simulate urban spatial change. The review identified a variety of government and academic urban modelling initiatives. These initiatives mostly track trends, rather than simulating future scenarios, and analyse historical land cover change using GIS and remote sensing software. There is a risk within Gauteng, however, that out-dated data, different population projections, duplicated tools, limited spatial data infrastructure (SDI) and a lack of resources; could compromise urban spatial change modelling efforts within government institutions. As such, the paper discusses key challenges and opportunities for modelling urban spatial change, with specific reference to the Gauteng City-Region – the heartland of the South African economy and the Southern African region.

Source: <http://www.sajg.org.za/index.php/sajg/article/view/195>

South Africa: 6th Annual GIS Summit 2015, 28-29 May 2015, Johannesburg

The 6th Annual GIS Summit, being held at the Amabhubesi Conference Centre in Ferndale, Randburg, Johannesburg, aims to enrich technology providers, users, policy makers and academia with the latest technology knowledge, success stories and capacity building. These activities will cover topics relating to geospatial technologies, applications and policies. Join and network with experts from Master Data Management, Independent Electoral Commission, Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Africa, Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Kenya, TGIS, DigitalGlobe Inc, Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS). Conference objectives:

- Address a critical need to strengthen sustainable capacity in mapping and the spatial analysis of epidemiological data
- To understand the intellectual and practical activities of rapid developments in GIS technology.
- To demonstrate and evaluate the integration of GIS and utility asset management
- Using geospatial technology to investigate its capability to better manage, analyse and visualize soil data.
- Assisting GIS educators at various institutes towards understanding the potential role of open source software.
- To ensure the complete territorial coverage of census data collected.
- Using the knowledge of the customer, and the customer's behaviour, to produce the optimal combination of channel, interaction, product and pricing

Source: <http://www.amabhubesi.com> ; Contact: duncan@amabhubesi.com

Updated maps better capture the spatial complexity of farms, people, and ecosystems



At the end of April 2015, HarvestChoice launched over 500 newly-updated indicators in its catalog of 5-arc-minute geospatial layers for sub-Saharan Africa. Underlying each indicator or variable, such as health and poverty, agricultural production and area, climate and soil, and access to market, are recent sub-national data sources and improved methodologies.

With over 750 harmonized data layers, HarvestChoice is hub to

the largest and most diverse geospatial database for Africa South of the Sahara. All indicators are openly available for download from the website in a variety of formats (tabular CSV, ESRI ASCII, and GeoTIFF rasters).

Over 500 new and updated indicators at 10 km resolution now available, in particular:

- SPAM 2005 v2.0 commodity indicators: harvested area, production, yield, and value of production for over 50 commodity groups
- maize yield variability under low/high input systems (simulated)
- mean, min, max, and probability of cropland area sourced from IIASA
- 50-year average and variation in rainfall sourced from CRU 3.22
- LandScan 2012 population count and density
- IUCN/Wdpa 2014 protected areas (7 definitions)
- soil fertility (soil organic carbon content) sourced from ISRIC/AfSIS
- bovine grazing and stover production (2000) sourced from ILRI

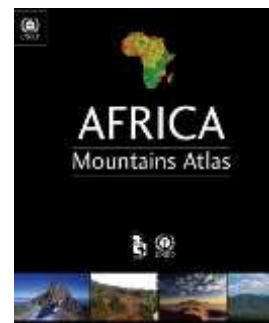


Data Access: All HarvestChoice data are provided in raw format at 10 km resolution (5-arc-minute). Users may decide to further aggregate and summarize indicators across administrative boundaries or other geographic domains (agro-ecological zones, for example) for subsequent analyses.

Source: <http://harvestchoice.org/labs/data-release-r25>

ARCOS, UNEP and partners release African Mountains Atlas

The “African Mountains Atlas” presents the status of African mountains and their role as pillars of sustainable development on the continent. Featuring over 64 maps and 73 satellite images as well as some 50 graphics and hundreds of compelling photos, the African Mountains Atlas produced by UNEP in collaboration with partners including Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS), presents clear and visual messages about huge development challenges facing Africa’s Mountain ecosystems. It uses hundreds of ‘before and after’ images, detailed new maps and other satellite data from 53 countries to show the problems facing Africa’s mountain areas, such as landslides in Mount Elgon and Rwenzori, volcanic eruptions, and receding glaciers. It also presents challenges and opportunities for Africa as the continent strives to enhance the livelihoods of mountain communities and the services derived from mountain ecosystems.



Download Atlas here: http://www.na.unep.net/siouxfalls/publications/Africa_Mountains_Atlas.pdf

All the materials in the Atlas are non-copyrighted and available for free use as long as the Atlas is acknowledged as the source. All images from the atlas including individual satellite images and other graphics can be downloaded from <http://www.na.unep.net/atlas>.

Source: <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=26788&ArticleID=34786&l=en>;
<http://arcosnetwork.org/index.php/en/latest-news/321-arcos-unep-and-partners-release-two-landmark-publications-to-support-african-sustainable-mountain-development-agenda.html>

Source: http://www.agrhymet.ne/eng/PDF/MESA%20NEWS_Special%20Issue_What%20MESA_delivering.pdf

Closing out of AGRICAB project, March 2015



Since October 2011, the project entitled “A framework for enhancing Earth Observation (EO) capacity for Agriculture and Forest Management in Africa as a contribution to GEOSS” (AGRICAB in short, <http://www.agricab.info/>), has strengthened African capacities in the use of Earth Observation satellite data for sustainably managing crops, livestock and forest resources.



Together, the 17 project partners have organized more than 50 training workshops, used data from new European satellites and services (e.g. Copernicus), promoted open data sharing according to the principles agreed by the Group of Earth Observation, integrated software tools and models, set up satellite ground reception equipment and developed novel web services using Big Data techniques.

Innovative partnerships and collaborations developed through the project have led to:

- better informed agriculture policy making in Senegal, Kenya and Mozambique;
- cross-boundary coordination and study of groundwater use for irrigated crops in Tunisia and its neighbours;
- state-of-the-art South African research on tree cover and volumes mapping and managing fires;
- livestock modelling at global to local scales and developing related insurance products.

Information on workshops organised within the project, available software and tools, and data download is accessible from our dedicated Africa platform: <https://rs.vito.be/africa/en/home/Pages/home.aspx>

Source: <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/european-union/events/closing-event-agricab-project>

Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) News, Volume 2, No. 1 (April 2015)



The April 2015 newsletter special issue features what the Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA, <http://rea.au.int/mesa/>) project is delivering to its end users in different thematic actions. The MESA project currently delivers products and operational services to African users in the following thematic areas such as: agricultural production; monitoring and assessment of droughts; wildfires; land degradation mitigation; coastal and marine resources management; water resources management; natural habitat conservation; rangeland management; and forest monitoring. The MESA Project is a European Union funded Programme (37 Million €, 2012-2017), implemented with the overall coordination of the African Union Commission and steering by the Regional Economic Communities (CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC and SADC) and the ACP Secretariat, in close cooperation with the European Union Delegation to the African Union and partners such as EUMETSAT and the EC Joint Research Centre.

Assessing rainfall and vegetation trends in sub-Saharan Africa from satellite data



Author(s): A. Hoscilo, H. Balzter, E. Bartholomé, M. Boschetti, P. A. Brivio, A. Brink, M. Clerici, and J. F. Pekel

International Journal of Climatology, first published online: 16 December 2014

Abstract: Policymakers, governments and aid agencies require operational environmental monitoring in support of evidence-based policy-making and resource deployment in crisis situations. For Africa, this is only feasible at sub-continental scale with a large network of automated meteorological stations, a large number of highly coordinated field observers or with satellite remote sensing. The challenge with satellite data lies in the derivation of meaningful environmental indicators. This article describes a conceptual framework for understanding satellite-derived indicators of rainfall and vegetation greenness trends over Africa. It attributes observed vegetation changes to climatic (i.e. rainfall linked) and non-climatic drivers. A decade of annual rainfall and vegetation data over sub-Saharan Africa was analysed using satellite-based rainfall estimates [Famine Early Warning System Rainfall Estimation 2.0 (FEWSNET RFE 2.0)] from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Climate Prediction Centre and the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) obtained from the Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre Vegetation (SPOT-VGT) sensor. Rainfall and vegetation greenness trends were analysed for 759 administrative regions of sub-Saharan Africa to identify those regions that have experienced a negative, positive or stable rainfall/vegetation trend over the period 2001–2010. The character of the relationship between the annual rainfall and max NDVI trends were examined to identify areas where the changes in greenness could be attributed to climatic (rainfall) and non-climatic (human land use or ecological disturbance) changes. Regions where increasing rainfall was associated with vegetation greening were found in West Africa, Central African Republic, West Cameroon and northeastern part of South Africa, whereas areas with evidence of 'climatic vegetation degradation' were located in Southern Madagascar, Nigeria, Kenya and the Garden Route region of South Africa.

Keywords: land resources; climate change; food security; international development; environmental indicators

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.4231/full>

2015 East Africa Esri Conference, September, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The 2015 East Africa Esri Conference will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on September 2015. The actual dates will be announced in the future.

Source: <http://www.iss-ethiopia.com/?q=node/3>

Esri Africa User Conference, 11-13 November 2015, Cape Town, South Africa



The geospatial community will converge on Cape Town, South Africa in November 2015 for intensive training in Esri geographic information system (GIS) technology. You'll spend three days in one of Africa's most fabled cities, learning from top Esri staff. Expand your connections, fill up on important industry issues, and return home freshly empowered to move your organization forward. Save the Date for the Esri Africa User Conference. The deadline to submit abstracts is **May 15, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.esri.com/events/auc>

Fellowship for Outstanding Women Geoscientists



In the framework of the Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa, UNESCO has facilitated the setting up the African Network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI) to promote high quality research and training through collaboration and partnership among Earth science institutions. The Visiting

Fellowship for Outstanding Women Geoscientists is one of the core capacity building activities with the objective to improve the involvement of women in post-graduate studies. The programme is funded in the general framework of 2014-2017 Programme Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The objective of this programme is to attract best performing female students to pursue post-graduate education and career in Earth sciences. The programme will support exposure visits to a research environment (facilities, institutions, programs, etc.).

This call targets institutions willing to 1) Encourage their best performing young MSc graduate females to pursue PhD programmes and 2) Support their best performing ongoing PhD female students.

The Visiting Fellowship for Outstanding Women Geoscientists duration is two months. A maximum grant of 2500 USD/fellow will cover the travel and subsistence costs. Institutions should submit on behalf of their best performing post-graduate female student. All applications should reach the ANESI Secretariat before **30 June 2015**, 11.59PM GMT+3. See call for applications:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Nairobi/pdf/CallforapplicationforANESIVFW.pdf>

Source: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/nairobi/about-this-office/vacancies/>

ANESI Student Exchange Programme



In the framework of the Earth Science Education Initiative in Africa, UNESCO has facilitated the setting up the African Network of Earth Science Institutions (ANESI) to promote high quality research and training through collaboration and partnership among Earth science institutions. The Student Exchange Programme is one of the core capacity building activities with the objective to increase the mobility of students in Africa. The programme is funded in the general framework of 2014-2017 Programme Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

This call targets:

1. Young Earth science postgraduate students (MSc and PhD) willing to participate in a specific course or to use a research facility in another African institution;
2. African Earth science institutions willing to host students from other African countries for a specific course.

The exchange program duration is minimum two weeks and maximum one month. See call for applications: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Nairobi/pdf/CallforapplicationforANESISEP.pdf>. All applications should reach the ANESI's Secretariat before **30 June 2015**, 11.59PM GMT +3.

Source: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/nairobi/about-this-office/vacancies/>

Call for Applications: 2015 GOFC-GOLD Data Initiative Training



The Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) Program will host the fourth Data Initiative, an advanced training on access, management, use and application of earth observation data, tools and methods during July 20 and

August 7 2015.

What is the GOF-C-GOLD Data Initiative? GOF-C-GOLD is a coordinated international program designed to provide ongoing space-based and in-situ observations of forests and other land cover. These observations are intended to support sustainable management of natural resources and to help provide a better understanding of the terrestrial carbon budget.

START, with funding from US NASA and support from the US Geological Survey, is organizing the GOF-C-GOLD Data Initiative training program for 2014. The Data Initiative training sessions will provide capacity building in support of the GOF-C-GOLD Regional Networks, which serve to improve access to, and use of, the remotely sensed Earth observations around the world.

When and where will the training sessions be held? Dates: July 20 – August 7 2015 Location: USGS EROS Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (July 20-25), and Department of Earth and Environment, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA (July 26-August 7)

Who is eligible? The training program is designed for scientists who are associated with the GOF-C-GOLD regional networks, although other scientists are welcome to submit a request to become a Fellow. The selected Fellows will need to be prepared for a very specific technical level of training. To be qualified, a candidate must be: 1) a specialist with advanced degrees in natural sciences or resource management, 2) a young or mid-career scientist and technical expert, or 3) an advanced PhD student. Solid working knowledge of the English language (reading, writing, speaking) is critical. Experience with spatial data analysis and management of large datasets is strongly preferred. It is expected that home institution is in a developing region of Asia, Africa or Latin America.

Where and when should applications be submitted? Applications are due at the International START Secretariat by 12:00 noon Eastern Daylight Time (US East Coast) on Friday, **10 May 2015**. Contact Senay Habtezion: shabtezion@start.org.

Source: <http://www.start.org/download/2015/2015-GOF-C-GOLD-Data-Initiative.pdf>

British Ecological Society (BES) Grants for Ecologists in Africa



These grants provide support for ecologists in Africa to carry out innovative ecological research. The BES recognises that ecologists in Africa face unique challenges in carrying out ecological research and this grant is designed to provide them with support to develop their skills, experience and knowledge base as well as making connections with ecologists in the developed world.

Applicants must a) be a scientist and a citizen of a country in Africa or its associated islands, b) have at least an MSc or equivalent degree, and c) be working for a university or research institution in Africa (including field centres, NGOs, museums etc.) that provides basic research facilities- carry out the research in a country in Africa or its associated islands. The proposed work must be completed within 18 months.

The grant can be used to pay for basic tools needed to conduct the research project, travel and in some cases part of the applicant's salary. It cannot be used for tuition fees. This grant cannot be used to support research degrees, however, researchers who have already been registered at a research institute or university for at least six months by the application deadline for the grant, can apply for funding for research that goes towards a degree. Applicants in these circumstances need to indicate that they have already gone some way in starting their research and that the money will not go towards course fees or personal salary.

The maximum value of a grant is £8,000 for research. An additional sum up to £2,000 may be requested to fund travel to help grantees develop connections with other ecologists outside their usual peer group. Travel funds are available for the applicant to spend time working with ecologists in developed countries where facilities and experience will help the grantee on return to their own institution.

Applications for this grant must be made using the BES online application form: <http://www.britishecologicalsocietygrants.org/Africa/> . Application deadline: **TBD September 2015**

Source: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/grants-awards/ecologists-in-africa/>

Call for Proposals: Knowing Our Changing Climate in Africa

UNESCO's Climate Frontlines initiative is launching a new project for pastoral/herding communities in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (see eligibility criteria below). The project aims at understanding pastoral peoples' own knowledge of weather and climate, their forecasting skills, and their observations of environmental change. The project goals are:- to build dialogue between community members and climate scientists,- to strengthen local capacities to engage with national policy-makers on climate change adaptation.

Support to successful applicants will take the form of small grants, capacity-building workshops and dialogue sessions involving knowledgeable men and women from herder communities, scientists and policy-makers.



Key questions to be addressed: The work you will do with your community will contribute to addressing key questions like the following:- How do people in your community read the weather, forecast rain or drought, and use their meteorological knowledge to guide day-to-day decision-making?- What environmental changes and trends are being

observed by men and women, and how are these affecting herding livelihoods?- Is your community witnessing an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and if so, how are you adapting?- Have people in your community had the opportunity to dialogue with national meteorological services or engage in national debates on climate change adaptation? How might such opportunities be increased and enhanced?

Eligibility criteria: The proposals must involve herding/pastoral/agro-pastoral peoples based in one or more of the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania or Uganda.

The proposals must be carried out in communities that consent to participate in the initiative. During the application process, applicants will be asked to prove that the communities are aware of and consent to the proposed initiative. The proposed activities must be carried out in 2015-16 and finish in 2016. The proposal budget can be up to but not exceeding 5,000 USD. Applications from indigenous peoples and local communities are encouraged. Applications must be submitted to UNESCO via peoples at climatefrontlines.org by **11 May 2015**. This project is supported by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO.

See call for proposals: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/temp/LINKS/Pastoralist-knowledge-proposal_English.pdf

Learn more about the initiative and access the application: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/links/>

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Nepal: Data access for supporting response and recovery

As part of ongoing preparedness activities, many involved agencies and organizations within Nepal and the international community have been building and enhancing data resources to ensure information is available for disaster response, recovery, and future risk reduction activities.

For the last three years, Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) has been working with Nepal to enhance the country's GIS and data capacity. As part of an initiative to implement tools and methods for integrating available geospatial data holdings, PDC's DisasterAWARE EMOPS system (<http://www.pdc.org/solutions/products/disasteraware-emops/>) offers emergency managers access to shared information and interagency updates. EMOPS users are able to combine baseline data, such as information for borders, districts, wards, and fundamental infrastructure, with other available dynamic data such as aftershocks to support decision-making. PDC is also receiving requests for data and information via response at pdc.org.



Along with information sharing offered through DisasterAWARE, PDC also hosts a web-accessible catalog of data available from partners of the Global Hazards Information Network (GHIN, <http://ghin.pdc.org/ghin/catalog/main/home.page>), which is a partnership of national and international organizations providing decision makers access to high-quality geospatial information for risk assessment, early warning, response, and other disaster management related activities.

Source: http://www.pdc.org/news-n-media/pdc-updates/Data_Access_for_Supporting_Response_and_Recovery_in_Nepal/

Australia: Use open data in your business or not-for-profit? Contribute to Australia's first formal Open Data study



In March 2015, the Department of Communication, in conjunction with New York University's GovLab team launched the Open Data 500 research project as the first comprehensive study of Australian companies and non-profit organisations that use open government data to generate new business, develop new products and

services, improve business operations or create social value.

The research initiative was launched by Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull at the Locate15 Conference. The results of the study will be used to develop a publicly available report that will help businesses to identify ways to reduce the costs of accessing government data, including licencing, versioning and control costs. GovLab was founded by Beth Simone Novak, who was formally the United States deputy chief technology officer for open government and led President Obama's Open Government initiative.

If your organisation uses open data, or you know an organisation that does, please participate in this study. The more information available on how and why open data is used, the more attention it will receive from Australia's governments. More information about the study, and the survey for businesses and not-for-profits to complete are available at the study website: <http://www.opendata500.com/au>.

New Zealand: 2015 Topographic Strategy



The 2015 Topographic Strategy sets the direction the New Zealand Topographic Office will take to unlock new patterns and knowledge to help drive better decision making, benefiting the economy, environment and communities. The strategy ensures topographic resources are spent in areas where they will provide the maximum value and benefit for New Zealand. It will also result in a more targeted approach to the maintenance of LINZ's topographic data and products that better meets the needs of both its enduring and emerging customers. In this way, LINZ will identify high priority topographic data and products that require maintenance more often

than others, as well as topographic features that require a higher level of accuracy. Implementation of this strategy will also see a move to greater reuse of topographic data as LINZ works with other organisations that produce or have uses for it. New topographic products and services specifically for digital use will be created.



LINZ produces the Topo50 and 250 series of maps for New Zealand and its offshore dependencies. Digital images of these maps and the data used to produce them are available online through the Land Information New Zealand Data Service (<https://data.linz.govt.nz/data/category/topographic/>).

In developing the Topographic Strategy, LINZ sought the views of a range of map users and organisations that use or produce topographic data regularly.

The full text of the strategy can be read online or downloaded as PDF (2.46MB):

http://www.linz.govt.nz/system/files_force/media/file-attachments/Topo%20Strategy%202015.pdf?download=1

See also: LINZ encourages mapping innovation, <http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-04/linz-encourages-mapping-innovation>

Source: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/publications/topographic-strategy-2015>

Design and Construction of the Provincial Geo-Spatial Information Sharing Platform in China

Author(s): Chen, Q.; Sun, S., and Deng, M., 2015. Design and construction of the provincial geo-spatial information sharing platform in China. In: Mi, W.; Lee, L.H.; Hirasawa, K. and Li, W. (eds.), Recent Developments on Port and Ocean Engineering. Journal of Coastal Research, Special Issue, No. 73, pp. 614-619. Coconut Creek (Florida), ISSN 0749-0208.

Abstract: The paper analyzes and presents the concept and principle for the construction of provincial geospatial information sharing platform, and three main operation models based on the actual situation in China. Taking Sichun Province as an example, the 7-layer entire structure of the “sharing platform” is designed, and the author designs the primary implementation scheme of the province “sharing platform”.

Keywords: Geospatial information, information sharing platform, digital province, geographic information system, Sichuan.

Source: <http://jcronline.org/doi/pdf/10.2112/SI73-107.1>



Indonesia: GIS and the Green Prosperity Project’s Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP)



To ensure that the Green Prosperity Facility will be distributed properly, Millenium Challenge Account – Indonesia (MCA-Indonesia) needs accurate spatial information. Geographic Information System (GIS) plays very important supporting role in Green Prosperity Project’s Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) to safeguard the data accuracy.

“GIS is a tool to help us making decisions on grants that will be distributed through Green Prosperity Facility,” said MCA-

Indonesia Green Prosperity Project PLUP Associate Director, M Sigit Widodo, on Tuesday, 2 December 2014. “We must know about projects that will be financed by the grants: their locations, status, and how they are connected with the environment.”

According to Widodo, the available maps lack the details on the village level, particularly after expansions of regional divisions. GIS technology used by MCA-Indonesia and the local governments aims to fill the gap and obtain more accurate and detailed maps. He explained, for example, MCA-Indonesia staffs will input important information into the GIS during their field work. When they explore rivers and find swift water flow and the width suitable for micro hydro power plants, the staffs will input the coordinates into the GIS gadgets. The information will be uploaded to an integrated GIS database, which will enable decision makers to see potential locations for micro hydro. “There are various layers of information visualized in GIS, including PLN (state-owned power company) transmission lines,” said MCA-Indonesia GIS Specialist Danan Hadi. “So we can find out where the project location candidates are; whether those can be on-grid or connected to PLN transmission lines, or they will be off-grid to serve citizens who live far from PLN transmission lines.”

So far, MCA-Indonesia has setup a GIS Dashboard to map four districts in two provinces: Muaro Jambi District and Merangin District in Jambi, as well as Mamuju District and Mamasa District in West Sulawesi. GIS will be expanded to other locations of Green Prosperity Project and regularly updated with latest data. The GIS Dashboard is available on MCA-Indonesia’s website: <http://gp.mca-indonesia.go.id/peta-gis/>. Meanwhile, more information about PLUP and GIS can be read on <http://gp.mca-indonesia.go.id/en/plup/>.

Source: <http://gp.mca-indonesia.go.id/en/sistem-informasi-geografis-akurat-untuk-keputusan-tepat/>

Kyrgyzstan: New food security mapping tool



The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has announced the launch of a new online, interactive mapping tool from our Central Asia program. Together with the University of Central Asia (<http://www.ucentralasia.org/>), IFPRI launched

Kyrgyzstan Spatial (<http://www.kyrgyzstanspatial.org/>).

Based on technology developed for IFPRI’s Arab Spatial tool (<http://www.arabspatial.org/>), Kyrgyzstan Spatial is a mapping tool and knowledge platform designed to support evidence-based decision-making in agriculture and food security.

The tool provides data on more than 100 indicators, including climate, biophysical, and socio-economic factors, and enables users to visualize areas most vulnerable to food insecurity and target policies and research where they are most needed. It is available in both English and Russian, to anyone with Internet access.

It is IFPRI’s hope that this new tool will help analysts, policymakers, and those working for food security in the region make sustainable and impactful development analyses and investments.

Source: <http://www.ifpri.org/pressrelease/uca-and-ifpri-launch-kyrgyzstan-spatial>

National GIS Policy for Pakistan Roundtable



Pakistan's Ministry of Planning Development and Reform (Planning Commission) Energy Wing hosted a round-table on 7 April 2015 on the importance of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Physical Planning, Resource management, governance and business, focusing on the need for a National GIS Policy and Infrastructure (NSDI-National Spatial Data Infrastructure). The Planning Commission intends to coordinate the development of a National GIS Policy and provision of resources therein. An Expert Working Group is to be formed to study the needs of NSDI and the cost and benefits thereof with an intention to develop a PC-1 or PC-2. The roundtable was meant to kickstart deliberations on the subject leading on to a National Conference involving wider national participation. Participants included Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary Hassan

Nawaz Tarrar, Maj. Gen (R) Dr. Zahir Shah, Director CPEC and former Surveyor General, Current Surveyor General of Pakistan, SUPARCO, SSGC, SNGPL, Land Records Department Govt. of Punjab, Urban Policy Units (Provinces), KESC, IESCO, NESPAK, GIS Depts of NUST, LUMS, UET etc., Institute of Space Technology Islamabad, PTCL and many others. For more details see the file here: http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1678

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/www.pc.gov.pk/posts/1564799497128592?fref=nf>; Asmat Ali, Assistant Dire, Survey of Pakistan

Russia: Proceedings of 3rd International GIS-Forum held in Moscow



15-17
April, 2015
Moscow Region

The International GIS-Forum 'Integration of geospace - the future of information technology' (<http://sovzondconference.ru/2015/>) was held April 15-17, 2015, in Moscow. The forum brought together more than 250 representatives of the state, regional and

municipal authorities, commercial companies, research and educational organizations. The geography of participants: Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Germany, India, Iran, Spain, China, South Korea, USA, France. Presentations from the Forum can be accessed online.

Source: <http://sovzondconference.ru/2015/rus/news/detail.php?ID=1058>

36th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing (ACRS 2015), 19-23 October 2015, Manila, Philippines



ACRS is one of the largest remote sensing conference in Asia. Last year, more than 400 participants attended ACRS2014 organized in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. We welcome your active participation to ACRS2015. This year, ACRS 2015 will bring

together students, researchers, scientists, engineers, policy makers, professionals and practitioners from developed and developing countries from and around Asia to share insights into the challenges and opportunities of Remote Sensing and related geospatial technologies in building resiliency and encouraging economic growth and development in one, dynamic Asia. The conference takes place at a significant moment when disasters and climate change continues to negatively impact our people and the community. The conference, therefore, will provide an outstanding opportunity to learn and explore how Remote Sensing will help us build resiliency to these disturbances and to strengthen our capability to adapt to stress and change. Deadline for abstracts: **July 1, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.acrs2015.org/>

4th World Geospatial Developers Conference (WGDC 2015), 10-11 June 2015, Beijing, China



The World Geospatial Developers Conference (WGDC 2015) is a world-leading annual conference organized by 3sNews Media for the last 3 years, aiming at leading and promoting innovation in the geospatial industry all over the world. WGDC 2015 will be held in the

National Convention Center in Beijing, June 10-11, 2015.

WGDC 2015 focuses on popular applications in domains such as smart cities, drones, commercial satellites, real estate registration, underground pipeline, business intelligence, telematics, and BIM. Authoritative experts, analysts and renowned enterprises will be present to discuss opportunities for geospatial cross-industry innovation.

Leading companies from world's geospatial industry will showcase their innovative products, technologies and business models and exciting new start-ups will display their game-changing new offerings. This is a business platform for projects, geeks and investors. WGDC 2015 offers the opportunity to brainstorm with business elites, create trust and cooperation with business partners, build high-end brand identity, advance cooperative business platforms, and receive attention from users, media and public as well as gaining insight into market trends.

Source: <http://wgdc2015.3snews.net/en/>

United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, 6-9 October 2015, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea



The United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/>) convenes every three years.

Source: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/RCC/unrccap.html>

International Workshop on Strengthening Opportunities for Professional Education and Spatial Data Infrastructure Development, 25-27 November 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal



Nepal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (NICS), and Nepal Remote Sensing Photogrammetric Society (NRSPS) are jointly organizing an international workshop on "Strengthening Education for Land

Professionals and Opportunities for Spatial Data Infrastructure Development" in Nepal from November 25-27, 2015, in collaboration with government organizations, universities, industry, and other professional organizations. It is a joint event of the Commission 2 of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and Technical Commission IV WG IV/4 of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).

The workshop objective is to explore opportunities for strengthening and promoting good practices in education for land professionals and advancing spatial data infrastructure (SDI) concepts and spatially enabled societies. It will bring together numbers of surveying and Mapping & land administration professionals from different parts of the world.

Call for papers: <http://www.workshopnepal2015.com.np/pdf/call%20for%20paper.docx>

Technical paper guidelines: <http://www.workshopnepal2015.com.np/pdf/paper%20guidelines.docx>

Abstract submission for peer-reviewed papers: **15 May 2015**

Abstract submission for non-peer reviewed papers: **31 May 2015**

Source: <http://www.workshopnepal2015.com.np/>

2015 Esri Asia Pacific User Conference (APUC), 30 November – 1 December 2015, Bangkok, Thailand



Hosted by Esri Thailand, the 2015 Esri Asia Pacific User Conference (APUC) will bring the best of the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego to the city of Bangkok. Learn directly from Esri specialists about everything from 3D cartography to Geodesign and see how your peers are successfully applying Esri software to their work. The deadline to submit abstracts is **June 19, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.esri.com/events/asia-pacific>

Pacific Islands GIS&RS User Conference 2015, 16-19 November 2015, Suva, Fiji



Since the inception of Pacific GIS/RS User Conference in 1999, this annual event has attracted a lot of participants from as far as the Americas to the sunny islands most of us call home. Each year the range of GIS/RS technologies presented cover an array of applications including the management of resources of the small island Pacific nations.

Source: <http://picgisrs.appspot.com>

Pacific Islands GIS&RS Newsletter (March 2015)



The Pacific Islands GIS&RS Newsletter is produced by the GeoScience Division (GSD, <http://gsd.spc.int/>) (former SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The next issue of the Pacific Islands GIS&RS Newsletter will be published in June 2015.

Download: <http://www.sopac.org/sopac/gis/GISNewsletterMarch2015.pdf>

Read online: <http://www.sopac.org/sopac/gis/GISNewsletterMarch2015/>

Source: <http://picgisrs.appspot.com/>

Pacific Islands: Collect Earth regional interpretation key



In November 2014, February 2015, and March 2015, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) organised

workshops to share experience in establishing National Forest Monitoring Systems and creating the link to the Regional Forest Monitoring Facility (RFMF) based at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). SPC is a regional organisation with a very good network within the 22 member countries. FAO financed the RFMF and these workshops as part of a series of activities supported by the UN-REDD Programme, in this case through the FAO regional project “Strengthening regional support to national forest monitoring systems for REDD+ in the Pacific”. The workshops trained data collection of land use and land use change in a transparent and statistical sound way and they introduced the assistance of UN-REDD.

FAO Rome developed a tool called Collect Earth (<http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth.html>) which creates statistically sound data on land use and land use change. The tool does not map the current land area but establish sample points of one hectare where GIS officers interpret the current land use and display historical satellite image data for the same sample plot and record the land use before. Doing this for 10,000 systematic distributed sample points within one country a statistically sound dataset is created allowing to calculate the percentage of land cover belonging to each of six land use categories. The dataset created also allows to determine how many plots have changed from one land use category to another which provides an exact figure on deforestation.



The regional classification scheme and interpretation key can be downloaded from the Regional Forest Monitoring Portal website (8MB): http://www.sopac.org/sopac/rfmf/RFMF_InterpretationKey.pdf. The interpretation key is a living document and will be permanently updated; however, it is already usable for Collect Earth sample plot analysis at the current stage.

See also: Regional forest inventory training in the Pacific, <http://www.spc.int/en/events/1832-regional-forest-inventory-training-in-the-pacific.html>

Source: Dr Wolf Forstreuter, GIS-PacNet Listserv, GeoScience Division (GSD) (former SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community; <http://www.sopac.org/sopac/gis/GISNewsletterMarch2015/>

Papua New Guinea: Monitoring forests with new Fire Watch website



Supported with a grant by the European Union, Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s new Fire Watch website uses the latest satellite imagery and image processing techniques, to advance an understanding of what is going on in PNG's forests in 'real time'. The Fire Watch website shows every location where a fire is burning, records where and when fires occur in PNG's forests and automatically uploads the information onto the site as it happens. Moreover, high resolution satellite images and maps of PNG can be viewed interactively with the locations of each fire. The

website also features an archive of past locations, including time and date, of all fires detected across PNG since the mid 1990's. The Fire Watch website allows users to generate and print their own maps of fire locations in Papua New Guinea. The site is public and available free of charge to all users.

The new website can be viewed at <http://fire.pngsdf.com>.

Source: <http://news.pngfacts.com/2015/04/monitoring-papua-new-guineas-forests.html>

Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project



The Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project (PI CLIPS) is a project that will provide nationally-tailored seasonal climate prediction information and builds the prediction capacity of Pacific Islands. It is funded by the

Government of Korea through the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and implemented by the APEC Climate Center (APCC, <http://www.apcc21.org/eng/index.jsp>) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). The project will run for 3 years from 2015-2017. It will benefit the following countries; Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

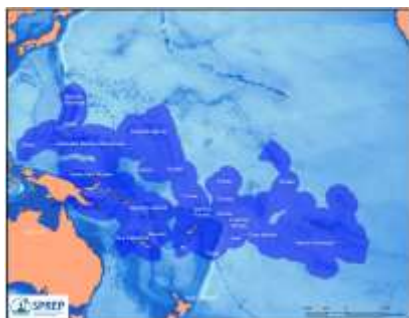
The project aims to build the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and users of climate information and services through strengthening the capacity of National Hydrological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHS) so that they contribute to community resiliency and national development planning. Tailored climate prediction information using a region-specific system will be developed.

This initiative will build on and work in partnership and complement previous and current relevant activities such as the Pacific Australia Adaptation to Climate Change Science and Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP), the Finnish-Pacific Reducing Vulnerability in the Pacific Island Communities Project (FINPAC), and the Climate, Oceans Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac), Island Climate Update (ICU) Outlook Forum, the PEAC Outlook Forums and the Integrated Climate Information Management (iCLIM) project.

The project will develop region-specific downscaling methodologies and establish a climate prediction system. The work will consider the unique geographic features of the Pacific and build upon the programmes named above, utilizing APCC's multi-model ensemble prediction system and support from the Pacific Met Desk Partnership. APCC will not only provide information but also assist the PICT's NMHSs to self-operate the system after transferring the dynamical seasonal forecasting system to SPREP Pac Met Desk Partnership. This system will be connected to the climate prediction information system in APCC via the Internet. Then, APCC and the Pacific Met Desk Partnership will develop guidelines and train participating NMHS in order for them to effectively analyze the information and apply the prediction to support decision-making processes.

Source: <http://projects.pacificclimatechange.net/projects/republic-korea-pacific-islands-climate-prediction-services-project>

1st DBCP Pacific Islands Training Workshop on Ocean Observations and Data Applications, 4-7 May 2015, Palau, Palau



The Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP, <http://www.jcommops.org/dbcp/>) aims to provide international coordination and assist those providing and using observations from data buoys, within the meteorological and oceanographic communities. It reviews and analyses requirements for such data and provides an international focus and liaison mechanism.

The Pacific Islands are a region of “Large Ocean States” in which 98% of the region is ocean, and the majority of the land area is part of Papua New Guinea. The ocean is essential to Pacific Islander’s way of life, yet there is limited knowledge of the oceans in region, and limited skill in using ocean data.

Currently there is a growing awareness of the importance of the oceans, highlighted most recently at the 3rd UN SIDS conference in Samoa. Oceanographic capacity is limited within the Pacific Islands region, and generally resides within local meteorological services. However, there is a strong interest in increasing capacity to collect, analyze, and communicate oceanographic data across a number of sectors such as meteorology and climate services, fisheries, marine trade, and tourism. Increasing capacity in these sectors will increase the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders, and will allow them to more effectively engage in the global ocean community.

Themes of the PI-1 Workshop:

- Increase awareness of ocean processes, ocean observing, and data applications,
- Conceptualization of a Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System,

Goals of the PI-1 Workshop:

- Begin to build capacity within the region to apply ocean observing data for enhanced predictive capability;

- Demonstrate the role of ocean observations for understanding and predicting regional weather, ocean state and climatology;
- Demonstrate the societal and economic benefits of delivering enhanced ocean observing system data for better informed decisions;
- Increase awareness of the importance of the ocean, scientific understanding and traditional knowledge, and how marine processes affect the lives of Pacific Islanders;
- Discuss the potential impacts of climate change on oceans;
- Learn practical implementation aspects of ocean observing systems;
- Explore the importance of marine modelling;
- Evaluate data gaps within the region and how they can be addressed;
- Encourage cooperation with and support for existing monitoring programmes such as the Argo programme and the Global Drifter Program; and
- Advance the design, coordination of a Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System.

Source: http://www.jcomm.info/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventRecord&eventID=1611

Europe Region SDI News

Germany: Berlin 3D Portal provides CityGML data for 550,000 buildings



This OGC Blog Post is a reposting of a March 13, 2015 press release from the Berlin Partner for Business and Technology.

The Berlin city model available as Open Data Berlin plays a leading role throughout Europe in the digital economy – as of today a 3D city model of the German capital is available to the public as Open Data.

Until now Internet users have had the opportunity to explore the city of Berlin online by using the Business Location Center's realistic model from Berlin Partner for

Business and Technology – now they can also use the data. Regardless of whether for scientists, game developers, city planners, architects or graphic designers, the large-scale model of Berlin is available as a free download.

Around 550,000 buildings covering 890 km² of city space were photographed from the air and measured in order to create the model. The 3D building data of the city is now being prepared via a web-based service portal as part of the Open Data initiative from the State of Berlin. The Open Data model enables users to refer to both the original CityGML data for the entire city model as well as sections of the city and to use it for their own purposes. Individual buildings or parts of the city can be selected and downloaded in a variety of 3D data formats over a service interface.

The 3D city model is a project by the Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research and Berlin Partner for Business and Technology. The Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Technology and Research is releasing the LoD2 (Level of Detail 2) building data and the digitally recorded surface models from 2013 for free download as part of the Open Data initiative from the State of Berlin.

Link to the 3D city model and video material, which is available for unrestricted use:

<http://www.businesslocationcenter.de/en/downloadportal>.

Berlin Partner for Business and Technology is a unique public-private partnership. Berlin Partner for Business and Technology collaborates with the Berlin State Senate and over 200 companies dedicated to promoting their city. Berlin-Partners include bpg Berlin Plakat GmbH, Flughafen Berlin Brandenburg GmbH, Immobilien Scout GmbH, IBB Investitionsbank Berlin, Ströer Deutsche Städte Medien GmbH, Vattenfall Europe Wärme GmbH and VIMN GmbH.

Source: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/blog/2196>

UK: Ordnance Survey adds four new products to its open data portfolio



In March 2015, Ordnance Survey (OS) added four new products in its open data portfolio. These are OS Open Map – Local, OS Open Names, OS Open Rivers and OS Open Roads. With the addition, Ordnance Survey's OpenData product catalogue now includes sixteen products. These products are fully customisable and can work

together or be imported and integrated with the users own software and database.

- OS Open Map -Local provides a customisable backdrop for users to map, visualise and fully understand their data. This new product provides the most detailed level of buildings in OS's open data suite and is designed to be used with other open data products.

- OS Open Names is a location search product. OS claims that it's a new, better quality and consistent index for all the location names in Great Britain. Users can search a particular location or look for a location in a number of ways to an accuracy of within 1 metre.
- OS Open Rivers is a generalised open water network showing the flow and the locations of rivers, streams, lakes and canals across the whole of Great Britain.
- OS Open Roads is a connected road network for Great Britain. It contains all classified roads (such as motorways and A & B roads) as well as officially named unclassified roads.

All 16 OS OpenData products are FREE to view, download and use for commercial, educational and personal purposes.

Source: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-and-government/products/pendata-products.html>

UK: Open Data Usability Workshop, 21 April 2015, 12.00 pm to 4.00 pm, London



Open data experts including the Open Data Institute and British Standards Institute join UK Open Geo Standards Forum in this workshop on using open data for location and geography applications. The workshop is organized by Ordnance Survey.

Source: <http://www.urbaninnovationcentre.org.uk/event/open-data-useability-workshop>

Turkey: Regulation on Establishing and Managing the National Geographic Information System



Turkey's General Directorate of Geo-Information System was constituted in 2011 under the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (MoEU) to carry out the tasks and procedures regarding the

building, utilization and development of the spatial data infrastructure and urban information systems used by the local authorities to manage their data related to planning, mapping, infrastructure and superstructure. The General Directorate of Geo-Information System is currently responsible for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive and its establishment accelerated processes of developing the national spatial data infrastructure. Draft Regulation related to the "Development and Management of the National Geographical Data Infrastructure" was prepared and then published in April 2015.

See draft regulation: <http://www.csb.gov.tr/db/cbsen/duyurular/duyurular36412.pdf>

Source: <http://www.csb.gov.tr/gm/cbsen/index.php?Sayfa=sayfa&Tur=webmenu&Id=13829>

Turkey: Forecasted Call for Tender - Technical assistance for capacity building/implementation of the Inspire Directive



The main purpose of the project is to strengthen the institutional, technical and legislative framework for effective implementation of the EU Inspire Directive and establishment of strong

administrative and technical capacity at all levels. The scope of the project focuses on 4 major aspects:

- a) training and awareness-raising activities;
- b) development of cloud-based standardised geospatial software modules;
- c) development of cloud management software; and
- d) setting standardised high efficiency procedures by using process modelling and management activities for geospatial data producers.

Indicative budget: 4 000 000 EUR. Reference : EuropeAid/135310/D/SER/TR.

Source: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:101063-2015:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Czech Republic: Land Survey Office, Mapping and Cadastre (ČÚZK) Geoportal

As government agencies continue to collect and analyze large amounts of data to inform planning, guide initiatives, or shape policy, they're enabling other agencies and citizens to access that data too. And this trend doesn't seem to be slowing down any time soon. One agency that Intergraph has been collaborating with to achieve geospatial data sharing is the Land Survey Office, Mapping and Cadastre (ČÚZK) of the Czech Republic.



In 2005, the ČÚZK Geoportal ([http://geoportal.cuzk.cz/\(S\(uoyynernsinedii3x22uhhvq\)\)/Default.aspx](http://geoportal.cuzk.cz/(S(uoyynernsinedii3x22uhhvq))/Default.aspx)) was created to serve as the primary source for all geospatial data collected and used by the Land Survey Office. Over the last decade, the geoportal has grown to house an e-commerce engine for purchasing and downloading file data, printed maps and other geospatial services – all of which are accessible by other government agencies and Czech citizens. Today, the ČÚZK Geoportal solution provides up to 5 million map tiles per day, which are captured and integrated from other agency portals and GIS applications from various public administration offices.

Over the last 10 years, the ČÚZK Geoportal has been enhanced with many updates and configurable service extensions, which include viewing services for the public, e-commerce updates and mobile support for Android and iOS.

Source: <http://intergraphblogs.com/2015/03/10-years-of-innovation-intergraph-and-the-czech-republics-geoportal/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Preparation and distribution of electronic maps

Speeding up the preparation of electronic maps is needed to support the on-going registration of real estate.



This project will establish a solution for the conversion, storage and distribution of geographic data to the two mapping agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH): Administration for Geodetic and Real Property Affairs of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <http://www.fgu.com.ba/en/home.html>, and Administration for Geodetic and Real Property Affairs of the Republika Srpska. The aim of the project is to improve capacities of the state administration partners for the preparation, storage and dissemination of geographic information in order to improve real estate registration and to improve the access to geographic information. It is believed that increased property transaction and a well-developed property market will contribute to economic and social development of BiH and accession to the EU.

Establishing a digital archive for the two mapping agencies in BiH is happening in close cooperation with the World Bank and Sweden's Lantmäteriet, who also have projects with the two cadastre and mapping agencies: Lantmäteriet's "Capacity Building for Improvement of Land Administration and Procedures in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (CILAP) project and The World Bank's 'Real Estate Registration project'. The projects will be harmonised in order to avoid overlap and to maximise benefits.

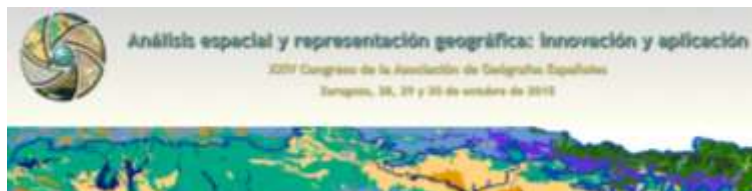


The Norwegian Mapping Authority will act as tender and contractual party for all acquisitions; perform payments and deliver financial reports; assist the partners with quality control of deliveries; perform training and transfer of knowledge; and participate in the Steering Board.

See also: Easier land registration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, <http://go.worldbank.org/YAUXZOLBY0>

Source: <http://kartverket.no/en/About-The-Norwegian-Mapping-Authority/Centre-for-Property-Rights-and-Development/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina/>

Spain: XXIV Congress of the Association of Spanish Geographers, 28-30 October 2015, Zaragoza



The XXIV Congress of the Association of Spanish Geographers will be held in Zaragoza on 28, 29 and October 30, 2015, focusing on infrastructure linked to spatial analysis and geographic representation for a new generation. The program includes the presentation and discussion of the results of

research at the highest level, observation and discussion directly on the ground in different itineraries field and the opportunity to conduct technical workshops and informative on topical issues. It is an exciting and ambitious congress that aims to be a meeting point not only geographic community, which has an obvious role in these issues, but also researchers from other disciplines as well as professionals and students. Deadline for submission of completed work has been extended to **May 15, 2015**.

Source: <http://congresoage.unizar.es/home.html>

INSPIRE Compliance of Public Health Information – A Danish Case Study



Author(s): Anders K. Lyseen, Henning Sten Hansen

Article under Review for *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*

(*IJS DIR*), submitted 2014-10-01

Abstract: Geographical information systems have become an important element in research, planning and commercial business for a wide community including health organisations in the public and private sectors. Benefits of data management and sharing are abundant as we cannot afford to do the same things twice due to limited resources, and having several versions of the 'same' data set always raises questions about reliability, and which data set should be given the authoritative stamp. Digitisation is some of the answer and spatial information plays a large role in this, and digitisation is a vital part of the Danish e-government strategy. A well-functioning Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is an important prerequisite for e-governance, and the implementation of the INSPIRE directive has put more emphasis on SDI within key ministries and resulted in several national services with free and easy access to spatial data. However, until now public health information is not part of the Danish SDI.

In Denmark, several bodies have created public health datasets independently, and the infrastructure of the data is undefined. Getting an overview of available health data suited for spatial applications is not an easy task. Most public health data does not have any spatial references, but needs to be linked to features with a spatial reference - for example administrative units or addresses. According to Danish legislation, health information is considered private and therefore impose great limitations on the use of health data. Human health information should not be isolated, which is more or less the situation today, but should seamlessly be combined other data.

The aim of the current research is to identify available public health data in Denmark including links to spatially referenced features and analyse its compliance with the principles in the INSPIRE Directive. The INSPIRE Directive includes the theme Human Health and Safety and is the basis for identification of available health data.

Keywords: Health; Spatial Data Infrastructure; INSPIRE; Open Data

Source: <http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/366>

Normalized evaluation of the performance, capacity and availability of catalogue services: a pilot study based on INfrastrutture for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe



Author(s): Tomáš Řezník, Radoslav Chudý & Eva Mičietová
International Journal of Digital Earth, published online 23 March 2015

Geographic information has a great potential to be re-used when supported by mechanisms for its discovery. Above all, the quality of a catalogue service is the key feature supporting users in the discovery process. So far, there have been in existence various methodologies dealing with the normalized evaluation of quality with respect to catalogue services. Their biggest weakness seems to be in the depth of quality testing, i.e. some influences are beyond the scope of evaluation of these methodologies with respect to quality in catalogue services. In this study, the quality of 45 catalogue services across Europe was verified with the proposed normalized evaluation methodology originating from documents within the INfrastrutture for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe (INSPIRE) framework. This paper discusses the (statistical) influence of factors that may significantly change the results of catalogue service testing. The proposals for improving the existing INSPIRE normalized evaluation procedure are applicable for any spatial data infrastructure and/or Digital Earth component using the Open Geospatial Consortium Catalogue Service for the Web as a basis.

Keywords: metadata, quality, evaluation, spatial data infrastructures, INSPIRE, Catalogue Service for the Web

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538947.2015.1019581>

Call for participation: Share-PSI Workshop on "A self sustaining business model for open data" 20-21 May 2015, Danube University Krems, Krems, Austria



The fourth workshop in the Share-PSI series will address the topic of self-sustaining business models for open data and PSI. The workshop is explicitly interested in business models for commercial entities that reuse PSI and for the public sector itself as it develops the culture of sharing its information in a sustainable 'business as usual' manner.

The workshop will try to address the issue of sustainable business models by:

- Encouraging business people to present existing solutions that make use of PSI. We are not encouraging marketing presentations about the potential of open / big / PSI data but real-life and implemented business solutions.
- Inviting policy makers to present planned or implemented actions in various areas of public sector policy making (legal, technical, organisational) towards the facilitation of a sustainable data market aligned with the European Data Market strategy.
- Attracting researchers to present their work in the area of usability aspects that constrain open / big data and PSI to unfold the touted economic benefits and identified means for mitigation.

Submission deadline: **20 April 2015**. Participation is free.

Note, there will be a workshop in November 2015 in Berlin, hosted by Fraunhofer Fokus, focusing on “Maximising interoperability: core vocabularies, location-aware data and more.” <http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/workshop/>

Source: <http://www.w3.org/2013/share-psi/workshop/krems/>

8th European Forum for Geography and Statistics 2015 Conference (EFGS2015), 10-12 November 2015, Vienna, Austria

This year's conference will be hosted by Statistics Austria with the support from Eurostat and in co-operation with the Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV). Key Dates:



- Registration deadline: **1 September 2015**
- Closing date for submission of abstracts: **14 September 2015**
- Session papers deadline: 28 September 2015
- Powerpoint presentations deadline: 30 October 2015

Source: http://www.statistik.at/web_en/about_us/events/efgs2015/index.html

European Data Forum 2015, 16-17 November 2015, Luxembourg

Deadline for submission of proposals for presentations: **May 15, 2015**, 23:59 WET



The European Data Forum (EDF) is a meeting place for industry, research, policymakers and community initiatives to discuss the challenges of Big Data and the emerging Data Economy and to develop suitable action plans for addressing these challenges. Of special focus for the EDF are Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), since they are driving innovation and competition in many data-driven economic sectors. The range of topics discussed at the European Data Forum ranges from novel data-driven business models (e.g. data clearing houses), and technological innovations (e.g. Linked Data Web) to societal aspects (e.g. open governmental data as well as data privacy and security).

In the conviction that the potential of the data economy strongly relies on the capacity to manage the multitude and variety of data that are produced, the major focus of EDF 2015 is “data integration”. In this perspective the conference will be an opportunity to discuss and confront experiences where the integration of data from multiple sources (e.g. videos and text), actually produces added value, and where innovative technologies (e.g. combining structured and unstructured data) may contribute to open new application scenarios towards the digital single market in Europe.

Source: <http://2015.data-forum.eu/>

1st ICA European Symposium on Cartography (EuroCarto 2015), 10-12 November 2015, Vienna, Austria

Deadlines for submission are **June 1, 2015** for full papers and **June 29, 2015** for work in progress.



The International Cartographic Association (ICA) and the Vienna University of Technology are organizing a regional symposium on cartography with the focus on Europe. The aim is to bring together cartographers and those working in related disciplines with the goal of offering a platform of discussion, exchange and stimulation of research and joined projects. Those working in and with modern cartography are especially encouraged to share their contemporary developments, research and results.

Research papers are invited in the following symposium topics (but not limited to): Semiotics and Map Design Map Use, Usability and Cognition Geovisualization and GeoVisual Analytics Generalization and Multi-scale Representation Cartography and Education Geospatial Analysis Thematic Cartography Atlas Cartography Spatial Data

Infrastructure Web Cartography and Map Services Big Geo Data Handling Location Based Services and Ubiquitous Cartography Cartography for Disaster Management VGI, Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Open Source Geospatial Technologies.

Source: <http://eurocarto.org/>

2015 Esri European User Conference (EUC), 14-16 October 2015, Salzburg, Austria

The 2015 Esri European User Conference (EUC), to be held October 14–16, in Salzburg, Austria. The EUC is hosted by SynerGIS, Esri's official distributor in Austria. The deadline to submit abstracts is **May 22, 2015**.



Source: <http://www.esri.com/events/euc>

GeoUAV Workshop, 1-2 October 2015, La Grande Motte, France



GeoUAV is a specialized Workshop in the frame of the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015. Dedicated to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), it will bring the opportunity to research scientists and practitioners to share

their experience in development and application of UAV for geospatial data acquisition. The aim of the GeoUAV Workshop is to present advancements in the field of UAV geospatial data acquisition for civil usages. Themes and topics will include general purpose technological and data processing developments as well as application domains such as agriculture, environment, civil engineering, archeology, etc.

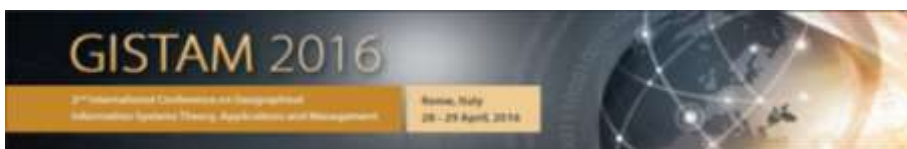
Source: <https://geouav.teledetection.fr/>

1st Earth Observation Science 2.0 Conference, 12-14 Oct 2015, Esrin, Italy

The European Space Agency (ESA) is organizing the first Earth Observation Science 2.0 Conference in Esrin (Frascati, Italy) on 12-14 Oct 2015 to explore the new challenges and opportunities created by the rapid advances in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Earth Observation (EO) research. The conference will (i) review opportunities for EO Open Science, Innovation, Visualisation and Education and (ii) develop a Roadmap preparing for future ESA scientific exploitation activities supporting EO Science 2.0. Deadline for submission of abstract and exhibitor request: **15 May 2015**.

Source: <http://www.eosscience20.org>

2nd International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management (GISTAM 2016), 28-29 April 2016, Rome, Italy



The International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management aims at creating a meeting point of

researchers and practitioners that address new challenges in geo-spatial data sensing, observation, representation, processing, visualization, sharing and managing, in all aspects concerning both information communication and technologies (ICT) as well as management information systems and knowledge-based systems. The conference welcomes original papers of either practical or theoretical nature, presenting research or applications, of specialized or interdisciplinary nature, addressing any aspect of geographic information systems and technologies.

CONFERENCE AREAS

- 1 . Data Acquisition and Processing
- 2 . Remote Sensing
- 3 . Modeling, Representation and Visualization
- 4 . Knowledge Extraction and Management
- 5 . Domain Applications

Free Open Source Software for Geospatial: Enabling Open Data and Open Science - FOSS4ODO: <http://www.gistam.org/FOSS4ODOS.aspx?y=2016>. Regular paper submission deadline: **October 30, 2015**

Source: <http://www.gistam.org/?y=2016>

12th International Conference on Location Based Services (LBS 2015), 16-18 September 2015, Augsburg, Germany



This symposium is addressed to researchers, industry / market operators and students of different backgrounds (scientific, engineering and humanistic) whose work is either focused on or affined to Location Based Services (LBS). The symposium

will offer a common ground to bring together colleagues from various disciplines and practice where they can meet, interact and exchange knowledge, experience, plans and ideas on how LBS can and could be improved and on how it will influence both science and society. Abstract deadline: **June 1, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.lbs2015.tum.de/index.php?id=3>

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Argentina: Jornadas de Capacitación en SIG e IDE - Tucumán



Los días 11 y 12 de Junio de 2015, en el 3er piso del Auditorio de la Honorable Legislatura de Tucumán, Muñecas 951, San Miguel de Tucumán, se realizarán las "Jornadas de capacitación en Sistemas de Información Geográfica (SIG) e Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales (IDE)". La participación es libre y gratuita. Se requiere inscripción previa hasta el **29 de mayo de 2015**.

Fuente: http://www.idera.gob.ar/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=245:ix-jornadas-de-idera-buenos-aires-2014&catid=89&Itemid=108

Brazil: IBGE provides set of maps of "Urbanized Areas in Brazil - 2005"



The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, <http://www.ibge.gov.br>) made available (on 03/25/2015) in its Web portal, a set of maps of "Urbanized Areas in Brazil." This work is the result of analysis and mapping (vectorization) of urbanized areas from CBERS-2B satellite images, scale 1: 100,000 (1 cm = 1 km). Most of the images used as the basis for the mapping is from 2005 to 2007.

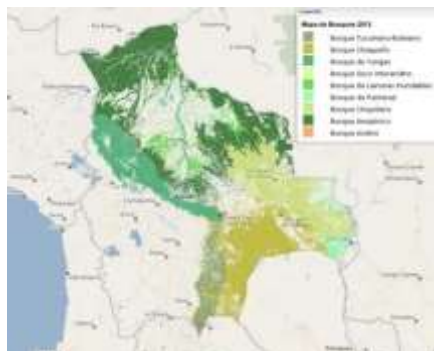


The maps are available in digital format on the IBGE web site on the Internet at link:

http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/geociencias/geografia/geografia_urbana/areas_urbanizadas/default.shtm

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/noticias-inde/8290-ibge-disponibiliza-conjunto-de-mapas-das-areas-urbanizadas-do-brasil-2005>

Bolivia: GeoBolivia, Mapa del mes Abril 2015



El mes de Abril, GeoBolivia pone a disposición de sus usuarios el Mapa de bosques de Bolivia (2013), elaborado en el marco del proyecto de "Monitoreo de la Deforestación en la Región Amazónica" por la Sala de Observación Bolivia / OTCA (SoB / OTCA), en coordinación con la Dirección General de Gestión y Desarrollo Forestal (DGGDF) del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua (MMAyA) con datos para el año 2013.

Con el propósito de contar con un instrumento de gestión que ayude en la planificación del sector que administrará los recursos forestales, así como facilitar una herramienta base para determinar la superficie de bosques que se pierde y reposiciona anualmente, el mapa fue presentado oficialmente el pasado miércoles 22 de abril en el Salón Illimani del Hotel Radisson.

La nueva cartografía, aprobada por Resolución Ministerial N° 047 y validada por el Instituto Geográfico Militar (IGM) bajo registro RNRC-IGM004, establece una cobertura boscosa de 51,4 millones de hectáreas en Bolivia e identifica 9

tipos de bosque según ecosistema:

- Bosque amazónico
- Bosque chiquitano
- Bosque seco interandino
- Bosque boliviano tucumano
- Bosque chaqueño
- Bosque de llanuras inundables
- Bosque de pantanal
- Bosque de yungas
- Bosque andino

Cada uno de estos tipos de bosques fue complementado con subclasificaciones de división con el estudio de vegetación de Bolivia que utilizó el sistema NVC/IVC48 adaptado para el país por Gonzalo Navarro 2009 y la Guía de arboles de Bolivia publicado por el Herbario Nacional de Bolivia.

Si se desea consultar a detalle las características de los datos mencionados, se recomienda consultar el metadato correspondiente: Mapa de bosques de Bolivia, 2013: <http://geo.gob.bo/geonetwork/apps/georchestra/?uuid=e7a1ab97-82f9-4d73-84b9-b6979b973a42>

La IDE-EPB se constituye en la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y nace en el marco del proyecto GeoBolivia, que pretende dotar a instituciones y usuarios en general, de información geográfica de interés, independientemente del dispositivo con el cual se acceda; es decir, disponer de una información geográfica relevante, armonizada y de calidad para apoyar el desarrollo social, económico y ambiental del país. El Proyecto GeoBolivia tiene la responsabilidad de trabajar articuladamente con las instituciones, para generar espacios de consenso que garanticen la interoperabilidad y faciliten el acceso a la información geográfica, por lo tanto, es imprescindible el aporte de las instituciones públicas, privadas y profesionales implicados en el tema, para el fortalecimiento y enriquecimiento de la misma.

English summary: GeoBolivia, Map of the month April 2015

In April, GeoBolivia offered its users the forests of Bolivia Map (2013), developed under the project "Monitoring of Deforestation in the Amazon Region" by the Observation Room Bolivia / OTCA (ou / ACTO), in coordination with the General Directorate of Forestry Management and Development (DGGDF) of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA) data for 2013. In order to have a management tool to assist in the planning of the sector that will manage forest resources and provide a basis tool for determining the area of forest is lost and reset annually, the map was officially unveiled on Wednesday April 22 at the Radisson Hotel Illimani Hall.

The IDE-EPB constitutes the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and born under the GeoBolivia project, which aims to provide institutions and users in general, geographical information of interest, regardless of the device which is accessed; i.e., have a relevant geographic information, harmonized and quality to support the social, economic and environmental development. The IDE-EPB constitutes the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and born under the GeoBolivia project, which aims to provide institutions and users in general, geographical information of interest, regardless of the device which is accessed; i.e., have a relevant geographic information, harmonized and quality to support the social, economic and environmental development.

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/blog/spip.php?article229>

Bolivia: GeoBolivia busca dos consultores/as para desarrollo de un SIG



El proyecto GeoBolivia, a través de la implementación de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (IDE-EPB) busca compartir, de manera fácil y gratuita, información ligada al territorio nacional y procedente de diferentes fuentes, sustentando su entorno en la iniciativa de la Vicepresidencia del Estado

Plurinacional de Bolivia, cuyo propósito es disponer de información geográfica para apoyar la formulación, evaluación, ejecución y supervisión de políticas prácticas en el desarrollo de proyectos que tengan un impacto directo o indirecto sobre el territorio Boliviano. En este marco, GeoBolivia requiere contratar consultores para el desarrollo de un Sistema de información geográfica. Mandar postulaciones al correo electrónico jhuarachi@geo.gob.bo, hasta **el día lunes 11 de mayo del presente año**. Enviar hoja de vida no documentada.

English summary: GeoBolivia seeks two consultants for development of a GIS

The project GeoBolivia, through the implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (IDE-EPB) seeks to share, easy and free, information linked to the national territory from different sources, supporting their environment in the initiative of the Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, whose purpose is to provide geographic information to support formulation, evaluation, implementation and supervision of practical policies

on the development of projects that have a direct or indirect impact on the Bolivian territory. In this context, GeoBolivia requires the hiring of consultants to develop a Geographic Information System. Deadline: **May 11, 2015**.

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/blog/spip.php?article230>

Chile: Spatial information and collaboration to support management of emergencies



On the occasion of the disastrous effects of bad weather front that hit in late March 2015 at various locations in the North of the country, the Undersecretary of the Interior through the Government Affairs Division and the Ministry of National Assets through SNIT Executive Secretariat, convened a group of institutions with the aim of forming a committee to work in a collaborative and coordinated way around the uprising, analysis and publication of territorial information to optimize government intervention in the emergency management .

To date, due to the eruption of the volcano Calbuco, which occurred on April 22, the Committee has expanded its operation to also support the management of this emergency, from the point of view of spatial information management.

The institutions that are participating in this group are:

- Ministry of Interior: Department of Interior, Department of Regional Development, National Emergency Office and the Carabineros
- Ministry of National Property (Cadastral Division)
- Ministry of Public Works (all directions)
- Ministry of Mining National Service of Geology and Mining
- Ministry of Housing and Urbanism
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Agriculture: Information Center of Natural Resources (CIREN)
- Ministry of Finance: Internal Revenue Service (SII)
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Energy
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Economy: National Institute of Statistics (INE)
- Aerophotogrametric service Chilean Air Force (SAF)
- Special Operations Group of the Fach.
- Regional Government of Atacama (North of Chile floods)
- Regional Government of Los Lagos (Calbuco Volcano eruption)
- National Monuments Council
- National Council for Culture and the Arts

One of the central tasks of the Committee, has been put at the disposal of the institutions involved in the different stages of the emergency, a number of layers of spatial information to optimize the deployment of public resources in the affected areas, supporting evaluation activities damage on people and property, monitoring the recovery of damaged infrastructure, monitor dangerous situations on the ground, among others.

To complement this, platforms for displaying layers of information provided by member institutions, were set up in two ways: a viewer with restricted access to authorities and decision makers, implemented by the Territorial Management Unit Information Planning Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works, and public access module in the Geoportal SNIT - IDE Chile www.geoportal.cl/Visor . Through these platforms support the management of the emergency delivery and kept the public informed.

It is also reported that, under the work of this Committee, a nationwide protocol in the process of development to systematize the actions of the State of Chile regarding the management of land information in emergencies. Beyond the institutional wills to work as a matter of disaster events occur, it is required to have standardized, formal and permanent procedures in time. The idea is that this protocol will be implemented by relevant institutions according to the type of disaster to happen: earthquake, tsunami, volcanic eruption, forest fire, flood of natural / mass movements channels, urban flooding.

Finally, it reiterates that the territorial information is a fundamental and critical for emergency management resource, especially when it is necessary to coordinate actions of several public bodies on a specific territory.

Source: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/informacion-territorial-y-trabajo-colaborativo-en-las-instituciones-publicas-para-apoyar-la-gestion-de-las-emergencias-en-el-norte-y-sur-del-pais.html>

[Spanish]

Información territorial y trabajo colaborativo en las instituciones públicas para apoyar la gestión de las emergencias en el norte y sur del país

Con motivo de los efectos desastrosos del frente de mal tiempo que afectó a fines de marzo de 2015 a diversas localidades en el Norte del país, la Subsecretaría del Interior a través de la División de Gobierno Interior y el Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales, a través de la Secretaría Ejecutiva del SNIT, convocaron a un conjunto de instituciones con el objetivo de conformar un Comité para trabajar de manera colaborativa y coordinada en torno al levantamiento, análisis y publicación de información territorial, para optimizar la intervención del Gobierno en el manejo de la emergencia.

A la fecha, producto de la erupción del volcán Calbuco, ocurrida el pasado 22 de abril, el Comité ha ampliado su operación para apoyar también la gestión de esta emergencia, desde el punto de vista del manejo de información territorial.

Las instituciones que están participando en este grupo son:

- Ministerio del Interior: Subsecretaría del Interior, Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Regional, Oficina Nacional de Emergencias y Carabineros de Chile
- Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales (División de Catastro)
- Ministerio de Obras Públicas (todas sus Direcciones)
- Ministerio de Minería: Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería
- Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo
- Ministerio de Desarrollo Social
- Ministerio de Agricultura: Centro de Información en Recursos Naturales (CIREN)
- Ministerio de Hacienda: Servicio de Impuestos Internos (SII)
- Ministerio de Salud
- Ministerio de Energía
- Ministerio de Educación
- Ministerio de Economía: Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE)
- Servicio Aerofotogramétrico de la Fuerza Aérea de Chile (SAF)
- Grupo de Operaciones Especiales de la Fach.
- Gobierno Regional de Atacama (aluviones del Norte de Chile)
- Gobierno Regional de Los Lagos (erupción del Volcán Calbuco)
- Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales
- Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes

Una de las tareas centrales de este Comité, ha sido poner a disposición de las instituciones involucradas en las distintas etapas de la emergencia, una serie de capas de información territorial que permitan optimizar el despliegue de recursos públicos en las zonas afectadas, apoyar actividades de evaluación de daños sobre las personas y sus bienes, dar seguimiento a la recuperación de la infraestructura dañada, monitorear situaciones de peligro en terreno, entre otras.

De manera complementaria, se habilitaron plataformas para la visualización de las capas de información proporcionadas por las instituciones miembros del Comité, en dos modalidades: un visor con acceso restringido para autoridades y tomadores de decisión, implementado por la Unidad de Gestión de Información Territorial de la Dirección de Planeamiento del Ministerio de Obras Públicas, y un módulo de acceso público en el Geoportal del SNIT – IDE Chile www.geoport.cl/Visor. A través de estas plataformas se entrega soporte a la gestión de la emergencia y se mantiene informada a la ciudadanía.

Se informa también que, en el marco del trabajo de este Comité, se encuentra en proceso la elaboración de un protocolo de alcance nacional, para sistematizar las acciones del Estado de Chile en torno al manejo de información territorial en emergencias. Más allá de las voluntades institucionales de colaborar cuando ocurren eventos con carácter de desastre, se requiere contar con procedimientos estandarizados, formales y permanentes en el tiempo. La idea es que este protocolo sea aplicado por las instituciones que corresponda de acuerdo al tipo de desastre que ocurra: terremoto, tsunami, erupción volcánica, incendio forestal, desborde de cauces naturales/movimientos en masa, inundaciones urbanas.

Finalmente, se reitera que la información territorial es un recurso fundamental y crítico para la gestión de emergencias, sobre todo, cuando se requiere coordinar acciones de varias instancias públicas sobre un territorio específico.

Fuente: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/informacion-territorial-y-trabajo-colaborativo-en-las-instituciones-publicas-para-apoyar-la-gestion-de-las-emergencias-en-el-norte-y-sur-del-pais.html>

Colombia: Semana Geomática Internacional 2015, 10-14 de agosto de 2015, Bogotá



El Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi - IGAC, en el marco de la celebración de sus 80 años, presenta la sexta versión de la Semana Geomática Internacional. En esta oportunidad el evento se realizará entre el 10 y el 14 de agosto de 2015 en el Wyndham Hotel Bogotá, Colombia.

Centrados en la "Información geoespacial para la construcción de la paz", se desarrollarán conferencias, talleres, sesiones de pósters, paneles y exhibiciones comerciales, todas enfocadas en las innovaciones tecnológicas relacionadas con la Geomática. Dentro del evento también tendrá lugar la celebración del Año Internacional de los Suelos y el Foro de Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales - ICDE, con la inclusión de una programación especial. Recepción de resúmenes de ponencias hasta: **Mayo 31 de 2015**.

English summary: International Geomatics Week 2015, 10-14 August 2015, Bogota, Colombia

The Codazzi - IGAC, as part of the celebration of its 80 years, presents the sixth edition of the International Geomatics Week. This time the event will take place between 10 and August 14, 2015 at the Wyndham Hotel Bogota, Colombia. With the theme "Geospatial information for building peace", conferences, workshops, poster sessions, panels and trade shows will take place, all focused on technological innovations related to Geomatics. During the event, with the inclusion of a special program, there will also be a celebration of the International Year of Soils and the Forum of Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure - ICDE. Abstract deadline: **May 31, 2015**.

Fuente: <http://semanageomatica2015.igac.gov.co/>

Centroamérica y República Dominicana: El banco de datos regional de los recursos forestales

Programa REDD - Reducción de Emisiones por Deforestación y Degradación de Bosques en Centroamérica y República Dominicana



El Banco de Datos Regional de los Recursos Forestales de Centroamérica y República Dominicana (<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/bancodedatos/>), es una plataforma web desarrollada por el Programa REDD-CCAD/GIZ (<http://www.reddccadgiz.org>) con el objetivo de “proveer desde el nivel regional, herramientas que apoyen el monitoreo de bosques en los países de SICA y establecer las base para un sistema regional de información forestal que funcione en el marco del Observatorio Ambiental Regional establecido en el Plan Ambiental de la Región Centroamericana (PARCA)”.

Este Banco de Datos Regional está constituido por un conjunto de aplicaciones que podrán ser accedidas a través de internet y que responde a las necesidades de usuarios desde el nivel político, técnico/estratégico y operativo:

Nivel Político/Estratégico:

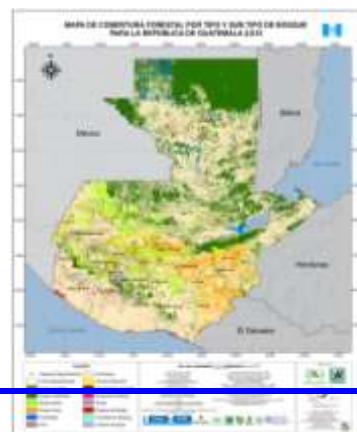
- Banco de datos con estadísticas relevantes sobre los recursos forestales a nivel nacional y regional.
- Sistema regional de alerta para la detección de la deforestación y degradación forestal.

Nivel Técnico/Estratégico:

- Plataforma web para la consulta de los resultados de inventarios forestales (+Bosque Resultados)
- Mapa web interactivo y calculador integrado de carbono forestal (+Carbono).
- Mapa web interactivo sobre información y datos de referencia para el cálculo de la biomasa y el carbono forestal (+Información)
- Banco de datos geográficos e imágenes satelitales.
- Plataforma Google para la visualización de datos sobre recursos forestales.
- Centro de documentación técnica y plataforma de gestión del conocimiento.

Nivel Operativo:

- Software para el procesamiento de datos de inventarios forestales (+Bosque)



- Base de datos de especies forestales y aplicación web para su identificación (+Especies)
- Protocolo interactivo para el levantamiento de datos sobre recursos forestales (+Protocolo)

Mira también:

Herramientas del banco de datos regional sobre recursos forestales para Centroamérica y República Dominicana

http://www.reddccadgiz.org/documentos/doc_1675624995.pdf

La plataforma regional de datos forestales geoespaciales (GEO-Forest+)

http://www.reddccadgiz.org/documentos/doc_858111087.pdf

Lanzan Mapa de Cobertura Forestal por Tipo y Subtipo de Bosque para Guatemala (abril 2015)

<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/2013noticia.php?id=383>

Presidente Hernández lanza “Mapa Forestal y Cobertura de la Tierra en Honduras” (septiembre 2014)

<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/2013noticia.php?id=332>

Lanzamiento del Mapa Nacional de Tipos de Bosque de Costa Rica (marzo 2014)

<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/noticia.php?id=296>

Source: <http://www.reddccadgiz.org/showPageSecond.php?id=41&Url=&thisPage=2013Aplicaciones.php>

English summary: Regional Database on Forest Resources in Central America and Dominican Republic

The Regional Database on Forest Resources in Central America and the Dominican Republic (http://www.reddccadgiz.org/bancode_datos/) is a web-based platform developed by the REDD/CCAD-GIZ program (<http://www.reddccadgiz.org>) with the goal of "providing tools on a regional level to support forest monitoring in each of the SICA member countries, and to lay the foundation for a regional forest information system that operates in the framework of the Regional Environmental Observatory established within the Environmental Plan for Central America (PARCA by its Spanish acronym)".



This Regional Database is made up of a series of applications that can be accessed online and that meet the political, technical/strategic, and operative needs of the users:

Policy/Strategy:

- A database with relevant national and regional statistics on forest resources
- A regional alert system to detect deforestation and forest degradation

Technical/Strategic needs:

- A web platform to query results of forest inventories (+Bosque results)
- An interactive web map and integrated forest carbon calculator (+Carbono)
- An interactive web map with information and reference data to calculate biomass and forest carbon (+Información)
- A geographic database and index of satellite images
- A Google platform for data visualization on forest resources
- A technical documentation center and knowledge management platform

Operations:

- Software to process data from forest inventories (+Bosque)
- A database on forest species and web application to facilitate species identification (+Especies)
- Interactive protocol for data collection on forest resources (+Protocolo)

See also:

Launch of Forest Cover Map by Forest Type and Subtype in Guatemala (April 2015)

<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/2013noticia.php?id=383>

Honduras officially presents the new Forest and Land-Coverage Map (September 2014)

<http://www.reddccadgiz.org/2013noticia.php?id=334>

Launch of National Forest Map Types in Costa Rica (March 2014) <http://www.reddccadgiz.org/noticia.php?id=296>

Source: <http://www.reddccadgiz.org/showPageSecond.php?id=93&Url=&thisPage=2013Aplicaciones.php>

Caribbean: Signing of MOU between ACS, INEGI, and the UWI



Association of Caribbean States
Asociación de Estados del Caribe
Association des Etats de la Caraïbe

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Mexico's National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), the

Embassy of Mexico in Trinidad and Tobago and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (UWI) convened to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as they resolve to join efforts towards the achievement of the objectives of the “United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management” initiative (UN-GGIM) and of the “Caribbean Platform of Territorial Information for Disaster Prevention” PITCA project.

The PITCA initiative intends to establish a platform which will provide territorial geospatial information, from national as well as regional sources with the aim of reducing vulnerability in the Greater Caribbean region and the UN-GGIM aims to promote the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in eleven countries in the Caribbean, to strengthen the generation, use and sharing of geospatial information.

Source: <http://www.acs-aec.org/index.php?q=resources/galleries/2015/signing-of-mou-between-ac-s-and-the-uwi>

Moving towards enhanced agricultural open data in the Caribbean



An inquiry into open data in the Caribbean has found that the agriculture sector could benefit significantly if information was more freely available and widely shared. The CTA report, *Agricultural Open Data in the Caribbean* (http://www.cta.int/images/Open_Data_Carib_new_cover.pdf), is part of an investigation by the Centre into how open data can contribute to agricultural knowledge acquisition, effective ICT4Ag apps development, policy and value chain development in ACP countries.

Based on the results of an online survey and interviews, the report examines the perceptions of Caribbean institutions and stakeholders on agricultural open data, and explores how CTA and key partners could promote greater adoption of open data policies and practices.

The report reveals broad consensus on the importance of data and information and the value addition that open data could provide. A 2014 study in Jamaica estimated that open data would enable a 10 percent rise in value addition from productivity gains in agriculture, increasing the country’s GDP by some US\$92 million (€81 million).

But low levels of awareness of open data resources are hampering potential. Lack of connection between stakeholder institutions is leading to duplication in areas such as climate change, managing farm assets and market information systems. Other problems concern data itself, including frequency of updates, formats and accuracy.

The report makes a series of recommendations regarding advocacy, communication, community engagement, technical assistance and shared data standards or platforms. Written by SlashRoots Foundation, the report has been produced in the framework of the AgriHack Talent Programme with the collaboration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI).

Source: <http://www.cta.int/en/article/2015-02-24/moving-towards-enhanced-agricultural-open-data-in-the-caribbean.html>

Latin American and Caribbean Open Data Hackathon 2015, April 30 - May 1, 2015, OpenGov Hub in Washington DC + online participation

Using open data to fight crime and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean

USAID’s Bureau for Management, the U.S. Global Development Lab, and the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean are collaborating to host an Open Data Hackathon.

The two-day day workshop will start by introducing questions from participants that can be further researched using data that are currently open to the public; A panel of experts will then discuss the context surrounding the questions and how some of the featured data resources are currently used; Participants will divide into groups based on interest and spend the time working to develop solutions and products; and The groups will recap the insights, tools, and apps we developed together.



Complete the online form to register for the event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QknYkcOv1vpNfn0Zs5yvrRZaRL4q240tunJl0mrDY/viewform>

Source: <http://www.usaid.gov/open/engagement>

WGCapD Higher Resolution Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) Data & Flood Modelling Workshop – Americas, 25-29 May 2015, Tonantzintla and Puebla, Mexico



This Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Building & Data Democracy workshop (WGCapD, <http://ceos.org/ourwork/workinggroups/wgcapd/>) will support

practitioners in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC) and will be particularly useful for those that are developing disaster early warning and emergency response systems. The range of common disasters to be addressed by these systems includes flooding events, which have a large impact on their economic and social development, and other disasters such as landslides.

The program for the workshop includes: Overview of the SRTM-2 mission and data; Overview of hydrological models; Theory and hands-on exercises on using DEMs in a specific flood model; Case studies from the LAC region; Presentations about international coordinating bodies, such as CEOS and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO); Distribution of capacity-building resources from our supporting organizations.

Hosted by: the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC). Language: The overview presentations and discussions will be in English and Spanish. Hands-on training will given primarily in English. Application Deadline: **May 1, 2015**.

Announcement: http://ceos.org/document_management/Working_Groups/WGCapD/Meetings/WGCapD_SRTM-Workshop-Americas_May2015/WGCapD_SRTM-Workshop-Latin-America-Announcement_Apr2015.pdf

Source: <http://ceos.org/meetings/wgcapd-srtm-dem-workshop-americas/>

North America Region SDI News

Canada: Geomatics Environmental Scan and Value Study Summary Report



The Summary Report of the Canadian Geomatics Environmental Scan and Value Study, prepared by Hickling Arthurs Low and associates for Natural Resources Canada is now

available for download.

The report provides highlights on the geomatics sector in Canada; domestic and global trends (market, technology, social, economic, open data) involving geospatial information and Canada's position relative to those trends; the significance and value of the geomatics sector and geospatial information to Canadian society and the economy; and, the traditional and changing roles of government, industry and academia in producing and using geospatial data and information as new opportunities driven by global trends and new players in the market emerge.

The two Findings Reports that make up The Canadian Geomatics Environmental Scan and Value Study represents the most comprehensive assessment of geomatics and geospatial information in Canada to date:

- The Canadian Geomatics Environmental Scan Findings Report is an independent assessment of the sector, the key players and its operating context;
- The Value Study Findings Report is a detailed analysis of the economic and non-economic benefits associated with the use of geospatial technologies and services. It defines for the first time, the overall economic gains to the Canadian economy associated with the use of geospatial information.

The Value Study found that in 2013 the traditionally defined Canadian geospatial industry (2,450 private sector geomatics firms) generated revenue of \$2.3 billion. This includes revenue generated by surveying, geodesy and positioning, mapping, remote sensing, geospatial data management, geospatial consulting, and mass market geospatial. The total contribution of geospatial to the Canadian GDP through productivity improvement was estimated at \$20.7 billion or 1.1% of the Canadian GDP in 2013. The sectors most impacted by productivity improvements resulting from the application of geospatial data and technology are:

- mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction (4.54%)
- transportation and warehousing (1.64%)
- utilities (1.58%)
- public administration (1.51%)
- construction (1.23%)
- agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (1.22%)

- management of companies and enterprises (1.08%).

Source: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geomatics/canadas-spatial-data-infrastructure/cgdi-initiatives/canadian-geomatics>

Canada: Esri Canada compares U.S: NSDI and Canadian SDI report cards

Subject	NSDI Grade	CGDI Grade	Comments on CGDI comprehensive grade
Capacity	C	C	Many CGDI framework data themes do not meet current or future needs
Condition	D	D	Many CGDI framework data themes are out of date
Funding	D	D	CGDI and framework data funding is low and continues to decline
Future Need	D	C	Future funding could help some data layers, but additional data improvements require new policies
Operation and Maintenance	C	D+	Many key lead organizations are no longer able to maintain and develop their framework data
Public Use	C	D	Most framework data is not accessible in a consistent manner by the general public
Resilience	C	B-	The geospatial community has several methods of participating and providing input
Overall Comprehensive Grade	C-	C-	The overall comprehensive grade indicates that the CGDI still requires attention and funding

In one of Esri Canada's recent SDI blogs, Gordon Plunkett asks "Do we need a report card on the performance of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI)?"

Gordon explains that while he was reading the US NSDI report card by COGO, he couldn't help but compare the US situation with that of Canada. In fact, he thought the parallels between the US and Canadian situations on the assessment were somewhat uncanny. Using the same evaluation criteria provided in the NSDI report card, Gordon made a quick "unscientific" assessment of the CGDI and its framework data and compared the results to the US NSDI. The blog provides with some explanation for the CGDI grades and suggestions for the future.

Gordon Plunkett is the SDI Director at Esri Canada. He has more than 30 years of experience in GIS and Remote Sensing in both the public and private sectors. He currently sits as a member of the GeoBase Steering Committee, the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Committee on Geomatics, the

Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the Advisory Board to the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre.

See: Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) by COGO, http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report_Card_on_NSDI.pdf

Source: <http://www.esri.ca/en/blog/do-we-need-report-card-performance-canadian-geospatial-data-infrastructure>

Canada: Spatial Data Infrastructure Blog Roundup (by Esri Canada) – April 2015



What was the result of the recent geospatial leadership summit in Ottawa? What's the latest update on the national Multi-Agency Situational Awareness System (MASAS)? Find out more about these and other Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) news, products and events in this April blog.

Source: <http://esri.ca/en/blog/sdi-snapshot-april-2015>

USA: Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) 2014 Annual Report now available



The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) 2014 annual report, in HTML and PDF versions, has been posted on the FGDC website. The report provides a summary of program, management, and performance information and describes the FGDC's actions over the past year to facilitate

sustainable development and dissemination of geospatial data and technology. It also includes many of agency success stories, NGAC contributions, and FGDC accomplishments, such as the implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) strategic plan and the National Geospatial Data Asset management plan, continuing support for the Geospatial Platform, international efforts, and the endorsement of two new geospatial standards.

Download Low-resolution Version (pdf 4MB): <https://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2014/fgdc-annual-report-2014-lowres.pdf/download>

Download High-resolution Version (pdf 12MB): <https://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2014/fgdc-annual-report-2014-highres.pdf/download>

Read the online version of the report: https://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2014/web-version/index_html

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. FGDC activities are administered through the FGDC Secretariat, hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: https://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/2014_Annual_Report

USA (Wyoming): WyGISC and partners launch Wyoming Geospatial Hub



The University of Wyoming's Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WyGISC) recently launched the Wyoming Geospatial Hub (GeoHub, <http://geospatialhub.org>), an Internet-based technological infrastructure for discovering, accessing and sharing publicly available geospatial data created and maintained by various Wyoming organisations and groups including state, local and tribal governments, federal agencies and the private industry.

Developed in partnership with the state of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), the GeoHub was created partially in response to Wyoming Statute 9-1-224 (2013), which provided for the baseline scientific assessment of agricultural, mineral, geological, historical and environmental resources on public lands. According to the GeoHub website, the application will “reduce data redundancies, increase the sharing of data, and improve the coordination of policy initiatives across state agencies for the benefit of decision makers, business and industry, and the public at large.”

Currently, the GeoHub provides near-24/7 access to more than 600 different geospatial datasets ranging from elevation and soils information to land management status and population demographics. Enhancements over the next year will include improved access to digital aerial photography and satellite imagery, as well as a contacts database of geospatial experts in the state.

Source: <https://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2015/03/wygisc-and-partners-launch-wyoming-geospatial-hub.html>

Polar Data Forum II: International Collaboration for Advancing Polar Data Access and Preservation, 27-29 October 2015, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Abstracts due **July 1, 2015**.



Governments, scientists, and society are increasingly recognizing the importance of data and proper data management. The polar science community has been a leader in international, interdisciplinary data management with a history beginning with the International Polar

Year (IPY) programs starting in 1881-1884. Advances in open, networked, and ubiquitous digital technologies come at the same time as unprecedented changes in the polar regions. Together, these shifts present an urgent opportunity for the polar science community, Arctic residents, and other stakeholders to establish a clear global vision, strategy, and action plan to ensure effective stewardship of and access to valuable Arctic and Antarctic data resources.

The Second Polar Data Forum (PDF II) will be held October 27 - 29, 2015 in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada to build on successes of the first Polar Data Forum (PDF I) in Tokyo, Japan, October 2013. PDF I and a series of other international and national meetings have identified priority themes and key challenges in the domain of polar data management (See the PDF I Communiqué at http://www.polar-data-forum.org/International_Polar_Data_Forum_Communique.pdf for a brief listing and description of outcomes). PDF II will further refine these themes and priorities and will accelerate progress by establishing clear actions to address the target issues, including meeting the needs of society and science through promotion of open data and effective data stewardship, establishing sharing and interoperability of data at a variety of levels, developing trusted data management systems, and ensuring long-term data preservation. The Forum will be held in conjunction with the scheduled annual meetings of the Arctic Data Committee (ADC) of the International Arctic Science Committee and Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (IASC/SAON) and the Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM) of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). This unprecedented co-location presents unique opportunities for coordination and is envisioned as the first international Polar Data Week.

PDF II will provide a critically important venue for showcasing polar data initiatives, to learn from global partners and work collaboratively to continue developing an international vision and action plan. By the end of PDF II, we will have updated status and made progress on polar data management activities and outstanding issues, including international coordination of ongoing and future planned efforts across the Arctic and Antarctic data and scientific research communities. PDF II Key themes:

- Interoperability
- User Experience
- Long-term preservation
- Trust
- Data Management Practices

- Indigenous Perspectives

Source: <http://www.polar-data-forum.org/>

USA: Metadata Training for Gulf Restoration Partners



This course presents the concept, principles, and value of metadata in

adherence to metadata standards in current use by Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) member agencies. The target audience is the Gulf Restoration stakeholders, but course attendance is not limited only to those partners. The content and structure of the FGDC authored Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) as well as the FGDC endorsed ISO 191** metadata standards are presented in overview. Guidelines and best practices for writing quality metadata with a focus on metadata content needs for the proper discovery, access and understanding of Gulf Restoration data will be presented.

Presented in six (6) online modules; trainers can compress or expand the course to meet user needs in classroom or workshop settings.

Wed, April 15, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Wed, April 22, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Wed, April 29, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Wed, May 6, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Wed, May 13, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Wed, May 20, 2015 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT (6-7pm UTC)

Prerequisite: None

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1090379447149393409>

Source: <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training/>

USA: Introduction to Geospatial Metadata



This course presents the concept, principles, and value of metadata in

adherence to metadata standards in current use by Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) member agencies. The content and structure of the FGDC authored Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) as well as the FGDC endorsed ISO 191** metadata standards are presented in overview. The initial focus is on discovery level metadata. Detailed metadata information is also presented to enable metadata creators to develop more 'robust' levels of metadata documentation, including 'metadata for access' and 'metadata for understanding.' Available metadata tools for the creation and validation of standard metadata will be demonstrated; and guidelines and best practices for writing quality metadata will be presented.

Presented in six (6) online modules; trainers can compress or expand the course to meet user needs in classroom or workshop settings.

Thu, June 4, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Thu, June 11, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Thu, June 18, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Thu, June 25, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Thu, July 2, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Thu, July 9, 2015 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EDT (2-3pm UTC)

Prerequisite: None

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7022047866419647489>

Source: <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training/>

2016 Code for America Fellowship



Fellows have inspired creativity, collaboration, and new approaches to problem solving in local governments across the country. You are invited to apply for the 2016 Code for America fellowship, and spend a year using your skills for the public good. Applications for the 2016 fellowship open on May 15, 2015 and close **June 15, 2015**.

Don't live in the US? Connect with the Code for All international programs, <http://codeforall.org/about>.

Source: <http://www.codeforamerica.org/geeks/fellowship-apply/>

USA: 9th National GIS in Transit Conference, September 1-3, 2015, Washington, DC



The National Center for Transit Research, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the Transportation Research Board are jointly presenting the 9th National GIS in Transit Conference, on September 1-3, 2015, in Washington, DC.

Managing data to drive decision making has never been more important. As large data systems are capturing significant performance, operational and planning data in the transit industry. These data can improve decision making, service evaluation, customer satisfaction, operational efficiency and overall system performance. At the core of many of these data are spatial elements, that describe the location of relevant transit data. Transit boardings, customer location, activity centers, assets and transit service. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provides a unique platform for organizing, evaluating and communicating data; transforming data into information. This conference will bring experts from around the country on how GIS is being used every day to improve transit systems. The conference will provide a breadth of GIS experiences to showcase how agencies of all sizes and budgets are managing its GIS data and improving transit service and ultimately customer service. Deadline for abstracts: **April 20, 2015.**

Source: <http://www.urisa.org/education-events/gis-in-transit-conference/>

Registration open for inaugural National Geospatial Preparedness Summit, August 4-5, 2015, Washington, DC (US Department of Homeland Security, Acquisition Institute)



The National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation (NAPSG, <http://www.napsgfoundation.org/>) will be hosting the National Geospatial Preparedness Summit (NGPS), the inaugural preparedness Summit dedicated to advancing the use of location-enabled decision support technology and data. The Summit will be held August 4th and 5th, 2015 in Washington, DC. The NGPS will bring together a select 150 public safety practitioners and GIS responders from across the Nation – to forge collaboration, solve information sharing challenges, and discuss ways to better apply location-enabled

decision support tools in planning and operations. The Summit will feature multiple tracks of training, a tabletop exercise, a workshop on Next Generation 911, and other educational sessions. Summit cost is free. Draft agenda: <http://www.napsgfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NGPS-Brief-Agenda-2015.pdf>

Note: Due to limited space, the Summit organizers will review all registrations on a rolling basis and will contact each individual to confirm or decline participation. Registration does not ensure participation, but the sooner you register the more likely a seat will be available.

Register: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=nplxpbdab&oeidk=a07eai8sygb774bc64a>

USA: Earth Observation Priorities 2014



The Alliance for Earth Observations is a publicly and privately funded initiative of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) to promote the understanding and use of land, air and sea observations for societal and economic benefit. Through active stakeholder engagement, the Alliance brings together those that develop the tools to monitor the planet with those that need the information to manage it and serves as a link between the private sector, the government and the general public.

The Alliance's mission is to ensure the rapid and broad delivery of the most timely, comprehensive and accurate environmental information for improved decision-making. With members from the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations community, the Alliance advances the sustainability of U.S. Earth observation capabilities to ensure that this vital intelligence continues to protect citizens and property, grow the economy, and ensure national security—now and in the future.

Access the Earth Observation Priorities 2014 report: http://strategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/EarthObservationsPriorities2014Report_links.pdf

This report, Earth Observation Priorities 2014, seeks to further identify key priorities and recommend actionable steps that decision makers can pursue immediately. Developed by member representatives of the Alliance for Earth Observations and published in July 2014, this report provides a unique non-federal perspective on key priorities and programs for consideration by the administration, Congress, and private sector leaders.

Source: <http://www.strategies.org/environmental-information/alliance-for-earth-observations/> ; <http://www.strategies.org/iges-news/iges-publishes-earth-observation-priorities-2014-report/>

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Report of first formal meeting of the UN-GGIM Arab States



The first formal meeting of the UN-GGIM Arab States took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 24-25 February 2015. This first official meeting of the Committee aimed to discuss the organizational aspects for the formal establishment of the UN-

GGIM for the Arab States, as the regional coordinating mechanism in geospatial information, in accordance with Decision 4/111 of the fourth session of United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), held in New York in August 2014. The meeting was attended by 36 participants of whom 32 were from the following 11 countries in the region: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates. Also in attendance were two representatives from the Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), as well as the co-Chair of the UN-GGIM and the United Nations Statistics Division /UN-GGIM Secretariat representative.

One of the meeting sessions offered participating countries a forum to share their national practices and strategies on the use of geospatial information and the building of national geospatial infrastructures. Each country then had the opportunity to present how geospatial information is important within their own country and to provide illustrative examples. What is worth noting is that participants actively engaged in vivid discussions showing that the Member States are aware of the importance of geospatial information and the use of geospatial methodologies and technologies. All the countries are undertaking geospatial information activities, and are either building or developing their national geospatial information infrastructures. However, the level of implementation, development and maturity are variable. Indeed, Member States have applied geospatial information in a variety of areas ranging from digital mapping, census taking and atlases, urban systems, buildings and establishments, cadastre mapping and land information administration, etc.

Another session was dedicated to the work programme and the establishment of working groups. Participants were advised that the geospatial information issues to be addressed by the Committee, which in fact constitute the work programme of the Committee, should be identified among the major GGIM issues that are relevant to the countries in the region. Following intense discussions, it was decided that four Working Groups would be established and countries elected themselves to join the initial Working Groups but it was agreed others may choose to join later. The leaders of the Working Groups will be nominated at the next meeting of the Committee and the Working Groups that have been set for 10th-11th June in Algeria. The Working Groups were as follows:

- WG1: Institutional Arrangements, Legal and Policy Issues, Awareness and Capacity Building. Countries initially wishing to be involved: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, KSA, Tunisia and UAE.
- WG2: Fundamental Data and Geo-Standards. Countries initially wishing to be involved: Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, KSA, UAE, Tunisia and GCC-Stat.
- WG3: Geodetic Reference Frame. Countries initially wishing to be involved: Algeria, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, KSA, Tunisia, UAE and Jordan.
- WG4: Integration of Geospatial & Statistical Information. Countries initially wishing to be involved: Algeria, Egypt, Oman, Qatar, KSA, Tunisia, UAE, Bahrain and GCCStat.

Access the report: http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/UN-GGIM-Arab%20States-Riyadh-Meeting-Report-F.pdf

See technical country presentations:

Algeria, [http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Algeria%20\(Arabic\).pdf](http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Algeria%20(Arabic).pdf)

Bahrain, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Bahrain.pdf

Egypt, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Egypt.pdf

Morocco, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Morocco.pdf

Saudi Arabia, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Saudi%20Arabia.pdf

Tunisia, http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM_Arab%20States/First%20meeting/Tunisia.pdf

Source: http://ggim.un.org/1st_Mtg_UN_GGIM_Arab_States.html

GIS Forum MENA, 6-8 September 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Theme: *Building a strong business case to drive adoption and growth of GIS in the Middle East*



GIS in the Middle East is nearing a point of maturity where professionals are looking to progress beyond data capture and management towards analysis and application. There are however still hurdles that are preventing further investment, which includes overall management buy-in, data quality and the ability to demonstrate a tangible return on investment.

To this end, ADSIC in partnership with IQPC is pleased to develop the 2nd annual GIS Forum MENA where experts from different industry verticals will meet to share case studies and best practice to support further advances in GIS development, with one common theme – developing a strong business case for GIS through exploring commercial applications and demonstrating ROI

Source: <http://www.gisforummena.com/>

Surveying and Development Conference, 3-6 October 2015, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt



The Arab Union of Surveyors (AUS), The National Water Research Center (NWRC), The Egyptian Committee for Surveying and Mapping (EGSM), and the Egyptian Survey Authority (ESA), invite you to attend the Regional Conference Titled: “Surveying & Development” 3 – 6 October 2015, <http://www.sd2015-eg.org/>



This conference is a unique opportunity for surveyors to meet, exchange experience and discuss common issues of surveying and development. The event will cover the state of the art technologies in

different working fields in our region. In addition, a number of high-profile international and regional speakers will be available to share their experiences. The conference will be held in Arabic, English and French with simultaneous translation.

The designated Scientific Committee will receive your abstracts, papers and research in the following topics:

Topics of Technical Sessions:

- Modern Technologies in Geodesy
- New Development in Cadaster
- Urban and Rural Planning
- GIS and Remote Sensing applications
- Education and Capacity Building
- Professional Standards
- Geomatics and Mega projects

Topics of Plenary Sessions:

- Surveyors and Mega Projects
- Spatial Data for Economic Development
- Land Tenure and Management
- Risk Management
- Surveyor’s Role and Climate Change

Deadline for submission of abstracts is: **15 May 2015.**

Deadline for submission of papers is: **1 August 2015.**

Source: http://www.fig.net/events/2015/regional_conf_egypt_2015.pdf; Contact: sd_conf@nwrc-Egypt.org

International Conference of Geospatial Techniques in Geosciences, 21-22 October 2015, Taza, Morocco

Deadline of abstract submission: **May 31, 2015**



The Polydisciplinary Faculty of Taza and the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University (Fez, Morocco) organize the international conference of Geospatial Techniques in Geosciences. The conference will be

held October 21-22, 2015 in Taza, Morocco. It will provide an excellent opportunity for researchers, professionals and students in GIS and Remote Sensing to exchange innovative ideas, demonstrate cutting-edge technologies, and present inspiring applications. The topics include (but not limited to): Application of Geospatial techniques in: Architecture and Urbanism ; Environment, Water Resources Management ; Natural hazards, Cartography and Geology ; Mining Research and hydrocarbons ; Web applications, GIS and Open source; Remote sensing, photogrammetry, GPS; Geolocation and Network; Interoperability and Standards.

The conference program will include plenaries, featured, oral, and poster sessions. We welcome papers on all aspects of GIS and Remote Sensing methodologies, theories and applications in a wide range of fields and research areas, including geosciences, geography, geographical sciences, resource and environmental sciences, public health, urban planning, land use and land cover change, transportation science, demographic studies, regional studies, criminal justice, environmental hazards, and emergency response. The official language of the conference will be English and French. Selected papers may also be invited for a special issue of an international journal.

Conference topics (include but are not limited to), application of geospatial techniques in:

- Architecture and Urbanism
- Environment, Water Resources Management
- Natural hazards, Cartography and Geology
- Mining Research and hydrocarbons
- Web applications, GIS and Open source
- Remote sensing, photogrammetry, GPS
- Geolocation and Network
- Interoperability and Standards

Source: <https://sites.google.com/a/usmba.ac.ma/gt-geosciences/>

Esri Middle East and North Africa User Conference, 17-19 November 2015, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Join the Middle East and North African geospatial communities in Abu Dhabi to celebrate geographic information system (GIS) technology. The Esri Middle East and North Africa User Conference (MENAUC) will bring the best of the annual Esri User Conference in San Diego to the U.A.E. Spend three days sharpening your GIS skills while networking with Esri staff and users from across the region.

As a GIS professional, your expertise can make a real difference at the Esri Middle East and North Africa User Conference (MENAUC). Presenting your work will inspire your peers and help shape the future of GIS in the region. Esri encourages you to tell your GIS story to help GIS professionals of all experience levels better leverage the power of geospatial technology. Gain visibility and be part of the collaboration that is a cornerstone of this major regional event. The deadline to submit abstracts is **June 5, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.esri.com/events/menauc>

Training Course on 'Module - 1: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' in UAE, 10-12 May 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC, <http://www.sesrctic.org/>) will organise the training course on 'Module - 1: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' at the National Bureau of Statistics of United Arab Emirates (NBS) on 10-12 May 2015 within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme. The course will be conducted by Mr. Birkan ERGÜÇ, Expert at the

Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) of the Republic of Turkey with participation of relevant officials of NBS.

The training course on 'Module - 1: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' will focus on the following topics:

- The roles of Statistics in GIS
- Common Concepts in Geostatistics
- Manipulating Spatial Data
- Visualization of Spatial Data
- Regression with Spatial Data
- Geographically Weighted Regression
- Modeling Spatial Patterns
- Exercises : Demonstrating MAU, Measuring Spatial Autocorrelation
- Analyzing Continuous Field Data
- Exercises : Isolating By Hand, Then By Machine And Evaluating The Results

Sign up for an account at OIC-StatCom Forum (<http://forum.sesric.org/>) to join the group discussion on the training course on 'Module - 1: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' in UAE available at: <http://forum.sesric.org/?p=66-training-on-module-1-gis-in-uae-10-12-may-2015>. For other activities of the Statistics and Information Department within the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, please visit: <http://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

Source: <http://www.sesrtcic.org/event-detail.php?id=1196>

Training Course on 'Module - 2: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' in UAE, 12-14 May 2015, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC, <http://www.sesrtcic.org/>) will organise the training course on 'Module - 2: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' at the National Bureau of Statistics of United Arab Emirates (NBS) on 12-14 May 2015, within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme. The course will be conducted by Mrs. Ayşenur OZCAN, Expert at the

Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) of the Republic of Turkey with participation of relevant officials of NBS.

The training course on 'Module - 2: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' will focus on the following topics:

- The roles of Statistics in GIS
- Introduction to Geostatistics and R Programming
- Scope of Geostatistics
- Geostatistical Prediction
- Geostatistical Versus Simple Interpolation
- Spatial Versus Non-Spatial Data Analysis
- Types of Spatial Phenomena and Relationships
- Analyzing "Lattice" Data

Sign up for an account at OIC-StatCom Forum (<http://forum.sesric.org/>) to join the group discussion on the training course on 'Module - 2: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)' in UAE available at: <http://forum.sesric.org/?p=67-training-on-module-2-gis-in-uae-12-14-may-2015>. For other activities of the Statistics and Information Department within the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, please visit: <http://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

Source: <http://www.sesrtcic.org/event-detail.php?id=1195> ; <http://www.sesrtcic.org/activities-oicvet.php>

Global SDI News

FOSS4G Seoul 2015, 14-19 September 2015, Seoul, Korea



The annual FOSS4G conference is the largest global gathering focused on open source geospatial solution. FOSS4G brings together developers, users, decision-makers and businessmen from a broad spectrum of organizations and fields of operation. Through six days of workshops, presentations, discussions and code sprint, FOSS4G participants create effective and relevant geospatial products, standards, human networks and business opportunities.

FOSS4G 2015 is supported by government, academics, companies, and other communities. Korea Spatial Information Society (KSIS, <http://www.ksis.or.kr/>), one of the biggest and the most prominent societies in the field of geospatial with membership including professors, specialists, professionals, government officials, and students, has gladly decided to co-host FOSS4G 2015 event in South Korea with OSGeo Korean Chapter. Presentation submission deadline extended to **15 May 2015**.

Source: <http://2015.foss4g.org/>

Urban Data goes open with launch of new portal



UN-Habitat has launched a new web portal featuring a wealth of city data based on its extensive research into some of the most pressing urban trends of recent decades. Launched during the 25th Governing Council, Urban Data allows users to

explore data from a number of cities and regions around the world and compare indicators such as slum prevalence and city prosperity. For the first time, the data is also available for use under an open licence agreement

Source: <http://urbandata.unhabitat.org/>

FAO and Norway to help developing countries monitor forest resources



Norway and FAO have signed a NOK 35m (around \$4.5m) partnership agreement to improve the capacity of developing countries to monitor and report on their forest resources and changes in forest area. The project will facilitate countries' access to earth observation data sources, including satellite imagery, and develop an easy-to-use platform for processing and interpreting this data.

At the initial stage, FAO will start implementing the new system in 13 countries over the next 3 years in support of activities under the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). The system will be mainly used by forestry technicians to monitor and assess how much carbon forest areas stock, enabling countries to report on and receive compensation for verified emission reductions.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/283188/icode/>

Data for Development: A Needs Assessment for SDG Monitoring and Statistical Capacity Development



A major new report, “Data for Development: A Needs Assessment for SDG Monitoring and Statistical Capacity,” was launched at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC, April 17, 2015. The report, jointly authored by staff from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Open Data Watch, CIESIN, the Paris21 Secretariat, Simon Fraser University, The World Bank, and UNESCO, is intended to advance discussions on the importance of strong statistical systems and monitoring capacity in implementing the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the potential to mobilize the “data revolution” in support of sustainable development, and the need to clearly identify resource needs, areas of investment, and modernization approaches in formulating the post-2015 development agenda.

Download the full report here: <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Data-for-Development-Full-Report.pdf>

Download an accompanying policy note here: <http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Data-for-Development-Policy-Note.pdf>

Source: <http://unsdsn.org/resources/publications/a-needs-assessment-for-sdg-monitoring-and-statistical-capacity-development/>

Join the Research Data Alliance (RDA) 6th Plenary Climate Change Data Challenge



With the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled for December 2015 in Paris, France, the Research Data Alliance (RDA) thought it would be impactful to focus on climate change at its own 6th Plenary, which will be held September 23-25, 2015, also in Paris. RDA intends to use the Climate Data Challenge challenge to demonstrate how important ongoing work in is in solving numerous climate change issues. Specifically, through this activity, RDA is calling on its members to submit datasets that could be used in alleviating the negative impact of climate change in areas related to air quality, energy and urban activity and connecting them with individuals and organizations so they can be applied in business practices, projects, applications, etc. Any member of RDA involved in the development of a dataset that can be used in addressing climate-related issues in the areas of air quality, energy and urban activity is welcome to participate in the challenge.

RDA is interested in receiving applications from holders of datasets on: air quality; energy; and urban activity. To submit your application for the Climate Data Challenge, the following is required: a) description of dataset, and b) identification of potential types of organizations that could apply this data set to their own work. Submission must be made online at <https://rd-alliance.org/plenary-6-climate-change-data-challenge-submission-form.html> by midnight CET on **May 21, 2015**.

Source: <https://rd-alliance.org/join-rda-6th-plenary-climate-change-data-challenge.html-0>

MYGEOSS - First Call for Innovative Apps in the environmental and social domains

MYGEOSS is launching an open call for the development of innovative applications (mobile or web-based) using openly available or crowd-generated data in different domains that address citizens' needs. The pool of open data for use includes, but is not limited to, the Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data-CORE) made available by the Group on Earth



Observations (GEO) through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), as well as open data from EU-funded projects.

The focus of this call is on developing applications that will provide users with quantitative or qualitative information on the changing environment, e.g. change detection in climate, biodiversity, water bodies, coastal areas, built environment, green areas, forestry, agricultural land and crops, and atmospheric composition. Other areas of application will be considered, providing they address broad environmental or social themes across geographic scales.

The 10 best applicants will be awarded contracts by the JRC for a maximum of €14 000 to further develop the applications, and take them to the stage of first public release within three months of signing the contracts. The winners will also be invited to present their applications to the GEO Plenary meeting in Mexico City during the week of the 9-13 November 2015. This will give visibility to the winning teams as the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Conference will be attended by senior representatives of 97 countries, 87 international organisations and the private sector. Travel and daily allowance will be supported by the European Commission for one person from each winning team.

List of GEOSS datasets: http://digitalearthlab.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mygeoss/files/Mygeoss_selected_1.xls

Deadline for submitting application concept, prototype, or user story (e.g. as document, slide presentation or video): **30 April 2015**.

Source: <http://digitalearthlab.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mygeoss/call.cfm>; <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/mygeoss-first-call-innovative-apps-environmental-and-social-domains>

Call for proposals: UKAID and GFDRR Challenge Fund



The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) launched a Challenge Fund on March 16, 2015, at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan.

The Challenge Fund, through a small grant program, will seek to address challenges to accessing and using risk information for decision making to ensure disaster risk reduction and improved disaster and climate resilience. These challenges can include access to high resolution digital elevation models, the integration of climate change scenarios in risk modelling, and access to post-disaster data.

The first phase of funding will be a series of grants ranging from \$20,000-\$150,000. A maximum of 20 projects will be appraised at this stage with a project cycle of six months. Projects with the highest potential will receive further funding under the second phase of the Challenge Fund in 2016. This phase of the project cycle will be 6-12 months. Close of call for applications: **May 4, 2015**.

Source: <https://www.gfdr.org/gfdr-and-dfid-announce-challenge-fund>

Call for funding pre-proposals: Mountains as sentinels of change



This call aims to foster research on climate, environmental, and related societal change in mountain regions, considering new measurements, recovery of existing data, and the development and use of integrated modelling strategies by adopting a strong trans- and inter-disciplinary approach.

International consortia applying for funding should consist of partners eligible for funding from at least three of the participating agencies (ANR, France; CNR-DTA, Italy; DFG, Germany; FAPESP, Brazil; NSFC, China; and NSF, USA). Consortia may also include partners from countries not participating in the call. Within each selected consortium, funding of the participating researchers will be provided by their respective national funding organizations according to their normal terms and conditions for project funding. Funding decisions will be made in early 2016. The total funding available for collaborative research projects through this call is approximately EUR 8 million.

For more information about research themes, priorities of the participating funding agencies, and how to apply, please refer to the Belmont Forum Grant Operations website (<http://belmontforum.org/cra-2015-mountains-as-sentinels-of-change>). Pre-proposals are due **1 June 2015**.

Source: <http://belmontforum.org/announcements/2015/mountains-sentinels-change-call-pre-proposals-now-open>

SNAP (Science for Nature & People) accepting proposals for New Working Groups



SNAP (Science for Nature & People) is accepting proposals (<http://www.snap.is/rfp/>) for new Working Groups focused on investigating science-based solutions to issues ranging from frameworks for better land-use decisions to how to create sustainable offshore aquaculture to reducing Chinese demand for ivory. Project proposals must have the potential to generate clear

outcomes for improving human well-being and nature conservation, and should examine a geographic scale that may produce generalizable conclusions and/or replicable solutions. Proposals may require some original modeling, and in rare cases funding may be provided to collect some original data that fill gaps in an otherwise relatively complete picture.

Eligibility: Researchers and practitioners of any nationality affiliated with an academic, governmental agency, or not-for-profit institution may submit a SNAP proposal. Individuals operating independently are also eligible to apply. SNAP does not fund working groups led by corporate and other private sector entities, although individuals from these institutions are eligible to participate as part of a SNAP working group.

Budgets: Working group budget requests should not exceed US\$100,000 per year or US\$200,000 for a 2-year period, unless the proposers can bring additional funds from non-SNAP sources. In general, any measure of external funds enhances the likelihood of SNAP funding, assuming the proposal meets the requirements outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). SNAP funds may not be used to pay salaries of working group participants or to cover any capital or overhead expenses. Download the RFP: <http://www.snap.is/files/2013/09/2015-SNAP-Request-for-Proposal.pdf>.
Deadline: May 18, 2015

Source: <http://blog.nature.org/science/2015/03/10/science-nature-people-snap-accepting-proposals-working-groups-innovation/>

Call for proposals: International Climate Initiative 2016



The German Federal Environment Ministry has opened the International Climate Initiative's 2016 call for proposals. Since 2008, the Initiative has been supporting projects in developing and emerging countries as well as countries in transition on issues such as greenhouse gas mitigation, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, conservation of biological diversity and conserving natural carbon sinks, with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

There is a two-stage selection procedure. In the first stage, informative project outlines in German or English with a maximum length of six pages will be submitted and assessed. The Federal Environment Ministry will make a preliminary selection based on the amount of funding available and in consideration of the proposals' coherence in terms of foreign and development policy. In the second stage, full-length project proposals will be requested for all of the project outlines selected during the first stage.

The call is open to project proposals from Germany as well as abroad. For the 2016 selection procedure, project outlines must be submitted by **1 June 2015**, 24:00 to the International Climate Initiative Programme Office.

Source: <http://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/news-detail/article/2016-call-for-proposals-announced/>

Esri free online course: The Location Advantage (six weeks, starting 12 May 2015)



The Location Advantage is a free, instructor-led massive open online course (MOOC) that will be offered by Esri for the first time on **May 12th, 2015**. The course lasts six weeks and requires two to three hours of study per week. Weekly course sections consist of a video introduction by the course host, a 10-minute video lecture by an Esri staff member, a video demonstration, a hands-on case study exercise, a quiz, a class poll and discussion, and supplementary

resources. Students receive free access to Esri's cloud-based location analytics platform during the course. A certificate of completion will be awarded at the end of the course.

Source: <http://www.esri.com/landing-pages/training/locationadvantage>

European Space Agency (ESA) massive open online course (MOOC): Monitoring Climate from Space 5 weeks, 3 hr per week - Beginning 8 June 2015



The European Space Agency (ESA)'s first massive open online course (MOOC), Monitoring Climate from Space, is open now for learners to sign up for, with teaching set to begin on **8th June 2015**. Over five weeks, a selection of the world's foremost scientists will guide learners through the role of satellite data in supporting decisions relating to climate change and sustainable development.

Designed for current and future policy makers, educators and anyone communicating about climate change, the course will aim to give learners a robust understanding of the datasets that should inform their work. As awareness continues to grow of the threat that climate change presents to our planet, the course will also appeal to a wider public interested in examining environmental elements – such as ice thickness, aerosol, sea level and soil moisture – in greater detail.

This course is designed for people who want to learn more about Earth observation, climate change and monitoring climate from space. The course can also help decision makers, policy makers, educators and communicators, to gain a better insight into how satellite data can help them assess the state of our climate and its changes, in order to support climate science, and adaptation and mitigation decisions.

In this free online course, you will join leading experts and scientists from ESA and key European research centres, to explore the science that underpins Earth observation. The course will look at recent and current satellite missions that are providing an archive of essential data; and find out how this data is used in local and international policy and planning.

The course consists of five themed weeks:

- Week 1 - Observing Climate Change from Space: What is Earth observation? How do we observe the Earth with satellites? And what role does Earth observation play in climate policy and planning?
- Weeks 2 & 3 - Earth Observation Techniques and Technology: How do we use different types of mission, instrumentation and data to study changes to our atmosphere, land, oceans and ice?
- Week 4 - Earth Observation in Action: How does Earth observation help us set policy; plan for climate risk, resilience and adaptation; and manage resources and biodiversity?
- Week 5 - Managing Earth Observation Data: How do we make sense of the large amount of data produced by Earth observation? Can crowdsourcing and citizen science play a role in developing climate change models?

Source: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/climate-from-space>

Final Report on 2014 Specialist Meeting on Spatial Search



Editors: Andrea Ballatore, Mary Hegarty, Werner Kuhn, and Ed Parsons

This specialist meeting on the theme of spatial search provided a platform for exploring research frontiers at the interface of computer science, cognitive science, and other disciplines, especially in the context of geographically referenced information. This report reviews the discussions among 36 experts from academia and industry over two days, and draws attention to research gaps that will require broad interdisciplinary efforts over the next five to ten years.

Access the report: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/33t8h2nw>

Source: <http://spatial.ucsb.edu/2015/spatial-search-report>

Call for papers: Spatial Cognition & Computation, Special Issue on Spatial Approaches to Information Search



Submission of full papers: **July 31, 2015**

Guest editors: Andrea Ballatore, Center for Spatial Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB); Werner Kuhn, Geography/Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB; Mary Hegarty, Psychological and Brain Sciences/Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB; Ed Parsons, Google

The Guest Editors invite papers to be submitted to a special issue in the journal Spatial Cognition & Computation on spatial approaches to information search. Information search has become an enabler across the spectrum of human activity. Search engines process billions of queries each day and

influence the visibility and accessibility of online content. Scientists search for meaningful patterns in massive data sets, while consumers search for products and services in a growing pool of options.

Operating at two levels, there is a spatial component at the core of search. On one hand, search technologies rely on a spatial metaphor: We talk about going to our favorite web sites to help search for fragments in an overwhelmingly large space of documents, images, and videos. On the other hand, geographic space indexes information and refines search strategies, relying on the geo-location of entities to assess their relevance. While the spatial dimension of search is pervasive and foundational to many disciplines, it has not been adequately analyzed.

The goal of this special issue is to fill this research gap by attracting contributions from disciplines such as cognitive psychology, geographic information science, linguistics, information science, and computer science. Topics of interest include:

- geographic information retrieval
- spatial search and uncertainty
- search models and algorithms for spatial information
- semantics of spatial search
- cognitive models for spatial information search
- human-computer interaction for spatial search
- visual search in spatial interfaces
- information foraging for spatial search

Source: <http://spatial.ucsb.edu/2015/special-issue-spatial-search-cfp>

Call for papers: International Journal of Digital Earth, Special Issue on Supporting Future Earth with Global Geospatial Information



Submission of manuscripts: **August 1, 2015**

Guest Editors: Jun Chen, National Geomatics Center of China, and Songnian Li, Department of Civil Engineering, Ryerson University

Aim: Future Earth is a global research initiative aiming at developing the knowledge for effective response to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformation towards a sustainable world. Dynamic Planet, Global Development and Transformations towards Sustainability are its three research themes, which depend critically on the availability and utilization of reliable information at both local and global scales. With the advancement of remote sensing and spatial information technologies, more and more spatial datasets at both global and local scales will increasingly become available in addition to those that have already been produced in the past. Supporting Future Earth with reliable global geo-information is becoming a key challenge for assuring successful global understanding, environmental change analysis, transformational development and dynamic modeling. This special issue of the International Journal of Digital Earth (IJDE) is devoted to the latest development on global geospatial data production and sharing, successful application experiences of global geo-information in environmental change analysis and sustainability studies, examination and analysis of up-to-date user requirements and key gaps arising from Future Earth studies, and identification of major challenges.

Papers for this special issue on Supporting Future Earth with Global Geo-spatial Information must present original, state-of-the-art research that contributes to the development of technologies for producing, sharing and analyzing global geospatial information and their applications for supporting Future Earth developments. This is an open call for papers. Selected quality papers from the International Workshop on Supporting Future Earth with Global Geo-information will also be invited for submission.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Challenges and requirements of global geospatial information and services within the context of Future Earth programs;
- Latest developments of global geospatial data (Earth observation, digital elevation, land cover, environmental monitoring, and ecological data);
- Representation and visualization of global geospatial information;
- Policy and technology for global geospatial information sharing and services;
- Applications of global geospatial data in global understanding, environmental change analysis, dynamic modeling and transformational development.

Source: <http://digitalearth-isde.org/news/753>

Call for papers: Information & Security: An International Journal, Special Issue on Crisis Management Policies, Organisation and Capabilities



Submission deadline: **October 10, 2015**

Natural disasters, industrial catastrophes, and terrorist acts may have highly negative impact on modern societies. Advanced technologies, along with novel concepts and streamlined procedures for cooperation and coordination among numerous stakeholders contribute to prevention, early warning, rapid response, mitigation of the consequences, quick recovery, and the overall organisational and community resilience.

The EU project “Driving Innovation in Crisis Management for European Resilience” (DRIVER, <http://driver-project.eu/>), launched within the EU Seventh Framework programme, aims to enhance European resilience in the face of major crisis situations and to facilitate sustainable innovation. This call for papers takes stock of project-related research on providing an overview of national and EU/UN crisis management governance, i.e. legislation and policy, organisations and, ultimately, capabilities.

Understanding the need for results that are truly actionable and applicable, the Information & Security (I&S) International Journal Editorial Board



announced this call with the aim to take a snapshot of current crisis management policies, legislation, organisation, and capabilities of international organisations and nations in the EU and beyond, and discuss relevant adaptation of policies and legislation, as well as recommendations for decision makers and incident commanders. Thus this special issue of I&S might be of direct interest to stakeholders at both national and international level. Original contributions are welcomed that:

- examine country-specific policy, legislation, organisation, and capabilities;
- analyse the experience in applying advanced technologies and innovative concepts to crisis management; and
- address policy and capability gaps.

Combinations of these themes could also be covered, for instance:

- Aspects of civil-military cooperation in crisis management;
- Conducting regional operations for crisis management;
- Scenarios-based planning in crisis management.

Source: <http://procon.bg/call-papers-crisis-management-policies-organisation-and-capabilities>

An interoperable cloud-based scientific GATEWAY for NDVI time series analysis

Author(s): Hrachya Atsatryan, Andranik Hayrapetyan, Wahi Narsisian, Shushanik Asmaryan, Armen Saghatelian, Vahagn Muradyan, Gregory Giuliani, Yaniss Guigoz, Nicolas Ray
Computer Standards & Interfaces Volume 41, September 2015, Pages 79–84 [not an open access journal]

Highlights

- A scientific gateway for computing the NDVI time series data based on a distributed workflow using the WPS standard.
- An optimal NDVI times series geoprocessing services based on cloud infrastructures.
- Experimental results in the study area that include some part of the territory of Armenia.



Abstract: Processing of high-resolution time series satellite images typically requires a large amount of computational resources and time. We introduce here a scientific gateway for computing the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) time series data. Based on a distributed workflow using the Web Processing Service (WPS) standard, the gateway aims to be completely interoperable with other standardized tools. The availability of this gateway may help researchers to acquire knowledge of land cover changes more efficiently over very large spatial and temporal extents, which is especially important in the context of Armenia for which timely decision-making is needed.

Keywords: NDVI; Cloud; Geoprocessing; PyWPS; GRASS GIS

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0920548915000173>

Data Democracy - increased supply of geospatial information and expanded participatory processes in the production of data



Author(s): Max Craglia and Lea Shanley

International Journal of Digital Earth, accepted author version posted online 20 January 2015

Abstract: The global landscape in the supply, co-creation, and use of geospatial data is changing very rapidly with new satellites, sensors, and mobile devices reconfiguring the traditional lines of demand and supply, and the number of actors involved. In this paper we chart some of these technology-led developments and then focus on the opportunities they have created for the increased participation of the public in generating and contributing information for a wide range of uses, scientific, and non.

Not all of this information is open or geospatial, but sufficiently large portions of it are to make it one of the most significant phenomena of the last decade. In fact we argue that whilst satellite and sensors have exponentially increased the volumes of geospatial information available, the participation of the public is transformative because it expands the range participants and stakeholders in society using and producing geospatial information, with opportunities for more direct participation in science, politics, and social action.

Keywords: citizen science, volunteered geographic information, geospatial data

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17538947.2015.1008214>

A context-aware approach for the Spatial Data Infrastructure portal



Author(s): Zahra Rezaee, Mohammad Reza Malek

International Journal of Geosciences 6: 79-87, published online 28 January 2015

Abstract: The infrastructure of most of the practical and construction activity in communities is based on correct understanding and proper use of spatial data in GIS and SDI. Optimal and efficient use of infrastructure systems of the spatial data by users, depends on how to search and access of user to proper and desired data among informative sources of various organizations. Search operation and access of users to various information of multiple sources located on Spatial Data Infrastructure Network is confusing and time-consuming due to diversity and relatively high volume of spatial information. Because there are numerous classes and subclasses

of various complications on the pattern of SDI, unaware user to the pattern may be confused in select displaying the proper spatial layer. In optimum condition, the user should have access to the appropriate data type-based on his status and task and environmental conditions. Making intelligent Graphical User Interface by inference based on task information user and his expertise, the appropriate information and consistent with conditions will be achieved. Selecting and displaying of spatial layers related to the technical-organizational approach of system user provides him special assistance both in terms of filtering the irrelevant data and speed of operation in access optimal information than non-selective displaying state. For this purpose, designing and employment context-aware techniques in servicing user interface of system based on recognition of the technical expertise of the user can be a good solution in data adaptive displaying and context-aware servicing to users.

Keywords: SDI, Context-Aware, Web Catalog Service, Web Map Service

Source: <http://www.scirp.org/journal/PaperInformation.aspx?PaperID=53569>

Survey: Digital Geospatial Infrastructure for Cooperative and Automated Vehicles

The European Commission (EC) Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology, Smart Cities and Sustainability (DG-CONNECT), the United States (US) Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Road Bureau of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan are sharing information and coordinating research on Automation in Road Transport. A survey is being conducted as part of this effort.

The purpose of the survey is to begin to identify needs and issues associated with the use of geospatial and geospatial related data for cooperative (also known as connected) and automated vehicle applications. It also asks questions related to the appropriate roles of the national and regional public agencies and the private sector, as well as possible synergies between public and private sector needs. The survey is being sent to points of contact in multiple types of organizations, including the following, with the request that the survey is completed by Friday, **May 29, 2015**:

- Digital map providers
- Traffic information providers
- Automobile manufacturers
- Automobile industry suppliers

- Other commercial entities conducting cooperative and/or automated vehicle research
- National departments or ministries of transportation
- Other national level departments
- Sub-national public sector transportation entities, such as state, county or provincial DOTs
- Other sub-national public sector entities, e.g., state geospatial offices
- Universities and other non-profit research centers
- Telecommunications service providers

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please address them to: James Moore, jim.moore@noblis-nsp.com, Noblis-NSP. Note: In this survey, unless otherwise defined in a question, the terms “geospatial related data” or simply “data” include all types of data that can be associated with one or more locations, whether static (e.g., road locations) or dynamic (e.g., locations of traffic incidents).

Source: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PXHR2KY>

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at <http://www.gsd.org/upcnf> is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website at <http://www.gsd.org/discussionlists>, choose the Forum of interest and select the ‘Archives’ option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.



The GSDI Association

Our Vision ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

Our Purpose ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

Our Mission ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at <http://www.gsd.org>

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at newseditor@gsdi.org. Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to news@gsdi.org.



“Advancing a Location Enabled World”