



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.

Message from the Editor

ac·count·a·bil·i·ty

/əˌkaʊntəˈbɪlɪti/ ⓘ

noun

the fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility
"their lack of accountability has corroded public respect"
synonyms: responsibility, liability, answerability More

accountability is answerability; being accountable means having the obligation to respond to inquiries regarding decisions, actions, and performance.

While SDI has been advanced on the grounds of improving efficiency, reducing redundancy, or supporting decision-making, in practice few government SDI initiatives have taken steps to assess whether they are realizing their envisioned outputs or outcomes (however defined). In many cases, the outputs and outcomes of SDI efforts are not defined, and there seems to be a deficit of accountability for results, both to user communities and up the government, hierarchical chain. An essence of

Geospatial public managers tend to continue a Rodney Dangerfield stance of "We don't get no respect," while greater pro-active evaluation and reporting could enable them to attain the legitimacy they seek. However, evaluation for accountability comes with potential trade-offs. Public managers may purposely 'fly under the radar screen' of external authorities and users, to avoid scrutiny, so that they can proceed without interference. Inviting evaluation, calling attention to one's outputs or outcomes, could put pressure on SDI implementers to perform – and to accept the consequences of not performing. I'm in favor of greater evaluation, and the GSDI Association is keen to support its members by sharing evaluation materials (e.g., annual reports, portal use statistics, user satisfaction studies).

Kate Lance, News Editor

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Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

Zambezi River: ZAMCOM awards contract for Zambezi Water Information System modernizations



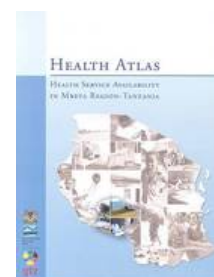
The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) has awarded a US\$940,288 contract to DHI DK to help modernize the Zambezi Water Information System (ZAMWIS, <http://www.zamwis.org/Main/index.php>) to meet needs of Zambezi riparian countries in Africa. ZAMCOM solicited bids for the work in April 2014, which will use funding requested from Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) to provide consulting services to support modernization of ZAMWIS within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). ZAMCOM intends to increase accessibility and interactivity of ZAMWIS, which is a tool for sharing

and analyzing Zambezi water information. The system includes: a knowledge portal of documents, policies, historical records and reports; a spatial portal of geographic information system (GIS) spatial data, digital surveys, earth observation information and web-based modeling tools; and hydro-meteorological and decision support systems. The work is to require 33 person-months over two years.

Source: <http://www.hydroworld.com/articles/2014/06/zamcom-awards-contract-for-zambezi-water-information-system-modernizations.html>

Tanzania: Atlas of health infrastructure for the Mbeya Region Regional atlases as information source using geoinformation systems

Author(s): Jürgen Schweikart, Conrad Franke & Stefanie Henke
Journal of Maps, Volume 10, Issue 4, 2014, pages 620-629 [not an open access journal]



The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the United Republic of Tanzania is the publisher of the first ‘Health Atlas, Health Service Availability in the Mbeya Region – Tanzania’. This atlas shows a comprehensive picture of the health infrastructure in the Mbeya Region in Tanzania. A variety of indicators for health care on the level of the supplying institutions is visualised with the help of thematic maps. The displayed information concerns the availability of health services in rural areas and gives an impression of spatial disparities. The atlas is a product of a geographic information system introduced in the region, where the contents are presented cartographically outside of the digital system in a clear manner so that they are accessible to a wider audience.

Keywords: health atlas, infrastructure, Tanzania, geoinformation systems, atlas of health, Mbeya region, availability

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17445647.2014.908749>

See also: Development of a Geographical Information System for the monitoring of the health infrastructure in rural areas in Tanzania, *Italian Journal of Public Health*, Volume 5, Number 4, 2008
<http://ijphjournal.it/article/download/5815/5559>

Niger: Mise en oeuvre d'un projet pilote de SIG pour la Ville de Niamey



Le Gouvernement du Niger a reçu un financement du Groupe de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) dans le cadre du Fonds Fiduciaire pour la Gouvernance (FFG) et qui sera rétrocédé à la Ville de Niamey afin de couvrir le coût de la mise en oeuvre d'un projet de Système d'Information Géographique (SIG) pour la Ville de Niamey.

Les services prévus au titre de ce contrat comprennent les principales réalisations suivantes:

- Appui à la finalisation de la cartographie numérique de la ville Niamey : La Mairie de Niamey a déjà mis en oeuvre un projet de mise au point d'une cartographie de la ville (presque finalisée) grâce à un financement de l'Union Européenne (UE).
- Implémentation du SIG : Il s'agit d'installer la base de données géoréférencées qui sera utilisée pour le stockage des données dont les graphiques et modèles générées pourront ensuite être visualisés et éventuellement diffusés par la Mairie de la Ville à travers divers canaux de communication (journaux, bulletins d'information, portails internet, etc.) en fonction du public visé.
- Formation et support aux utilisateurs : L'utilisation du SIG requiert un transfert de compétences lors de son installation mais aussi une formation académique et pratique sur chaque composante du système mise en place. Après l'installation, les utilisateurs bénéficieront d'un support (principalement à distance à l'exception d'une avarie technique importante).

La réalisation du projet devrait s'étaler sur 12 (douze) mois, formation et support aux utilisateurs compris, à compter du 1er Juin 2014, date de début prévisionnelle de la mission.

Summary: Implementation of a GIS pilot project for the City of Niamey

The Government of Niger has received funding from the African Development Bank Group (ADB) under the Trust Fund for Governance (FFG) that will be allocated to the City of Niamey to cover the cost of implementation of a GIS pilot project for the City of Niamey. The services provided under this contract include the following significant achievements:

- Support the completion of the digital mapping of the city Niamey: The Mayor of Niamey has already implemented a project developing a map of the city (almost completed) with funding from the European Union (EU).
- Implementation of GIS: This will involve the installation of a georeferenced database that will be used for storing data and generated graphs and models which can then be viewed and possibly disseminated by the Mayor of the City through various communication channels (newspapers, newsletters, web portals, etc.) depending on the audience.
- Training and user support: The use of GIS requires a transfer of skills during installation, but also academic and practical training on each component of the system implementation. After installation, users will benefit from support (primarily remote, with the exception in the event of significant technical damage).

The project is expected to last 12 months, including training and support for users, with effect from 1 June 2014.

Source: http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Project-related-Procurement/Niger_-_Projet_pilote_de_mise_En_%C5%93uvre_d%E2%80%99un_syst%C3%A8me_d%E2%80%99information_g%C3%A9ographique_pour_la_ville_de_Niamey_-_EOI.pdf

Nigeria: Abuja GIS infrastructure overhaul, panacea for increased internally-generated revenue

Evidently, from the recent overhaul and complete change of the system infrastructure in Abuja Geographical Information System (AGIS), the transformation agenda of the Nigerian government is alive and kicking in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The new systems infrastructure is a necessary fundamental for facilitating the current and proposed revenue generating operations of AGIS and also for ensuring sterling service delivery, as well as customer/stakeholder satisfaction in line with the vision of AGIS to "become a comprehensive, all-inclusive fool proof and state of the art computerized geospatial data infrastructure for the FCT."



Source: <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/agis-infrastructure-overhaul-panacea-for-increased-igr/184620/>

Nigeria (Ogun State): An SDI and Land Administration System built with FOSS



Author(s): Gavin Fleming, Tobi Sowole
Proceedings of the Second AfricaGEO Conference, 1-3 July 2014,
http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/?page_id=34

Abstract: Ogun State in Nigeria started implementation in 2012 of their first digital Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). At its core are new Land Information and Land Administration Systems. A new physical survey reference framework, digital document management system and detailed household field survey are other components. All are brought together with each other and with other Government data holdings through a web portal and desktop tools that are used in dispersed locations in Ogun State and across Government departments.

All software is Free and Open Source (FOSS) or services-based. Vector data are housed in a PostGIS-enabled database. Spatial data are published via Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) services using Geoserver and GeoWebCache. A custom implementation of the IMap web application provides web-based users with an interactive geospatial portal, with search facilities, editing, printing and other functionality. A QGIS plugin was developed to assist with beacon and parcel capture. Editing takes place directly on the SDI database and the results are instantly visible to web portal users. Desktop and web users with different roles can thus connect to a central SDI to perform their various roles. Use of the SDI is being promoted across other departments.

This paper will cover the implementation in more detail, including the reasons for using FOSS, challenges and successes and other aspects of a case study. It will also touch on international collaboration (Nigeria-South Africa) and demonstrate how an SDI together with Open Source Software and Open Data can support land reform in Africa.

Source: http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/150_Fleming_Sowole.pdf

Evaluating National Spatial Data Infrastructure readiness for Zimbabwe



Author(s): Juliana Useya, Sydney Togarepi, Tarirai P. Masarira

Proceedings of the Second AfricaGEO Conference, 1-3 July 2014, http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/?page_id=34

Abstract: Being a third world country, there is a lot of development still taking place in Zimbabwe. Several agencies both in the public and private domain collect and maintain enormous amount of spatial data for their day to day activities. However, information on the accessibility of this data is not available to common users, thereby depriving the utility of this precious information at the right place at the required time. Aiming to promote spatial data sharing, in 2010 Zimbabwe resuscitated the efforts of establishing National Spatial Data Infrastructure which had been started as early as the 1980s. These initial efforts died due to various reasons. In order not to face the same fate, this research seeks to evaluate the on-going process in order to assess the readiness of harnessing National Spatial Data Infrastructure in the country and evaluate the best ways/methods to raise awareness in Zimbabwe and promote geographic information capacity building. CIPP and CIRO evaluation models are implemented.

Two workshops were held, in 2011 and in 2012 mainly to raise awareness and to discuss the National Spatial Data Infrastructure structure respectively. A prototype geoportal was developed by a student from the University of Zimbabwe and is awaiting presentation to stakeholders at a National Spatial Data Infrastructure expo to be hosted sometime in 2014. The research concluded that Zimbabwe is ready to embrace the National Spatial Data Infrastructure that is strongly supported by the Surveyor General taking responsibility. All stakeholders are being encouraged to join relevant workgroups to operationalise the structure and make National Spatial Data Infrastructure a reality.

Keywords: Geoportal, capacity building, NSDI awareness, CIPP and CIRO evaluation models.

Source: http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/73_Useya_Togarepi_Masarira.pdf

South Africa: An Inside Look at Processes and Data Content at the NGI since the Inception of the Datamodel Project



Author(s): Raoul Duesimi, Chief Directorate: National Geospatial Information

Proceedings of the Second AfricaGEO Conference, 1-3 July 2014, http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/?page_id=34

Abstract: It has been six years since the NGI (National Geo-spatial Information, <http://www.ngi.gov.za/>) undertook a project to restructure and integrate all its data into a single data repository. Data was stored in silos throughout the organisation in different formats and data structures. Public access to the data is through the sales team, the silo mentality inhibited the sales team from accessing data within its own organisation. With the inception of the Promotion of Access to Information Act and the Spatial Data Infrastructure Act (SDI), an increase in the demand for data was expected and compliance to standards prescribed by the SDI Act required for the integration and restructuring of the NGI data. Processes, technology and data content at the NGI will be presented in this paper.

Source: http://africageoceedings.co.za/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/153_Duesimi.pdf

Supply Chain Mapping for Visualising the SDI in South Africa: A Case of Land Administration Data



Author(s): Edward Kurwakumire, Serena Coetzee, Peter Schmitz, Siyabonga Mdubeki
Proceedings of the Second AfricaGEO Conference, 1-3 July 2014,
http://africageoproceedings.co.za/test/?page_id=34

Abstract: A spatial data infrastructure (SDI) is key to the sustainable and economic development of a nation. This is through its key function of making spatial data available to users who range from government, business and the public. There is a global trend of economies being information driven and spatial information is crucial in planning and decision making at all levels of government and business. SDIs are not effectively serving their purposes and this is partly due to difficulty in managing them. On the other hand, an SDI needs to be efficient and effective in as far as access spatial data to various users is concerned. Management tools for the SDI are then crucial to effectively manage it.

In order to improve the operational efficiency of the SDI, one needs to identify or develop tools to aid in its management. Supply chain management (SCM) has traditionally played a major role in designing and managing supply chains in the manufacturing industry domain. In this regard, SCM has been used in many domains, but for spatial data, it has only been applied to corporate geographic information systems and not to the SDI. An SDI is composed of complex integrated networks which are not entirely visible as it includes virtual entities. SCM can play a role in making the SDI network as a whole visible through supply chain mapping. Secondly SCM allows analysis of the stakeholder interactions and spatial data value addition processes. This provides an initial basis to understand what is happening within the SDI and this intelligence is useful for the development of SDI management tools. This study employs supply chain mapping with an object to visualise the SDI supply chain.

The focus of this study is on land administration data in South Africa. The discussion reflects that it is possible to map the SDI using the supply chain mapping. The mapping generated a wide range of information to include the SDI supply chain actors, value addition activities and delivery mechanism for spatial data. This information is important in better defining the operation of the SDI in the South African context as that description forms the basis for developing management tools for the spatial data infrastructure.

Source: http://africageoproceedings.co.za/test/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/176_Kurwakumire_Coetzee_Schmitz_Mdubeki_Tjia_Ueckermann.pdf



Malawi: Analysis of existing weather and climate information

Climate science can support planners in making informed decisions on future investments aimed at optimising the use of scarce resources available to them. Yet there is a lack of evidence for – and detailed understanding of – gaps in the uptake of science for long-term strategies for climate-resilient development, particularly for sub-Saharan Africa.

This report, compiled by Kulima Integrated Development Solutions and the University of Leeds, reviews the scope of weather and climate information available for Malawi, taking into account both southern African and international sources of information. It provides an overview of Malawi's current climate, nature of recent observed changes, and projected future changes based on Global Climate Model (GCM) ensembles as cited in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, including statistically- and dynamically-downscaled projections.

The Malawi review is the first output from the scoping phase research for the Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) programme. The programme, which is set for kick off in 2015, will aim to promote better uptake of climate science and services to support medium-term (5-40 years) adaptation decision-making in Africa. To inform the programme, CDKN has been commissioned by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to undertake scoping phase research consisting of four case studies in Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda, Mozambique and Ghana. Collectively, this research will evaluate the needs of science users against the capabilities and limitations of current science in specific African contexts.

The Malawi review was conducted to inform a participatory workshop in July, focussing on the climate information-related needs of social protection systems, food security and disaster resilience in Malawi. Read the full report, 'Analysis of existing weather and climate information for Malawi' at <http://kulima.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Analysis-of-existing-weather-and-climate-information-for-Malawi-final-with-disclaimer.pdf>

Source: <http://cdkn.org/2014/06/news-analysis-of-existing-weather-and-climate-information-for-malawi/>

**Conference on Information for Meeting Africa's Agricultural Transformation and Food Security Goals
1-3 October 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



The overall goal of the conference is to motivate continent-wide production, exchange and storage of available evidence for informing Africa's agricultural transformation towards

improved food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. Specifically, the conference aims at:

- i. Identifying key opportunities, challenges and solutions for satisfying the unmet need for strategic information and related capacities to inform the continent's agricultural transformation and hunger eradication goals.
- ii. Provide an overview of existing approaches, methods, technical resources and sources of data.
- iii. Gathering insights and taking stock of the various initiatives already developed related to information and high quality statistics generation in terms of: agriculture production monitoring; markets and trade; livelihoods including food security and nutrition monitoring; risk management systems.
- iv. Creating synergies and opportunities for collaboration among the various initiatives/institutions in order to facilitate integration among different information systems.

Source: <http://mars.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mars/News-Events/IMAAFS>

**12th International Symposium for GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management
22-24 April 2015, Stellenbosch, South Africa**



The 12th International Symposium for GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management (CoastGIS 2015) will take place in Stellenbosch, South Africa, from April 22-24 2015. This event will follow the 7th meeting of the International Coastal Atlas Network

(ICAN), to be held before CoastGIS at the same location. Authors are invited to submit extended abstracts and workshops proposals. The language used at CoastGIS 2015 is English. All abstracts and proposals must be submitted in English. Accepted abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings, and authors from selected papers will be encouraged to submit longer versions of their papers for a special issue in a peer-review international journal (to be confirmed). Extended abstract submissions are due in September 2014.

Source: <http://www.coastgis2015.co.za/call-for-papers/>

**Climate Change and Vector Borne Diseases: Past, Present and Future
18-20 November 2014, Kicukiro, Kigali, Rwanda**



The University of Rwanda, with the support of the EUFP7 HEALTHY FUTURES project, is organizing an international conference on "Climate Change and Vector Borne Diseases: Past, Present and Future". The conference will highlight contributions relating to both observational and modelling studies of vector borne disease (VBD), in particular with regard to past, present or potential future changes that have or may occur in response to changes environmental, socioeconomic and climate conditions. Research presented also will address key linkages concerning population vulnerability and how to integrate science output into national policy for monitoring predicting, and reacting to present-day disease outbreaks and over longer timescale into national adaptation plans for climate change.

- Day 1 - Climate information for public health decision making
Day 2 - Climate change related-risk analysis and vulnerability assessment
Day 3 - Integrating the science with Policy

Source: <http://www.climatechange-vbdconference2014.ur.ac.rw/>

**7th Congress of the African Association of Women in Geosciences
3-9 November 2014, Windhoek, Namibia**



The Geological Survey of Namibia has announced that the 7th Congress of the African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG, <http://www.aawg.org/>) will be held in Windhoek, Namibia from 3-9 November 2014. *Earth Sciences and Climate Change: Challenges to Development in Africa* is the Congress theme, which takes into consideration the current challenges faced by the continent in view of changing climatic conditions that have an impact on sustainable development. AAWG supports the development of Earth Scientists in Africa by providing opportunities for networking and applying science for the sustainable development challenges the continent is facing.

Source: <http://www.mme.gov.na/gsn/CAAWG7/index.html>

Call for Experts: Gabon Technical Advisory Mission



At the invitation of the Government of Gabon, and in connection with the upcoming GEO-XI Plenary in Gabon, UNOOSA (through the UN-SPIDER Programme) is tentatively planning to conduct a Technical Advisory Mission (TAM) to Gabon from 4 to 7 November 2014. UN-SPIDER is therefore seeking four to six qualified international experts from the space- and Disaster Management communities who would be interested to volunteer for participating in this Mission, if confirmed. During the mission, TAM experts will meet with key institutions involved in disaster management and with Government authorities using space-based information for disaster and risk management as well as for emergency response. Meetings are organized as relevant with representatives from the Government, local UN agencies, other regional and international organizations, academia, NGOs and private entrepreneurs in Gabon. On the basis of this mission, recommendations are made and guidelines are developed for improving the local use of space technologies in all stages of the disaster management cycle. Selected experts will also support the compilation of the official TAM Report following the mission.

Priority will be given to experts with good relevant knowledge of the region and in particular of Gabon, and to those who will be participating at the GEO Plenary as well, in order to minimize travel costs. If still required, UN-SPIDER could consider sponsoring travel and accommodation expenses for the duration of the TAM only. Interested candidates should ideally have good expertise in various areas of disaster preparedness and response, as well as in the use of space technology, spatial data infrastructures or policy analysis in that context. Specific experience in Gabon and affiliation with a regional or international entity working in Gabon or in the region are further advantages. Qualified women are particularly encouraged to apply. If you are interested in joining this Technical Advisory Mission, please provide UNOOSA with:

- a short background, résumé or CV
- an indication of any current, planned or possible type of collaboration with Gabon
- an indication of your possible funding sources, or an indication of costs needed to be covered by UNOOSA (such as ticket and/or daily expenses)

Please send your expressions of interest to Mr. Lorant CZARAN (Lorant.Czaran@unoosa.org). Deadline for receipt of applications is **31 August 2014**. Messages will be acknowledged upon receipt; however, only selected experts will be contacted.

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/call-experts-gabon-technical-advisory-mission>

Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

Laos PDR: Strengthening National Geographic Services in Lao PDR



Tenders are being sought for the ‘Strengthening National Geographic Services (SNGS) Project,’ for an extension phase to the current project which has been implemented since August 2010. The extension phase lasts October 2014 - December 2015. The purpose of the project is to ensure that basic geographic data covering the whole of Lao PDR are available and accessible to potential users and that the Department of National Geographic (DNG) and Surveying and Mapping Centre (SMC) are technically capable to maintain and disseminate the data.

In general, the objectives of SNGS have been achieved rather well. Orthophoto coverage at the end of the SNGS will be twice the original project area, i.e. approx. 2/3 of the country. It has substantially increased technical and institutional capacity of the partner organizations (National Geographic Department, NGD, and surveying and Mapping Centre, SMC). High-resolution digital orthophoto (1:5,000) and topographic (1:50,000) maps are unique products in Lao PDR. The main challenge beyond the current project is the institutional sustainability. Especially the policy issues on data sharing, product pricing and NGD funding still need further support. The other challenge is the orthophoto coverage because the northern part of the country has not yet been photographed. It is needed so that the NGD and SMC would have full countrywide orthophoto coverage.

The project extension will focus especially on ensuring the institutional sustainability. The project purpose is to ensure that the NGD and the SMC have long term capability and financial means to produce and distribute good quality and up-to-date geospatial data. The expected results are to develop policy and regulations to ensure sustainable production and distribution of reliable accurate geospatial data. In addition the remaining northern third of the country is planned to be flown during the SNGS extension and the campaign is funded jointly by Finnish and Lao governments. The project will also increase the demand for good quality products through awareness raising.

Note as well: **Strengthening National Geographic Services in Lao PDR (2011)**

http://www.fig.net/pub/fig2011/papers/ts05c/ts05c_suominen_manixay_et_al_5298.pdf

Source: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?contentid=308699&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>;
<http://www.hankintailmoitukset.fi/fi/notice/view/2014-017985/> (tender notice)

Populating digital earth: improving access to Chinese remote sensing data for terrestrial applications



Author(s): Mengxue Li and John R. Townshend

International Journal of Digital Earth, Published online: 06 Sep 2013 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: Global change has a significant impact on the lives of humankind. Earth observation can help to better understand our earth and cope with global change. With the availability of more reliable environmental data sets, digital earth is becoming a popular way to monitor the Earth and provide information to researchers and decision makers on environment protection, disaster mitigation, and social benefits. Therefore, accessing data with lowering costs is essential for digital earth. Nevertheless, there are big challenges in ensuring the feasibility of access to Chinese remote sensing data. This paper outlines some of the main challenges in realizing data sharing, provides an analysis of the core reasons leading to these challenges, and proposes recommendations to overcome the challenges. Amongst the main challenges are differences in data policy to gain access to satellite data, diverse data formats, and delivery mechanisms. The major challenge for the decision makers is to define a more open policy and for the scientist the challenge is to implement these policies for the benefit of all. This paper proposes that governments should adopt policies encouraging more open distribution and access to their data, in order to generate an improved digital earth with increased benefits to human society.

Keywords: data policy, remote sensing, data sharing, China

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538947.2013.829130>

Sri Lanka: National Conference on Geoinformatics held in Colombo



The Centre for Research and Development (CRD) of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development held its initial National Conference on Geo-informatics (GIS) on June 16th with a view of sharing knowledge and to create interest and awareness among those involved in GIS research. The event further aimed to harness insight and knowledge gathered by the professionals engaged in various facets of the technology such as Defence, Urban Development, Disaster Management, Public Service Enhancement, Satellite Based Tracking (GPS), Surveying and Mapping, Hydrology, Land and Agriculture under the theme of "Defence Geospatial Potential for Safety and National Growth".

Chief of Defence Staff General Jagath Jayasooriya graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Welcome address was delivered by the Director General, Centre for Research and Development of the Ministry of Defence Major General Prasad Samarasinghe and the Keynote speech was delivered by the Chairperson of the UNESCO Management Centre of the University of Moratuwa Professor NTS Wijesekara. Additionally, Secretary (Technical) Rohan Seneviarthne, Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Daya Ratnayake, Chief of Staff of the Navy Rear Admiral Jayantha Perera, and a large gathering of distinguished guests also were present at the event.

The national conference opened numerous ways to understand the changes and technical advancement in the geospatial industry through plenary, seminar and workshop. It also enabled distinguished guests and participants to focus on national endeavour in establishing cooperation for geospatial technologies, share knowledge and learn from experiences of different disciplines. At present advanced geospatial technologies are being extensively embraced and utilized in many public and private sectors. It also enables to accelerate productivity, effectiveness, efficiency and decision making capabilities in booming sectors like Defence, Urban Development, Disaster Management, Resource Planning, Surveying and Infrastructure Development.

Source: <http://www.asmmag.com/2012-12-30-14-17-42/corporate/6742-sri-lanka-holds-national-conference-of-geo-informatics.html>; <http://www.itnnews.lk/?p=42193>

Sri Lanka: DMC to establish viable disaster management database as part of the country's national SDI



In support of the Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (SLCDMP), UNDP is assisting the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) in establishing an implementing a spatial information management and monitoring framework. A consultant is being hired to assess information management systems established at the DMC and identify gaps for improvement; assist the DMC to prepare project proposals to establish a functioning and viable disaster management database as part of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI); develop a data management system in consultation with related agencies to improve the collection process and quality of data, all necessary questionnaires, guidelines and processes; develop capacity of government officials to improve and

update relevant databases and web pages using current spatial information and produce quality maps and graphic materials required to strengthen the SLCDMP reporting process; assist with the establishment of a system to monitor and evaluate the implementation of SLCDMP; support to SLCDMP monitoring with stakeholders which include activity mapping using related GIS methods and data analysis, set up baseline data for all outputs of SLCDMP; assist to develop TORs and documents for the procurement of any specialist services required information management including GIS expertise to implement programme activities.

Source: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=48251

Korea: Smart Geospatial Expo 2014 to open in August



The Smart Geospatial Expo 2014 will be open from Aug. 26-28. This will be its 7th this year. This exhibition is the place to promote Korea's spatial information industry, both domestically and internationally, and is filled with events like industry exhibitions, employment and entrepreneurship support center, high-level meetings among specialists in spatial information (http://www.smartgeoexpo.kr/eng/high/high_outline.php), and international conference (http://www.smartgeoexpo.kr/eng/conference/conf_call_info.php), to create business opportunities.

Source: <http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/article/5262/geospatial-expo-2014-korea%E2%80%99s-spatial-information-expo-open-august>

Korea: Spatial information satellites to be launched by 2019



In order to realize more elaborate next generation spatial information services, a satellite created exclusively for spatial information will be launched in 2019. This will enable more precise mapping of the Korean Peninsula, including North Korea, as well as faster responses to disasters. According to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning, and National Commission on Space of Korea, the launch of the first spatial information satellite has been delayed a year from 2018 to 2019.

Currently, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport has limits on its ability to utilize spatial information in various fields, as satellite images must be collected from other ministries or private companies. Accordingly, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport made launch plans for spatial information satellites and started preliminary feasibility studies to launch the first one in 2018 and the second one in 2019.

After the preliminary feasibility study review, two satellites of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and one medium-sized satellite out of eight that the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning prepared for its next-generation medium-sized satellite launch plans passed the tests. The importance of exclusive satellite launch plans for the spatial information business advancement of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport was acknowledged, and crucial barriers to secure a budget and promote businesses have been passed.

Source: <http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/article/5527/exclusive-satellites-exclusive-spatial-information-satellites-be-launched-2019>

India: DST launched IGET portal for geospatial education and training



Recently, the Natural Resources Data Management Systems (NRDMS) of Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIIEER) have set up a unique portal for geospatial education and training in India (<http://dst-iget.in/>). The objective of this portal is to serve as a national online clearinghouse for geospatial education and training (GET) that optimizes downloading, submission, review, and search of geospatial curriculum materials including open source software with operational manuals, training material in the form of books/ practical exercises, sample data including the links for data resources such as India Geoportal Bhuvan, case studies, test beds, applications specific to Indian context. It also envisions networking geospatial educators across the country and involving them in creating teaching-learning units using Indian examples and related to geospatial technologies which further builds the database as well as providing a discussion forum to exchange views and also seek solutions for issues.

Source: <http://www.directionsmag.in/articles/dst-launched-iget-portal-for-geospatial-education-and-training/406450>

Maldives: Establishing data and knowledge systems for local planning and management



With support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Maldives Country Office, a National Project Professional will be based at National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to assist with building data foundations and coordinating national level institutional arrangements for the low emission and climate resilient development (LECRd) programme for Laamu Atoll and its islands. LECRd is a joint UN programme that seeks to mainstream LECRd issues into local level development planning and service delivery for greater community

level ownership and sustainability of programme benefits. UNFPA Maldives is responsible for establishing data and knowledge systems for local planning and management in order to identify options and opportunities for development, and will work in close collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics, Maldives. The National Project Professional will:

- Conduct an assessment of Island and Atoll level data availability at national level, including within sectoral Ministries.
- Broker access for NBS, Atoll and Island Councils to LECReD relevant data, at required levels of aggregation to ensure confidentiality.
- Assist link National Geographic Information System (NGIS) and Maldives/LaamuInfo database with indicator set, including from census
- Support Local Government Authority (LGA) and National Center for Information Technology (NCIT) in the development and implementation of a data entry/compilation system at Island and Atoll level, linked with a national data compilation system
- Engage with National Statistics Coordinating Committee to streamline processes, including LGA and Ministry of Housing efforts to catalogue data; conducting an assessment of unnecessary and overlapping data collection, and developing and implementing a plan to collect necessary data for local LECReD planning, including through the LGA data entry/compilation system.

Source: http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/maldives/drive/ToR_NPP_LECReD_Final.pdf

Valuing the Census: A report prepared for Statistics New Zealand Quantifying the benefits to New Zealand from the use of census and population information



Author(s): Carl Bakker
Published in July 2014 by Statistics New Zealand

Abstract: This report provides estimates of the dollar value to New Zealand gained through the use of census and associated population statistics information. The conclusion is clear: despite significant difficulties in developing a rigorous quantification, it is reasonable to conclude that the census delivers benefits well in excess of its direct costs. The valuation task is complex, reflecting the fact that currently internationally there are no directly applicable models or approaches, and that there are costly hurdles in place to obtain precise estimates of user values for the information. As a consequence, this report utilises a range of approaches to valuation.

The main benefit areas quantified are:

- the benefits from more accurate health funding allocations as funding is delivered more accurately to more needy areas;
- reductions in the costs associated with underutilised fixed capital investments, in both the public and private sectors, because of better information on their timing and location (infrastructure funded by central and local government, aged care, retail);
- benefits from improved precision and insight in policy making in a range of government agencies, especially for Maori and vulnerable groups;
- improvements in the value added by a range of firms which use census data in a wide variety of analyses provided to government and private sector firms; and
- gains from improved survey accuracy and reductions in sample size for private sector market research companies, and StatisticsNZ in respect of a range of other non-census products.

Using the most generally applicable discount rate of 8%, this suggests a net present value of close to \$1 billion for the benefits to New Zealand gained through the use of census and population statistics information over the next 25 years. In other words, every dollar invested in the census generates a net benefit of five dollars in the economy. This value estimate though is not at the level of rigour applicable to assets recorded on an organisation's balance sheet. It does not include many of the uses discussed but not quantified.

Source: <http://statistics.school.nz/~media/Statistics/surveys-and-methods/methods/research-papers/topss/valuing-census.pdf>

New Zealand: Visualising fishing harvest data with LINZ's Data Service



A new tool that uses Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) online maps means Tangata kaitaki and iwi now have an easier way of monitoring fishing levels in their rohe moana (coastal and marine areas). The eFish PLUS fisheries management tool, developed in partnership by Waka Digital (an IT firm based in Tauranga) and Te Ohu Kaimoana (The Maori Fisheries Trust), captures, records and tracks information on customary fishing authorisations, overlaying it onto LINZ topographic maps. It also provides certification to customary fisheries, as well as

generating reports sent directly to the Ministry of Primary Industries - all previously managed via a paper-based system. Waka Digital Senior Developer, Mark Berry said using the maps from LINZ's Topo50 series, give customers the ability to spatially mark out customary fishing areas so they can monitor harvesting levels. "Having the ability to seamlessly integrate LINZ data into the system and demonstrate to customers how they can easily draw polygons and points of interest over a spatial map to produce an online report showing how much fish has been harvested in an area, is such a powerful resource", says Mark Berry Senior Developer at Waka Digital. "Furthermore, the real power to iwi is having that one central source of information where data is being collected which they can use to actively manage their own reefs."

LINZ's Data Service has been running successfully for nearly three years now and has over 10,000 users, with approximately 100 new users signing up each week.

Source: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/about-linz/linz-data-service/success-stories/visualising-fishing-harvest-data-with-lds>

Thailand: National committee developing guidelines for country's geospatial infrastructure



The Geoinformatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), which serves as Secretary of the National Geoinformatics Committee, organized a meeting of the Committee on July 8th, 2014 focusing on the development of guidelines for the geospatial infrastructure of the country. The meeting was attended by 24 participants from government agencies, public organizations, and universities. The objective was to gather information related to the geospatial information system master plan of the country. The master plan is meant to be a framework for the implementation of the information platform of the country and to comply with the government's policy on the management of geospatial information.

Source: http://thaisdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=177:080757&catid=36:latest-news

Thailand: Metropolitan Water Authority to join up all data across three provinces

The Thai water authority plans to consolidate all location-based data across its departments into a central system within the next five years, the Metropolitan Water Authority (MWA) has told FutureGov. "For a long time now, each division has been keeping their own records, which makes it challenging to share information and plan across the organisation. The central system will also allow us to generate a dashboard for quicker and more informed decision making," said Somsak Saranopakul, Director of Engineering Standard and Geographic Information Department of MWA. The consolidation will join up various systems, including customer information, water loss system, and the system that enables remote control over water infrastructure. MWA officials should also be able to access all data via mobile devices with the new consolidated system, added Phakpoom Pirachai, Senior Engineer, Pipeline System Information Section, Geographic Information Division, of MWA.



Source: <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/jul/23/thailands-water-authority-join-all-data-across-thr/>

Japan: City of Kitakyushu bring data from businesses, government, & citizens together into one interactive site

The City of Kitakyushu in Japan has created an information portal that brings together location-based data from across local businesses, citizens and government. In an exclusive interview with FutureGov, Atsushi Shiota, Chief, Information Technology Promotion Department, General Affairs and Planning Bureau, City of Kitakyushu, Japan, revealed why his team created the country's first geo-data portal last October. "Previously, data owned by the government, companies and citizens was never shared. We created a single platform, called G-motty (<http://www.g-motty.net/>), so everyone can conveniently find location of services online through one site," said Shiota. Using the map, users can search by categories such as transportation, leisure, accommodation, retail, banks, hospitals, government offices, restaurants and schools. There are also maps created by citizens, such as location of vending machines, smoking areas, public toilets, and recommended sightseeing spots.



Source: <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2014/jul/22/japan-brings-data-businesses-government-citizens-t/>

Europe Region SDI News

España: Mejorando el portal de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Gran Canaria



La Consejería de Política Territorial, Arquitectura y Paisaje mejora el portal de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Gran Canaria (www.IDEGrancanaria.es) para facilitar la comunicación de sus servicios de mapas y documentos a los ciudadanos. Imágenes de Gran Canaria acompañan la navegación haciendo más ameno el uso de los servicios ofrecidos. Las funcionalidades principales se integran en tres bloques centrales: Visor; Catálogo servicios IDE; y Plan Insular de Ordenación y Planeamiento territorial.

Summary: New web geoportal of Grand Canary's SDI

The Ministry of Territorial Planning, Architecture and Landscape Portal improves Spatial Data Infrastructure of Gran Canaria (www.IDEGrancanaria.es) to facilitate the communication of documents and mapping services to citizens.

Fuente: <http://www.idegrancanaria.es/noticias/2014/07/idegrancanaria-estrena-geoportal-web>

Italy: New geonode connections to Pegaso Geoportal

In the framework of the COASTGAP Project, three new Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures have been connected to the Pegaso ICZM SDI. The COASTGAP project (<http://coastgap.facecoast.eu/>) is the result of more than 10 years of shared experiences for managing the Mediterranean Coastal Zones. As part of the cluster FACECOAST ("Face the challenge of climate change in the med coastal zones") established in 2011, the COASTGAP project aims to capitalize 12 Best Practices, including the Best Practice six: "PEGASO SDI and Geoportal for ICZM" designed to improve data sharing in the Mediterranean to support Integrated Coastal Zone Management.



During the capitalisation process, the PEGASO SDI Best Practice has been adopted by three Italian Regions: Lazio, Emilia Romagna and Liguria Region which have shared their Data Catalogues (interoperable web services) and thus populating the Pegaso SDI (catalogue and viewer) with cartography concerning coastal zones that can be fully accessible through the PEGASO Geoportal (<http://pegasosdi.uab.es/geoportal/>).

Source: <http://pegasosdi.uab.es/geoportal/index.php/novedades-2/154-new-geonodes-connections-to-the-pegaso-geoportal>

UK: New Ordnance Survey mapping service launched for UK resilience professionals



A new interactive mapping service called "Resilience Direct" is being rolled out to the UK Resilience community in late July. The tool allows disasters responders to quickly and easily build incident maps supporting a shared information picture. The UK Ordnance Survey stated in a press release: "Resilience Direct was initially launched in April 2014, providing a secure platform for multi-agency partnerships to share information in both emergency response and in planning. The service acts as a common operating platform for use by local multi-agency planning and response partnerships, with users

including police, fire and ambulance services, local authorities and utilities partners. The service enables real-time sharing of accurate data and information, allowing all agencies to maintain shared situational awareness and supporting effective decision-making at the tactical and strategic levels."

The enhanced service can now "digest a variety of data formats, enabling users to add their own layers to maps, reflecting accurate local detail. For example, cordons can be added and highlighted, utilities and pipelines can be shown and points of interest can be overlaid to the mapping. The service is designed to enable strategic and tactical commanders to visualise their area of interest in a flexible, dynamic way."

Source: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/news/2014/os-mapping-service-launched-for-uk-resilience-professionals.html>

Ireland: Government builds first national Open Data Portal



More than 418 datasets from 45 public bodies have been made public by the Irish Government, as part of Ireland's first national Open Data Portal. data.gov.ie is an alpha site being described by the government as an "important first step" as it aims to encourage public bodies to publish data sets for public viewing. The portal has been created by the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at NUI Galway. Research associate

at the Insight Centre Deirdre Lee spoke about how the portal has been "developed in line with international best practice" and objections to opening up public-sector data to the public.

"We found that there was a lot of activity going on already in terms of open data, especially at a community level in Ireland, such as the work by Fingal County Council, as well as Dublinlinked. The Central Statistics Office has created Statbank while the Environmental Protection Agency also releases quite a lot of data. The Marine Institute and other geospatial organisations are quite involved in open data."

Source: https://www.ics.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1111:government-builds-first-irish-open-data-portal&catid=39:news&Itemid=238

Netherlands: Geonovum organizing meeting focusing on INSPIRE harmonization obligations



Geonovum is organizing a meeting, scheduled for September 9, 2014, which will focus on INSPIRE harmonization obligations. The purpose of the meeting, in addition to gaining an understanding of the obligations, is to exchange experiences related to harmonization. Data providers will give presentations and provide 'tips and tricks' and 'do's and don'ts' to other data providers who have yet to begin. The meeting is intended for INSPIRE focal points, information specialists, and domain experts. The meeting will take place in Amersfoort. The program will be announced in August. Interested parties can register by contacting inspire@geonovum.nl.

See also: A roadmap for INSPIRE data harmonization, <http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/inspire/nieuws/een-stappenplan-voor-inspire-dataharmonisatie>;

Source: <http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/inspire/nieuws/inspire-harmonisatieverplichtingen>

GeoMol Mid-term Conference - Oral and poster presentations

Assessing subsurface potentials of the Alpine Foreland Basins for sustainable planning and use of natural resources



The GeoMol Mid-term Conference took place in Leoben, Austria, on 5th and 6th June 2014, kindly hosted by the Montanuniversität / Joanneum Research. It informed on the state-of-the-art, the (preliminary) results and developments of GeoMol including the official launch of GeoMol's web-based transnational geo data infrastructure for dissemination and query of multidimensional geological information (<http://geomol.lfu.bayern.de/geomol/webGUI/>). The event focused on the scientific community and academia and provided a platform for discussion and exchange on recent concepts and developments in the fields of seismic interpretation, 3D modelling and model parametrisation, geo data infrastructures and dissemination tools for 3D models, geo-potential assessment, and foreland basin geology.

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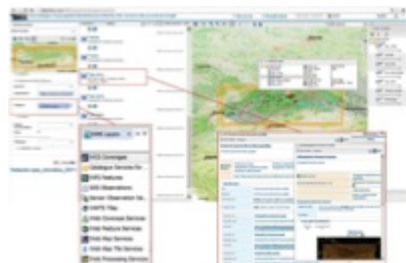
Within the framework of the transnational project GeoMol, funded by the Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013, as a part of the "European Territorial Cooperation" from September 2012 to June 2015, partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland are preparing data on the geological structures of the Molasse and Po Basins in order to serve transnational decision-making and to make them available also to the interested public. GeoMol will provide consistent 3-dimensional subsurface information based on coherent evaluation methods and commonly developed criteria and guidelines. Enhancing the common knowledge of the subsurface in the Alpine Foreland Basins will help to boost homemade, decentralised green energy by exploiting geo-potentials and using subsurface storage capacities. It also improves the geological and structural knowledge of the basins and supports the seismic hazard assessment especially of the Po Plain.

Source: http://geomol.eu/geomol/events/mid-term_conference

Geospatial information relevant to flood protection available on the mainstream Web

Author(s): Tomáš Kliment, Linda Gálová, Renata Ďuračiová, Róbert Fencík, Marcel Kliment

Slovak Journal of Civil Engineering, Volume 22, Issue 1, Pages 9–18



Abstract: Flood protection is one of several disciplines where geospatial data is very important and is a crucial component. Its management, processing and sharing form the foundation for their efficient use; therefore, special attention is required in the development of effective, precise, standardized, and interoperable models for the discovery and publishing of data on the Web. This

paper describes the design of a methodology to discover Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) services on the Web and collect descriptive information, i.e., metadata in a geocatalogue. A pilot implementation of the proposed methodology - Geocatalogue of geospatial information provided by OGC services discovered on Google (hereinafter “Geocatalogue”) - was used to search for available resources relevant to the area of flood protection. The result is an analysis of the availability of resources discovered through their metadata collected from the OGC services (WMS, WFS, etc.) and the resources they provide (WMS layers, WFS objects, etc.) within the domain of flood protection.

Keywords: Discovery; geospatial data; metadata; OGC services; geocatalogue; flood protection

Source: <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/sjce.2014.22.issue-1/sjce-2014-0002/sjce-2014-0002.xml>

Testing the INSPIRE Registry, Registers and Re3gistry Software

The JRC INSPIRE Registry is happy to announce a new candidate release of the INSPIRE registry and registers (<http://inspire-regadmin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/registry>), which is based on the v0.4 release candidate of the Re3gistry software (<https://inspire-regadmin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sandbox/admin/>). Before officially publishing these, JRC would like to invite you to participate in the testing of both the content and new functionalities of the service and the software. For this purpose, two test instances have been set up:

- The testing instance for the candidate release of the INSPIRE registry and registers (<http://inspire-regadmin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/registry>) contains all content and functionality that are proposed to be included in the final release 4 of the INSPIRE registry.
- For testing the new functionalities of the Re3gistry software, a "sandbox" instance of the software (<https://inspire-regadmin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sandbox/admin/>) has been set up, whose content can be freely modified through the instance's administration interface. Please note that the content and identifiers (URIs) of this instance are not authoritative, and the register content may be cleaned up from time to time.

Instructions for testing as well as the draft documentation for the new INSPIRE registry service and Re3gistry software are available in a specific sub-project in the MIG collaboration space: <https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/registry-development/wiki>. The testing will run until **15 September 2014**.

Getting involved: If you are interested in testing new release candidates of the software or service, please register in the MIG collaboration space (<https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/account/register>) and send an e-mail to inspire-registry-dev@jrc.ec.europa.eu. Questions, issues for discussions, bugs and suggestions for new features can be submitted in the issue tracker: <https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/registry-development/issues/new>. Note that in order to submit new issues, you have to be signed into the collaboration space and have been assigned to the testing project. Please also check the existing issues before submitting a new issue.

Job opportunity: Secretary to UN-GGIM: Europe

UN-GGIM Europe is looking for a skilled and experienced person with excellent interpersonal and communication skills who is available for a full time position starting in September. The position is, initially, for a two year period of time. This is an interesting opportunity to work in developing and supporting the European regional committee of United Nations initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (<http://ggim.un.org/about.html>) the goal of which is to take a leading role in setting the agenda for global geospatial information development and promoting the benefits of geospatial information for addressing national policy and key global challenges. Although UN-GGIM was created in 2011, the regional structure of UN-GGIM: Europe is in its early stages; the Articles will be adopted at its first plenary meeting in Chisinau, Moldova on 1st October 2014.

The role of the successful candidate will be to ensure that the work of UN-GGIM: Europe is managed effectively and efficiently and that relevant bodies in the European UN Member States, and Observer organisations are kept well informed. You will need to demonstrate judgment, initiative and creativity. You will also be reliable, able to work independently and focused on delivery. The job can be carried out from your current office, if seconded from a EuroGeographics member organisation, within our offices in Brussels or on a ‘home-working’ arrangement. The job description is available at:

<http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/UN-GGIM%20Europe%20Secretary%20Job%20Description%20v1%201.pdf>.

Salary will be based upon experience and working arrangements. If you wish to apply, please send your CV and a short motivational letter highlighting your experience to virginie.luppens@eurogeographics.org. The deadline for applying is **14 August 2014**.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/job-offer-secretary-un-ggim-europe>

Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

Bolivia: El Alto es el primer municipio en contar con Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales



El Gobierno Autónomo Municipal de El Alto (Gamea), presentó en julio la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de El Alto (Ideea), con la que se garantiza el acceso a la información de todas las personas que requieren datos geográficos y referenciales de la urbe. “El Alto es el primer municipio del país que cuenta con este sistema que permite ejecutar obras con mayor planificación, porque nos brinda datos de la ubicación y las necesidades de todas las áreas públicas en las que debemos intervenir”, explicó el alcalde Édgar Patana. La Ideea es una página web creada por la Secretaría Municipal de Planificación del Desarrollo del GAMEA, en la que se integran datos e información cartográfica a los que la población podrá acceder desde cualquier computadora o dispositivo móvil.

Summary: El Alto is the first municipality to have Spatial Data Infrastructure

The Autonomous Municipal Government of El Alto (Gamea), introduced in July the Spatial Data Infrastructure of El Alto (IDEEA), which guarantees access to information of all persons who require geographic and reference data of the city. "The Alto is the first municipality in the country with this system that allows you to execute work with more planning, because it provides data on the location and needs of all public areas in which we intervene," said Mayor Edgar Patana. The IDEEA is a website created by the Municipal Development Planning in which people can access cartographic data and information from any computer or mobile device.

Fuente:

<http://hoybolivia.com/Noticia.php?IdNoticia=113134&tit=el alto es el primer municipio en contar con infraestructura de datos espaciales>

Bolivia: Se desarrolló la 5ta reunión del Comité Interinstitucional de la IDE-EPB



El pasado 4 de julio se llevó a cabo la 5ta reunión del Comité Interinstitucional de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (IDE-EPB), en la que participaron representantes de distintas instituciones a nivel estatal, departamental y municipal. Con la participación de aproximadamente 70 instituciones, mayoría de las cuales componen los 8 grupos de trabajo del Comité Interinstitucional el núcleo de la reunión se centro en la presentación de los Planes de Acción de cada grupo.

- Grupo 1: Datos Fundamentales - Definir los datos fundamentales de la IDE-EPB, el modelado de datos y catalogo de objetos de los mismos.
- Grupo 2: Metadatos - Definir el Perfil Nacional de Metadatos, en sus componentes: vector, raster y servicios.
- Grupo 3: Marco Legal y Acuerdos Institucionales - Proponer y establecer el marco legal de la IDE-EPB, reglamento interno además de la institucionalización del Comité Interinstitucional.
- Grupo 4: Arquitectura e Interoperabilidad - Velar la interoperabilidad de servicios de la IDE-EPB (WMS, WFS, CSW, WCS, etc)
- Grupo 5: Política de Datos y Seguimiento - Elaboración de protocolos de calidad, establecer un mecanismo de difusión para la producción de IG y generar sinergias para la co-producción de IG.
- Grupo 6: Sistema Geodésico de Referencia Nacional - Adoptar el Sistema Geodésico Nacional, en sus tres componentes: horizontal, vertical y gravimétrico, además del marco legal que la regule
- Grupo 7: Banco de Imágenes e Información Raster - Elaborar un documento en el que se plasmen las necesidades de las distintas instituciones sobre información raster además de la consolidación de un banco nacional de imágenes
- Grupo 8: Fortalecimiento Tecnológico y Desarrollo - Socializar la Ley 164 (Software libre) haciendo hincapié en el componente SIG, así mismo apoyar el plan de migración con la inclusión de un subcapítulo para aplicaciones SIG (repositorio)

Posteriormente, GeoBolivia realizó la presentación de la Pagina web de la IDE-EPB (<http://ideepb.geo.gob.bo>) a constituirse en la principal herramienta de coordinación del Comité. Finalmente, se realizo una ronda de presentaciones, la primera desarrollada por la Agencia Boliviana Espacial (ABE) que explicó algunos detalles acerca del Proyecto Bartolina Sisa y la función de la ABE en la misma. A continuación el IGM invitó a los participantes al Simposio SIRGAS 2014, cuya sede para este año es Bolivia.

Summary: 5th meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on SDI (IDE-EPB) held

On 4 July, the 5th meeting of the Interagency Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (IDE-EPB) was held, which involved representatives of various institutions at the state, provincial and municipal levels. With the participation of about 70 institutions, most of which make up the eight working groups, the meeting was focused on the presentation of the Action Plans of each group.

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/blog/spip.php?article202>

Argentina: Datos espaciales en el portal oficial de la provincial de Tucumán



La Secretaría de Estado de Gestión Pública y Planeamiento lanzó a fines de Mayo de 2014 el Nuevo portal de la provincial (<http://www.tucuman.gov.ar/web.php>), desde lo visual rediseñado totalmente, y la diferencia más significativa con el anterior está en el cambio de enfoques: pasando de uno que hace foco en los Organismos del Estado y los servicios que ofrece cada uno de ellos, a uno orientado en la atención sobre las necesidades y demandas de los ciudadanos.

Las acciones de los usuarios del sitio, sus intereses, lo que más buscaban fue brindando información necesaria para sentar la base sobre la que se trabajó para dar origen al nuevo portal. El objetivo era claro “Privilegiar la demanda de los ciudadanos”, más si tenemos en cuenta que en lo que va del 2014 el sitio cuenta con un promedio mensual de 153.000 accesos.

Summary: Spatial data on the official website of the province of Tucumán

The Ministry of Public Management and Planning launched in late May 2014 the new website of the province (<http://www.tucuman.gov.ar/web.php>), from the visual completely redesigned, and the most significant difference with the former is in the exchange of approaches: going from one that makes focus in the State agencies and the services offered by each of them, to one oriented attention to the needs and demands of citizens.

The actions of the users of the site, their interests, what they wanted most was to provide information necessary to establish the basis on which he worked to give rise to the new portal. The objective was clear "privilege citizens demand", especially if we consider that in 2014 so far the site has a monthly average of 153,000 hits.

Fuente: <http://idet.tucuman.gov.ar/index.php/noticias/idet/147-datos-espaciales-en-el-portal-oficial-de-la-provincia-de-tucuman>

Dominican Republic: Using novel geospatial tools for hurricane response



On 30 July 2014, USSOUTHCOM’s Science, Technology and Experimentation Division, the National Emergency Commission of the Dominican Republic (NEC) and the UN-SPIDER programme conducted a simulation in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as a way to demonstrate the usefulness of the GEOSHAPE application in emergency response efforts. The simulation was conducted with the aim of integrating this application into the routine procedures employed by the Dominican Republic’s National Emergency Operations Center (EOC). GeoSHAPE stands for Geospatial Security Humanitarian Assistance and Partnership Engagement. It combines a web-based application that sits on a server and a portable application for the collection of data and images in the field. It has been developed to facilitate the combination of GEO-spatial data emerging from the field with data provided by other stakeholders in the format of maps that assist those in charge of emergency operations to plan how best to respond in a timely and efficient way.

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/dominican-republic-using-novel-geospatial-tools-hurricane-response>

Bahamas: Postal stamps to recognise 10th anniversary of Bahamas National GIS (BNGIS)



The Bahamas Postal Services will release a new series of stamps on July 21 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems Centre (July 26, 2004). The special issue of four stamps features a 15 cent stamp, a 50 cent stamp, a 65 cent stamp and a 70 cent stamp.



BNGIS Centre was reactivated on July 26, 2004. Ms. Carol Albury, director, and Mr. Duane Miller and Mrs. Antonique Strachan, technical staff, formed the core team of advocates advancing the infusion of spatial technologies. The mission of BNGIS is to promote, educate, coordinate and advance the practical and efficient use of GIS in The Bahamas.

BNGIS is mandated to serve as the Government’s technical focal point for Geospatial data and central repository for the collection, analysis and management of geographical data on The Bahamas; to provide GIS training, technical support and a national framework for GIS implementation.

Source:

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/portal/public/gov/government/news/postal%20stamps%20to%20recognise%2010th%20anniversary%20of%20bngis/>

Code for the Caribbean (CftC)

Code for the Caribbean (CftC) is a new initiative that partners with innovative government agencies in the Caribbean to help them become more agile, open and participatory. Through



CftC, teams of developers, designers and entrepreneurs work alongside government partners to leverage the power of the web to jointly develop new approaches to solving the problems important to them and their citizens. Code For The Caribbean is designed to support government partners by creating:

- An innovation team to complement your domain expertise;
- Emerging civic technologies that leverage the power of the Internet;
- Agile Service design for citizen-centred services;
- Software built for re-use and scaling across government;
- Government as a platform for innovation.

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

Belize (Dangriga): Implementation and Education of GIS in a Local Government for Municipal Planning



Author(s): Skelton, Craig
Thesis, Georgia State University, 2014

Abstract: Implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in a developing country can improve spatial planning and decision-making. Utilizing a Participatory GIS framework of maximizing community empowerment and limiting marginalization, this thesis research explores the barriers associated with implementing GIS in Dangriga, Belize and how to overcome those barriers. The research included the identification of local needs that could benefit from the use of GIS, the collection of local data through group and individual data collections, and the utilization of locally collected data to conduct GIS training sessions. It was learned that Dangriga faces many barriers found in other developing countries: institutional inertia, resource and technical availabilities, and a lack of trained personnel. Through the collection of local data and training sessions utilizing the data, the barriers of implementing GIS in Dangriga can be minimized.

Keywords: Geographic information systems, GIS, Participatory GIS, Belize, Participatory Research

Source: http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1080&context=geosciences_theses;
http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/geosciences_theses/77;

UN-GGIM Americas to meet in September

The Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) will hold its next meeting on September 22-25, 2014 in Mexico City as part of the Latin American Geospatial Forum. The program includes discussion on first working year progresses and activities, regional and international cooperation, the working groups, and future plans for the Regional Committee, among others.

Source: Geo-SUR Newsletter, Monica Aguayo, UN-GGIM: Americas, http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1539

International State of the Map 2014: 8th Annual OpenStreetMap Conference November 7-9, 2014, Buenos Aires, Argentina



The State of the Map (SotM) conference is the annual conference of OpenStreetMap. Organised by the OpenStreetMap Foundation it has been held each year since 2007. There have also been any other regional and local conferences named State of the Map. After being in Europe, North America and Asia, it is time to explore yet another continent. The OpenStreetMap Foundation is happy to announce that the 8th international State of the Map 2014 conference will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on November 7th–9th. OSM is a truly global project with people all over the globe.

Having SotM14 in Argentina is a great way to show the world what's going on in South America regarding OSM and it can help strengthen the local OSM communities there.

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

International Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER) All-Scientists Meeting of the Americas 1-3 December 2014, Universidad Austral De Chile, Valdivia, Chile

The “All scientists meeting of the Americas” will take place prior to the International Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER, <http://www.ilternet.edu/>) annual meeting in Valdivia, Chile between the 1st and 3rd of December 2014. This is an invitation from the ILTER Americas’ Region Network to all scientists interested in building a North- Central-South America partnership to share experiences and build the grounds for continental long term ecological research. We have put together an exciting program which includes oral and poster presentations in diverse ILTER topics such as: LTSE experiences around the



world; Temperate forests of the Americas: Parallels and contrasts; Socio-ecological research in marine ecosystem; and Earth Stewardship; Science and policy; Ecosystem management; Education and outreach. Participants also have the opportunity to propose workshops in these, or similar topics, with the aim of stimulating Americas' regional cooperation. The official language of the meeting is English.

Source: <http://www.ltser-chile.cl/ilter-meeting-2014/programme.html>; <http://www.ilternet.edu/events/ilter-2014>

North America Region SDI News

USA: URISA recommends the addition of addresses as a Framework Data Theme



The URISA Board of Directors recently recommended that the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) add addresses as an eighth framework data theme to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and, in support of that, incorporate the FGDC address data standard into the Geographic Information Framework Data Content Standard. In addition, URISA recommends that the FGDC specify procedures for adding other new data themes to the NSDI, and proposes criteria to assure that new data themes will be significant, well-defined, and consistent with other NSDI data themes. The recommendation is intended to strengthen other FGDC NSDI and address data initiatives. To review the recommendation in detail, visit <http://www.urisa.org/main/advocacy/#policystatements>.

Source: <http://www.urisa.org/news/2014/07/22/press-release/urisa-recommends-the-addition-of-addresses-as-a-framework-data-theme/>

USA: USGS replacing outdated and inconsistent elevation data



The United States Geological Survey (USGS), along with other federal, state, local and private agencies is establishing a new 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) designed to respond to the growing needs for three-dimensional mapping data of the United States. This coordinated partnership can help meet the country's needs for high-quality, 3D elevation data. Current and accurate 3D elevation data are essential to help communities cope with natural hazards and disasters such as floods and landslides, support infrastructure, ensure agricultural success, strengthen environmental decision-making and bolster national security. The primary goal of the 3DEP partnership is to systematically collect 3D elevation data across the Nation, using lidar, a remote sensing detection system that works on the principle of radar, but uses light from a laser.

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3938>

USA: Wetlands digital data & interactive mapping tool completed for the conterminous 48 states

May was American Wetlands Month, a time to celebrate and recognize how they enrich our lives and contribute to the health of our environment. In a fitting tribute to wetlands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory announced the completion of the digital wetland coverage for the conterminous 48 States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the major Northern Mariana Islands and 35 % of Alaska. This digital wetlands data can be viewed on the Wetlands Mapper (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>), is available for download (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/State-Downloads.html>, <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Data-Download.html>) and via web map services (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Web-Map-Services.html>).



Source: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Documents/Completion-of-National-Wetlands-Database-News-Release.pdf>

Climate change collaboration among natural resource management agencies Lessons learned from two US regions



Author(s): Christopher James Lemieux, Jessica Thompson, D. Scott Slocombe & Rudy Schuster
Journal of Environmental Planning and Management

Abstract: It has been argued that regional collaboration can facilitate adaptation to climate change impacts through integrated planning and management. In an attempt to understand the underlying institutional factors that either support or contest this assumption, this paper explores the institutional factors influencing adaptation to climate change at the regional scale, where multiple public land and natural resource management jurisdictions are involved. Insights from

two mid-western US case studies reveal that several challenges to collaboration persist and prevent fully integrative multi-jurisdictional adaptation planning at a regional scale. We propose that some of these challenges, such as lack of adequate time, funding and communication channels, be reframed as opportunities to build interdependence, identify issue-linkages and collaboratively explore the nature and extent of organisational trade-offs with respect to regional climate change adaptation efforts. Such a reframing can better facilitate multi-jurisdictional adaptation planning and management of shared biophysical resources generally while simultaneously enhancing organisational capacity to mitigate negative effects and take advantage of potentially favourable future conditions in an era characterised by rapid climate change.

Keywords: climate change, adaptation, collaboration, transboundary, natural resources, management, policy, planning, adaptive capacity, mainstreaming

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09640568.2013.876392>

Canada: Updated Geomatics Community Strategy document now available



The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) is a collaborative effort between governments (federal, provincial, territorial, municipal and First Nations), industry, educators and students and not-for-profit organizations. The CGCRT has announced that the Pan-Canadian Geomatics Community Strategy document has been updated to reflect discussions at the June “Team Canada” Workshop held in Ottawa. The objective of the Strategy is to better meet the needs of, and enable the ever-growing Geospatial Community. The document is available at <http://cgcrt.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=73e9ebdd2c502f1f499a3c8ca&id=52b3801bc9&e=85b43c3f85>.

Source: <http://cgcrt.ca/communications-events/blog-latest-news/>

Esri Canada launches GIS Centres of Excellence in Higher Education

Esri Canada has announced the launch of its GIS Centres of Excellence initiative that is aimed at encouraging innovation in GIS research and promoting teaching excellence in spatial data management and analysis in higher education across Canada. Initially, there will be Centres at the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, McMaster University and the University of Waterloo in Ontario, McGill University in Quebec, and a joint centre between Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Community College, Centre of Geographic Sciences in Nova Scotia. Over the next three years, Centres will be opened in the Prairie provinces, followed by additional Centres in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. The Centres will increase the opportunity for inter-institutional collaboration across the country and help expand spatial thinking and GIS software use beyond the traditional field of geography into fields that include planning, sub-fields of engineering, earth sciences and environmental management, computer science, medicine, business, and other areas in social sciences including history, sociology and criminology, among others.



Source: <http://esri.ca/en/content/esri-canada-launches-gis-centres-excellence-higher-education>

Esri Canada User Conference 2014, November 5-6, 2014, Vancouver, Canada



The annual Esri User Conference continues to be an excellent opportunity to discover new developments in Esri’s GIS solutions and to network with peers and industry experts.

Source: <http://www.esri.ca/en/content/esri-canada-user-conference-2014-vancouver>

Geospatial Advancement Canada 2015, March 3-5, 2015, Ottawa, Canada



Utilizing Geomatics to Bolster Canada’s National Interests, Security, and Economy
The Geospatial Advancement Canada conference and training course brings together Canada’s leaders in Geomatics to continue the discussion on developing a National Geo strategy. You will network and learn from industry experts who will detail, through case study presentations, how you can develop your own program or improve what you’ve already achieved.

- Day 1: Exploring The Latest Technology And Innovation To Overcome Interoperability Challenges
- Day 2: Developing A National Geo Strategy Through Collaboration By All Levels Of Government And Private Industry
- Day 3: Challenges And Opportunities Associated With GIS Governance; Policy Development, Senior-Level Buy In, Workforce

Source: <http://geospatialcanada.wbresearch.com/>

Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

Jordan: Royal Jordanian Geographic Center discusses production of socio-economic atlas of Jordan



In February 2014, the Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center (RJGC), Dr. Khasawneh, discussed ways of joint cooperation with the president of Jordan economic and social council, Dr. Munther Shar'e. During the meeting, the two parties discussed the production of a socio-economic atlas of Jordan, which is considered to be the first of its kind and reflects the country's infrastructure services and public utilities.

Dr. Khasawneh said that this atlas will address the socio-economic conditions, population census and environmental aspects in the kingdom. Also he added that statistical data will be obtained through geographical distributions from available maps at the RJGC. In addition, the atlas will contain graphs and tables supported by detailed explanations, in an effort to meet the diverse needs of data users.

Dr. Shar'e, said that the production of this atlas will assist the establishment of a sustainable developmental sector and a solid research infrastructure that enables the kingdom in the process of transferring knowledge, adapting technology and creating a competitive investment environment in the kingdom. Also Dr. Shar'e emphasized the important role of the RJGC in producing such an atlas for the first time in collaboration with Jordan economic and social council due to the distinguished capabilities and expertise of the RJGC in the field of surveying and map production, stressing that such cooperation will contribute to achieving national interests.

Source: <http://www.rjgc.gov.jo/NewsDetails.aspx?NID=286&lang=en>

Lebanon: GIS data to support Inter-Agency coordination on informal settlements



According to a job announcement for an Information Management (GIS) Project Manager in Zahle, Lebanon, Medair's GIS project, started in October 2012, was initiated to support the initial distribution work being done on Informal Settlements using ESRI GIS software. More recently, information management tools such as ODK and LMMS (Last Mile Mobile Solution) were added to manage assessment and distribution data. The GIS data is being used to support Inter-Agency coordination, and as such, Medair was asked to expand its project over more of the Bekaa Valley and to build capacity and oversee other implementing partners carrying out similar GIS work over the whole of Lebanon using common tools and operating procedures tracking informal settlements.

Within the field of GIS, information management, and Medair's overall country strategy, current efforts are to develop a practical but challenging vision to collect, analyse and represent data linked to geographical references to better serve refugees and host community alike; provide strong leadership of the assigned GIS project; work to ensure both short and long-term positive impacts and outcomes for the beneficiaries, coordinating bodies and other NGOs.

Source: <http://relief.medair.org/en/jobs/positions/information-management-gis-project-manager/>

Modelling and monitoring water resources in Middle East and North Africa



As part of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)'s MAWRED project (Modelling and Monitoring Agriculture and Water Resources Development, <http://www.biosaline.org/MAWRED.aspx>), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), ICBA is collaborating with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre (NASA GSFC) and selected U.S. university experts to use the Weather Research and Forecasting system (WRF) to downscale climate data at a regional and local scale. This climate data is then used as input for NASA GSFC furnished Land Information System models, operating at ICBA, to understand the likely impacts on water and agriculture in the MENA region. This information will help local government ministries and public organisations in their management of water and agricultural resources decisions, and assist vulnerable communities in the region through improved drought management and response. It will also help in making decisions on water allocation among other sectors, such as industry and households.

Dell announced that ICBA (in Dubai) has deployed Dell High Performance Computing (HPC), Dell Services, and Dell SonicWALL security solutions. The system is built to support analyses of the impact of climate variability and change on water and agriculture in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) regions.

Source: <http://www.engineering.com/DesignSoftware/DesignSoftwareArticles/ArticleID/7945/Dell-HPC-to-Assess-Water-Resource-in-Middle-East-and-North-Africa.aspx>

Mediterranean Basin: LocalSats project

The overall objective of the Local-Sats (“Improving local project governance processes through exchange of good practices, pilots, and training in geospatial technologies”) is to promote the local development and sustainability of cities and territories in the Mediterranean Basin through the exchange of experiences and best practices in the context of geospatial applications. In other words, one of the key goals of the project is to offer to local governments new and flexible tools and a whole suit of information that would enrich their decision-making process in the interest of the people living in the Mediterranean Basin.



Local-Sats responds to the need for improvement in local development processes such as urbanization, which is a new priority for the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). In the next twenty years, the cities of southern and eastern Mediterranean will become home to 100 million people. This growth will occur mostly in the cities. So, it is essential to act quickly to improve the information and management of local territories.

The consortium of the project is composed of twelve partners from nine Mediterranean Countries: Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Spain and Tunisia. Larnaca District Development Agency (Cyprus) is the Lead Partner. The consortium composition provides for a broad, cross-border analysis, applicable to the whole Mediterranean Basin. The project’s kick-off meeting took place in Cyprus, 19-20 February, 2014. The next project meeting is scheduled for 22-23 October, 2014 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Source: <http://www.localsats.com/project-info/>

Säid Foundation Scholarships Programme 2015/16

Applications for 2015/16 scholarships will open on 21 July 2014 and must be submitted via the online application form by 12 December 2014. Results will be announced in April 2015. The Scholarships Programme provides students and young professionals in the Middle East, recognised for their leadership potential, with educational and training opportunities that will help their career development, will enable them to achieve impact in their professional fields and ultimately to bring benefits to others in their countries of origin. These opportunities generally take the form of postgraduate scholarships at Masters and (exceptionally) PhD levels at UK universities; though other professional development opportunities are also occasionally provided. The Foundation hopes that its scholars will form a growing network of influence, contributing to the achievement of positive and lasting change in professional sectors that are considered a priority for helping the development of their countries.

Source: <http://saidfoundation.org/scholarships-programme>

Global SDI News

Open Data in Developing Countries - Emerging Insights from Phase I



How can developing countries secure the full benefits of open data? What barriers are blocking greater impacts? And how can open data be implemented in ways that respond to local context, and that build on existing policy and practice foundations. To address questions like these, the Exploring the Emerging Impacts of Open Data in Developing Countries (ODDC) research network has been gathering information on open data activities across 13 different countries on three continents. Using a mixed-methods case study research, 17 local research partners have developed in-depth accounts on the supply, mediation and use of open data in diverse settings: from budget scrutiny to oversight of judicial systems. This paper offers 15 initial insights generated from a preliminary synthesis of this research, offered as a basis for further conversations.

This report brings together insights from the first phase of the Open Data in Developing Countries research and research capacity building program coordinated by the World Wide Web Foundation, providing a snapshot of key points and provocations for wider debate and discussion. Key insights include:

- 1) There are many gaps to overcome before open data availability can lead to widespread effective use and impact
- 2) There is a frequent mismatch between open data supply and demand in developing countries
- 3) Open data initiatives can create new spaces for civil society to pursue government accountability and effectiveness
- 4) Working on open data projects can change how government creates, prepares and uses its own data
- 5) Intermediaries are vital to both the supply and the use of open data

Source: <http://www.opendataresearch.org/content/2014/704/open-data-developing-countries-emerging-insights-phase-i>

Esri launches GeoNet

Esri launched GeoNet in July at the annual Esri International User Conference. GeoNet is a place “where you can share, chat, and collaborate on all things geo. It’s your chance to connect with other geospatial enthusiasts around the world. GeoNet is a social business platform where you can collaboratively create projects with others and read about best practices. Join now and you’ll be able to interact with Esri staff and your peers anytime, anywhere.” To participate, users need to create an Esri account (free) if they don’t already have global Esri account. Esri has migrated all of its discussion forums to GeoNet, so peer support for ArcGIS and other Esri products can now be found in this new section of Esri’s web site.

Source: <https://geonet.esri.com/welcome>

Proceedings: 2014 Esri User Conference Paper Sessions



Access papers and presentation materials from GIS professionals who shared best practices and case studies at the Esri User Conference on July 14–18, 2014 in San Diego, California. Videos of the plenary sessions also are available online at <http://info.esri.ca/QR000UOt0D0X00N04h0JyU000L30Z>. Plenary session highlights include: Jack Dangermond speaking about his vision of the future; solutions that transcend continents and communities; technology updates and news on the latest ArcGIS capabilities; thought leaders tackling the world’s tough challenges; motivation for tomorrow and our future; concluding with a brief video tribute to Dr. Roger Tomlinson.

Source: <http://proceedings.esri.com/library/userconf/proc14/>

Reviewing innovative Earth observation solutions for filling science-policy gaps in hydrology

Author(s): Anthony Lehmann, Gregory Giuliani, Nicolas Ray, Kazi Rahman, Karim C. Abbaspour, Stefano Nativi, Massimo Craglia, Douglas Cripe, Philippe Quevauviller, Martin Beniston

Journal of Hydrology, Available online 1 June 2014 [not an open access journal]

Highlights: the paper reviews the use of Spatial Data Infrastructure in hydrology, identifies data gaps between science and policy, and explores new solutions to bring hydrological modeling closer to policy makers.

Keywords: Hydrological modeling; Climate change; Data sharing; Interoperability; Data processing; Decision making

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022169414004235>

Challenges before Spatial Data Infrastructure, featured in July 2014 Coordinates Magazine

Governance is the most demanding challenge to overcome, Ulla Kronborg Mazzoli, Head of Function Policy and Governance, National INSPIRE Contact Point, Danish Ministry of the Environment, Danish Geodata Agency, Denmark
It is time to head for end user satisfaction by implementing location as service component, Mauro Salvemini, Distinguished professor, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy President of AMFM GIS Italia Evangelist of INSPIRE and SDI architect

There are problems of data relevance provision to ensure the harmonization of different kinds of data, Andrii Tarnopolskiy, General Director, State enterprise State Land Cadastral Centre, State Agency for Land Resources of Ukraine, Ukraine & Alla Kovalova, Head of Communications and Management Board Affairs Sector, State enterprise State Land Cadastral Centre, State Agency for Land Resources of Ukraine, Ukraine

The biggest challenge is the problem of effectiveness, Marc Leobet, French representative to INSPIRE Regulation Committee, Spatial Data Office, Directorate of Research and Innovation, Department of the Commissioner-General for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France

Agencies participating in NSDI are yet to evolve suitable Geo-ICT Strategies, P S Acharya, Scientist G, CEO-NSDI Department of Science & Technology Government of India

Source: <http://mycoordinates.org/challenges-before-spatial-data-infrastructure/>

Some legal concerns with the use of crowd-sourced Geospatial Information

Author(s): George Cho

IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science Volume 20

Abstract: Volunteered geographic Information (VGI), citizens as sensors, crowd-sourcing and 'Wikipedia' of maps have been used to describe activity facilitated by the Internet and the dynamic Web 2.0 environment to collect geographic information (GI). Legal concerns raised in the creation, assembly and dissemination of GI by producers include: quality, ownership and liability. In detail, accuracy and authoritativeness of the crowd-sourced GI; the ownership and moral rights to the information, and contractual and tort liability are key concerns. A legal framework and governance structure may be necessary whereby technology, networked governance and provision of legal protections may be combined to mitigate geo-liability as a 'chilling' factor in VGI development.

Source: <http://iopscience.iop.org/1755-1315/20/1/012040>;

PDF: http://iopscience.iop.org/1755-1315/20/1/012040/pdf/1755-1315_20_1_012040.pdf

Information visualisation for science and policy: engaging users and avoiding bias

Author(s): Greg J. McInerny, Min Chen, Robin Freeman, David Gavaghan, Miriah Meyer, Francis Rowland, David J. Spiegelhalter, Moritz Stefaner, Geizi Tessarolo, and Joaquin Hortal
Trends in Ecology & Evolution xx (2014) 1–10

Abstract: Visualisations and graphics are fundamental to studying complex subject matter. However, beyond acknowledging this value, scientists and science-policy programmes rarely consider how visualisations can enable discovery, create engaging and robust reporting, or support online resources. Producing accessible and unbiased visualisations from complicated, uncertain data requires expertise and knowledge from science, policy, computing, and design. However, visualisation is rarely found in our scientific training, organisations, or collaborations. As new policy programmes develop [e.g., the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)], we need information visualisation to permeate increasingly both the work of scientists and science policy. The alternative is increased potential for missed discoveries, miscommunications, and, at worst, creating a bias towards the research that is easiest to display.

Source: <http://www.cs.utah.edu/~miriah/publications/vis-for-science-and-policy.pdf>

Maximising the value of research data: developing incentives and changing cultures

The value of sharing research data is widely recognised by the research community and funders are setting in place stronger policy requirements for researchers to share data. But the costs to researchers in sharing their data can be considerable and the incentives are sometimes few and far between. A recent report from the cross-disciplinary Expert Advisory Group on Data Access (EAGDA) highlights the need for a shift in cultures to provide greater support for researchers in sharing data and greater recognition for those who do it well. Dave Carr and Natalie Banner, from the Wellcome Trust, highlight some of the key findings and recommendations emerging from this work. In its recommendations, EAGDA calls on funders to sustainably build on their existing investments by:

- Funding data management through the research life cycle: through strengthening approaches for reviewing data sharing plans that funders request as part of grant applications, anticipating the costs involved, and ensuring the implementation of agreed plans is tracked post-award.
- Recognising data sharing as valued research output: through including data sharing as a formal criteria in funding decisions, and working with the higher education funding councils to promote data outputs for explicit inclusion as outputs in future Research Excellence Frameworks.
- Supporting key skills and resources: through working in partnership to create formal career paths for data managers and to develop and sustain key data repositories.

Download: Incentives and culture change for data access

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Data-sharing/EAGDA/WTP056496.htm>

Download full report: Establishing incentives and changing cultures to support data access [PDF 698KB]

http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@msh_peda/documents/web_document/wtp056495.pdf

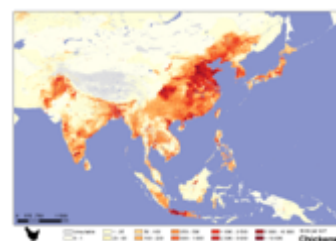
Read the supporting materials [PDF 991KB]

http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/stellent/groups/corporatesite/@msh_peda/documents/web_document/wtp056489.pdf

Source: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2014/07/01/maximising-value-research-data-wellcome-trust/>

Livestock Geo-Wiki

In a multi-partner collaboration centered on the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB-LUBIES), global maps of livestock



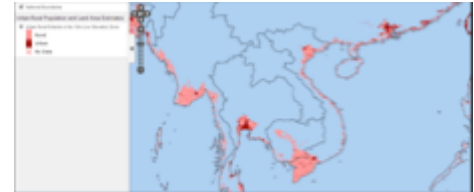
distributions and production systems are being revised and updated.

The Geo-Wiki is used to provide a central viewer, validation tool and repository for these data. The module currently contains data on livestock distributions (cattle, chicken, duck, pig, sheep & goat) but the platform aims to develop a comprehensive global livestock information system, and will be complemented by modules on major global benefit and impact linked to the livestock sector in i) poverty and growth, ii) health and nutrition and iii) climate and natural resource management. Register or log in and go to the Geo-Wiki application to view and download this dataset.

See also: Robinson, T., W. Wint, T. G. Conchedda, T. P. Van Boeckel, V. Ercoli, E. Palamara, G. Cinardi, L. D'Aiotti, & M. Gilbert (2014) Mapping the Global Distribution of Livestock. PLoS ONE 9(5): e96084.

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0096084>

Source: <http://www.livestock.geo-wiki.org/>



Updated sea level rise data released

The NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) recently released version two of the Urban-Rural Population and Land Area Estimates (<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/lec-z-urban-rural-population-land-area-estimates-v2>), as part of the SEDAC Low-Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ) collection, providing aggregate estimates of land area and urban, rural, and total population for 202 statistical areas (countries and other UN-recognized territories). Population and land area estimates are subdivided by elevation zones derived from the NASA Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) elevation data. The analysis was conducted using two different spatial resolutions, approximately 90 meters and approximately 1 kilometer, providing a range of estimates. Pivot tables enable grouping and filtering of data by country, region, continent, income level, elevation zone, and other attributes.

Version one of this data set only provided estimates for the 10-meter elevation zone, whereas version two includes selected elevation levels between 1 and 20 meters. Version two also incorporates improvements in the coastline boundaries and provides population estimates for the years 1990, 2000, and 2010 along with a long-term projection to the year 2100.

Source: <http://www.ciesin.org/news.html#LECZv2>

Future Earth to get globally distributed secretariat



Future Earth (<http://www.futureearth.info/>), a new international programme for global sustainability which brings together thousands of the world's leading researchers on global environmental change, will have a new secretariat with a unique and innovative structure that spans three continents. Over 20 expressions of interest were received for

the Future Earth secretariat. Following a two-day bidder's conference hosted in Paris, consolidated final bids were reviewed on the basis of their vision, capability, organisational model and management plan and funding. The preferred bid includes a series of regional hubs, from which it is expected new regional networks will develop. These cover Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Europe and Asia. Discussions to develop an African hub are underway, with plans in other regions also under consideration. To assist researchers internationally, the Secretariat will support five core functions: coordination, communication and outreach, research enabling, capacity building, synthesis and foresight.

The preferred bidder is an international consortium of several lead organisations: Montreal International (Montreal, Canada), the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (Paris, France), the Science Council of Japan (Tokyo, Japan), Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (Stockholm Sweden), and in Colorado, USA, the University of Colorado (Boulder) and Colorado State University (Fort Collins).

These organisations are complemented by regional hubs co-ordinated by: the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (for Latin America), the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (for Asia), the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (for Europe) and The Cyprus Institute (for the Middle East and North Africa). Discussions to develop an African hub are underway, with plans in other regions also under consideration.

Future Earth is a new 10-year global research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate our transformations to a sustainable world. It will bring together three global environmental change programmes: the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and Diversitas, engage closely with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and attract new research and stakeholder communities.

Source: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/news/FutureEarthtogetgloballydistributedsecretariat.html>

New partnership to use climate services to improve public health

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have joined forces to tackle the increasing risks to human health posed by weather and climate hazards such as extreme temperatures, floods, droughts and tropical cyclones. The organizations have established a Climate and Health office to promote the development and use of climate services to improve public health. The new office seeks to increase awareness, build capacity, and connect meteorological services with experts in the health sector in an active partnership for climate adaptation and risk management. The initiative will support collaboration between health partners and the national meteorological departments, to make better use of weather information and seasonal forecasts to enhance risk assessment and preparedness for diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and under nutrition.

Source: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2014/07/new-partnership-to-use-climate-services-to-improve-public-health/>;
http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_996_en.html;

An International Global Drought Information System Workshop: Next Steps Pasadena, CA, USA, 11-13 December 2014



There is currently no global, authoritative, and consistent information on drought that is easily accessible to all users, including such information as our understanding of the physical mechanisms and predictability of drought, real time assessments of on-going drought, and predictions. As part of an on-going effort to address this problem (building in particular on the outcomes of two previous workshops), the Scientific Organizing Committee for this workshop seeks to focus on the necessary next steps (including the identification of research gaps) for moving forward with an experimental global drought information system (GDIS). In particular, a key goal of this workshop is to develop a concrete implementation plan towards realizing practical continental scale pilots that will mesh with actual users (such as the food security community).

Source: <http://www.wcrp-climate.org/index.php/gdis-wkshp-2014-about>

CBD Expert Workshop on Practical Guidance for Marine Spatial Planning 9-11 September 2014, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), this expert workshop aims to provide consolidated practical guidance and a toolkit for marine spatial planning. Aiming to respond to the request of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) for the development of a web-based information-sharing system linking existing information sources on marine spatial planning, the workshop will review submissions on scientific and technical information, case studies, tools and guidance, and relevant management plans related to marine spatial planning.

Contact: CBD Secretariat: secretariat@cbd.int.

Source: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MCBEM-2014-04>

Vacancy: Data Manager, Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) Secretariat, Ostend, Belgium



Under the overall authority of the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and the direct supervision of the head of the IODE project office, in close consultation with the OBIS manager and in collaboration with the international OBIS development consortium, the OBIS data manager will: Support the OBIS secretariat with the execution of tasks within several projects (e.g. Development of Information Products and Services for ocean assessments and the Caribbean Marine Atlas), as well as supporting the implementation of the OBIS work plan, more specifically the technical daily operations including system maintenance, database maintenance, application maintenance, customer services, application development and infrastructure improvements.

This is a 'Project appointment', initially for 1 year (including a probationary period of 3 months). The contract is renewable, subject to satisfactory service and availability of funding. The appointment is non-career and does not carry any expectancy of renewal or conversion to another contract. UNESCO-IOC staff members have the status of international civil servants within the United Nations Common System. This confers certain duties, obligations and privileges, which are described here. Please note that UNESCO is a non-smoking Organization.

To apply, submit a full CV (using the UNESCO template at <https://en.unesco.org/careers/media/3705>), a motivation letter and three references that may be contacted, to: Mr Ward Appeltans (w.appeltans@unesco.org), by **15 August 2014 (Midnight, Paris time)**.

Source: https://en.unesco.org/careers/sites/careers/files/Vacancy_OBIS-data-manager.pdf

Call for papers: Special Issue "Open Geospatial Science and Applications"

ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information

Deadline for submission of manuscripts: **28 February 2015**



The last decade has seen a rapid growth in open source geospatial software and open data developments. Building upon the broader progress in open science, the synergies in the developments in open source geospatial software, open data, open standards, open hardware and open access to research publications have been key in accelerating the advancement for open geospatial science and applications. A combination of factors are driving this momentum, including the contributions made by hundreds of developers and the leading role played by the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo), aiming primarily to support and promote the collaborative development of open source geospatial technologies and data. For the geospatial community this has offered exciting opportunities for expanding both research and education for the future. By combining the potential of free and open GI software, open data, open standards, open access to research publications, open hardware, etc. will enable the creation of a sustainable innovation ecosystem for advancing the discipline and accelerating new discoveries to help solve global cross disciplinary societal challenges from climate change mitigation to sustainable cities.

The editors of this Special Issue invite original research contributions on all aspects of open source geospatial software and its applications, and particularly encourage submissions focusing on the following themes for this Special Issue.

- The use of open source geospatial software and data, in and for scientific research
- Academic endeavors to conceptualize, create, assess open source geospatial software and data, and teach such usage.
- Use of Open Data and Big Data
- Data quality, software quality
- Open source implementations
- Open SDI
- Community building
- Assessment of costs and benefits of open source applications and open source business models
- Architectures and frameworks for open source software and data
- Teaching geospatial sciences with open source solutions and open data
- Open Source GIS application use cases: government, participatory GIS, location based services, health, energy, water, climate change, etc.
- Human computer interfaces and usability in and around Open GI systems

Source: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijgi/special_issues/science-applications

Call for Papers: Understanding Uncertainty in Remotely Sensed Vegetation Data Products

Deadline for submission of manuscripts: **November 1, 2014**

This special issue of *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing* focuses on quantifying uncertainty in remotely sensed estimates of vegetation biophysical characteristics. Paper topics could include uncertainty associated with instrument specification / configuration / calibration, data collection, processing and analysis, or identifying best analysis methods which reduce this uncertainty in resulting vegetation data products.

Source: <http://www.asprs.org/PE-RS-Submissions-Policy-and-Guidelines/Call-for-Papers-Understanding-Uncertainty-in-Remotely-Sensed-Vegetation-Data-Products.html>

GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at <http://www.gsdi.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.gsdi.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”