



# 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**

**September 2015 – Vol. 2, No. 8**

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](http://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](mailto:newseditor@gsdi.org) and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

## ***Support and Contributions to this Issue***

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

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## **Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News**

### ***South Africa: National Land Cover 2013/2014 data sets for download mid August 2015***



Land cover data is a crucial reference dataset that informs a wide variety of activities ranging from environmental planning and protection, development planning, economic development, compliance monitoring, enforcement and strategic decision making. The National Land Cover 2013/2014 (NLC 2013/2014) dataset provides 72 land cover/land use classes at a 1:75 000 - 1:100 000 data application scale. With classes ranging from agriculture, forestry, vegetation, wetlands, mining and built up areas to name a few. The data sets were acquired by the Department of Environmental Affairs with open user license from GeoTerraImage.

Please note: The Department of Environmental Affairs will be receiving updated versions of other National Land Cover products such as the 1990 National Land Cover - 34 classes dataset. If you stand in need of such data products, please feel free to e-mail your contact details to [LTshikovhi@environment.gov.za](mailto:LTshikovhi@environment.gov.za).



SPATIAL INFORMATION



Note also: Data available at the Department of Environmental Affairs ‘Spatial data download’ web page:

<http://egis.environment.gov.za/Download.aspx?m=25&amid=66>; you will see a list of the spatial data sets contained within each section, and may click them to download them. Recently added data include:

- Renewable Energy EIA Application Database for SA, 2015 Quarter 2
- Protected areas map: 2015 Quarter 2
- Protected Areas Data Release - Second Quarter 2015
- Renewable Energy EIA Application Database for SA, 2015 Quarter 2
- Solar data; three national data sets are available: Global Horizontal Irradiance, Photovoltaic yield (fixed) and Photovoltaic yield (tracking)

Source: <http://egis.environment.gov.za/frontpage.aspx?m=27>

### ***South Africa: Establishment of the South African Geomatics Council***

Published in Gazette 39052, the Geomatics Profession Act came into force on 1 August 2015. The act was assented to in December 2013. It provides for the transformation of the geomatics profession and the setting up of the South African Geomatics Council as a juristic person and its facilitation of accessibility to the geomatics profession. The geomatics practitioner collects and assesses geographic information and applies that information in the efficient administration of land, sea and structures. The act also provides for:

- Different categories of registered persons and branches in the geomatics profession.
- The identification of areas of work to be performed by the different categories of registered persons.
- The recognition of certain voluntary associations by the council.
- The measures designed to protect the public from unethical geomatics practices.
- Measures in order to maintain a high standard of professional conduct and integrity in the profession.
- The establishment of disciplinary mechanisms and an appeal board.

Source: <http://www.sabinetlaw.co.za/agriculture-forests-and-fisheries/articles/property-valuation-act-force>

### ***Ghana: National Spatial Development Framework (2015-2035)***

In order to address the challenges of spatial planning in the country, especially in the urban and peri urban areas, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, through the Land Administration Project (LAP 2), has provided funds for the development of a National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) for the entire country, by the Town and Country Planning Department. The NSDF provides the spatial framework for the development of the country for the next 20 years (i.e. from 2015-2035). In addition to the NSDF, the project has supported the completion of a new Land Use and Planning Bill, which is currently before Cabinet for consideration. These two key outputs of the project are expected to change the way we plan and develop our cities and towns going forward.

Access the National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF):

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/ndpc-static/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2015/08/11/NSDFFinalReport.pdf>



Source: <http://www.ghanalap.gov.gh/index.php/speeches/340-address-by-the-hon-nii-osah-mills-at-the-sod-cutting-ceremony-of-the-lands-commission-office-complex-in-kumasi>

### ***Burkina Faso: Establishing a new computerised mining cadastre and registry system***

GAF AG has been awarded a contract to support the Ministry of Mines and Energy (<http://www.mines.gov.bf/>) in Ouagadougou in establishing a new computerised mining cadastre and registry system in Burkina Faso. The overall project objective is to improve governance in the mining sector by establishing a modern, web-based system for granting and managing mineral rights. The efficient, transparent, and reliable administration of such titles is considered to be a key factor in increasing growth and investment in the mining sector in Burkina Faso.



In practical terms, the project aims to:

- Assisting to modernize and streamline the existing legal paper cadastre system

- Create an up-to-date and consistent database of mineral rights that allows the efficient and unambiguous management of these during their entire life cycle
- Identify and clarify existing conflicts and prevent such conflicts in future
- Introduce a harmonised administrative, procedural and technical framework compliant with the law and applicable regulations
- Implement an operational and modern computerised mining title management system, that caters for governance and industry needs in Burkina Faso

The rollout of the eMC+ cadastre solution will increase the institutional capacity and efficiency of the ministry by providing a comprehensive mineral tenure management. The contract has a duration of 15 months and is embedded in the “Projet d’appui au développement du secteur minier (PADSEM)”, being funded by the World Bank (IDA).

Source: <http://ears.org/news/gaf-to-implement-its-emc-electronic-mining-cadastrre-framework-in-burkina-faso>

### **Nigeria: Data Access Intervention Initiative**



The Data Access Intervention Initiative (DAII) is a program developed by the Institute of Information Management (IIM) aimed at promoting access to information for effective service delivery in the society. Individuals and organisations should have access to information as at when needed, as effective data access will enable researchers, policymakers, technology developers and the public access to information, use and share knowledge for informed decisions.

The initiative is developed to assist in identifying and perusing into the information needs of various sectors of the society, including developing solutions aimed at meeting those needs. With DAII, individuals and organisations will be able to access reliable and accurate information to meet their information need. DAII is ultimately expected to facilitate an industry movement to connect citizens to various services like healthcare, education, real estate etc.

Source: <http://www.iim-africa.org/certification.php?id=85> ; <http://uncova.com/iim-africa-introduces-data-access-intervention-initiative>

### **West Africa: Implementing WASCAL Data Management Infrastructure (WADI) for data on climate change and adapted land use**



WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use, <http://www.wascal.org/>) is a

research-focused program designed to help tackle the climate change challenge by pooling the expertise of ten West African countries and Germany. Within WASCAL, a large number of hydrological, meteorological, remote sensing, biodiversity and socioeconomic data are collected from research activities, observation networks and the WASCAL Competence Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso. We describe the steps required to setup and implement the WASCAL Data Management Infrastructure (WADI) to import, manage, exchange and publish the different data sets collected within WASCAL. Contact: Dr. Paul Schultze-Motel, Helmholtz Open Science Coordination Office, [schultze-motel@gfz-potsdam.de](mailto:schultze-motel@gfz-potsdam.de).



See: WASCAL data discovery portal: [https://icg4wascal.icg.kfa-juelich.de/wascal\\_searchportal2/index.jsp](https://icg4wascal.icg.kfa-juelich.de/wascal_searchportal2/index.jsp). The presentation (PDF) is from a webinar was held in March 2015.

Source: [http://oa.helmholtz.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/redakteur/Workshops/helmholtz\\_datenwebinar25\\_kunkel.pdf](http://oa.helmholtz.de/fileadmin/user_upload/redakteur/Workshops/helmholtz_datenwebinar25_kunkel.pdf)

### **Volta Basin: Assessment of current state of water management and climate change in the Volta Basin as part of the Establishment of an Observatory for water Resources and Related Ecosystems**

To ensure that data and information are readily available for the development and management of the basin, the Volta Basin Authority (VBA, <http://www.abv-volta.org:10000/abv2/>) is in the process of establishing an Observatory for Water Resources and Related Ecosystems. As part of the activities, MoUs have been developed between VBA and the Ministries in charge of water in the six Volta basin Member States.

In each country an Addendum to the MoU with the Ministry specifies hydrological data exchange protocols. However, protocols for technical data exchange between the Observatory and other institutions in relation to other themes such as Agricultural Water, Water-related disease and Cartography have not been developed. There is the need to develop these protocols to enhance VBA's monitoring role. The Observatory also needs to strengthen its links with other relevant initiatives such as those of WASCAL and AGRHYMET through MoUs, joint activities and training.

The Volta HYCOS Project (now integrated into the VBA Observatory), will give momentum to activities on operational hydrology and integrate them further into socio-economic activities and joint development projects of the basin countries. In a long-term perspective, the HYCOS/Observatory will constitute an important source of reliable data for forecasts of future water resource scenarios including regional climate change impact predictions.



Source: <http://www.abv-volta.org:10000/abv2/documents/principales-etudes-de-labv/assessment-current-state-water-management-and/download>

### Cameroon: 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on ICT for Africa Development, 4-6 January 2016, Yaounde



First International Conference on Information and Communication Technology for Africa Development ICT4AD

The aim of the ICT4AD conference, to be held by the University of Yaoundé I, Faculty of Science, Department of Computer Science, is to provide an intellectual platform for academics, industry professionals, and decision makers to actively interact and share their background, knowledge in order to foster the development of

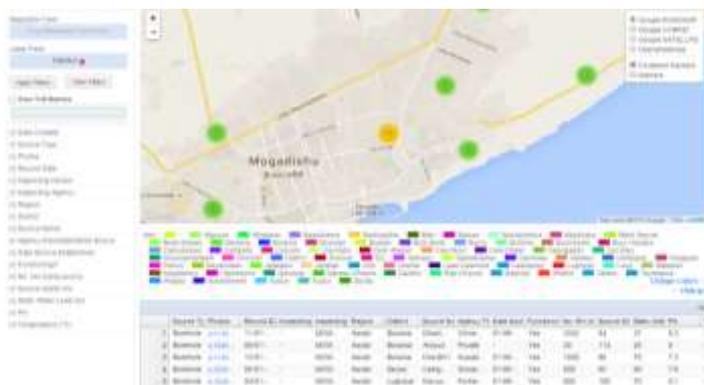
the African continent by integrating innovation into relief and development programs. The Innovation increases the quality of the service of the related programs. This conference is dedicated to promoting research and development and offers an inter-disciplinary intellectual platform for leading scientists, researchers, academics, industrial professionals and decision makers across Africa to keep in touch with their counterparts around the world. Deadline for paper submissions: **15 September 2015.**

Source: <http://www.icit4ad.cm/>

### Somalia: Water Sources Live Map

Apart from the people living along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, the Somali population depends on groundwater for domestic water supply, livestock and small scale irrigation. The main groundwater sources of Somalia are boreholes, shallow wells and springs.

The development of new groundwater resources in Somalia is fraught with challenges, key among them being poor water quality. The majority of groundwater sources in the country have salinity levels above 2,000µS/cm, which is over the required standard for drinking water. Many of the shallow wells are also unprotected from the elements, making them vulnerable to microbiological and other contamination.



SWALIM, the Somalia Water and Land Information Management project, has been working closely with the Somali Government Water Authorities and the United Nations' WASH Cluster (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in developing systems for monitoring water sources in Somalia. In 2006, the Somalia Water Sources Information Management System (SWIMS) was developed for the management of water sources data. After 8 years of use and extensive feedback from partners, in 2014 SWIMS was rebuilt from the ground up into a dynamic, graphical online system, the Water Sources Live Map. <http://systems.faoso.net/imms/fmt/maps/website/227>

The Somalia Water Sources Data Live Map (SWIMS-Livemap) is a web application that has features for both data management and data visualization through the internet. Agencies that manage water information can now use the live map to collect, update, and disseminate water sources data while other information users will be able to use the live map to visualize the data as well as "export" it for a variety of uses outside the live map. The live map has dramatically improved how water source information is managed in Somalia, where point water sources are the primary source of

water. Through the live map, water sources information is accessible from any location, as long as there is internet connectivity. The published data is available to all users in UN agencies, NGOs and private sector users.

Source: <http://www.faoswalim.org/water/water-resources/ground-water>

Note also: **SWALIM to set up Mogadishu data centers**



SWALIM in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Electricity and Water are currently setting up data centres to serve water and land resources information needs in Mogadishu. The data centers will be based in the two ministries

and will be fully equipped by SWALIM. When fully operational, stakeholders in and around Mogadishu will be able to access the entire database of water and land resources information that SWALIM has recovered, produced and consolidated over the past 10 years. This data covers a wide variety of water and land topics such as rainfall, river flow, groundwater resources, land use and suitability, land cover and land degradation among others.

Source: <http://www.faoswalim.org/content/swalim-set-mogadishu-data-centers>

**Kenya: MaMaSe partners trained in processing and sharing of GIS data**



From 3 to 7 August, 26 participants from the Water Resources Management Authority, SNV, WWF, Mara Farming and Egerton University followed an intensive 5 day training on the processing of spatial data using open source software such as QGIS and GDAL. Dr. Hans van der Kwast, senior lecturer in ecohydrological modeling at UNESCO-IHE, guided the practical hands-on sessions on converting raw input data (e.g. GPS data, spreadsheets or scanned hardcopy maps) into GIS formats, geoprocessing and map design.

The participants were also introduced to the use of the MaMaSe GeoNode (<http://maps.mamase.org/>), a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) portal for up-and downloading data/documents, making online maps and integration with QGIS. This allows project partners and other stakeholders to share their information on the MaMaSe GeoNode which is part of the knowledge exchange centre developed in the project.

At the end of the training the participants acknowledged that with the acquired skills they are able to improve the data processing chain in their day-to-day work and learned how SDIs can be used to share data.

During the 5 training days, the amount of data layers in the MaMase GeoNode had increased from 13 to 135, thanks to the efforts of the participants.

Source: <https://www.unesco-ihe.org/news/mamase-partners-trained-processing-and-sharing-gis-data>

**East Africa: Protected area data management online resource launched for users**



The Biodiversity and Protected Areas (BIOPAMA, <http://www.biopama.org>) programme recently convened a Technical Training Workshop at the

Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Nairobi, Kenya from 21-22 July 2015. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the program and present the EAC Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) to participants from the EAC Partner States with the purpose of obtaining feedback on how to improve the features, functionality and content to meet the needs of the region; to develop a schema for a refined workflow or decision support tool to easily access the required data and information; to identify obstacles to data sharing and opportunities and to promote data sharing and finally to define the workflow for submitting data for inclusion into the RRIS.

The EAC RRIS displays maps and supporting information about biodiversity values, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, species and habitats, pressures and threats, and management and governance and was developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) within the framework of the BIOPAMA Programme.

The workshop was attended by 30 participants drawn from natural resources, environment, science and technology to mining, energy, agriculture, forestry and museum sectors from Partner States. In addition to the hands-on experience with the EAC RRIS, participants discussed the process of using data to guide decision making with the aim of modelling these workflows in the RRIS to ensure the technology and data support decision making and policy development. Participants also provided in-depth input on the best approach to promote the free and open exchange of data the region. A draft “Open Access Statement” was accepted as a declaration to promote free and open access to data and a draft Data Sharing Framework which will give effect to the Open Access Statement was discussed.



The EAC RRIS supports the Regional Observatory for Protected Areas whose framework was finalized recently between IUCN and the East African Community. The EAC Observatory is hosted by the East African Community Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.

Source: [http://biopama.org/learn\\_more/?21742/Protected-Area-Data-Management-Online-Resource-Launched-for-Users-in-East-Africa](http://biopama.org/learn_more/?21742/Protected-Area-Data-Management-Online-Resource-Launched-for-Users-in-East-Africa)

### Enabling discovery of African geospatial resources

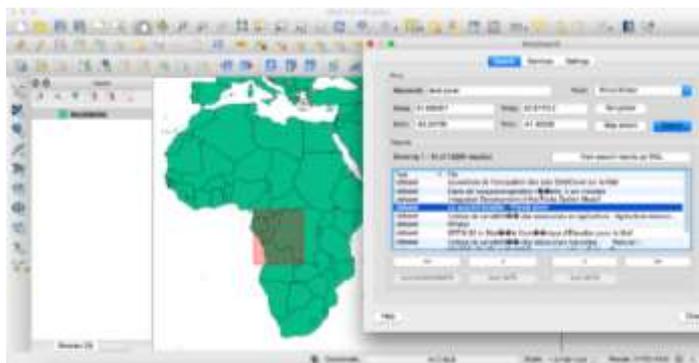


Author(s): Giuliani, G., Papeschi, F., Mlisa, A., Lacroix, P., Marcel, A., Santoro, M., Nonguierma, A., Cools, J., and Y. Guigoz

*South-Eastern European Journal Issue of Earth Observation and Geomatics*, 2015, vol. 4, no. 1S, p. 1-16

**Abstract:** In Africa, natural resources are degrading, while being at the same time essential for maintaining or improving people’s livelihood. The well-being of African communities is highly correlated to changes in local ecosystem services. Their vulnerability to degradation of natural resources is extremely high and resilience against natural changes (e.g. climate variability) and socio-economic changes (e.g. fluctuations in food markets) is low. Nowadays, it is widely accepted

that reversing these trends and adapting to climate change require integrated responses tackling the underlying social, economic, political and institutional drivers of unsustainable use of natural resources. Integrated approaches intrinsically ask for cooperation, exchange of information and communication to better understand complex interactions and assess environmental issues. Understanding these interactions requires collecting and integrating various data describing physical, chemical, biological and socio-economic conditions. However, two common obstacles are currently preventing the implementation of such integrated approaches: (1) difficulties to find data, and (2) difficulties to integrate data.



In response to these issues, this paper presents the Africa Discovery Broker, a web-based tool that enables users working in different domains to search through and access 32442 heterogeneous African geospatial resources (e.g. remote sensing, geospatial data, socio-economic data) coming from 17 international, regional, national and research projects repositories.

Keywords Africa — Earth observation — Geospatial — Discovery — Interoperability — Metadata — Brokering — GEOSS

Source: <http://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:73188>

### **Esri Eastern Africa Education GIS Conference, 10-11 September 2015, Nairobi, Kenya**

Esri Eastern Africa in partnership with the School of Computing and Information Technology (SCIT), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology invites you to share your research, exchange ideas and best practices with fellow GIS students, faculty and university managers at the 2015 Esri Eastern Africa Education GIS Conference in Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Nairobi, Kenya. Participating in the conference will connect you with others who share your professional interests, making it the premier thought-leadership event for those involved in GIS education. Technical sessions and hands-on workshops will sharpen you and help you keep your edge.



Source: <http://www.esri.co.ke/educ-2015/>

### **Esri Eastern Africa User Conference (EAUC), 7-9 October 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



Since its inception, the Esri Eastern Africa User Conference (EAUC) has served as the recognized forum for GIS professionals to connect and interact with peers, while networking with industry leaders. Annually, the conference brings in over 150 Esri GIS professionals who benefit from the knowledge gained about cutting-edge Esri GIS technology.

This year the venue for the conference will be the Ethiopian city of Addis Ababa which also hosts the headquarters of the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). This landmark location has inspired the 2015 conference theme described as “United we map”. The scenic location will serve as a fitting backdrop for Esri technology users from across East Africa and beyond to converge and engage in learning about the latest Esri GIS technologies. Note: Sign up for the Post Conference Training where you learn new or advanced GIS skills. Enjoy a 20% percent discount on registration for the Esri Eastern Africa User Conference.

Source: <http://www.esri.co.ke/user-conference/>

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

Esri South Africa will host the inaugural Esri Africa User Conference 2015, 11-13 November at the Cape Town International Convention All Esri technology users from Africa are encouraged to join us at the Esri AUC 2015. From new users to seasoned GIS professionals, from business owners to GIS analysts, everyone will benefit from attending. Esri business and media partners are also welcome.



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

### **Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers, Kujenga madaraja, kubomoa viziuzi 21-25 November 2016, Nairobi, Kenya**



An inaugural African conference for Human Computer Interaction (HCI) will be hosted between 21-25 November 2016 in beautiful Nairobi, Kenya.

AfriCHI aims to widen Africans’ international participation in the practice and study of Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Interaction Design, and to advance HCI by increased awareness of designs, tools, inventions, methods, theories and pedagogies for creating or using technology in Africa. AfriCHI’16 is organised by a pan-African team, in co-operation with the Association of Computer Machinery’s Special Interest Group for Computer Human Interaction, ACM SIGCHI, and has the theme: Kujenga madaraja, kubomoa viziuzi or Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers.

Submission dates:

- **5 October 2015:** Papers, Notes, Gumzo Papers, Notes & Pictorials – Round 1
- 2 November 2015: Courses, Workshops, Doctoral/Masters Consortia
- 8 January 2016: Posters
- 15 January 2016: Demonstrations, Panels, Eligible Papers and Notes, Gumzo Papers, Notes & Pictorials – Round 2

Call for papers: [http://africhi.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/AfriCHI\\_CFP\\_Flyer\\_Final.compressed.pdf](http://africhi.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/AfriCHI_CFP_Flyer_Final.compressed.pdf)

Through AfriCHI, we aim to inspire African researchers, practitioners, students and teachers to deepen and extend Interaction Design and HCI research on Africa. We aim to bring together researchers, academics, practitioners, industry professionals and students, in Human Computer Interaction (HCI), Interaction Design and related fields, who are African, are based in Africa or undertake or collaborate on projects about Africa.

AfriCHI seeks to attract participants from a range of disciplines, sectors and knowledge heritages. These include User Experience Designers, Mobile Application designers, Information Architects, Software Engineers, Human Factors experts, Information Systems analysts, social scientists, digital designers, artists and architects, engineers, planners, managers and scholars and practitioners in creative industries and science and technology studies. They also include elders, NGO practitioners, grassroots activists and entrepreneurs.

Source: <http://africhi.net/>

### **Call for Abstracts: 1st International Summit on Social and Behavior Change Communication 8-10 February 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**



Abstracts for technical presentations and Comm Talks and concept notes for SBCC Skills-Building Workshops are now being accepted for the First International Summit on Social and

Behavior Change Communication (SBCC).

The Summit will be held February 8-10, 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and will bring together the global community of professionals and organizations to exchange knowledge, advance the science and practice, and enhance the art of Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC). It will offer participants a number of ways to disseminate recent research, tools, and programming by: giving technical oral or poster presentations or Comm Talks (similar to TED talks); and/or facilitating a Skills-Building Workshop. The Summit will focus on health topics such as HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, family planning/reproductive health and maternal, neonatal and child health among others. Abstracts on water and sanitation, the environment, gender and other related areas also are welcome.

Technical abstracts should be submitted under one of the following tracks: Research Monitoring and Evaluation; SBCC Innovations and Best Practices; or Multimedia Showcase.

The deadline for abstract and concept note submission is **September 21, 2015**. Submit an abstract: [https://www.eventinterface.com/abstract/hyhsdqk?utm\\_source=HC3+Mailing+List&utm\\_campaign=9e14d23054-SBCC\\_Summit\\_Call-For-Abstracts&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_4b733d489e-9e14d23054-83337825](https://www.eventinterface.com/abstract/hyhsdqk?utm_source=HC3+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=9e14d23054-SBCC_Summit_Call-For-Abstracts&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4b733d489e-9e14d23054-83337825)

Source: <http://solutionscenter.nethope.org/blog/view/call-for-abstracts-first-international-summit-on-social-and-behavior-change>

### **Pre-announcement: BID call for proposals from Africa**



GBIF, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, will issue its first call for proposals from sub-Saharan Africa for the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) programme in September 2015, with a potential total of €900,000 in funding assigned to this call. This call for proposals will favour projects that:

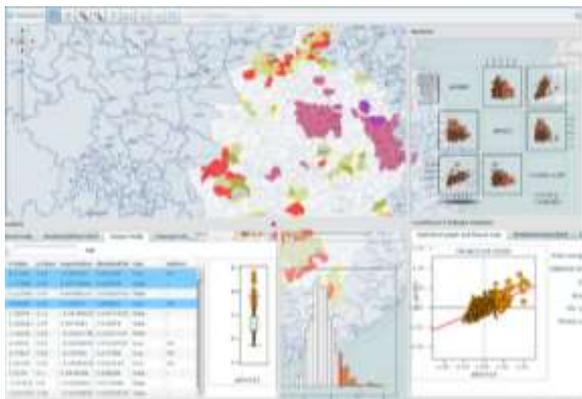
- Mobilize biodiversity data related to protected areas, threatened species, and invasive alien species
- Generate best practices in digitizing natural history collections and/or in mobilizing sample-based biodiversity data, species occurrence data, checklist data, or dataset descriptions
- Engage users of biodiversity data in producing guiding examples of the integration of biodiversity data into decision-making and research, and ensure the mobilized data are suited to the user's needs
- Develop lasting national, regional or thematic networks to support ongoing data sharing and reuse

Eligible applicants must be legal non-private sector entities located in an African ACP country, such as national government agencies, GBIF Participant nodes, natural history museums and collections, research institutes, universities, and NGOs. Those interested can sign up to receive updates on the programme at <http://www.gbif.org/bid>; general questions may be sent to [Bid@gbif.org](mailto:Bid@gbif.org).

Source: <http://www.gbif.org/newsroom/news/bid-2015-call-for-proposals-pre-announcement-EN>

## Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

### *Integrating Spatial Data Linkage and Analysis Services in a Geoportals for China Urban Research*



Author(s): Xinyan Zhu, Bing She, Wei Guo, Shuming Bao, and Di Chen

*Transactions in GIS*, Volume 19, Issue 1, pages 107–128, February 2015

**Abstract:** Many geoportals are now evolving into online analytical environments, where large amounts of data and various analysis methods are integrated. These spatiotemporal data are often distributed in different databases and exist in heterogeneous forms, even when they refer to the same geospatial entities. Besides, existing open standards lack sufficient expression of the attribute semantics. Client applications or other services thus have to deal with unrelated preprocessing tasks, such as data

transformation and attribute annotation, leading to potential inconsistencies. Furthermore, to build informative interfaces that guide users to quickly understand the analysis methods, an analysis service needs to explicitly model the method parameters, which are often interrelated and have rich auxiliary information. This work presents the design of the spatial data linkage and analysis services in a geoportals for China urban research. The spatial data linkage service aggregates multisource heterogeneous data into linked layers with flexible attribute mapping, providing client applications and services with a unified access as if querying a big table. The spatial analysis service incorporates parameter hierarchy and grouping by extending the standard WPS service, and data-dependent validation in computation components. This platform can help researchers efficiently explore and analyze spatiotemporal data online.

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tgis.12084/full>

### *China: 3<sup>rd</sup> annual MAPWORLD Application Developer Competition*



According to the requirement of National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG), MAPWORLD is developed to be the essential support and foundation for national “Map, Website, Platform” and important carrier for serving the overall situation, serving society and serving

people's livelihood, and will effectively promote the extensive application of geoinformation. Since 2013, the annual “MAPWORLD Application Developer Competition” has stimulated national competitors to submit their creative works with wide coverage and brilliant innovation. Approved by the NASG, co-hosted by National Geomatics Center of China (NGCC), Chinese Society of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, China Association for Geographic Information Society, GNSS and LBS Association of China (GLAC), the third “MAPWORLD Application Developer Competition” officially launched in March 2015 to further improve brand influence of MAPWORLD, to select and screen more MAPWORLD based application development cases and enhance vigorous development of Chinese geoinformation industry.

Competitors from all industries are welcome to participate in this competition. Global citizens who are over 16 years old and are members of universities and colleges, enterprises and public institutions are qualified to sign up as individuals or a team. Deadline: **September 10, 2015**.

Source: <http://apicontest.tianditu.com/en/index.html>

### *China GNSS.asia Seminar & LBS Association of China (GLAC) Annual Conference 23-25 September 2015, Beijing, China*



The GNSS & LBS Association of China (GLAC) is the leading Chinese association specializing in the GNSS and LBS industry. During its Annual Conference, many of its approximately 2000 members, including research institutes, universities and enterprises, discuss topics such as GNSS R&D, manufacturing and the evolution of global satellite navigation and location-based technology. The annual Conference and Exhibition is one of

the largest events in GNSS and LBS industry in China, offering opportunities to European companies to join the exhibition and attend the dedicated GNSS.asia Seminar.

GNSS and LBS Association of China (GLAC), founded in 1995, is a professional no-profit organization in global navigation satellite system application and location-based service at national level. It is affiliated with the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China. It boasts more than 1000 corporate members including universities, research institutes, enterprises, manufacturers, geospatial data providers etc. Its main tasks are as follows:

1. Policy study on the industry development and guidance for the industry advancement.
2. Organization of scientific research projects. Research results examination and assessment. Awarding best technologies and new products.
3. Providing technical service and solutions. Promoting application of navigation technology, encouraging cooperation among companies and their customers.
4. Organizing academic exchange, technology introduction, and knowledge popularization.
5. Guiding improvement of the industry chains' productivity.

Source: <http://www.glac.org.cn>

### ***Korea: Standardization of spatial information inventory completed***

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) announced that it has completed standardization of inventory of spatial information, as a first step of creating a virtuous cycle where spatial information is produced, distributed and managed in a seamless way.



The results of the inventory analysis revealed a lack of standardized systems for categorization, missing and inaccurate listing, a data collecting system incompatible with survey, and limit of total management of spatial information as major reasons of information overlap. Based on these results, MOLIT will introduce a comprehensive management system for spatial information. As a result, users can access real-time spatial information at a single channel, unlike the previous one that had separate inquiry and reception channels. Public and private spatial information will be available from January 2016 at the National Spatial Data Infrastructure site ([nsic.go.kr](http://nsic.go.kr)) and web pages of related agencies.

Source: [http://english.molit.go.kr/USR/BORD0201/m\\_28286/DTL.jsp?id=eng0301&cate=&mode=view&idx=2560](http://english.molit.go.kr/USR/BORD0201/m_28286/DTL.jsp?id=eng0301&cate=&mode=view&idx=2560)

### ***Korea: Integrated map of 15 types of underground spatial information will be made***



The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) announced a “Plan for Establishing an Integrated Map of Underground Spatial Information (2016-2019).” This plan is to integrate underground spatial information organized by different ministries into a comprehensive system for more efficient management, provision and utilization of such information. Fifteen types of underground spatial information, currently governed by five different ministries, 14 laws and 4 systems, will be integrated into a comprehensive map by 2019. If these types of information are combined with Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, underground space will be managed in a more secure way through scientific analysis and forecast.

Source [http://english.molit.go.kr/USR/BORD0201/m\\_28286/DTL.jsp?id=eng0301&cate=&mode=view&idx=2551](http://english.molit.go.kr/USR/BORD0201/m_28286/DTL.jsp?id=eng0301&cate=&mode=view&idx=2551)

### ***India: Westerns Ghats Biodiversity Spatial Data Infrastructure***

Western Ghats SDI (<http://lsi.iiit.ac.in/wgsdi/>) is a unique effort enabling different stakeholders in biodiversity conservation to access and analyze spatial data for decision making. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) funded OSGeo-India to deploy a Biodiversity Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for Western Ghats. The year-long project is supported by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research. In this context OSGeo has taken up the task to develop and deploy SDI for Western Ghats that:

- Collates the existing data in a seamless and integrated way
- Provides common platform for data handling including updating spatially explicit data
- Demonstrates how FOSS4G can effectively handle mid to large geospatial data challenged in addition to customization capabilities.



Data on forest boundaries and divisions, bird and tree transect methods, aquatic plants, fishes, elephant presence and distribution of endemic species and species on rocky outcrops are some of the information made available through the SDI. The Free and Open Source Software tools which are being used in this project will ensure the freedom to modify and improvise the biodiversity information by conservation groups and local communities. This will prove useful in cases of human-animal conflict where the SDI will allow users to capture, display and analyse data.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/click-to-post-spatial-data/article7568512.ece>

### **India: Odisha government policy to boost access to state data**

In a bid to facilitate accessibility to data and information of all the departments, the State Government has decided to formulate Odisha State Data Policy-2015. The policy envisages data storage at one platform, easy access, a common protocol of data standardisation, cataloguing, updating, access, dissemination and easy quality control. A large quantity of data is generated using public funds by Government departments, organisations and institutions. Most of such data, though unrestricted and non-sensitive in nature, remain inaccessible to common citizens. Besides, most of the data, generated by State Government departments do not have compatibility due to lack of common standards and non-interoperability. The policy aims to make data accessible to all the stakeholders through an electronic network within the framework of related policies, acts and rules of the Government. The policy will be applicable for all data and information created, generated, collected and archived using public funds provided by the State Government, Centre and also international donor organisations and autonomous bodies in Odisha.

An Odisha Spatial Data Infrastructure (OSDI) will be created by Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre (ORSAC, <http://www.orsac.org/>) with financial support from the Centre and the State Government. The OSDI will be the repository of all non-spatial and spatial database and its metadata. The GIS servers of all departments will be linked to the OSDI through Odisha State Wide Area Network (OSWAN) or National Knowledge Network (NKN). The OSDI will function from the State data centre with linkage to all citizen-centric and e-governance applications of the State.

See: Draft Odisha State Data Policy: [http://orsac.org/DRAFT\\_%20ODISHA%20DATA%20POLICY.docx](http://orsac.org/DRAFT_%20ODISHA%20DATA%20POLICY.docx)

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/Odisha-Government-Policy-to-Boost-Access-to-State-Data/2015/08/15/article2975405.ece>

### **India: Government working to provide rain forecast at block level**

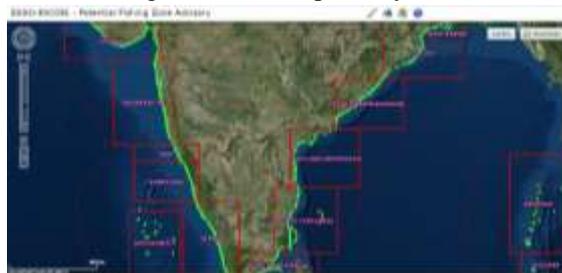


Research efforts are being initiated by Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) and India Meteorological Department (IMD, [http://www.imdagrimet.gov.in/home\\_page](http://www.imdagrimet.gov.in/home_page)) to explore possibility of generating sub-district scale agro-meteorological

forecast with acceptable level of verification skill in a pilot mode.

At present, the IMD does not provide rainfall and other weather-related forecast at the block level. However, under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS), formerly referred to as Integrated Agromet Advisory Service scheme, the ESSO and IMD have been providing crop specific advisories to the farmers at the district level twice a week. The GKMS products are being disseminated through smart messaging service (SMS) and integrated voice response system (IVRS) to 11.46 million farmers.

Under the GKMS project, for the benefit of fisherman community, a satellite-based application titled 'potential fishing zone advisories' also is being generated and provided on using the satellite data and GIS.



Furthermore, IMD recently launched a special service titled 'Nowcast', where the farmers living in the 50-km radius of IMD's 146 weather stations would get SMS alerts on thunderstorm, squall, hailstorm, etc., within minutes after the information is generated by the Met department. Earlier IMD's weather predictions were uploaded on its website which farmers used to find difficult to access due to lack of internet connectivity in many of these remote locations where the Met department has AgroMet Field Units. Now, the data generated by IMD's state-of-the-art doppler radars, which have been deployed in 17 locations across the country to track extreme weather phenomenon, would be instantly transmitted to agriculture ministry's mKisan portal.

See also: Potential Fishing Zone Advisory Information from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), which uses Interactive maps for approximately 586 nodes along the Indian sub-continent coastline. INCOIS utilizes WEBGIS to provide accurate on-line geo-referenced data for this purpose.

<http://www.incois.gov.in/MarineFisheries/PfzAdvisory>

Source: <http://www.imdagrimet.gov.in/sites/default/files/National%20level%20stake%20holders%20meeting%20on%20implementati%20of%20Block%20level%20AAS.pdf>; <http://www.financialexpress.com/article/markets/commodities/govt-working-to-provide-rain-forecast-at-block-level/118476/>

### **Interexpo GEO-Siberia-2016, 20-22 April 2016, Novosibirsk, Russia**



XIth International exhibition and scientific congress “Interexpo GEO-Siberia-2016” - “Open-Source Geospatial Solutions for Public Benefits” organized by the Siberian State University of Geosystems and Technologies and LLC “Interexpo GeoSiberia” will be held on April 20 - 22, 2016.

“Interexpo Geo-Siberia” is supported by the well-known international societies and organizations - FIG, DVW, ISPRS, ICA, ISDE, DGfK, EAGE, and GIS Association (Russia) which continue rendering their great support and contribution to “Interexpo GEO-Siberia” project, and within Russia by the Government of Novosibirsk Region, the Venture Investments Fund to Scientific and Technical Small Enterprises, Municipal Administration of Novosibirsk, Presidium of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SB RAS), Association of Siberian and Far Eastern Cities, Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography, GIS Association and others.

Source: [http://expo-geo.ru/event/27\\_Interexpo-GEO-Siberia-2013](http://expo-geo.ru/event/27_Interexpo-GEO-Siberia-2013)

### **Australia: National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII)**

The National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII, <http://www.neii.gov.au/>) is an information platform designed to improve, discovery, access and re-use of nationally significant environmental data. It proposes a network of standards-based IT components, developed in collaboration with a number of technical and strategic partners. Two NEII documents of particular relevance for SDI audience are:



### **Role of Social Architecture in Information Infrastructure: A report for the National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) (CSIRO)**

The report presents an analysis of the social dimensions of Information Infrastructure (II), or systems of systems. It provides a synthesis of key elements and lessons learned from a number of spatial II initiatives analysed through a ‘landscape review’. It provides some guidance and recommendations that can be applied to II such as the National Environmental Information Infrastructure (NEII) using the concept of ‘social architecture’ i.e. the social and institutional aspects of infrastructure development and maintenance with a particular focus on governance, participation and the management of the agreements that together define how stakeholders collaborate to achieve collective goals. The report builds on SDI governance research undertaken by the CSDILA. Access the report at:

<http://www.neii.gov.au/system/files/filedepot/1/The%20Role%20of%20Social%20Architecture%20in%20Information%20Infrastructure.pdf>

### **NEII Reference Architecture (Bureau of Meteorology)**

An architecture expressed using RM-ODP which adopts key elements of SDI best-practice which allows for a network of federated interoperable datasets conforming to common data models, exchange formats, and standard network protocols underpinned by a centralised catalogue of uniform metadata . The architecture extends the traditional SDI paradigm, to support the unique requirements of environmental information. Example extensions embedded in the NEII architecture include explicit information about environmental monitoring sites and methods used to observe the environment (e.g., instrument type, protocol, and parameter). The SDI architecture represents state-of-the-art in large-scale environmental information systems and represents a low-risk path to realising an initial NEII capability, albeit requiring supplementation for environment-specific value-added functionality. Access the report at:

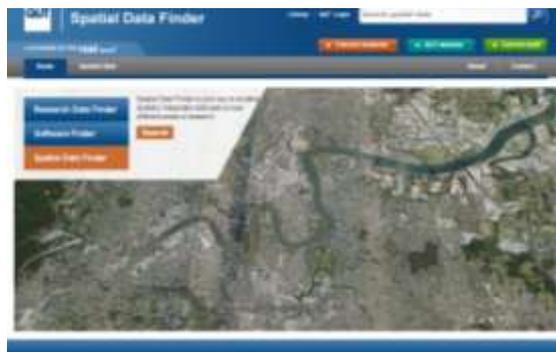
<http://www.neii.gov.au/system/files/filedepot/1/NEII%20Reference%20Architecture.pdf>

Source: Paul Box, CSIRO

## Australia: Spatial Data Finder

On 19 June 2015, representatives from over 40 Australian research institutions gathered in Canberra to launch their Open Data Collections. The one day event, hosted by the Australian National Data Service (ANDS), showcased to government and a range of national stakeholders the rich variety of data collections that have been generated through the Major Open Data Collections (MODC) project.

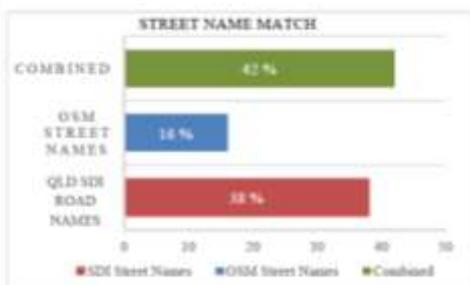
By leveraging existing tools and systems developed during these projects, the Major Open Data Collection (MODC) project delivered support to multi-disciplinary collaborative research activities through partnership building between QUT researchers and Queensland government agencies, in order to add to and promote the discovery and reuse of a collection of spatially referenced datasets.



The MODC project built upon existing Research Data Finder infrastructure (which uses VIVO open source software, developed by Cornell University) to develop a separate collection, Spatial Data Finder (<https://researchdatafinder.qut.edu.au/spatial>) as the interface to display the spatial data collection. During the course of the project, 62 dataset descriptions were added to Spatial Data Finder, 7 added to Research Data Finder and two added to Software Finder, another separate collection. The project team met with 116 individual researchers and attended 13 school and faculty meetings to promote the MODC project and raise awareness of the Library's services and resources for research data management.

Source: <https://researchdatafinder.qut.edu.au/spatial/>; <http://eprints.qut.edu.au/84939/>

## Australia: SDI and crowdsourced spatial information management automation for disaster management



Author(s): Saman Koswatte; Kevin McDougall; Xiaoye Liu  
*Survey Review*, Published online: 1 April 2015 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Modern disaster reporting is becoming increasingly sophisticated with the ready access to social media and user-friendly online mapping tools. Citizen engagement in location enabled disaster reporting is more obvious, and the availability of crowd generated geospatial data is higher than ever before. Crowd generated geospatial content is current and more diverse than conventional geographic information; however, quality and credibility issues exist. Although spatial data infrastructures (SDIs)

have proven to be successful in supporting disaster management activities in the past, delays in providing public mapping portals and gaps in data are common. Crowd support and crowd generated spatial data have the potential to speed up disaster management actions and disaster mitigations. Within the study, crowd communications that occurred during the 2011 Queensland floods through the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's (ABC's) QLD flood crisis map were critically analysed to investigate the readiness of current information sources to support disaster management. The accuracy of the reported event locations were compared to the authoritative Queensland Government street network, Open Street Map's (OSM's) streets and Google streets to compare the accuracy of the street and address names provided through the crowdsourced data. The study reveals that several issues exist regarding the quality of the data provided and the intent of the data provider. Moreover, the results indicate that the direct usage of reported location is problematic and that the semantic processing of the information location along with available spatial data may be required to improve data quality.

Keywords: SDI, Crowdsourcing, Ushahidi, QLD floods, SIM automation

Source: <http://www.maneyonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/1752270615Y.0000000008>;  
[http://eprints.usq.edu.au/26623/13/Koswatte\\_McDougall\\_Liu\\_FIG3\\_2014\\_PV.pdf](http://eprints.usq.edu.au/26623/13/Koswatte_McDougall_Liu_FIG3_2014_PV.pdf)

## New Zealand: Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) Data Service update August 2015 (Issue 18)



News from the LINZ Data Service (LDS) on changes to address data, new help documentation and more. In this newsletter, LINZ is seeking input on upcoming changes to address data. You'll also find updates to Topographic data and new documentation to help you use the Changeset API, and we share a few highlights

from the LDS Customer Survey and introduce you to the new LDS Manager.

Source: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-08/linz-data-service-update-august-2015>

**International Workshop on the Role of Land Professionals and SDI in Disaster Risk Reduction: in the Context of Post 2015 Nepal Earthquake  
25-27 November 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal**



Nepal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (NICS), and Nepal Remote Sensing and Photogrammetric Society (NRSPS) are jointly organizing the International Workshop on the "Role of Land Professionals and SDI in Disaster Risk Reduction: in the context of 'Post 2015 Nepal Earthquake' from November 25-27, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop is a joint event of the

Commission 2 of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), and Technical Commission IV, WG 4 of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). The main objective of the event is to exploit the international expertise for enhancing professional capacity to contribute in the effort of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the situation like currently in Nepal. The event further aims to explore opportunities for strengthening and promoting good practices in professional geospatial education and advancing SDI concepts and spatially enabled societies.

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

**20th UNRCC-AP and the 4th UN-GGIM-AP, 5-10 October 2015, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea**

The 20th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCC-AP) and the 4th United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) to be held from 5 to 10 October 2015 in Jeju, the Republic of Korea.



Source: <http://www.unrcc-ap2015.org/>

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**Europe Region SDI News**

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**UK: GeoCom: Resilient Futures, 23-25 November 2015, Warwick**



This annual flagship event will be the climax for the AGI 2015 event programme, bringing together the year's themes. The conference will again provide the residential format to maximise the opportunities for debate, engagement and collaboration. Invited speakers and selected papers have been announced at: <http://www.agi.org.uk/news/agi/751-confirmed-speakers-at-geocom-in-november>. Early bird registration pricing ends on **September 30,**

**2015.** The AGI exists to represent the interests of the UK's GI industry. As the Association for Geographic Information, we lead, connect and develop a community of members who use, or benefit from geographical information.

Source: <http://www.agi.org.uk/component/civicrm/?task=civicrm/event/info&Itemid=238&reset=1&id=28>

**UK: Geo Hack Day in London, 5 September 2015, London, England**

Geo Hack Day is a unique opportunity to get together with other location enthusiasts to build cool solutions using GIS and other geo data sources and services. Build something that has the potential to make a difference to people's lives across the world. The event is being held at the Inmarsat Conference Centre right next to Old Street Underground station in London.



Source: <http://www.agi.org.uk/component/civicrm/?task=civicrm/event/info&Itemid=238&reset=1&id=71>

**UK: Defra to release open satellite imagery that could transform food and farming**



The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) will release at least 8,000 open datasets in the coming months. Harnessing this open data will help food and farming achieve its full potential and enable the UK to become a one-nation economy, where the productivity of the countryside will be brought up to the level of our towns and cities.

New data releases will be announced in the coming months and will build upon wider environmental data releases such as:

- Imagery from the Copernicus satellite system that can pinpoint which places have the best soil and microclimates to grow grapes for sparkling wine, detect live if a ship is acting suspiciously in a marine conservation zone, or assess the health of crops and chart their performance under different conditions from space.

- Real-time air quality and river level readings, beach cleanliness measurements and the records of the National Biodiversity Network (<http://www.nbn.org.uk/>) which charts plant, animal, bird, insect and invertebrate numbers across Britain and has just logged its hundred-millionth record.

Source: <http://www.eurogi.org/news-latest/431-defra-to-release-open-satellite-imagery-that-could-transform-food-and-farming>

### **France: Signing of memorandum of understanding on the deployment of the Street Body Plan Simplified**



CONSEIL NATIONAL DE  
L'INFORMATION GÉOGRAPHIQUE

Geographic Information, (<http://cnig.gouv.fr/?p=11135>), signed a national memorandum of understanding on the deployment of Street Body Plan Simplified (CASP).

An historic agreement is now in place on the sharing of a background layer between network operators and communities. On 24 June 2015, the Luxembourg Palace, under the auspices of Senator Roland Courteau, President of CNIG (National Council for

Source: <http://www.afigeo.asso.fr/12-news/news/1248-accord-historique-sur-le-partage-d%E2%80%99un-fond-de-plan-entre-exploitants-de-r%C3%A9seaux-et-collectivit%C3%A9s-2.html>

### **France: 3D National Symposium, 15-17 September 2015**



September 2015; this is an opportunity for colleagues to “isolate themselves from the daily madness to be able to focus and concentrate on mastering the 3D knowledge of its evolution.”

Ideal Knowledge, 3D Building and Planning, provides a national forum where participants can meet, exchange, share, for 3 days, 15 to 17

Source: <http://www.colloque3d.com/2015/>

### **France: INSPIRE Day, 16 November 2015, Paris**

The National Council for Geographic Information (CNIG), through its Commission "implementation rules", has organized an information and discussion day on November 1, 2015 in Paris. The objective is to review the state of deployment of the INSPIRE Directive in France and offer workshops on good practices. See contents of the INSPIRE Day 2014 (<http://cnig.gouv.fr/?p=8183>), which was a great success, with more than 200 participants.

Source: <http://cnig.gouv.fr/?p=10968>

### **Luxembourg: New version available of map viewer of Luxembourg's geoportal**



You can test it here: <http://beta.geoportail.lu/?lang=en>

Source: <https://www.geoportail.lu/en/>

### **The Netherlands: Dutch addresses available in accordance with INSPIRE rules**



In late July, Kadaster PDOK opened its first harmonized data set according to the requirements of the European INSPIRE directive. This means that every address in the Netherlands is now stored under the same features as addresses in other EU member states. This Dutch addresses can be linked and compared with addresses of other Member States. This creates a European address guide. This is useful for cross-border products, projects and studies.

The harmonized data set can be found in PDOK under the name INSPIRE harmonized. This file is updated daily so there is always an up-to-date version available. PDOK serves the new dataset Addresses only as WMS and WFS. This new dataset is no atomfeed (bulk download) available. WMS, WFS and atomfeed of non-harmonized INSPIRE dataset

Addresses also remains available as usual.

Visit the PDOK website to download: <https://www.pdok.nl/nl/producten/pdok-services/overzicht-urls/a>

Source: <http://www.geonovum.nl/onderwerpen/inspire/nieuws/nederlandse-adressen-conform-de-regels-van-inspire-beschikbaar>

### **Germany: Update of “Architecture of GDI-DE - conventions for metadata” Version 1.1.0 available for download**



Version 1.1.0 of the “Architecture of GDI-DE - conventions for metadata” is available for download. The document explains the conventions relating to metadata and making it available and summarized.

Access the document at: [http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/GDI-DE/Dokumente/Architektur\\_GDI\\_DE\\_Konventionen\\_Metadaten\\_v1\\_1\\_0.html](http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/GDI-DE/Dokumente/Architektur_GDI_DE_Konventionen_Metadaten_v1_1_0.html)

Note also: Publication of decisions in 2015 of the Steering Committee GDI-DE (LG GDI-DE), [http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/Ver%C3%B6ffentlichung\\_LG\\_Beschluesse\\_2015.html](http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/Ver%C3%B6ffentlichung_LG_Beschluesse_2015.html)

Source: [http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/Fortschreibung\\_Konventionen\\_zu%20Metadaten\\_v1\\_1\\_0.html](http://www.geoportal.de/SharedDocs/Kurzmeldungen/DE/GDI-DE-Aktuelles/2015/Fortschreibung_Konventionen_zu%20Metadaten_v1_1_0.html)

### **Germany: National Forum for Remote Sensing and Copernicus, 3-5 November 2015, Berlin**

The Federal Ministry of Transport and digital infrastructure (BMVI), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BmEL) and the German Aerospace Center Raumfahrt eV (DLR) invite you to participate in the “National Forum for Remote Sensing and Copernicus” from 03 to 05 November 2015 in Berlin. The event is aimed at users and providers of Earth observation services / products of administration (federal, state and municipal level), science and business in Germany, as well as to those interested in Copernicus data and services.



Attendance at the event is free. Deadline for registration is **October 4, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.d-copernicus.de/nationales-forum-2015>

### **Austria: Address and administrative boundaries data products available for free download**



The offer of free products from the BEV-Geodatenportal

has been extended. The BEV is the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Corporate subordinate federal agency with the task of surveying and geographic information and Metrology and Verification. With its headquarters in Vienna, Austria far the BEV is represented with 64 offices in all provinces. An address data product from the Austrian address register covers the whole of Austria, the accuracy of the geocoding is one meter. An administrative boundaries data product is available in the three variants, generalized 1:50 000 and generalized 1: 250 000, in each case is in SHP format. All three variants contain the polygons of the cadastral as the smallest administrative units. The supplied attributes make it possible to summarize the polygons in a geographic information system for political communities, counties, jurisdictions, the tax office areas, surveying official dioceses and provinces.

Source: [http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?\\_pageid=713,2573888&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=713,2573888&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL);  
[http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?\\_pageid=713,1604469&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=713,1604469&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

### Norway: Swedish data for Norway Digital parties



The Mapping Authority has signed an agreement with Swedish Lantmäteriet giving Norway digitally-party access to Swedish geodata and geodata services in border areas. The agreement includes vector data products Terrängkartan, Vägkartan, Fjällkartan, Översiktskartan and Sverigekartan and geodata service Topographic webb karta view (skiktindelad). The area is 100 km from the border into Sweden. The data is available from 1 July in Geonorge download solution and service used with the same BAAT access.



Source: <http://kartverket.no/Geonorge/Nyheter/Svenske-data-til-Norge-digitalt-parter/>

### Sweden: National Land Survey takes the first step towards free map data

**LANTMÄTERIET** On July 1, 2015, Lantmäteriet (the National Land Survey) took its first step towards the free release of maps and geographical information. Lantmäteriet made available a simplified elevation model with 50 meter resolution and 2 meter accuracy in height. Lantmäteriet aims to eventually release all geographic data for free, without charges.

On January 1, 2016, another door will open to Lantmäteriet's geographic databases, opening access to a roadmap, terrain map, Fjällkartan, and a nationwide real-time service for measurement and positioning with meter accuracy (SWEPOS network service DGNSS). Lantmäteriet's hope is that other, more detailed geographical information can be released in the future as open data. Aerial imagery, high resolution elevation data, property maps, addresses and hydrographic network including allowing risk and impact assessments in the environmental sector and in climate adaptation projects are some examples. To open the data, however, political decisions are required on a new funding model. – Thus far, Lantmäteriet has been required to collect fees from those who want to use products from its range of maps, geographic information, and property information - what Lantmäteriet collectively calls 'geodata'. A new funding model would make it possible to abolish fees and restrictive conditions of use.

See also: Open Data, <http://www.lantmateriet.se/en/Maps-and-geographic-information/Elevation-data-/oppna-data/>. In 2015, Lantmäteriet is working to release the small-scale maps and positioning services. Here is their roadmap:



Source: <http://www.lantmateriet.se/en/Pressrum/Pressmeddelande/lantmateriet-tar-forsta-steget-mot-fria-kartdata/>

### Denmark: Danish Geodata Agency (Geodatastyrelsen) moves to another ministry



Danish Geodata Agency

In connection with the new government basis, it was decided that Geodatastyrelsen be moved to the Ministry of Energy, Power and Climate Affairs. Geodata is viewed of great importance to the work of supply, energy and climate in Denmark.

Source: <http://gst.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2015/jun/geodatastyrelsen-flytter-til-et-andet-ministerium/>

### Denmark: Danish Geodata Agency launches new data distributor website



is access to the first selected spatial data.

New website for data distributor has been launched (datafordeler.dk). Here you can among other things read news about data distributor project and see the schedule. In a short time you will also find the technical specifications; then, you are helped in retrieving data from the distributor when September

Geodatastyrelsen (Danish Geodata Agency) is in the process of establishing data distributor, which by the end of 2016 make all input data available in one place and provide new opportunities for the use of data in the public sector and private companies. When data distributor is in operation, it provides access to basic data via online lookup, events / subscription and file distribution and replaces the different distribution solutions, today exhibits basic data.

Source: <http://gst.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2015/august/datafordelerdk-er-i-luftien/>

### **Czech Republic: Geomatics in Projects 2015 Conference, 7-8 October 2015**



The Geomatics section of the University of West Bohemia is holding a two day conference at the Kozel chateau near Pilsen in the Czech Republic. Admission is free. The conference is co-organised by the SDI4Apps (<http://www.sdi4apps.eu>) and Open Transport Net

(<http://opentnet.eu/>) projects. Topics include:

- Geomatics in transport
- Geospatial cultural heritage
- Applications of theoretical geodesy
- Open source and open data
- Geomatics in 3D



Source: <http://gis.zcu.cz/?page=geomatics-in-projects>

### **Italy: Urban Commons Conference, 6-7 November 2015, Bologna**



Inspired by the recently implemented Bologna Regulation on Collaboration for the Care and Regeneration of the Urban Commons, as well as by other commons-based experiments in cities around Italy by the LabGov project (e.g. Co-Mantova, Co-Battipaglia and Co-Palermo), the 1st IASC Thematic Conference on the Urban Commons will bring together leading scholars, researchers, policymakers, practitioners and social innovators to take stock of the developments in the interdisciplinary study of the urban commons and related questions of urban governance.

Although the urban commons has increasingly appeared as a topic of scholarly inquiry, there has yet to be sustained attention to the research questions, methodologies, and disciplinary approaches necessary to more fully conceptualize and develop the idea of the “urban commons” and the new challenges and facets it introduces into the ongoing study of the commons in diverse fields.

The conference will seek to better understand the idea of urban commons at different scales, under what circumstances and contexts urban commons emerge, what contributes to their durability and effectiveness, and what undermines them. The conference will stress the importance of an “urban commons narrative” for urban infrastructure, urban welfare, and urban development. Additionally, the conference will focus on questions of urban governance and will explore different frameworks for governing common urban resources, and the city, in a collaborative manner. The conference will highlight six thematic questions, one of which is ‘Mapping the Urban Commons.’



Source: <http://www.labgov.it/wordpress/urbancommons/>

### **11as Jornadas Internacionales gvSIG: "Es posible. Es real", 2 al 4 de diciembre de 2015, Valencia, España**



Del 2 al 4 de diciembre de 2015 tendrán lugar en el Complejo Deportivo-Cultural Pechina (Valencia - España), bajo el lema "Es posible. Es real", las 11as Jornadas Internacionales gvSIG, organizadas por la Asociación gvSIG.

Ya está abierto el periodo para el envío de propuestas para comunicaciones para las Jornadas. Desde hoy pueden enviarse las propuestas a la dirección de correo electrónico [conference-contact@gvsig.com](mailto:conference-contact@gvsig.com), y serán valoradas por el comité científico de cara a su inclusión en el programa de las Jornadas. Existen dos modalidades de comunicación: ponencia y póster. Toda la

información sobre las normas para la presentación de comunicaciones puede consultarse en el apartado 'Comunicaciones' de la web. El periodo de recepción de resúmenes finalizará el próximo **25 de septiembre**.

Fuente: <http://www.gvsig.com/es/web/guest/eventos/jornadas-gvsig/11as-jornadas-gvsig>

### **Call for sessions: European Geosciences Union General Assembly, 17-22 April 2016, Vienna, Austria**



The EGU General Assembly 2016 will bring together geoscientists from all over the world to one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, planetary and space sciences. The EGU aims to provide

a forum where scientists, especially early career researchers, can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geoscience. The EGU is looking forward to cordially welcoming you in Vienna. See: Provisional programme: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/egu2016/provisionalprogramme>. The deadline for the call for sessions is **18 September 2015**.

Source: <http://www.egu2016.eu/>

### **Joint FIG Commission 3 and 7 Workshop: Crowdsourcing of Land Information, 16-20 November, Malta**



This workshop is organised by FIG Commission 3 and 7 in cooperation with Malta Institution of Surveyors.

Citizens, through crowdsourcing/ Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI), are increasingly volunteering their knowledge, personal time and energy using

the Internet and on-line tools to get work done, to obtain input and to stimulate action. Current applications include counting birds, checking water quality and creating new base mapping for developing countries – OpenStreetMap is the best example. Crowdsourcing has only recently been directly applied to the capture and management of land rights within the land administration sector. Is it feasible and can it help to rapidly shrink the security of tenure chasm? This workshop will explore how we can engage citizens through crowdsourcing within a new citizen collaborative model for land administration that would be much more inclusive for the disadvantaged and vulnerable, increase access to land markets and help support poverty reduction. The workshop will also investigate new exploitation, development and use methodologies of VGI derived information to various geographic and social scientific disciplines that make use of mapping, GIS, SIM and SDI systems and procedures. The aspiration is that these will give rise to the examination and legalisation of the legitimacy of big geodata and related processes and management procedures as a reliable spatial, environmental and sustainable infrastructure on local, as well as on global, scales. Extended abstract submission deadline: **13 September 2015**.

Source: <http://com3fig.wix.com/fig-commission3-2015> ; <http://www.fig.net/events/2015/com3-7-invitation.pdf>

### **EuroGeographics General Assembly, 4-6 October 2015, Belgrade, Serbia**

The 2015 EuroGeographics General Assembly will be hosted by the Republic Geodetic Authority, Serbia. Following the General Assembly the UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary meeting will be held on 7th October 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia as an all-day meeting.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/eurogeographics-general-assembly-2>

### **Business Interoperability Knowledge Exchange Network (BiKEN) webinar, 29 September 2015**

This BiKEN webinar, which is a Eurogeographics activity, will be held on 29th September 2015 at 11.00 – 12.30 CEST. Mr Julian Cooper from OS Great Britain and ELF Product Manager - will be sharing his analysis and thoughts in relation to the recent Web Services questionnaire sent to BiKEN members. Julian will also be talking about the evolution of Web Services and the various business models associated with their place in the market today. This is an ideal opportunity for EuroGeographics members to ask questions, share their own experiences with other BiKEN members and participate in this fascinating discussion.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/business-interoperability-ken-webinar>

### **INSPIRE Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) workshop, 29-30 September 2015, Barcelona, Spain**

INSPIRE Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) is organizing a workshop on the 29th and 30th of September in Barcelona at the Cartographic and Geological Institute. This workshop aims for participants to share experiences about

transforming and setting up download services for coverage-based themes, mainly Elevation and Orthoimagery. See details about the workshop at: [http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Workshop%20description\\_2.docx](http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/Workshop%20description_2.docx).

Deadline for registration: **16 September 2015**

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/inspire-ken-29-30-september-2015>

### **State Boundaries of Europe meeting, 24-25 September 2015, Budapest, Hungary**

The annual meeting of the State Boundaries of Europe (SBE) Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN, <http://www.eurogeographics.org/sbe>) will be held in the premises of the Institute for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FOMI) in Budapest. Draft agenda and more information will be available soon.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/state-boundaries-europe-annual-meeting>

### **Double issue of EuroGeographics Messenger published**

A double issue of the EuroGeographics Messenger, the organization's external newsletter, now is available online. It highlights developments in the European Location Framework (EULF), the EULF Transportation Pilot, UN-GGIM: Europe, the Technical Producers meeting in Warsaw, and an agreement on cooperation with EuroSDR. Access the newsletter: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/sites/default/files/2015%20EG%20Messenger1-2%20final.pdf>

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/messenger-1-22015-launched>

### **Workshop held to strengthen relationships between EMODnet and INSPIRE**



On 30 June 2015, coordinators, data managers, and the secretariat of European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet, <http://www.emodnet.eu>) met with members of the EC-EEA INSPIRE Team at JRC in Ispra, Italy, to better understand the relationships between EMODnet and INSPIRE. EMODnet and Inspire both

contribute towards improved access to data on the marine environment to underpin decision making but with different emphasis and timescales. The current maturity of both the EMODnet programme and the Inspire Directive means that it is now timely to explore the practical benefits they could offer each other towards their individual and collective aims. The development of the Inspire Data Specifications took account of practices used with the EMODnet communities; similarly EMODnet has taken on board Inspire principles in delivering their services. Hence there already exists a commonality of approach towards data harmonisation and information sharing that can be built on.

During the workshop, which was chaired by the facilitator of the INSPIRE Thematic Cluster on Marine and Atmosphere (<https://themes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/groups/profile/213/marine-and-atmosphere-cluster>), mutually beneficial links were clearly identified and three potential roles emerged that EMODnet could play in relation to INSPIRE: as a user of INSPIRE data, as a producer of INSPIRE data, and as a provider of "INSPIRE as a service" to Member States' authorities. It was agreed that these roles will be further explored and elaborated in a joint paper and in the INSPIRE-marine pilot (<http://inspire-marine.jrc.ec.europa.eu>).

Note also: *European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) Open Conference, 20 October 2015, Oostende, Belgium*, <http://www.emodnet.eu/conference>

Source: <http://lists.gsd.org/pipermail/sdi-europe/2015-August/001150.html>

### **Sentinel open-source Toolbox Hackathon, 15-16 October 2015, Frascati, Italy**



The European Space Agency (ESA) is organising the first Hackathon on community coding of open-source toolboxes for Sentinel missions. The event will be held from 15 to 16 October 2015 in ESRIN, at Frascati in Italy, following the community consultation meeting on Earth Observation Open Science 2.0 (<http://www.eoscience20.org/>). The event will bring together volunteered programmers with the developers of the Sentinel Application Platform (SNAP) to jointly develop a software project supporting the SNAP.

Participants should have a good knowledge of the Java programming language, interest in developing tools to exploit EO data, and possibly some experience with the BEAM API before (an introduction will anyway be given to new-comers). Because of limited space we will have to select candidates based on their motivation. Application deadline: **10 September 2015**.



Source: <http://congrexprojects.com/15c12/hackathon>

### **Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) project launch**



The kick off meeting of Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS, <http://www.swos-service.eu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/sowswetlands>) project took place in Jena (Germany) on 1-2 July 2015. The Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) project is co-funded by Research and Innovation H2020 programme for 3 years and is involving 13 partners. The main objective is to develop a monitoring and information service focussing on

wetland ecosystems. The partners started working on the selection of test sites, their characterisation and products that will be derived from satellites data. A wide variety of wetlands areas will be studied in some cases in combination with the entire river basin to analyse the contribution of these areas to water management. In the Mediterranean area, the coverage should include sites in Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Montenegro/Albania, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Service cases will be developed focusing on the key policy issues of each area. The types of product foreseen are: land cover/land use (and their changes), inventory/delineation, soil moisture, land surface temperature, water quality and surface water dynamic. A strong focus will be on end-users engagement through dedicated workshops, field visits, training and direct access to the services.

Source: <http://www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/events/2015/07/satellite-based-wetland-observation-service-swos-project-kick-meeting/>

### **Survey: Operational uses of satellite-based services within the public sector**



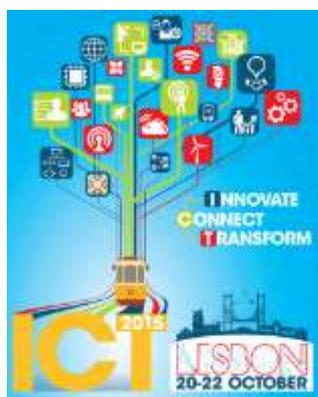
Are you a public authority? Do you use a service based on satellite applications routinely, to perform your work? If so, Eurisy is asking for input to help them document experiences with satellite-based services by responding to a short questionnaire. Eurisy is not looking for technical details, but for information on the implementation process, as well as on the tangible and intangible benefits of the satellite-based service used. If you are not a public authority, but know

public organisations using satellite services operationally, please send them the link to this survey, or contact the Eurisy staff at [grazia.fiore@eurisy.org](mailto:grazia.fiore@eurisy.org).

The survey was launched after a testing phase involving ten public authorities. The results of the testing phase are presented in the Eurisy publication “Operational uses of satellite-based applications in the public sector: a case study review”. The Executive Summary of the publication (English version only) can be downloaded at <http://www.eurisy.org/publications.php>. To obtain the full analytical report of the publication and the annexed case-studies, please write to [publications@eurisy.org](mailto:publications@eurisy.org).

Source: <http://www.eurisy.org/event-survey/survey-en>

### **ICT 2015 Innovate, Connect, Transform, 20-22 October 2015, Lisbon, Portugal**



The European Commission, together with the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia bring you: ICT 2015 - Innovate, Connect, Transform, on 20-22 October 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal. The ICT 2015 event will comprise a number of parallel activities:

- A policy conference presenting the new Commission's policies and initiatives on Research & Innovation in ICT (Horizon 2020 Programme);
- An interactive exhibition showcasing the best results and impact of most recent EU ICT Research & Innovation;
- Many networking opportunities to enhance quality partnerships, help participants find partners, connect Research and Innovation and trigger collaboration;
- Funding opportunities: ICT 2015 will also be the place to gather information on the 2016-17 Work Programme of Horizon 2020;
- The Startup Europe Forum, offering a set of activities profiling EU policy actions for startups and SMEs, innovators, private and public investors.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ict2015-innovate-connect-transform-lisbon-20-22-october-2015>

## Vessel Monitoring System Geoportal for the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions by PERSEUS



A common methodology towards the development of an integrated fisheries management approach for the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions has been developed leading to the

establishment of the Vessel Monitoring System Geoportal. PERSEUS Project has carried out this work, and all the EU regions working in the area of Southern European Seas can benefit from it. PERSEUS scientists formulated a common methodology, to analyse Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, and developed a web based GIS platform to visualize the results of the analysis for the estimation of fishing effort.

By using simple tools and equipment already available and mandated by existing EU legislation any European region can now set up a system to assess the fishing effort and fishing activity on the fishing grounds for specific species for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks. As such, PERSEUS helps policy decision making in relation to fisheries by providing estimates of catch, location, pressure, etc. from existing and collectable data for managing European fishing fleets and for conserving fish stocks.

The PERSEUS Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) geoportal is available online at <http://artemis2.ath.hcmr.gr/> and detailing common data approaches. The methodology supports and enhances the work of existing in-port manual fishing catch checks.

- 14-16 October 2015: Supporting Policy Makers to Establish Measures to Maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) Across the Southern European Seas (SES), Malta. [http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale\\_j=en&artid=2950](http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale_j=en&artid=2950)
- 10 December 2015: “Policy-oriented marine research in the SES: Lessons Learned and the way ahead”: PERSEUS Final Stakeholders Meeting, Brussels, Belgium. The final PERSEUS Stakeholder meeting is entitled 'Policy-oriented marine research in the SES: Lessons learned and the way ahead'. The event will be held back-to-back with the final PERSEUS Scientific Conference, in Brussels, at the European Parliament. More information to come soon. [http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale\\_j=en&artid=2881](http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale_j=en&artid=2881)

Source: [http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale\\_j=en&sel=419&artid=3125](http://www.perseus-net.eu/site/content.php?locale=1&locale_j=en&sel=419&artid=3125)

## Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

### Investigation into completeness of, and updates to, OpenStreetMap Data in a heterogeneous area in Brazil

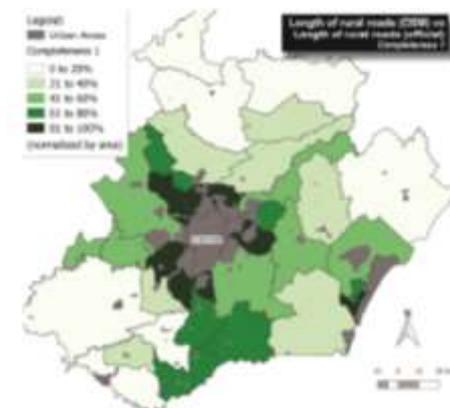


Figure 6. Completeness: Length of road roads from OSM base vs. Length of road roads from the official topographic mapping (at 1:250,000 scale).

Author(s): Silvana Philippi Camboim, João Vitor Meza Bravo, and Claudia Robbi Sluter

*ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* 2015, 4, 1366-1388

**Abstract:** The integration of user-generated content made in a collaborative environment is being increasingly considered a valuable input to reference maps, even from official map agencies such as USGS and Ordnance Survey. In Brazil, decades of lack of investment has resulted in a topographic map coverage that is both outdated and unequally distributed throughout the territory. This paper aims to analyze the spatial distribution of updates of OpenStreetMap in rural and urban areas in the country to understand the patterns of user updates and its correlation with other economic and developmental variables. This analysis will contribute to generating the knowledge needed in order to consider the use of this data as part of a reference layer of the National Spatial Database

Infrastructure as well to design strategies to encourage user action in specific areas.

Keywords: geoinformation quality; assessment; VGI; Brazil; integration.

Source: <http://www.mdpi.com/2220-9964/4/3/1366/pdf>

### Guyana: New report on data sharing in community-based forest monitoring



A new section of the Forest COMPASS website, <http://forestcompass.org/data-sharing-lessons-guyana>, looks at data sharing in community-based forest monitoring. It draws on experiences from a monitoring initiative in North Rupununi, Guyana, supported by the Global Canopy Programme.

The initiative monitored different aspects of mixed forest/savannah landscapes, using smartphone technology and cloud-based data storage. The webpages show how the project balanced respect for local rights with efficient data transfer. They explain how the project worked through key considerations, namely the technology for data management; data classification; setting up a process to respond to requests for data access; and reporting to external stakeholders.



The development of a data sharing protocol was essential, but was not a simple process. It required ongoing discussion throughout the project, involving village leaders, community assemblies and the decision-making body for all sixteen indigenous Makushi communities. A clear and functional data sharing process depends on strong community management capacity and the data sharing standards and practices of external partners. All these issues would need to be considered if this initiative were to be replicated or scaled up.

This project adopted a ‘rights-based approach to data sharing’. This is based on principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC),\* and prioritises the protection of the rights of those who generated the data, and/or those potentially affected by data-sharing. Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) refers to the collective right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making and to give their consent to, or withhold it from, activities affecting their lands, territories, resources and rights. FPIC is enshrined in Guyana’s national law.

Some key lessons from the initiative in Guyana:

- Data sharing, rather than being an automatic or simple process, requires serious attention within community-based forest monitoring initiatives.
- Data sharing protocols are important governance instruments for community-based forest monitoring models; as such they should reflect the socio-political context in which data is collected.
- Data sharing requires clear processes, agreements, roles and local data management capacity to ensure that communities retain control over data, while also enabling data to be shared effectively. This avoids trade-offs between respect for community-rights and efficient data transfer.
- Building consensus on how to classify different data outputs is an important, albeit lengthy, process, especially for data on sensitive issues. This process needs to happen prior and/or parallel to data collection and should focus on creating an understanding of the risks, value and relevance of the data collected and information generated.
- Basing data sharing frameworks and standards on the principles of free, prior and informed consent is key to enabling effective and equitable data sharing that respects the data ownership rights of local people.
- Data sharing protocols need to be updated and revised periodically as data sensitivities, classifications and relevance change over time.

Source: <http://forestcompass.org/latest/news/new-report-data-sharing-community-based-forest-monitoring>;  
<http://forestcompass.org/latest/blogs/balancing-data-transfer-local-rights-lessons-data-sharing-protocol-guyana>

### **French Guiana: IGN and GIS Platform on mission in Ouanary**



Region Guyana  
French territory in South America



In March 2015, IGN (National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information) and the regional platform GIS (Geographic Information System)

organized a joint mission in the municipality of Ouanary for carrying out surveys and GPS the introduction of bench marks and geodetic control points. Goal: feed the multi-thematic spatial data of the municipality. IGN is the reference public operator for Geographic and Forest Information in France. It provides support for public authorities to contribute to the analysis of the territories, facilitate the implementation of development projects and sustainable development, and facilitate enforcement.

IGN performs this year its first coming in Guyana. After visiting in Camopi, Three Jumps, Matoury, Cayenne, Rémire, Montsinéry and Roura, representatives of the Institute visited Regina, St. George and Ouanary from 10 to 13 March to perform their mission, assisted by the team of regional GIS platform (<https://www.cr-guyane.fr/sante-action-sociale/plate-forme-sig/>), which has the opportunity to provide technical training to use the platform with municipal officials referring to the three municipalities.

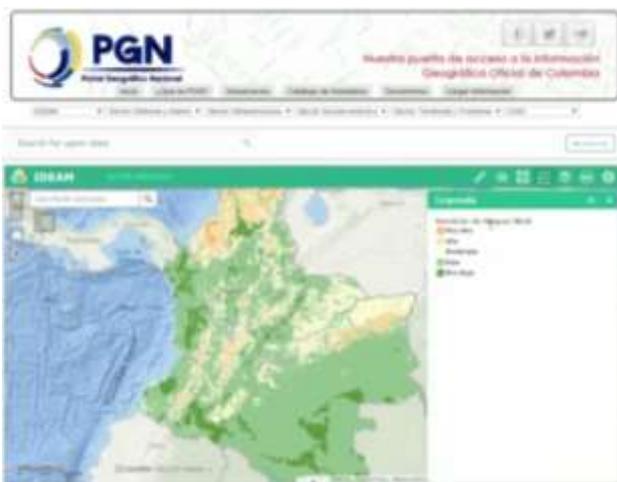


The lack of accurate geometric data earlier makes it all the more precious the presence of IGN in French Guiana, in the perspective of local development. The multi-thematic data available online on the platform (<https://catalogue.guyane-sig.fr/geonetwork/srv/fr/main.home>) will benefit from the GIS-precision work carried out by the IGN in the field. The drawing up of development projects in local communities, such as the layout of roads, or installing landfills will be facilitated and justified by reliable data, the platform-SIG enables users to view and cross all data necessary for the

development of a project.

Source: <https://www.cr-guyane.fr/lign-plateforme-sig-en-mission-ouanary/>

### **Colombia: La información geográfica de Colombia a un solo click**



El Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC), con el acompañamiento del Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP) y bajo los parámetros de la Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales (ICDE), avanza en la implementación del Portal Geográfico Nacional (PGN, <http://data.pgn-icde.opendata.arcgis.com/>), como aporte al desarrollo sostenible del país. El Geo portal ya tiene acceso al público y en la primera fase los usuarios disponen de información de 18 entidades gubernamental de los sectores de: Infraestructura, ambiental, territorial y fronteras, socioeconómico y Defensa y Mares. Este portal agremiará en un solo sitio web, la información de 64 instituciones nacionales, de los sectores: ambiental (10), infraestructura (12), defensa y mares (10), socioeconómico (5), territorial y fronteras (10) y universidades y empresas (17).

El PGN se encuentra en proceso de elaboración, sin embargo el IGAC, en el marco de la Semana Geomática Internacional 2015, presentará la primera fase del PGN. En PGN tiene un plan de acción, consolidación, posicionamiento y sostenibilidad, planeado en 5 fases, con una proyección de construcción total al año 2019, brindando actualizaciones constantes para el mejoramiento continuo de la plataforma virtual geográfica. Será un medio de información para encontrar las potencialidades de desarrollo en el sector agro y una herramienta de información geográfica y actualizada, para complementar el Catastro Multipropósito.

#### **English summary: Colombia's geographic information at one click**

IGAC, with the support of the National Planning Department (DNP) and the parameters of the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE), progresses in the implementation of the National Geographic Portal (PGN), as a contribution to sustainable development. The Geoportal and access to the public and in the first phase users have data from 18 government entities in the sectors of infrastructure, environment, territorial boundaries, socioeconomic and defense and seas. This site brings together information of 64 national institutions, sectors: environmental (10), infrastructure (12), defense and seas (10), socioeconomic (5), territorial and border (10) and universities and businesses (17).

PGN is under development, but the IGAC, in the framework of the International Geomatics Week 2015, presented the first phase. PGN has a plan of action, consolidation, positioning and sustainability, planned in five phases, with a projected total construction in 2019, providing constant for continuous improvement of the geographical virtual platform updates. It will be a source of information to find the potential of development in the agricultural sector and geographic tool and updated information to supplement the Multipurpose Cadastre.

See: Portal Geográfico Nacional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cdjomfdoCc>

Fuente: <http://noticias.igac.gov.co/la-informacion-geografica-de-colombia-a-un-solo-click/>

### **Venezuela: El IGVSb realiza Encuentro Nacional de Regiones 2015**



En el marco de su XV aniversario, el Instituto Geográfico de Venezuela Simón Bolívar (IGVSb) realiza el 22 de Julio el “Encuentro Nacional de Regiones 2015” con el objetivo de promover espacios de discusión y debate que permitan intercambiar experiencias técnicas, administrativas, sociales y políticas entre los servidores públicos que trabajan en las diversas oficinas regionales del IGVSb. En las seis mesas de trabajo instaladas durante el Encuentro, se discutieron temas de alta relevancia y actualidad, tales como las ordenanzas y municipalización de la Patria, los levantamientos parcelarios y sectorización catastral, metodología de levantamientos de información catastral, la cartografía el tiempo de Revolución, delimitación territorial y la inducción básica en el área legal de licitaciones en las contrataciones.

#### **English summary: IGVSb holds National Meeting of Regions 2015**

As part of its fifteenth anniversary, the Geographic Institute of Venezuela Simon Bolivar (IGVSb) held the “National

Meeting of Regions 2015” on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with the aim of providing opportunities for discussion and debate for exchanges of technical, administrative, social and political experience among public servants working in the various regional offices IGVS. During the meeting, in the six working groups set up, issues of high relevance today were discussed, such as ordinances and decentralization of the country, the parcel surveys and cadastral zoning methodology of surveying land information, mapping the time of revolution, territorial delimitation, and basic induction into the legal area of government procurement.

Fuente: [http://www.igvsb.gob.ve/noticia\\_detalle.html?id=1403](http://www.igvsb.gob.ve/noticia_detalle.html?id=1403)

### Venezuela: 1er Congreso Nacional de Geomática, 26-31 octubre de 2015, Barquisimeto



Se invita a la comunidad científica, académica, profesionales, estudiantes y usuarios a participar en el 1er Congreso Nacional de Geomática, el cual se realizará en la ciudad de Barquisimeto entre los días 26 y 31 de octubre de 2015. El objetivo es divulgar los avances de la Geomática, así como sus recientes aplicaciones para el desarrollo de Venezuela.

Fuente: <http://www.fii.gob.ve/>

### Peru: las 2as Jornadas gvSIG Perú



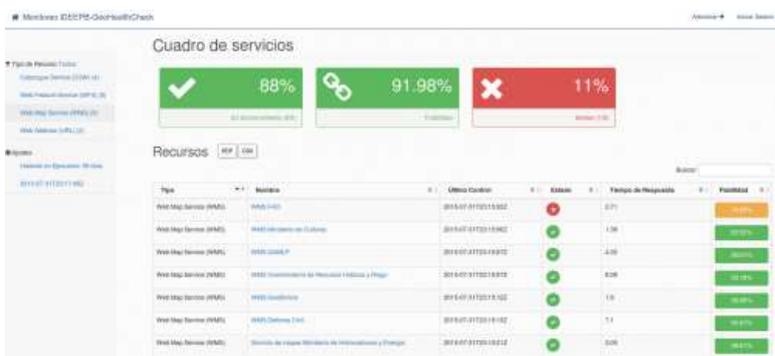
Los días 25 y 26 de septiembre de 2015 tendrán lugar las 2as Jornadas gvSIG Perú, que se celebrarán en el Auditorio de la Municipalidad de Huancayo, bajo el lema "Ciencia, tecnología y desarrollo".

Desde hoy pueden enviarse las propuestas de comunicación para las jornadas a la dirección de correo electrónico [jornadas.peru@gvsig.org](mailto:jornadas.peru@gvsig.org), que serán valoradas por el Comité Científico de cara a su inclusión en el programa de las Jornadas. Toda la información sobre las normas para la presentación de comunicaciones puede consultarse en el apartado

Comunicaciones de la web. La inscripción es gratuita (aforo limitado) y se ha de realizar a través del formulario existente en la página web, <http://jornadas-gvsig-peru.icip.edu.pe/>.

Fuente: <http://www.gvsig.com/es/eventos/jornadas-peru/2015/>

### Bolivia: Sistema de monitoreo de nodos de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (IDE-EPB)



La infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (IDE-EPB), es un conjunto de nodos institucionales, que brindan acceso vía internet, a información geográfica bajo estándares interoperables. En ese entendido a partir de 2012, comenzando con el nodo iniciador de GeoBolivia, se van implementando otros nodos institucionales a diferentes niveles gubernamentales, esta iniciativa, repercute de manera muy positiva en la disponibilidad y acceso libre a la información geográfica que el Estado genera.

Para que el sistema de nodos de la IDE-EPB garantice su operabilidad y disponibilidad de los servicios de mapas, catalogo y otros servicios web, GeoBolivia implemento el Sistema Web de Monitoreo de Nodos (<https://ideepb.geo.gob.bo/monitoreo/>), el cual representa una pagina web donde se monitorea, la fiabilidad, el funcionamiento y las caídas de los diferentes servicios que brindan los nodos de la IDE-EPB. Actualmente se monitorea 11 nodos (FAO, SUNIT, GAMLP, INE, Min. de Culturas, VIDECEI, Min .Hidrocarburos y Energia, Vice. Recursos Hidricos y Riego, Geografía UMSA, ALT y GeoBolivia).

Es importante resaltar que el sistema de monitoreo de nodos de la IDE-EPB, si bien muestra la operabilidad de los nodos y sus respectivos servicios, también manda alertas vía correo electrónico a los administradores de los nodos ante caída o falla de servicios. Actualmente el sistema de monitoreo puede monitorear los siguientes servicios: WMS (Web Map Service), WFS (Web Feature Service), CSW (Catalogue Services Web), WPS (Web Processing Service), WCS (Web Coverage Service), FTP (File Transfer Protocol), SOS (Sensor Observation Service), Url Web.

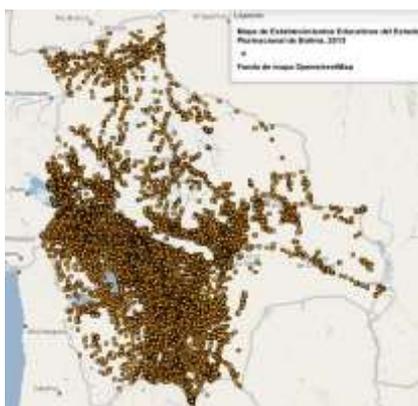
**English summary: Monitoring system nodes Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (IDE-EPB)**

For the system of nodes in the IDE-EPB ensure its operability and availability of map services, catalog and other web services, GeoBolivia implement the Web Node Monitoring System (<https://ideepb.geo.gob.bo/monitoring/>), which is a website where it is monitored, reliability, performance and falls of the various services provided by the nodes of the IDE-EPB . 11 nodes (currently it monitors FAO, SUNIT, GAMLP, INE, Min. of Culture, VIDECI, Min. Hidrocaburos and Energy, Vice. Water Resources and Irrigation, Geography UMSA, ALT and GeoBolivia ). Importantly, the monitoring system nodes IDE-EPB, but shows the operability of nodes and their respective services, also sends email alerts to administrators of the nodes fails to fall or services. Currently the monitoring system can monitor the following services: WMS (Web Map Service), WFS (Web Feature Service), CSW (Catalogue Services Web), WPS (Web Processing Service), WCS (Web Coverage Service), FTP (File Transfer Protocol), SOS (Sensor Observation Service), Web URL.



Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/blog/spip.php?article250>

**Bolivia: GeoBolivia: Mapa del mes Agosto 2015**



El mes de Agosto, GeoBolivia pone a disposición de sus usuarios el Mapa de Establecimientos Educativos del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, elaborado por el Ministerio de Educación con datos actualizados a abril de 2015. El mapa muestra la ubicación de establecimientos educativos como: escuelas, colegios y centros educativos en el territorio nacional, elaborado con el propósito de contar con datos georeferenciados de establecimientos educativos a nivel nacional y ponerlos a disposición de toda la población boliviana. Para este trabajo el Ministerio de Educación trabajo sobre la georeferenciación de unidades educativas con datos actualizados a abril de 2015, sin embargo no se llegó a la etapa de validación de datos y por tanto se recomienda que ésta información sea considerada como referencial.

Acceder al mapa en el visualizador de GeoBolivia:

<http://geo.gob.bo/mapfishapp/?wmc=http://geo.gob.bo/IMG/wmc/minedu2015.wmc>; si requiere conectarse al servicio de mapas (WMS), copie y pegue la dirección en su sistema de información geográfico (SIG) de escritorio: WMS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mde/wms>, WFS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mde/wfs>.

**English summary: GeoBolivia: Map of the month August 2015**

In August, GeoBolivia offered its users the Map of Educational Establishments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, prepared by the Ministry of Education in April 2015 updated data. The map shows the location of educational establishments such as schools, colleges and educational centers in the country, made with the intention of being geo-referenced data nationwide educational establishments and make them available to all Bolivians. For this work the Ministry of Education georeferencing work on educational units with updated data April 2015, however it did not reach the stage of validation data and therefore it is recommended that this information be considered as a reference.



Access the map in the display GeoBolivia:

<http://geo.gob.bo/mapfishapp/?wmc=http://geo.gob.bo/IMG/wmc/minedu2015.wmc>. If you need to connect to the map service (WMS), copy and paste the address on your geographic information system (GIS) desktop: WMS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mde/wms>; WFS: <http://geo.gob.bo/geoserver/mde/wfs>.

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/?GeoBolivia-Mapa-del-mes-Agosto-2015>

### **Argentina: 5as Jornadas Argentinas de gvSIG: Abierto el plazo de inscripción**

Los días 24 y 25 de septiembre de 2015 se celebrarán las 5as Jornadas Argentinas de gvSIG [1] en Mendoza, bajo el lema "Tecnología libre para las ciencias y la educación".

La inscripción es gratuita (aforo limitado) y se ha de realizar a través del formulario existente en la página web de las Jornadas, <http://www.gvsig.com/es/eventos/jornadas-argentina/2015/inscripcion>



Fuente: <http://www.gvsig.com/es/eventos/jornadas-argentina/2015>

### **Argentina: Se llevo a cabo la 3ra Jornada IDEBA, con capacitación en IDE para la gestion municipal**



El Ministerio de Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, y el Ministerio de Defensa Nacional llevaron a cabo la 3ra Jornada IDEBA (Infraestructura de datos espaciales de la Provincia de Buenos Aires). Fue una jornada de capacitación en SIG e IDE Beneficios IDE para la Gestion Municipal, desarrollada conjuntamente con IDERA. El evento tuvo lugar el día 17 de julio en la Camara de Diputados de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, y contó con mas de 250 participantes pertenecientes a Organismos Nacionales, Provinciales, Municipales, de empresas, de Universidades, etc. Como resultado de la jornada se reafirmo el compromiso a seguir trabajando para consolidar la Infraestructura de Datos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires y sumar a los 135 municipios al proyecto.

#### **English summary: 3rd IDEBA Day held, with GIS and SDI training for municipal management**

The Ministry of Government of the Province of Buenos Aires, and the Ministry of National Defence held the 3rd IDEBA Day, with a training workshop on GIS and SDI benefits for municipal management, developed jointly with IDERA. The event took place on July 17 in the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Buenos Aires, and had over 250 participants from national, provincial, municipal, enterprises, universities, etc. A result of the Day was a commitment to continue working to consolidate Data Infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires and the addition of 135 municipalities to the project was reaffirmed.

Source: <http://www.ideba.gba.gov.ar/noticiadesglose.php?in=29>

### **Open Government Partnership Global Summit 2015, 27-29 October 2015, Mexico City, Mexico**



The 2015 Open Government Partnership Global Summit will be held in Mexico City on October 27, 28 and 29. Around 1,500 participants from government, civil society organizations, multilateral organizations, media, and the private sector are expected to attend. This will provide an excellent opportunity for leaders from OGP's 65 participating countries and beyond to exchange ideas on how they are making their government more transparent, accountable, and responsive to citizens. It will also be an opportunity for experts representing different fields, sectors, and regions from around the world to talk about goals, challenges, experiences, and best practices in the implementation of open government commitments.

Pre-registration increases your chances of getting a place in the Global Summit, but unfortunately no one ensures. Due to size restrictions participation will be decided according to the relevance and role of the participants during the conference. Pre-registration is open until **September 28, 2015**. Those pre-registered can help shape the agenda of the summit, suggesting sessions and workshops through the open call for proposals, found at: [www.tinyurl.com/ConvocatoriaOGP](http://www.tinyurl.com/ConvocatoriaOGP).

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

### **Caribbean Urban Forum 5: Strengthening the Urban planning framework in the Caribbean**



The 5th Annual Caribbean Urban Forum: Island Systems Planning (CUF5) was held 10-12 June 2015 in St Lucia. The forum focused primarily on advancing land use planning and urban management within the Caribbean urban sector. The Organizing Committee included The Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal, Saint Lucia Institute of Land Use Planners (SLILUP), Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (CNULM) based at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in association with CARICOM Secretariat and supported by the European Union. The past CUF Conferences were held in Guyana (2011), Jamaica (2012), Trinidad and Tobago (2013), and Barbados (2014) and has contributed to its growing regional and international audience

of professionals that work in the field of urban and land management. The major goal is to facilitate activities that contribute to the strengthening of the regional planning framework.

See also: Regional experts to discuss effective planning in land use management within the context of climate change <http://www.oecs.org/media-center/press-releases/1006-regional-experts-to-discuss-effective-planning-in-land-use-management-within-the-context-of-climate-change>

Source: <http://bluespacecaribbean.com/posts/caribbean/cuf5-carib-planning-framework-2/>

### ***Celebrate Caribbean Statistics Day 2015, 15 October 2015***



15 October 2015, will mark the seventh annual observance of Caribbean Statistics Day in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). This year's activities also coincide with the second observance of the United Nation's World Statistics Day on 20 October 2015, <https://worldstatisticsday.org/>.

Caribbean Statistics Day is aimed at recognising the vital role of statistics in improving the daily lives of the peoples of our Community and in raising the profile of statistics and statisticians across the Region. The theme that has been proposed for this year borrows from that of the World Statistics Day, "Better Data. Better Lives".

Source: <http://www.caricomstats.org/caribbean-statistics-day-2015.htm>

### ***Small Grant Program for Research in Environmental Economics***



The Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program (LACEEP) has a small grants programs on topics relevant to Latin America and the Caribbean, by which local researchers in Universities, Ministries, NGO's, etc. learn the art of applied scientific research in the area of environmental economics, with a focus on conducting research that influences policy-making. Each researcher will work closely with a

scientifically recognized tutor, in order to enrich the experience and increase the likelihood of a useful paper, which, in addition to being potentially publishable, will have policy implication for the region. Policy relevance will be sine qua non for accepting a proposal. The objective is to give at least 10 grants of US\$15,000 per year.

See also: Using an Environmental Economics Perspective to Influence Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Misc/Pages/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectNumber=107959>. The project is expected to improve policymakers' and emerging researchers' abilities to assess economic issues related to climate change and other environmental topics. The work will also allow LACEEP to significantly expand its sphere of influence through more rigorous evidence. The LACEEP will fund 13 innovative research projects and capacity-building measures. Some of the grants will target mature scholars. The project will forge new collaborations, including partnerships with prestigious think tanks in the region, such as those supported by IDRC. Together, researchers will produce robust evidence to inform climate change and natural management policies.

Source: [http://www.laceep.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=82](http://www.laceep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=82)

### ***Symposium SIRGAS 2015, 16-20 November 2015, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic***



The Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña (UNPHU) is to hold the Symposium SIRGAS 2015 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18-20 November. The discounted registration rate is available until September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the Symposium, from November 16-17, a new edition of the SIRGAS School on Reference Systems is scheduled. This School is oriented to invite the Caribbean countries to participate in the different SIRGAS activities developed in the region. The SIRGAS School is sponsored by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) through the project Monitoring crustal deformation and the ionosphere by GPS in the Caribbean, which is also supported by the IAG, the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) and the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA).

For more details, and to be included in the mailing list, please send your name, areas of interest and the name of your university, organization or company to [sirgas@dgi.badw.de](mailto:sirgas@dgi.badw.de).

Source: <http://www.sirgas.org/index.php?id=193&L=2>

### Disponible NotiRPP de agosto



Con relación a Panamericano implementado principales quincenal denominado “NotiRPP.”



la Red Profesional Panamericana (RPP, [redpanamericana@ipgh.org](mailto:redpanamericana@ipgh.org)), e; Instituto de Geografía e Historia (IPGH) ha un procedimiento de diseminación de los eventos de interés mediante un boletín

Fuente: <http://www.ipgh.org/rpp/noti-rpp/nr201508v1q.pdf>

### Convocatoria Premio GeoSUR, cuarta edición, año 2015



INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA

GeoSUR (<http://www.geosur.info/>) ha publicado la convocatoria del Premio GeoSUR, cuarta edición 2015, que reconocerá a los productos, servicios o aplicaciones de datos espaciales que se

ofrezcan en la región y tengan un carácter innovador y relevancia particulares, especialmente en lo que se refiere a la facilidad de uso. Podrán participar instituciones o individuos originarios de cualquier país perteneciente a Latinoamérica y el Caribe. El plazo para concursar finaliza el **18 se septiembre de 2015** y para hacerlo hay que enviar una memoria que refleje el objetivo, metodología y resultados alcanzados por la iniciativa de que se trate, así como el detalle de la información del proyecto y su relación con el Programa GeoSUR. La documentación se enviará a la siguiente dirección de correo-e: [premios@ipgh.org](mailto:premios@ipgh.org) y/o [secretariageneral@ipgh.org](mailto:secretariageneral@ipgh.org). El premio consiste en 2.000 dólares en efectivo, que serán otorgados al líder del proyecto en representación de la institución de que se trate.

### English summary: Call for proposals: GEOSUR Award 2015

GeoSUR has published a notice of GeoSUR Award 2015, fourth edition, which



recognizes the spatial data products, services or applications offered in the region and have an innovative character and particular relevance, especially as they relate to the ease of use. Institutions or individuals originating in any country of Latin America and the Caribbean may participate. The deadline for the competition is **18 September 2015**, and one must send a report that reflects the objective, methodology and results achieved by the initiative in question, as well as the detailed project information and its relationship with the GeoSUR program. The documentation shall be sent to the following email address: [premios@ipgh.org](mailto:premios@ipgh.org) and/or [secretariageneral@ipgh.org](mailto:secretariageneral@ipgh.org). The prize consists of \$ 2,000 in cash, which will be awarded the project leader on behalf of the institution concerned.

Fuente: [https://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/files/eoSUR\\_Premio\\_2015.pdf](https://www.ipgh.org/GeoSUR/files/eoSUR_Premio_2015.pdf)

### 3rd Latin American Remote Sensing Week (LARS 2016), 29 March – 1 April 2015 Santiago de Chile

The 3rd Latin American Remote Sensing Week (LARS 2016) will be held March 29 – April 1 in Santiago de Chile, in 2016. Abstract deadline: **30 September 2015**. Early registration rates available until 2 November 2015.

Source: <http://www.lars.cl/index.php/en/>



## North America Region SDI News

### USA: Report on plans for a new national spatial reference system now available

The National Geodetic Survey (NGS), an office of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is planning to replace the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) with new datums in 2022. To educate stakeholders about these changes, a "2015 Geospatial Summit on Improving the National Spatial Reference System" was held in April, 2015. The NGS has released its final report on the Summit, which summarizes the presentations and discussions at the Summit. See:

<http://www.geodesy.noaa.gov/2015GeospatialSummit/ReportFromThe2015GeospatialSummitv7.pdf>

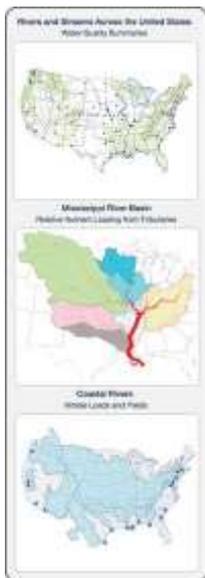
Powerpoint presentations and video recordings from the Summit also are available at:

<http://www.geodesy.noaa.gov/2015GeospatialSummit/>

NGS will host a webinar called "Debriefing the 2015 Geospatial Summit" on September 10, 2015, at 2 pm eastern ([http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/science\\_edu/webinar\\_series/Webinars.shtml](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/science_edu/webinar_series/Webinars.shtml)). This webinar will summarize what NGS heard from its stakeholders and how NGS plans to incorporate this feedback into its future plans. Registration for the webinar is at: [http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/science\\_edu/webinar\\_series/Webinars.shtml](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/science_edu/webinar_series/Webinars.shtml).

Source: <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisconsin-geospatial-news/report-on-plans-for-a-new-national-spatial-reference-system-now-available.html>

### **USA: New online tool tracks water quality in the nation's rivers and streams**



A new USGS online tool provides graphical summaries of nutrients and sediment levels in rivers and streams across the Nation. The online tool can (<http://cida.usgs.gov/quality/rivers/home>) be used to compare recent water-quality conditions to long-term conditions (1993-2014), download water-quality datasets (streamflow, concentrations, and loads), and evaluate nutrient loading to coastal areas and large tributaries throughout the Mississippi River Basin.

"Clean water is essential for public water supplies, fisheries, and recreation. It's vital to our health and economy," said William Werkheiser, USGS associate director for water. "This annual release of water quality information in graphical form will provide resource managers with timely information on the quality of water in our rivers and streams and how it is changing over time."

Graphical summaries of nutrients and sediment are available for 106 river and stream sites monitored as part of the USGS National Water-Quality Network for Rivers and Streams.

This tool was developed by the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment Program (<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/>), which conducts regional and national assessments of the nation's water quality to provide an understanding of water-quality conditions, whether conditions are getting better or worse over time, and how natural processes and human activities affect those conditions.

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4285>

### **DOT's 2015 transportation infrastructure data now available**



The U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics released the 2015 edition of the National Transportation Atlas Databases (NTAD) in July 2015. The NTAD is a compilation of datasets representing the nation's transportation infrastructure including more than 500,000 miles of roadway, over 610,000 bridges, and 19,527 airports. The 2015 edition also includes additional attribute information for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration highway crash data. This year's NTAD consists of 36 data themes containing a total of 57 individual

data layers, 24 of which have been updated within the last year. The NTAD also includes: the national rail network in addition to a separate subset of Amtrak rail lines only, non-attainment areas, national parks, and populated place names, among other data layers. NTAD 2015 is provided in shapefile format, which is compatible with most Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software, with International Organization for Standards (ISO) formatted metadata for all shapefiles. These data are also available online for downloading at [http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov/bts/files/publications/national\\_transportation\\_atlas\\_database/2015/index.html](http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/sites/rita.dot.gov/bts/files/publications/national_transportation_atlas_database/2015/index.html).

Source: [http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press\\_releases/dot067\\_15](http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/press_releases/dot067_15)

### **USDA/Microsoft "Innovation Challenge" offers \$60K in prizes to software developers**

USDA's Innovation Challenge is asking software developers to create applications using USDA data to achieve better resilience in food systems. It is hoped that this will help meet the challenge of climate change, based on agricultural datasets collected over more than a century. The datasets will be hosted by Microsoft Azure, allowing remote access and the development of complex models.

USDA has been compiling data for more than a century on the health of crops around the country. This information, taken from economic reports, farm production surveys, satellite imagery, and remote sensors, covers the full spectrum of factors faced by farmers, businesses, communities and individuals. Working with Microsoft, USDA is for the first time placing key datasets in the hands of people who can help us find new ways to address factors that threaten our ability to feed a growing global population. The challenge offers \$60,000 in prizes and cloud computing awards for researchers. The deadline for entries is **November 2015**. Full details can be found at <http://usdaapps.challengepost.com>.

Source: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/07/24/usdamicrosoft-innovation-challenge-offers-60k-in-prizes-to-software-developers/>

### **USA: National States Geographic Information Council Annual Conference 5-9 October 2015, Kansas City, Missouri**

For twenty-three years, the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) has fostered efficient and effective geospatial programs, technologies, and policies in government. Members of NSGIC include senior state Geographic Information Officers (GIOs) and coordinators from across the United States. Other members include representatives from Federal agencies, local government, the private sector, academia and other professional organizations. A rich and diverse group, the NSGIC membership includes nationally and internationally recognized experts.



In 2015, NSGIC will be particularly concerned with national programs for developing transportation, address, elevation and imagery data to enable Next Generation 9-1-1 and new efforts to build more resilient communities. This technology creates intelligent maps and data that enable public and private decision-makers to make better informed and timely decisions in all governmental agencies, including such diverse areas as public safety, economic development, health and human services, environmental protection, facilities management, taxation, education, emergency management, and transportation.

At the NSGIC annual conference, participants will gain access to this network of geospatial professionals and discuss relevant topics. NSGIC has not released a full agenda for this conference yet, this page will be updated as more information becomes available.

Note also: 17 NSGIC Strategic Goals Approved; the NSGIC Strategic Goals can be found at the following link. [http://www.nsgic.org/public\\_resources/NSGIC\\_Strategic\\_Goals\\_2015-2017\\_Approved.pdf](http://www.nsgic.org/public_resources/NSGIC_Strategic_Goals_2015-2017_Approved.pdf)

Source: <http://www.nsgic.org/2015-nsgic-annual-conference>

### **ASPRS UAS Technical Demonstration and Symposium – September 29 – September 30 2015, Reno, Nevada**



The second annual technical UAS symposium sponsored by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) is scheduled for September 29-30, 2015 in Reno, Nevada. Expanding on the highly successful format and events of last year's symposium, this year's event will

include test flights, UAS data processing, and workshops. The purpose is to assemble UAS developers and researchers, along with geospatial service providers and users of geospatial map data, to share information, showcase new technologies and demonstrate UAS systems in action (in flight).

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

### **Canada: Quebec launches new FOSS4G GIS called IGO**



IGO (for Open GIS Infrastructure) is a Free Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) developed by organisations in the government of Quebec in Canada. The objective is to make it open, common, modular, based on open governance model supported by multiple organisations. IGO is a Web GIS software with a client & server component to manage and publish massive amount of Geospatial data.

Since this project is open source, anyone can contribute as long as they share their work on the same open source LGPL compatible licence. All contributors in IGO keep their property rights. IGO is looking for involvement from other public administrations (local, regional and national), private enterprises, developers in Canada or elsewhere to contribute to the project.

Source: <http://www.gogeomatics.ca/magazine/quebec-launches-new-foss4g-gis-called-igo.htm>; <http://igouverte.org/english/>

### Canada: GeoAlberta 2015 – Learn, Share & Network, 26-28 October 2015, Edmonton



The 13th annual GeoAlberta Conference is shaking things up this year. Lucky 13 means more high impact keynotes and more value to your professional career development.

In addition to the educational presentations and tradeshow GeoAlberta is known for, sharing and networking with your industry peers and clients will be a key part of the event. Join nearly 400 Geomatics industry movers and shakers in special interest group breakout sessions, meet and mingle lunch hours, and interactive group workshops. These new sessions will cover the myriad of ways we're using Geomatics and GIS in our various fields, from utilities to oil and gas to unmanned aerial vehicles. We hope these conversations will spill out into informal discussions in our designated networking and sharing spaces for further collaboration.

GeoAlberta 2015 will be the industry's top knowledge-sharing opportunity in Western Canada. With surveyors, GIS specialists, municipalities, oil and gas, planners, and governmental policy makers all under one roof, there's plenty of opportunity to hear about the newest applications of technology and where the industry is headed. Throughout the three days, you can engage with a broader industry audience as we live tweet with the hashtag #GeoAlberta. So this October 26-28, come to GeoAlberta 2015 with your best ideas, innovative projects, and tough questions. Having so many of Alberta's top Geomatics and GIS minds in one place, the event is sure to have an answer.

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

### Canada: Esri Canada User Conference, October 6, 2015, Ottawa



Esri Canada's annual User Conferences continue to be the best opportunity to discover exciting new developments in Esri's GIS solutions and to network with your peers and industry experts. Come discover how GIS is creating our future: one where the ordinary is impacting the world in extraordinary ways. Learn what's new with the ArcGIS platform including ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online and much more. You'll learn how GIS is growing beyond traditional uses to become the cornerstone of new applications - both within traditional industries and new, emerging markets.

Source: <http://esri.ca/en/content/esri-canada-user-conference-2015-ottawa>

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## Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News

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### Saudi Arabia: GeoPortal Saudi

General Commission for Survey (GCS) and ROLTA are establishing a Saudi Arabia GeoPortal

(<https://geoportal.sa/start/index.html>) on

Yesser e-Government Infrastructure. As the

leading national organization in survey, mapping, charting, geographical information and hydrographic survey, the GCS mission centers around the production and marketing of geo-spatial survey information and services, improving relevant technologies, high quality manpower training and development, and cooperation with GCS partners to meet user and decision-maker requirements.



GCS established the Geospatial Information Center (GIC, <http://www.gcs.gov.sa/Geospatial-Information/Geospatial-Information-Center.aspx>) as a foundational unit to be the integrator and disseminator of geospatial information for GCS as well as related features and associated metadata. As depicted here, GIC is the center of GCS information flow responsible to identify and evaluate the sources, information processes and quality management aspects of the data.

See also: Capacity Development for the General Commission for Survey,

[http://www.sa.undp.org/content/saudi\\_arabia/en/home/operations/projects/democratic\\_governance/89732.html](http://www.sa.undp.org/content/saudi_arabia/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/89732.html)

Source: <http://www.gcs.gov.sa/Home.aspx>

### **Saudi Arabia: Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) SDI**



The Saudi Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) Geographic Information Portal and Geo-Explorer is considered an entrance to geographic information and its informational services relayed through the Internet which enables users to explore, display, access to data, special information, geographic metadata, and display the available services depends on its sources (map services). The portal will enable users to view the metadata for data which owned by each agency to facilitate the process of access to geographic data without trouble and to enable viewing and exploration by other units in MOMRA or in Amanat and municipalities, or even the private sector.

See also: MOMRA Surveys and Mapping, <https://www.momra.gov.sa/MinistryPrograms/index-surv.aspx>

Source: <http://geoportal.momra.gov.sa/GPT9/catalog/main/home.page>

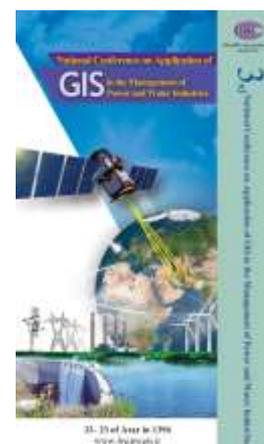
### **Iran: 3rd National GIS Conference, 13-14 December 2015, Sari, Mazandaran Province**

The third National GIS Conference (GIS and SDI) will be held on 13-14 December 2015, with the theme ‘Application of GIS in the management of power and water industry.’ The conference aims to improve the efficiency of electricity and water industry, offering the latest research findings and encouraging researchers planned. Sub-themes include:

1. Spatial data substructures (SDI) in the lighting and water industry
2. Application of GIS in the lighting industry
3. It platforms on GIS implementation:
4. Successfully experiences and achievement on GIS and SDI in Iran and World by topics on mobile GIS and web GIS.
5. Education and making culture GIS and SDI:
6. Investigating of economical effects on usage of SDI and GIS in lightly industry
7. Usage of GIS in water

Submission deadline: **November 21, 2015.**

Source: <http://www.3ncpwgis.ir/en/index.php?run=Main&Title=Conference%20Purpose&num=75>



### **Kuwait Integrated Environmental Information Network (KIEIN-IV): a way of developing national environmental indicators for better environmental information dissemination**



Author(s): Hamdy El-Gamily, Nader Al-Awadhi, Islam Abou El-Magd & Dorothy Watkins  
*Journal of Spatial Science*, published online: 17 February 2015

**Abstract:** One of the main challenges that Kuwait faces is the development of environmental indicators for sustainable development. For this purpose, the Kuwait Integrated Environmental Information Network multi-phase project (KIEIN, <http://kiein.weebly.com/index.html>) was initiated in 1994 with the main goal of developing an interactive environmental information platform. The final KIEIN-IV aims at developing the national environmental indicators, which will be embedded in a web service interface. Key issues behind this project are the dissemination of these indicators among society to maximise the societal benefits and foster the synergy and integration between different users to obtain the utmost benefit. The six main thematic areas, atmosphere and climate change, land, coastal and marine environment, fresh water, biodiversity, and waste management, were

developed for the KIEIN GeoPortal. These themes are key environmental issues that are broken down into indicators. In this regard, six Themes, 22 Issues and 65 Indicators were listed.

See KIEIN-IV: [http://www.kw.undp.org/content/kuwait/en/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energy/kuwait-integrated-environmental-information-network-phase-iv.html](http://www.kw.undp.org/content/kuwait/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/kuwait-integrated-environmental-information-network-phase-iv.html)

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14498596.2015.1004655>

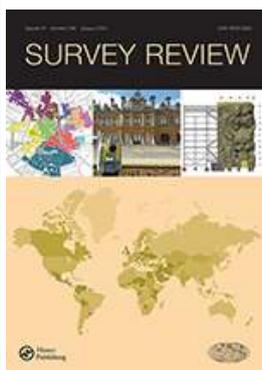
### **Oman Geospatial Forum, 23-24 November 2015, Muscat**

The Oman Geospatial Forum, scheduled for 23-24 November 2015 in Muscat, will bring together like-minded professionals and experts and provide them with opportunities to share their knowledge, experiences and thoughts. The two-day event is geared towards promoting the usage and growth of geospatial technology in Oman.



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

### **Oman: Establishment of new Oman National Geodetic Datum (ONGD14)**



Author(s): Y. Al-Toobi, S. Al-Hashmi, B. Al-Busaidi, I. Al-Balushi, S. Ses  
*Survey Review*, Published online: 17 November 2014 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** The main objective of enhancing national geodetic control is to create a homogenous horizontal survey control for the country. The realisation of a new geocentric datum, namely the Oman National Geodetic Datum (ONGD14), provides the GPS user community with a modern surveying infrastructure. The existing national geodetic control will be strengthened through the enhancement of the old control network and the future establishment of GPS Oman National CORS Network stations. A dedicated project has been initiated by the National Survey Authority of Oman (<http://www.nsaom.org.om>) for the establishment of ONGD14. The first task involves checking the quality of the existing geodetic network of first and second order GPS control stations. This was then followed by carrying out a longer GPS geodetic measurement campaign involving 20 existing control stations throughout the country. GPS processing for precise baselines computation using Bernese software has been carried out. In realising the ONGD14, a network of 20 occupied control stations was connected to almost 50 IGS sites in the vicinity of Oman. A nation-wide combined network adjustment of common station coordinates in latest solution of ITRF2008 frame epoch 2013 (ITRF2008@2013) was then performed to establish the ONGD14.

Keywords: Geocentric Datum, GPS, Geodesy

See also: The role of National Survey Authority (NSA) in providing geospatial data that can be used as solution for flooding problems, [http://www.drainageoman.com/National%20Survey%20Authority%20\(NSA\).pdf](http://www.drainageoman.com/National%20Survey%20Authority%20(NSA).pdf); Oman Moves Ahead with New Geodetic Datum, <http://geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=31053>; Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Sultanate of Oman, <http://mycoordinates.org/spatial-data-infrastructure-in-the-sultanate-of-oman/>

Source: <http://www.maneyonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/1752270614Y.0000000143>

### **Morocco: 7th National Congress on Land Policy Fit for Purpose for Sectorial Strategies 22-24 October 2015, Rabat**

The 7th National Congress on Land Policy, organised by Ordre National des Ingénieurs Géomètres Topographes (ONIGT, <http://www.onigt.ma>), supported by FIG Commission 7, has the aim to bring together different actors, to implement the main pillars of an inclusive and gradable land policy. This should take into account the operational guidelines that fit for purpose of many sectorial strategies. It would be an opportunity of a concerted enquiry of the Executive, as the initiator of a long-term strategy, and the Legislative at the short and medium terms. The event includes an Expert Forum to explore views of international experts.



The main topics to be dealt with are gathered in six pillars that constitute the basic framework of the concerns of many stakeholders in the domain of land policy:

- The institutional framework of land policy
- Land regime from regulation to practicing
- Paradigms of Land governance: Policies/institutions`
- Land management: Relationship and shortcoming
- Scientific and technological progress in land policy
- International experience in land administration

All scientific papers and notes shall be submitted as extended to the ONIGT according to the topics of the congress by **September 5, 2015**.

Source: [http://www.fig.net/events/2015/onigt\\_oct.pdf](http://www.fig.net/events/2015/onigt_oct.pdf) ; <http://www.onigt.org/actualites/7%C3%A8me-congr%C3%A9s-de-lonigt-0>

### **Regional Knowledge Network on Water (RKNOW) Conference 16-17 November 2015, Tangiers – Tetouan, Morocco**

**Theme: Towards effective implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management in Arab region**



RKNOW project has launched a regional initiative to promote knowledge sharing and implementation of Systemic Approaches to Water Resources Management. RKNOW project, co-funded by European Union under the ENPI special measure for a

Neighborhood Civil Society Facility, is a 3 year regional project coordinated by IUCN-ROWA (Jordan) with partnership of Abdelmalek Essaâdi University from Morocco, CEDARE from Egypt, Palestinian Hydrology Group from Palestine, SPNL from Lebanon, AWO from Jordan, and support of SEMIDE-EMWIS from France and IUCN-GWP from Switzerland. RKNOW is structured around the four thematic areas: Water Governance, Water-Food-Energy Nexus, Sustainable Water Technologies, and Water and Climate Change.

The overall objective of the International Workshop “Towards effective implementation of integrated water management in Arab region”, to be held in Tangier-Tetouan on 16-17 November 2015, is to strengthen networking and knowledge sharing between different stakeholders, with specific focus on :

- Identify priorities in water management and governance from national and international perspectives
- Share best practices in water management and governance at local level
- Develop local municipalities, civil society and research institutes engagement, capacities building and knowledge sharing in water management and governance

Source: <http://www.rknow.net/index.php/en/resources-en/news/item/regional-knowledge-network-on-water-rknow-regional-conference-towards-effective-implementation-of-integrated-water-resources-management-iwrm-in-arab-region-16112015-17112015-tangiers-tetouan-morocco>

### **UAE Drones for Good Award 2015 competition now open**



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government is inviting the most innovative and creative minds to use drones to find solutions that will improve people’s lives and provide positive technological solutions to modern day issues.

The UAE Drones for Good Award has two parts: a national competition and an international competition. Each carries a prize of different amounts and is open to different criteria, but both are dedicated to rewarding the most innovative implementations of drones that have the potential to improve people’s lives. The closing date for submissions is **November 1, 2015**.

Source: <http://www.dronesforgood.ae/>

### **Collaborative governance matters to e-Government interoperability:**

**An analysis of citizen-centric integrated interoperable e-Government implementation in Saudi Arabia**



Author(s): Akemi Takeoka Chatfield, Jazem AlAnazi

*International Journal of Public Administration in the Digital Age (IJPADA)*, Volume 2, Issue 3 (2015) [Not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** With the imperative of e-government for better transparency, accountability and public services, the problem of low-level citizen adoption of e-government services has been recognized in developed and developing countries. This pressing problem needs socio-technological, political, and cultural perspectives. In this study, we develop an integrative research model by extending extant Technology Acceptance Model through the incorporation of a set of social, political, and cultural constructs: trust, perceived public value, and national culture. The model is then tested using a large-scale, multi-site survey research of 413 Jordanian citizens. Our results find strong evidence that citizen attitude toward using e-

government services is the most significant determinant of citizen intention to adopt and use e-government services. Citizen attitude, in turn, is jointly determined by perceived public value and perceived ease of use. These results have managerial implications that the government needs to pay closer attention to influencing citizen attitude toward using e-

government services.

Keywords: E-government adoption; Attitude; Technology Acceptance Model (TAM); Culture; Trust; Perceived public value

Source: <http://www.igi-global.com/article/collaborative-governance-matters-to-e-government-interoperability/122570>

### **North Africa and Near East: Open-access database to help water-scarce countries get more crop per drop**



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

A new open-access data portal to be developed by FAO will use satellite imagery to provide insights into more efficient and productive use of agricultural waters – helping water-scarce countries in North Africa and the Near East better manage the resource. The aim of the new data portal – to be developed in October – is to collect and analyze satellite information to improve land and water productivity and boost the sustainability of agricultural systems. All information will be openly available for countries and users who need it. The four-year project is being financed by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by FAO in collaboration with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and other partners.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/326000/icode/>

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## **Global SDI News**

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### **Projects Selected for 2015 GSDI Small Grants Support**

Since its launch in 2003, the GSDI Association's Small Grants Program has supported more than 100 projects around the world. Support for the program comes from a partnership between the GSDI Association, the U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee, Canada's GeoConnections Program, and the GISCorps of URISA. Three types of awards are available: a cash award of up to US\$ 2500 per project; SDI/GIS consulting services up to the value of US\$ 2500; or a combination of cash award and SDI/GIS consulting services. The consulting services are offered through the GISCorps.

In 2015, GSDI secured additional funding from the GeoConnections Program within Natural Resources Canada for four more GSDI Small Grant projects which were selected from highly rated 2014 proposals and come from Ecuador, Jamaica, Indonesia, and South Africa.

Title: ***GeoCommunity Galapagos: Creating a Community-Based SDI for the Galapagos Islands***

Institution: GeoCentro - Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), Ecuador

Project summary: This project supports the development of a community-based SDI Galapagos (GeoCommunity Galapagos) that will allow local authorities and communities in the Galapagos Islands to take informed actions in meeting the challenges of sustaining a vulnerable and unique island ecosystem in the 21st century. Project deliverables include:

- A conceptual framework for the community-based SDI Galapagos including a GeoCommunication framework focusing on citizen participation in spatial planning
- A system architecture and design of the SDI Galapagos.
- Implementation of flagship projects that are simple and easy-to-use GIS-applications based on shared spatial data and information.
- Publications in scientific media/conferences and local media and an online tutorial for designing and implementation community-based SDIs.

Title: ***Survey of SDI Readiness in Indonesian Local Government***

Institution: Research Centre for Spatial Data Infrastructure Development (PPIDS), Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Project summary: This project will complete a comprehensive survey of SDI readiness at the local government level. The survey will obtain evidence-based information required to devise appropriate strategies for SDI development. The project deliverables include:

- Web-based self-assessment tools for SDI Readiness.
- Interactive maps of Indonesian Local Government's SDI Readiness. The map will also present an interactive analysis of SDI components and roles.
- A workshop for validation and analysis as well as launching the web-based tools and maps.

Title: **Upgrading in the National Metadata Portal**

Institution: National Spatial Data Management Division, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment, Climate Change, Jamaica

Project summary: This project supports upgrading the current metadata portal that is used by Land Information Council of Jamaica (LICJ) member organizations. The portal will enable discovery and use of geospatial resources including datasets, rasters, and Web services and will support a standards-based clearinghouse and metadata discovery applications. The GSDI Small Grant supports this deliverables:

- Creation and publication of user guide for the platform.
- Creation and publishing of metadata records on the upgraded platform.

Title: **Developing a Framework for South African SDI Education and Training**

Institution: Committee for Spatial Information (South Africa), Sub-Committee on Education and Training

Project summary: The project will initiate a discussion on GIS market sector demand in Southern Africa with academics, researchers, and industry representatives. In addition, a survey of GIS user needs will be conducted in order to better inform education and training curricula. These are the planned deliverables for the project:

- A workshop to prepare a framework for South African SDI education and training, at the University of Pretoria.
- A survey of tertiary education sector curricula (SDI contact) in South Africa.
- A database of currently available SDI education and training material that will be published on a central web page.

Once completed, summaries and final reports of these projects will be posted to the GSDI Website by April 2016. Watch for subsequent news about these projects at that time.

**World Statistics Day: Better data. Better lives. 20 October 2015**



Official statistics help decision makers develop informed policies that impact millions of people. Improved data sources, sound statistical methods, new technologies and strengthened statistical systems enable better decisions that eventually result in better lives for all of us. On 20 October 2015, the global statistical community will showcase their

achievements and their ongoing work to help this vision come true.

Source: <https://worldstatisticsday.org/>

**Global Open Data Index now open for submissions**

After months of work and great feedback from all of you, the Global Open Data Index is now open for submissions - just visit <http://global.census.okfn.org/>.

Each year, governments make more data available in an open format. The Global Open Data Index tracks whether this data is actually released in a way that is accessible to citizens, media and civil society and is unique in crowd-sourcing its survey of open data releases around the world. Each year the open data community and the Open Knowledge Network produces an annual ranking of countries, peer reviewed by local open data experts.



Crowd-sourcing this data provides a tool for communities around the world to learn more about the open data available locally and by country, and ensures that the results reflect the experience of civil society in finding open information, rather than government claims of openness. It also ensures that those who actually collect the information that builds the Index are the very people who use the data and are in a strong position to advocate for more and higher quality open data.

The Global Open Data Index measures and benchmarks the openness of data around the world, and then presents this information in a way that is easy to understand and use. This increases its usefulness as an advocacy tool and broadens its impact. In 2015, the hope is to include 100+ countries (up from 90 in 2014 and 70 in 2013) with an emphasis on countries of the Global South.

Source: <http://global.census.okfn.org/about/>

### **European SDI (INSPIRE) Conference and Geospatial World Forum 2015 report now available**

The official report from the INSPIRE Conference 2015 and the Geospatial World Forum in May 2015 is now available. The theme of the conference was “Convergence – Policies, Practices, Processes and Public Private Partnerships”.



Source: [http://geospatialworldforum.org/2016/pdf/gwf\\_2015\\_report.pdf](http://geospatialworldforum.org/2016/pdf/gwf_2015_report.pdf)

### **Presentations from ISO/TC 211 Standards in Action Workshop, Southampton, UK, 10 June 2015**



The presentations from the June 2015 ISO/TC 211

Standards in Action Workshop are available online. The workshop was hosted by the Ordnance Survey in Southampton, United Kingdom. The next ISO/TC 211 Plenary and Meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia, December 7-11, 2015.

Notice of meeting: [http://www.isotc211.org/Sydney/ISO-TC211-N4085\\_41st\\_TC211\\_plenary\\_Notice\\_and\\_draft\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Sydney/ISO-TC211-N4085_41st_TC211_plenary_Notice_and_draft_agenda.pdf)

- Indonesia’s road map in standards for geospatial information  
Mr. Suprajaka, Head of Center for Geospatial Information Standardization, Geospatial Information Agency of the Republic of Indonesia  
[http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Suprajaka\\_Southampton\\_Workshop.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Suprajaka_Southampton_Workshop.pdf)
- The Polish method of harmonization of data models  
Mr. Zenon Parzynski, Główny Urząd Geodezji i Kartografii (GUGiK, the General Office of Geodesy and Cartography)  
[http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Parzynski\\_Southampton\\_Workshop.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Parzynski_Southampton_Workshop.pdf)
- European Location Framework - An open standard based multi-national web mapping project, building on INSPIRE  
Mr. Jari Reini, National Land Survey of Finland  
[http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Reini\\_Southampton\\_Workshop.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Reini_Southampton_Workshop.pdf)
- Alaska Data Integration Working Group (ADIwg) Open Source ISO Metadata Toolkit  
Mr. Stan Smith, US Geological Survey and Mr. Josh Bradley, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
[http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Smith\\_Bradley\\_Southampton\\_Workshop.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Presentations/Smith_Bradley_Southampton_Workshop.pdf)

Source: [http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Workshop\\_Southampton.htm](http://www.isotc211.org/Southampton2015/Workshop/Workshop_Southampton.htm)

### **e-Forum on Sustainable Development Goals: the impact of access to information on our Societies 7-18 September 2015**

Sustainable Development Goals: The Impact of Access to Information on our Societies



The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and COAR, are organising an e-forum on “Sustainable Development Goals: The Impact of Access to Information on our Societies” which will take place from 7-18 September 2015.

This online event has the objective of providing a forum for institutions and individuals to discuss how libraries and information centers can promote the adoption of access to information as part of the post-2015 agenda, in particular United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Lyon Declaration, an advocacy document being used to positively influence the content of the UN post-2015 development agenda, will play a key role in this discussion.

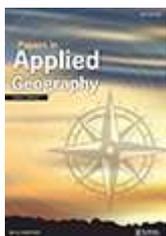
The event will offer webcasts by experts to provide important background information for participants and to help stimulate dialogue and discussion around three main questions:

- What are the ways that access to information (and more narrowly open access) contributes to sustainable development? Please elaborate in case studies and examples if possible.
- How can libraries and information centres promote the adoption of access to information as part of the “post-2015 agenda, in particular SDGs”? Have you considered contacting your relevant Ministries to ensure that access to information, open access, and information providers (such as libraries and information centres) are reflected in the National Development plans?
- What can we do collectively – for example, through COAR, FAO and IFLA- to raise awareness of open access and access to information in the context of SDG discussion?

The e-forum is aimed at information professionals in general, any person related to access to information, libraries, information centers is invited and encouraged to participate in the forum. It is open to anyone, places are not limited. If you are interested to participate in this online event, use the form at <https://dgroups.org/fao/ciard-econsultation/sdgs-impact-access-information-societies/join>. If you have any questions, please contact COAR Executive Director Kathleen Shearer ([Kathleen.shearer@coar-repositories.org](mailto:Kathleen.shearer@coar-repositories.org)) or [AIMS@fao.org](mailto:AIMS@fao.org).

Source: <https://www.coar-repositories.org/news-media/sustainable-development-goals-the-impact-of-access-to-information-on-our-societies-e-forum-7-18-september-2015/>

### **Improved availability of census data: a first look at the Gridded Population of the World, version 4**



Erin Doxsey-Whitfielda, Kytt MacManusa, Susana B. Adamoa, Linda Pistolessia, John Squiresa, Olena Borkovskaa & Sandra R. Baptistaa  
*Applied Geography*, published online 24 July 2015 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Global gridded population data are increasingly being applied to a broad range of fields. This article presents improvements made in the fourth version of the Gridded Population of the World (GPWv4) data set. GPWv4 is a minimally modeled data set that uses uniform distribution to disaggregate census data from their native input units into a thirty arc-second global grid. Due to an increase in freely accessible census data from the 2010 round of censuses, eighty-seven countries are gridded at a higher administrative level than in the previous version, with a more than fivefold increase in the total number of census units outside of the United States. The resultant decrease in unit size has greatly improved the data set accuracy. Additionally, version 4 has expanded to include grids of age, sex, and urban–rural status. Obtaining high-resolution census data and matching census geography remains a priority for improving global gridded population data sets.

Keywords: census geography, GPWv4, gridded population, uniform distribution

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23754931.2015.1014272>

### **Esri Ocean GIS Forum: Collect, Collaborate, Transform, 4-6 November 2015, Redlands, California, USA**



What scientists know about the ocean helps the rest of us make better choices. Attend the Esri Ocean GIS Forum to share ideas with colleagues and shape the future of GIS design. Discuss ways multi-dimensional data and web apps can help people put scientific information to work. Consider the potential of online platforms for sharing knowledge across disciplines and collaborating with multiple

stakeholders. This is your chance to work with the ocean GIS community as it forges new concepts in ocean analytics and applications.

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

### **Call for proposals: 2016 OCLC/ALISE Library & Information Science Research Grant Program**



In recognition of the importance of research to the advancement of librarianship and information science, OCLC and ALISE promote independent research that helps integrate new technologies that offer innovative approaches and contributes to a better understanding of the information environment and user expectations and behaviors. Research related (but not limited) to the following areas is encouraged:

- Impact of digital technology on libraries, museums, and archives
- Social media, learning, and information-seeking behavior
- New developments in knowledge organization (metadata, social tagging, linked data, etc.)

[The major OCLC Research themes listed at: <http://www.oclc.org/research/activities.html>]

Full-time academic faculty in schools of library and information science or related fields are eligible to apply. OCLC and ALISE encourage international proposals and collaborative projects under this program. To aid new researchers, priority will be given when possible to proposals from junior faculty and applicants who have not previously received LISRGP funds. Proposals must be signed by the principal investigator, by the dean/director (or equivalent) of the school, and by an authorized official of the university. Applications must be submitted by 23:59:59 your local time on **15 September 2015**.

Source: <http://www.oclc.org/research/grants/call.html>; <http://www.oclc.org/content/dam/research/grants/call.pdf>

**Call for papers: Conceptualizations of Development in ICT4D  
Special Issue of Information Technology for Development**

Submission deadline: **13 November 2015**

Seeking to raise conceptual awareness in our field, this special issue calls for papers that consider how we define development and how we conceive the role of ICT in relation to development. In particular, the Editors encourage critical and reflective discussions of when and how we can claim that ICT contributes to development. Beyond the actual definition, this includes epistemological issues regarding how we can come to know when, how and why development takes place, as well as methodological issues regarding how we can evaluate development processes and outcomes.

Source: <http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/est/titd-ict4d-special-issue>



**Call for papers: Making Openness Work for ICT4D: Experiences and Approaches**

Submission deadline: **November 1, 2015.**



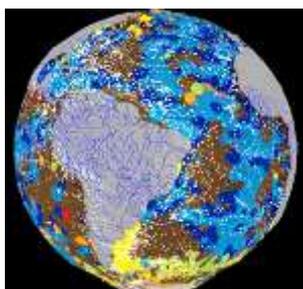
The promise of openness, reflected in for example open source software, open data and open information, is attractive for ICT4D initiatives. Openness is an outcome of sharing and collaborative

efforts that reduce costs and produce public goods. Thus, openness should be of relevance in developing countries, and in particular where resources are constrained and where silo thinking and isolated initiatives prevail. Unfortunately, we note that this potential is often not realized.

This EJISDC special issue on “Making Openness Work for ICT4D” will seek to shed light on how the promise of openness can be realized in our field. Our aim is to explore experiences from a broad range of ICT4D initiatives working towards openness in its different facets. This entails improving our understanding of these different facets of openness for ICT4D, the challenges associated with realizing its potential and successful approaches. The contributions to this special issue will leverage on experiences from developing countries, and we encourage empirical papers that work towards conceptualizing openness for ICT4D, and building learning from them. We also expect the contributions to critically discuss the foundations, the potential of and the role of openness, and whether it represents hype or reality or both, and why.

Source: <http://www.ifipwg94.org/> ; <http://www.ejisdc.org/ojs2/index.php/ejisdc/announcement/view/17>

**Digitizing the Ocean Floor**



Researchers at the University of Sydney’s School of Geosciences have created the world’s first digital map of seafloor geology, which provides data on 40 years of changes to the composition of the ocean floor. The map, constructed using data from over 15,000 seafloor samples, will help scientists understand the impact of environmental changes on the world’s oceans. The digital data and interactive map are freely available as open access resources. <http://portal.gplates.org/#SEAFLOOR>

The map has been published in the latest edition of *Geology*; it will assist scientists in understanding more about how oceans are affected, and will be affected to environmental change. It has been also found that the deep ocean basins will be more complex than what was thought earlier.

Source: <http://sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2015/08/10/big-data-maps-world-s-ocean-floor.html>

**NASA releases dataset of global temperatures and rainfall from 1950 to 2100**



NASA released a dataset projecting temperatures and rainfall throughout the world from 1950 to 2100. The project, called The NASA Earth Exchange Global Daily Downscaled Projections (NEX-GDDP) has been developed using 21 different climate models as well as vast amounts of satellite data and can be visualised on a global map, or down to the spatial scale of individual towns and cities.

The 25-kilometer spatial resolution provides scientists and policymakers with a possibility to study distant-future daily weather scenarios in more detail. Each of the climate projections includes maximum temperature,

minimum temperature and precipitation for a given day within the time period.

The aim of the project is to facilitate research on climate change and its impact at local and regional scales, as well as to increase public understanding of potential climate patterns within individual cities and communities. Finally, the information gathered could be useful for policy making processes, allowing decision-makers to react to drought, floods, heat waves and other extreme weather linked to climate change in a timely manner.

Source: <https://nex.nasa.gov/nex/projects/1356/>

### **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.gsdi.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](mailto: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](mailto:news@gsdi.org).



***“Advancing a Location Enabled World”***