



## **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**

**May, 2014 – Vol. 1, No. 1**

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).



You can subscribe or unsubscribe to the regional newsletter or change your email address online at <http://gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe>.



### ***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 [lancekt@aya.yale.edu](mailto:lancekt@aya.yale.edu) and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

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

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

### ***Message from the Editor***

Do you find yourself getting so consumed with work that you have little time to take notice of what others are doing? Short of saying that it's all too easy to have our heads in the sand as we rush around getting a report, software update, or workshop agenda out the door, it's also challenging to keep up when the geospatial community is ever increasing its activity. GSDI's newly reformatted Regional Newsletter – bringing several regions together into one publication – is at least one avenue you can rely upon to get an overview of updates, reports, and opportunities pertaining to spatial data infrastructure (SDI) developments around the globe. Each monthly Regional Newsletter issue culls the most pertinent news articles, papers, policy documents, and calls for proposals from GSDI's website (currently under development). GSDI has been providing an amalgam of SDI news and opportunities since May 2002, when the first SDI-Africa newsletter was published, followed shortly thereafter by the SDI-LAC and SDI-AP newsletters. We are pleased to continue this service in a more condensed publication, and as always, we welcome content and suggestions from the geospatial community to strengthen this service.



***Kate Lance, News Editor***

## Sub-Saharan African Region SDI News

### **Kenya: NSDI amongst 5 key projects announced under the National ICT Master Plan**



There have been repeated public outcries for digitizing of land records in the country for a while. In the ICT masterplan, this has been taken care of by the NSDI flagship project. The project will include unique land identifiers and a national land management system. The direct benefits to citizens will include a citizens' portal on land titles instead of the tedious (and most times inefficient) land search process. Related services on land will also be possible through Huduma services in tandem with E-Government service goals.

Source: <http://www.connected.go.ke/5-key-projects-announced-national-ict-master-plan/>

### **Tanzania: 2012 Tanzania Population and Housing Census – Shapefiles available**



The 2012 Population and Housing Census (PHC, <http://www.nbs.go.tz/sensa/new.html>) for the United Republic of Tanzania was carried out on the 26th August, 2012. This was the fifth Census after the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964. Other Censuses were carried out in 1967, 1978, 1988 and 2002. The 2012 PHC, like others, will contribute to the improvement of quality of life of Tanzanians through the provision of current and reliable data for development planning, policy formulation and services delivery, as well as for monitoring and evaluating national and international development frameworks.

Source: [http://www.nbs.go.tz/takwimu/references/GIS\\_Maps.zip](http://www.nbs.go.tz/takwimu/references/GIS_Maps.zip)

### **Tchad: L'IGN remet aux autorités du Tchad des fonds photographiques et cartographiques d'une valeur inestimable**



Le Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat (MATUH) et l'Institut national français pour l'information géographique et forestière (IGN France) ont organisé le 30 avril à l'hôtel Méridien Chari à N'Djamena, en présence des plus hautes autorités de la République du Tchad, une cérémonie de signature et de présentation du programme de transfert au gouvernement du Tchad des fonds photographiques et cartographiques historiques d'un intérêt patrimonial inestimable. Voir aussi: "Les données d'autorité restent un instrument de souveraineté" - Pascal Berteaud, DG de l'IGN - see:

<http://www.lagazettedescommunes.com/215692/les-donnees-dautorite-restant-un-instrument-de-souverainete-pascal-berteaud-dg-de-lign/>

*English summary:* IGN France remits to authorities of Chad of photographic and cartographic assets of inestimable value

The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and the Habitat (MATUH) and the French national institute for geographical information and forestry (IGN France) organized on 30 April 2014, in the presence of the highest authorities of the Republic of Chad, a signing ceremony and presentation of the program to transfer to the government of Chad an invaluable assembly of photographic and cartographic materials of significant historical and heritage interest.

Source: <http://lists.gsd.org/pipermail/sdi-europe/attachments/20140430/5f2d58cf/attachment-0001.pdf>

## **Sénégal: Journée d'information et d'échange sur la mise en place d'une base de données géospatiales**



Le Groupe Interinstitutionnel de Concertation et de Coordination en géomatique du Sénégal (GICC) a organisé le 26 Mars 2014, en collaboration avec le Projet d'Appui Canadien (PAC) au Plan National Géomatique (PNG), une rencontre d'information et d'échange pour la mise en place d'une base de données géospatiales prioritaires au Sénégal. Le Plan national géomatique du Sénégal, financé par la coopération canadienne, ambitionne de doter le Sénégal d'un cadre stratégique pour le développement et l'utilisation de la géomatique afin d'en faire un outil de développement durable.

Voir aussi: GéoFlash, Bulletin mensuel du Plan National Géomatique du Sénégal, No. 15 (Janvier 2014), <http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/IMG/pdf/geoflash-no15-janvier2014.pdf>; GéoSénégal, site de l'infrastructure nationale de gestion des données géographiques, <http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/>

*English summary:* A day of information and exchange on the establishment of a geospatial database.

The Interinstitutional Group for Consultation and Coordination of Geomatics of Senegal (IGCC) organized on March 26, 2014, in collaboration with the Project for Canadian Support (PAC) for the National Geomatics Plan (PNG), a meeting for information and exchange for the establishment of a prioritized geospatial database in Senegal.

*Source:* <http://www.geosenegal.gouv.sn/?Journee-d-information-et-d-echange-63>

## **Sahara/Sahel: Setting up a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the ROSELT/OSS Network**

Authors: M. Ajmi, M. H. Hamza, M. Labiadh, M. Yermani, N. Ben Khatra, A. S. Al-Thubaiti, I. A. Moharrem, A. El Arrim

*Journal of Geographic Information System (JGIS)*, Vol.6 No.2, 150-161 (April 2014)

**Abstract:** Environmental monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems are indispensable tools for sustainable land management, especially in dry and fragile ecosystems. The reporting and dissemination of its products and indicators are the key roles to perform their missions. Furthermore, the overall success of such multilateral projects and networks depends on well-organized infrastructures for spatial data management. A spatial data infrastructure (SDI) is an efficient framework to centralize the management of spatial data and information related to multilateral projects for the best sharing and exchange between partners and stakeholders in order to ensure that they are interactively connected to use the data efficiently and in a flexible manner. This paper outlines the work undertaken in partnership between the Geography and GIS Department of the Faculty of Arts, King Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia Kingdom, the Geomatics, Earth and Land Settlement Branch of the Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences of Tunis, Tunis El Manar University, Tunisia, and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory OSS which is an intergovernmental organization, in order to build a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the ROSELT/OSS program (Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Observatories Network in the Circum-Sahara of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory). This SDI is entirely developed using Open Source technologies and the extensive suite of OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) standards and specifications, to enable interoperability among and between its different components.

**Key Words:** SDI, Geospatial Data, Metadata, Geocatalogue, Webmapping, OGC

*Source:* <http://www.scirp.org/journal/PaperInformation.aspx?PaperID=44991>

## **RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa Small-scale Applications Project: Call for Concept Notes**

**Deadline: 13 May 2014**

This Annual Program Statement (APS) invites concept papers for the SERVIR-Africa Small Scale Applications Project, carried out under the auspices of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD). This project is carried out with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its objective is to build capacity in the region, and enhance uptake and/or add value through SERVIR Science Applications and Geo-Information Technology to better support decision-making. Eligible organizations are those within the RCMRD member states.

RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa anticipates awarding 5-10 project opportunities to successful applications submitted in response to this APS. Once awarded, the implementation phase of the contract will be 9-12 months, with one month (30 days) to close out and provide final reporting. Each Project funded under this APS will not exceed USD 50,000. Proposals in excess of this amount will be rejected as non-responsive and will not be evaluated. RCMRD/SERVIR-Africa may choose to incrementally fund the selected application(s).

Full proposals will be requested for the selected concept papers upon the first round of evaluations. It is likely that all of the available funds for this APS may be allocated to awards resulting from the first round of evaluations. This APS is seeking applicants to propose creative and effective approaches to climate change decision-making using geospatial information as outlined in the Overview Section.

Source: [http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact\\_id=1514](http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=1514)

## **Esri Africa User Conference 2014 Postponed**



On 7 February 2014, the South African government announced that the much-anticipated national and provincial elections would be held on 7 May 2014. Due to the South African national elections, the Esri Africa User Conference (<http://www.esri.com/events/auc>) originally scheduled for May 6-8, 2014 in Cape Town, had been postponed. While this postponement is regrettable, the conference organizers could not ignore the magnitude and importance of the election. The organizers sincerely apologise for this postponement and hope that you will join them at the rescheduled AUC. The Cape Town International Convention Centre, a world-class venue where the conference was to be held, is extremely sought after, and the organizers are in the process of negotiating alternative dates. The new dates will be announced shortly.

Source:

[http://www.esri.com/events/~/\\_media/Images/Content/events/auc/Esri\\_AUC\\_Postponement\\_Notice\\_032514.pdf](http://www.esri.com/events/~/_media/Images/Content/events/auc/Esri_AUC_Postponement_Notice_032514.pdf)

## **Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News**

### **Malaysia: Sarawak Geoportal discloses rainforest damage**



Sarawak Geoportal discloses rainforest damage brought about by Petronas gas pipeline in Malaysian Borneo. With their new Sarawak Geoportal, the Swiss NGO, Bruno Manser Fund, brings transparency to a controversial gas pipeline project by Petronas, Malaysia's national oil and gas company. Satellite imagery and geographical maps are showing the exact location of the gas pipeline connecting the Sabah Oil and Gas Terminal in Kimanis with Petronas' Liquefied Natural Gas Complex in Bintulu, Sarawak.

Planned hydropower projects are online too. No less controversial than the gas pipeline are the plans of the Sarawak state Government to build 12 huge hydropower dams. The dams would flood more

than 2'300km<sup>2</sup> of tropical rainforest and would directly or indirectly effect an estimated population of 30'000 to 50'000 people. The new Geoportal of the Bruno Manser Fund provides insight into Sarawak's mega dam plans and the villages that would be affected by the implementation of the dams. The Geoportal is available not only in English but in Bahasa Malaysia too. This makes it easily accessible for everyone in Sarawak.

See: The Sarawak Geoportal (Malay/Bahasa Malaysia):

<http://www.bmfmaps.ch/MY/composer/#maps/1002>

The Sarawak Geoportal (English): <http://www.bmfmaps.ch/EN/composer/#maps/1001>

The Sarawak Geoportal of the Bruno Manser Fund aims to allow the user to understand the various environmental, social and political developments that are happening in Sarawak and to make these underlying issues more transparent. All maps, satellite images and shapefiles can be viewed, overlaid and tailored to fit to particular needs. Indigenous peoples of Sarawak have the possibility to use the Malay version of this Portal to gather information, which hopefully might help them to protect their native customary rights and land. Outsiders, NGO's or any other organisation can use the English version to get a better insight into the challenges and changes going on in Sarawak. For further instructions, contact: [geoportal@bmf.ch](mailto:geoportal@bmf.ch)

Source: <http://www.bmf.ch/en/news/sarawak-geoportal-discloses-rainforest-damage-brought-about-by-petronas-gas-pipeline-in-malaysian-borneo>

### **Indonesia: Ministry of Forestry receives Spatial Data Infrastructure-Readiness Index 2014 Award**



The Ministry of Forestry was awarded the Best Achievement "Indonesian Spatial Data Infrastructure-Readiness Index" Bhumandala Award 2014 from the Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) at the National Geospatial Week 2014 on April 21, 2014. The Award is an appreciation for the readiness of an agency / work unit / Ministry / Agency in the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the field (sector) respectively. This readiness is stipulated in Presidential Decree No. 85 of 2007, dated August 3, 2007. As one Network Node of the National Spatial Data Network (NSDN), the Ministry has successfully implemented the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in the forestry sector in a consistent way and co-developed a geospatial information system that has been established nationwide.

See also: Indonesia ONE MAP: Forging a functioning National Geospatial Information Network Infrastructure at:

[https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file\\_uploads/bcbd1c27b223e6aa52f6527d2a29dca4\\_SamadhiDrTNarita2A-SpatialSmartCities.pdf](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/bcbd1c27b223e6aa52f6527d2a29dca4_SamadhiDrTNarita2A-SpatialSmartCities.pdf)

Source: <http://www.dephut.go.id/index.php/news/details/9525>

### **Pakistan: Senate passes Bill for constitution, regulation of Survey of Pakistan (SOP)**



In April 2014, the Senate unanimously passed a Bill to provide for constitution and regulation of Survey of Pakistan (The Surveying and Mapping Bill, 2014). The Bill was moved by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Zahid Hamid. Survey of Pakistan (SOP), a National Mapping Organization is responsible to meet the surveying and mapping requirements of Armed Forces as well as other civil organizations. In the absence of any law and a regulatory authority, it was technically and legally difficult to keep a check on the unlawful activities.

The objectives of the Bill are to transform SOP into a National Mapping Agency, i.e., an authority regulating surveying and mapping activities in the country, to make it compulsory for all firms

involved in surveying and mapping to get registered with SOP and to stop unregistered firms to take part in surveying and mapping activities that can pose a security risk to the state. Other reasons include avoiding publication of efforts in the field of mapping especially in the public sector and to assess the mapping requirements of public and private sector on yearly basis.

See: The Surveying and Mapping Act, 2014, at:

[http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1397721138\\_588.pdf](http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1397721138_588.pdf)

Source: <http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/168688-senate-passes-bill-for-constitution-regulation-of-sop.html>

## **Geospatial Data Infrastructure: The development of metadata for geo-information in China**



Authors: Baiquan Xu, Shiqiang Yan, Qianju Wang, Jian Lian, Xiaoping Wu, and Keyong Ding

35th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE35)

*IOP Conf. Series: Earth and Environmental Science* 17 (2014)

**Abstract:** Stores of geoscience records are in constant flux. These stores are continually added to by new information, ideas and data, which are frequently revised. The geoscience record is in restrained by human thought and technology for handling information. Conventional methods strive, with limited success, to maintain geoscience records which are readily susceptible and renewable. The information system must adapt to the diversity of ideas and data in geoscience and their changes through time. In China, more than 400,000 types of important geological data are collected and produced in geological work during the last two decades, including oil, natural gas and marine data, mine exploration, geophysical, geochemical, remote sensing and important local geological survey and research reports. Numerous geospatial databases are formed and stored in National Geological Archives (NGA) with available formats of MapGIS, ArcGIS, ArcINFO, Metalfile, Raster, SQL Server, Access and JPEG. But there is no effective way to warrant that the quality of information is adequate in theory and practice for decision making. The need for fast, reliable, accurate and up-to-date information by providing the Geographic Information System (GIS) communities are becoming insistent for all geoinformation producers and users in China.

Since 2010, a series of geoinformation projects have been carried out under the leadership of the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR), including: (1) Integration, update and maintenance of geoinformation databases; (2) Standards research on clusterization and industrialization of information services; (3) Platform construction of geological data sharing; (4) Construction of key borehole databases; (5) Product development of information services. “Nine-System” of the basic framework has been proposed for the development and improvement of the geospatial data infrastructure, which are focused on the construction of the cluster organization, cluster service, convergence, database, product, policy, technology, standard and infrastructure systems. The development of geoinformation stores and services put forward a need for Geospatial Data Infrastructure (GDI) in China. In this paper, some of the ideas envisaged into the development of metadata in China are discussed.

Source: [http://iopscience.iop.org/1755-1315/17/1/012259/pdf/1755-1315\\_17\\_1\\_012259.pdf](http://iopscience.iop.org/1755-1315/17/1/012259/pdf/1755-1315_17_1_012259.pdf)

## **Kazakhstan: Country's first Earth observation satellite launched into orbit**



Kazakhstan's first-ever Earth observation satellite was fired into orbit on April 30, 2014 from the European spaceport in Kourou in French Guiana. The satellite, dubbed KazEOSat-1, will provide Kazakhstan with data for mapmaking and security, monitor changes in nature and agriculture, and provide support for rescue operations in case of natural disaster. See also: Kazakhstan's first Earth observation satellite to be

launched at the end of April, at:

[http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press\\_centre/kazakhstan-s-first-earth-observation-satellite-to-be-launched-at-the-end-of.html](http://www.astrium.eads.net/en/press_centre/kazakhstan-s-first-earth-observation-satellite-to-be-launched-at-the-end-of.html)

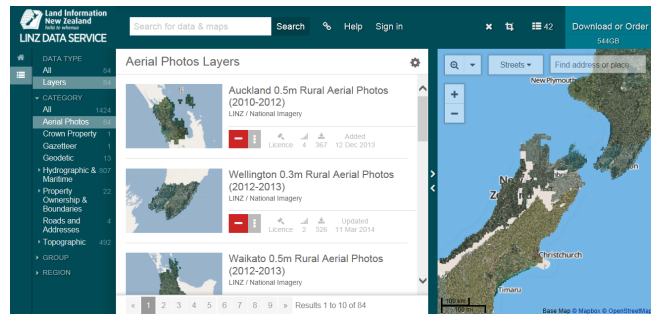
Source: <http://en.tengrinews.kz/science/Kazakhstans-observation-satellite-KazEOSat-1-launched-from-Kourou-253280/>

## New Zealand: LINZ offers aerial imagery under open licence



Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) Minister Maurice Williamson announced that the country's most current publicly-owned aerial imagery, covering 95% of New Zealand, is now available online through the LINZ Data Service. Land Information New Zealand has been working with other agencies to make the imagery available under an open licence, and to ensure it is accessible through the LINZ Data Service.

“Releasing publicly held aerial imagery for reuse has the potential to create cost savings for the public sector and generate economic benefits for the private sector. Imagery can be used to improve productivity in agriculture and forestry, and can be used in construction, engineering, disaster recovery planning, and land and asset management. Making aerial imagery available is in line with the government's goal to make more publicly held data accessible to as many people as possible,” he said.



LINZ is also working with local authorities and government agencies to establish a national programme for coordinating public sector imagery purchases. This will ensure imagery is purchased on an open licence and at a consistent standard, which will mean value for money and open access.

See: Press release: Aerial imagery now online for reuse (April 28, 2014) at: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/aerial-imagery-now-online-reuse>

## ***Understanding the provision of national location information in Australia: a PSMA case study***



Authors: Nilofer Christensen, Abbas Rajabifard & Dan Paull  
Journal of Spatial Science, Published online April 14, 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: The demand for geospatial information has risen greatly while supply is still catching up. Particularly in Australia, the availability of seamless national datasets is largely supply driven. An improved understanding of user needs is required in order for future initiatives to better account for the demand side of the location information market. This paper looks at the system of national location information in Australia, within the context of PSMA, a provider of authoritative national geospatial datasets. This is undertaken as the initial stage of a user needs assessment. Results provide a new conceptual understanding of the system with its external influences, constraints and opportunities. In particular, users are classified as a key stakeholder within the system. External influences of note are the activities of the Office of Spatial Policy, the Australian Government's whole-of-government initiatives and the need to move towards demand-driven or solutions-based spatial data themes.

Keywords: national location information, spatial information, geospatial information, end-users, demand-driven location information

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14498596.2014.880075>

## ***Fostering a culture of data appreciation at the Manila IW:LEARN ICT workshop***

On 17-20 March 2014, more than twenty representatives from various GEF international waters project and partner organizations, mainly from Asia and the Pacific, gathered at the Knowledge Hub (K-Hub) of the Asian Development Bank



(ADB) Headquarters in Manila to take part in the first full workshop on spatial data management organized by GEF IW:LEARN in partnership with the ADB and the World Bank. The four-day event provided a venue for experience and skills sharing, lectures and practical exercises, and collective action planning on geospatial data management, collaboration and publishing with the aid of open source tools.

See also: A suite of open source tools for geospatial data management, <http://iwlearn.net/news/a-suite-of-open-source-tools-for-geospatial-data-management>

Source: <http://iwlearn.net/news/fostering-a-culture-of-data-appreciation-at-the-manila-iw-learn-ict-workshop>

### ***Pacific: Developing an Open Source Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)***

A recent job announcement for a Spatial Data Technician (SDT) at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Samoa indicates the organization's current plans for developing an Open Source Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in the Pacific. The SDT position (Deadline: May 11, 2014) is a short-term opportunity through SPREP's Young Professionals Programme.



Candidates must be a national of a Pacific island country or territory who resides permanently in Samoa. The SDT position exists to provide a controlled syntheses of multiple spatial datasets into a centralised database and to provide technical IT support in developing an Open Source Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). Specific tasks include:

#### 1. Spatial data handling, management, database development and quality control

- a) Assist Project Team in data collection from internally and externally sourced data
- b) Carry out quality control on a diverse array of GIS data formats from internal and external sources and update data registers
- c) Handle and manage spatial data and develop project GIS database, centralising all data
- d) Develop metadata using INSPIRE EU data standard
- e) Provide technical input and support to the development and delivery of technical reports and multiple communications products (including maps)

#### 2. Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) development and IT/Server support

- a) Assist in publishing spatial datasets online using open source standards (including GeoServer, OpenGIS, OpenLayers)
- b) Provide technical support for scripting in open source software, preferably Linux and Java
- c) Troubleshoot issues relating to the Open Source software (including Open Source GIS applications)
- d) Provide technical support relating to Open Source Development including hardware/software/cloud application issues

Source: [http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/SPREP\\_PACIOCEA\\_SDT\\_April\\_2014\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/SPREP_PACIOCEA_SDT_April_2014_FINAL.pdf)

### ***Pacific-American Climate Fund – Call for concept papers from Pacific Island Organizations***

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM) is a five-year USAID project that provides grants to civil society organizations throughout the Pacific Rim in support of climate change adaptation measures.

See current solicitation here:

[http://www.pgrd.org/assets/documents/Grants\\_Solicitation\\_PACAM\\_Fund.pdf](http://www.pgrd.org/assets/documents/Grants_Solicitation_PACAM_Fund.pdf)

Source: <http://www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/>



## **7th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium, 26-28 May 2014, Tokyo**



The 7th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 26 to 28 May 2014. The Symposium is being organized by Japan Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the GEO Secretariat, with the support of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). This year's Symposium will address the theme of "Benefits for Society from GEOSS evolution toward addressing Sustainable Development Goals" and will focus on the advancing next 10 years of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and how benefits from GEOSS can contribute to societal requirements such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as well as the trans-disciplinary research initiatives such as Future Earth (FE). The Symposium will further strengthen international networking within the region and share Asia-Pacific's experiences globally. Each country will report on the progress it has made in implementing GEOSS since the last Asia-Pacific Symposium in India. To focus the discussions, we are organizing parallel sessions on the following topics:

- Asian Water Cycle Initiative (AWCI);
- Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON);
- Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) towards long-term carbon management;
- Ocean Observation and Society (toward realization of Blue Planet in AP region); and
- Agriculture and Food Security (GEO GLAM).

In addition to these parallel sessions, the Symposium will include two special sessions for cross cutting and trans-disciplinary issues. An agenda and details on registration, hotels and related matters are available on the Symposium website at: <http://www.geoss-ap-symposium7.org>. Should you have any questions, contact the 7th GEOSS AP Symposium Secretariat (Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan): [geoss-ap7@restec.or.jp](mailto:geoss-ap7@restec.or.jp).

Source: <https://www.geoss-ap-symposium7.org/announcement.html>

## **Europe Region SDI News**

### ***Kosovo: Drafting of NSDI Strategy***



The Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) in accordance with the Law on Cadastre and the draft Law on Spatial Data Infrastructure is responsible for coordinating the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). In order to create a comprehensive strategy for NSDI, which will clearly define objectives and vision for Kosovo NSDI, KCA has engaged an international expert to draft the NSDI Strategy, Prof. Dr. Joep Crompvoets. In order to identify all spatial datasets in the Republic of Kosovo, as well as aiming to establish contacts between public institutions that will be involved in creating of this strategy, on 20 March 2014, in Kosovo Cadastral Agency premises, a meeting and workshops were held for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategy. The workshop was led by Prof. Dr. Joep Crompvoets, and it was interactive one with numerous discussions about the points covering the various spatial data topics.

Source: <http://www.kca-ks.org/en/lajme>

### ***Switzerland: New aerial images information system***



The Swiss Federal Office of Topography, Swisstopo, has launched a new map and photo viewer called Lubis (aerial images information system in German) which allows viewing and researching more than 300,000 photos and aerial images at full resolution, from 1920 to date. Each image is accompanied by a technical file

containing information such as flight date, image type and preview. Developed on the basis of the geoportal of the Swiss Confederation (<http://map.geo.admin.ch>), the new viewer is also accessible from mobile devices. The interactive map also serves to zero-in specific plots of land, population data, buildings, hiking trails, peaks and valleys and other Swiss statistics.

Note also: On 3 April 2014, the map viewer of the geoportal of the Swiss Confederation achieved at «Best of Swiss Web 2014» the 2nd rank in the categories «Technology» and «Publique affairs», the 3rd rank in the category «Mobile web» and the 4th rank in the nomination for the Master Award. Those awards were issued by the Swiss Internet Industry Association and Netzmedien AG and honour Web- and Mobil-technologies regarding transparency and quality standards in Switzerland.

Source: <http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/en/home/apps/lubis.html>

### ***Ireland: AGI Northern Ireland 'Open for GeoSpatial Conference'***



Association for Geographic Information (AGI) Northern Ireland (NI) will be hosting the 2nd in the series of 'Big 5 Conferences' on May 13th at the Wellington Park Hotel in Belfast. The conference 'Open for GeoSpatial' will cover the big Open issues – Open Standards, Open Data and Open Source. With 2 streams and 2 workshops during the day, plus a Panel discussion on Open which will feed into the AGI 25 year foresight report, this promises to be an excellent event for all levels. AGI Northern Ireland in association with AIRO (All-Island Research Observatory at NUI Maynooth) will be facilitating a Data-for-Decisions-Workshop alongside the AGI Conference in Belfast. This is a free workshop on Monday 12th May and is aimed at non-GIS users who need to make evidence based decisions. See <http://www.agi.org.uk/agi-news/2014/4/16/data-for-decisions-workshop.html>.

Source: <http://www.gistrategyini.gov.uk/index/news/content-newpage-9.htm>

### ***Environmental Data Gaps in Black Sea Catchment Countries: INSPIRE and GEOSS State of Play***

Authors: Volodymyr Myroshnychenko, Nicolas Ray, Anthony Lehmann, Gregory Giuliani, Ahmet Kideys, Philip Weller, Dan Teodor

*Environmental Science & Policy*, Available online 24 April 2014 [not an open access journal]

Abstract: This paper presents the results of a large analysis of environmental data gaps in countries of the Black Sea catchment performed in the context of the FP7 enviroGRIDS project in 2010. We also assessed the level of compatibility of the data to the European directive establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) and to the international standards of data interoperability as advocated by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and implemented in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Many environmental datasets were analyzed at different scales (national, regional, European, and global) and the analysis revealed gaps in spatial and temporal environmental data coverage and problem of data compatibility at different scales.

The analysis enabled the identification of areas where further efforts are needed to reinforce the existing observation systems in the region, such as monitoring systems to provide data on water quality in rivers, on the state of marine environments, or on pollution and nutrients loads from land based sources. A significant proportion of environmental datasets is not accessible or has limited access, so further efforts are needed to make them available to decision makers and scientists following the GEO data sharing principles. Compatibilities of many data sets and observation systems to international interoperability standards are low in this region, and we discuss what further efforts are needed to improve the situation and how this is relevant to environmental policies.

Keywords: GEOSS; INSPIRE; Black Sea catchment; enviroGRIDS; Environmental data; Data sharing

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901114000653>

## ***Europe: Improved access to integrated biodiversity data for science, practice, and policy***

The "Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network" EU BON General Meeting took place between 30 March - 3 April 2014 in Heraklion on Crete, to present major project results and set objectives for the future. The meeting was preceded by a review paper recently published in the open access journal Nature Conservation to point out EU BON research interests and objectives for the future of biodiversity protection.

(See: <http://www.pensoft.net/journals/natureconservation/article/6498/abstract/the-need-for-an-integrated-biodiversity-policy-support-process>).

EU BON (<http://www.eubon.eu/>) aims to enable decision makers at various levels to make use of integrated and relevant biodiversity information adapted to their specific requirements and scales. Disparate and unconnected databases and online information sources will be integrated to allow improved monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity and measures planned or taken at different spatial and temporal scales. This requires strong efforts not only with regard to technical harmonization between databases, models, and visualization tools, but also to improve the dialogue between scientific, political, and social networks, spanning across several scientific disciplines as well as a variety of civil science organizations and stakeholder groups.

The project is focusing mainly on the European continent but contributes at the same time to the globally oriented Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), which itself contributes to the Group of Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). EU BON will build on existing information infrastructures such as GBIF, LifeWatch and national biodiversity data centres in Europe, and will integrate relevant biodiversity data from on-ground observations to remote sensing information, covering terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.

Source:

[http://www.eubon.eu/news/10892\\_EU%20BON%20General%20Meeting%20and%20latest%20paper:%20Improved%20access%20to%20integrated%20biodiversity%20data%20for%20science,%20practice,%20and%20policy](http://www.eubon.eu/news/10892_EU%20BON%20General%20Meeting%20and%20latest%20paper:%20Improved%20access%20to%20integrated%20biodiversity%20data%20for%20science,%20practice,%20and%20policy)

## ***EuroGeographics data producers meeting held***



Sixty-eight delegates from 36 countries, technical producers of EuroGeographics products and the product managers started their annual meeting on April 9th in Vienna, Austria. This unique meeting was kindly hosted by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying BEV. Head of Division Surveying Services Mr. Michael Franzen welcomed everyone and gave the introductory presentation.

The participants, who are the experts creating the EuroGeographics pan-European products and services, heard about the developments of EuroGeographics' products and learned about what they need to produce in the coming year; they shared knowledge, experience and information – as many of them work in isolation in their organisations on European specifications – so this was a really important meeting for them, and it is always very productive and positive event.

- EuroGeographics pan-European products and services include:
- EuroDEM – a digital representation of the ground surface topography of Europe
- EuroBoundaryMap – 1:100 000 scale administrative and statistical regions dataset covering 41 countries
- EuroRegionalMap – 1:250 000 scale topographic dataset covering 33 European states
- EuroGlobalMap – 1:1 million scale topographic dataset covering 45 countries is available as 'Opendata'.

In development:

- EuroGeoNames - the pan-European web service providing the definitive and authoritative place

names for Europe.

- State Boundaries of Europe – A definitive dataset of legal and administrative state boundaries.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eurogeographics-data-producers-meeting>

### **Mini Symposium on Water Data Sharing standards, tools and applications**

19 May 2014, 09:00 - 16:45, UNESCO-IHE, Westvest 7, Delft, the Netherlands (Auditorium A1B)  
Contact: Andreja Jonoski, Associate Professor of Hydroinformatics, [a.jonoski@unesco-ihe.org](mailto:a.jonoski@unesco-ihe.org)

The theme of this mini symposium is on topics related to web-based water data sharing as addressed by different water management institutions, consulting companies, and research and higher education organizations. The symposium is jointly organized by UNESCO-IHE and Deltares. Established and emerging standards and tools for achieving effective sharing of water related data will be introduced, together with their applications in both national and international water data sharing projects and initiatives. There will be special focus on the role of water data sharing technologies in science and education of future water professionals. The presentations and discussions will provide opportunities for sharing knowledge and experiences among the symposium participants and the invited speakers, which include leading international experts on water data sharing technologies.

Source: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/mini-symposium-water-data-sharing-standards-tools-and-applications>

### **Copernicus Masters Competition - Deadline: 13 July 2014**



The Copernicus Masters competition will give recognition to outstanding ideas, applications, and business concepts that utilise Earth observation data for commercial purposes and socially relevant projects. Along with cash prizes, the winners will receive technical support in realising their ideas, access to satellite data, and start-up support from a prize pool worth a total of more than EUR 300,000. In 2014, for the first time, the Copernicus Masters is carried out on a worldwide basis. Geared primarily toward start-ups and other companies, researchers, and students, the competition will require entrants to submit their applications before 13 July 2014. All further information on the prizes, partners, and terms of participation is available at the competition website. To learn more about the Copernicus programme and its Sentinel-1A satellite, visit: [www.esa.int/copernicus](http://www.esa.int/copernicus) & [www.copernicus.eu](http://www.copernicus.eu)

Source: <http://www.copernicus-masters.com/index.php?anzeige=press-2014-01.html>

### **Draft Programme Published for the INSPIRE 2014 Conference**

The draft programme for the INSPIRE 2014 Conference parallel and workshop sessions has been published on the Conference site. The 8th INSPIRE Conference will take place in Aalborg Denmark, 16-20 June 2014. This year's conference twitter hashtag is: #INSPIRE\_EU2014.



Source: [http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire\\_2014/page/home](http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2014/page/home)

### **Call for Applications: Trans-Atlantic Training Initiative – Land Use/Land Cover Change and Ecosystem Processes**

5–7 June 2014, Krakow, Poland

**Deadline for applications: 10 May 2014**

The main objective of the Trans-Atlantic Training (TAT) initiative is training activities in East European and Baltic countries in the area of Earth Observations with an emphasis on outstanding technical issues remote sensing of land-cover and land-use change. The purpose of TAT is to share and

discuss advanced research methods and technologies from space during series of meetings of scientists and students from both Europe and US. TAT 2014 will start with thematic presentations and discussions focused on Land Use/Land Cover Change and ecosystems processes. The state-of-the-art advanced methods of land-cover change evaluation will be presented and discussed by leading experts from Europe and US. Impact of LUCC on ecosystems will be important issue, e.g. forest disturbance, urban sprawl, land abandonment. Compatibility and accuracy of the main LUCC databases such as Corine Land Cover, GlobCover, NLCD and GLCC will be presented and discussed. Emphasis will be on the use of forthcoming data from the Landsat 8 and Sentinel missions. Hands-on training is the second part of TAT. Technologies, tutorials and data from ESA and NASA will be presented and practically exercised. TAT 2014 is organised with close cooperation with SCERIN. SCERIN is an informal network of scientists and other professionals based in the region or with scientific interests in the region of South Eastern and Central Europe.

Source: <http://web.natur.cuni.cz/gis/tat/>

## Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

### **Colombia: la primera fase del Portal Geográfico Nacional**



En agosto próximo debe estar lista la primera fase del Portal Geográfico Nacional, que reunirá en un solo sitio web toda la información geográfica de 45 entidades del país. El anuncio fue hecho por Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, director del Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC), a los 300 asistentes a su ponencia magistral denominada 'La infraestructura de datos espaciales como aporte al

desarrollo urbano sostenible', el en el tercer día del Foro Urbano Mundial en Medellín.

Ver presentación: La Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales – ICDE: Aporte al desarrollo urbano sostenible, at:

<http://www.igac.gov.co/wps/wcm/connect/74201f804393e0a3ba68bf0eb072658f/%28Manual+Fu+nciones%29Resolucion+495+de+27+de+Junio+de+2007+Actualizado+el+02-04-2014.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

*English summary:* 1<sup>st</sup> phase of National Geographic Portal

Next August, Colombia should be ready the first phase of the National Geographic Portal, bringing together in one website all the geographic information of 45 states of the country. The announcement was made by Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, Director of Codazzi (IGAC), to the 300 people attending his keynote address titled 'The SDI as a contribution to sustainable urban development', on the third day of the World Urban Forum in Medellin. His talk was based on the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (ICDE), an initiative for global management issues and geospatial information, used to planning for equity and sustainable development. The National Geographic Portal is a tool which builds upon 45 institutions producing national geographic information which is coordinated by the Codazzi (IGAC).

According to Juan Antonio Nieto Escalante, this portal will facilitate the consultations undertaken by the National Government to the foreign community interested in pursuing projects in Colombia, "showing that the country is on the path of improving their information." This site will be the official source query detailed information on areas of special regulations, such as Indian reservations, national parks, collective territories of black communities, moors, wetlands and areas of archaeological heritage. Also, it will contain the rivers, creeks, areas with mining, Projects and Strategic National Interest (PIN) for hydrocarbons, roads, river, airport and rail infrastructure, land use vocation and even schools.

View presentation (in Spanish): La Infraestructura Colombiana de Datos Espaciales – ICDE: Aporte al desarrollo urbano sostenible

<http://www.igac.gov.co/wps/wcm/connect/74201f804393e0a3ba68bf0eb072658f/%28Manual+Fuciones%29Resolucion+495+de+27+de+Junio+de+2007+Actualizado+el+02-04-2014.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

Source: <http://www.igac.gov.co/wps/portal/igac/raiz/iniciohome/Noticias3>

### **Chile: Geoportal de Chile en tu sitio web**



Está disponible una nueva herramienta realizada por la IDE de Chile y tiene por objetivo ampliar las posibilidades de encontrar información geoespacial. Se trata del desarrollo de un widget que le permitirá a las instituciones poder incluir en sus propios sitios web las funcionalidades búsqueda, filtros y mostrar los resultados solo las fichas de metadatos de su institución que están presentes en Geoportal de Chile.

El widget está programado para funcionar el cualquier CMS como Joomla, Wordpress o Drupal, incluso en un Blog. Cada uno de sus componentes son configurables, pueden funcionar de forma independiente y el estilo gráfico se puede ajustar al diseño de su sitio web. La IDE de Chile invita a todos a solicitar este plugin y los ayudaremos con la instalación en su sitio web.

Contacto: [snit@mbienes.cl](mailto:snit@mbienes.cl)

*English summary:* Chile: New tool developed to enable incorporation of national Geoportal into organizations' websites

A new tool is available from IDE-Chile that aims to expand the possibilities of finding geospatial information. This new widget will allow institutions to include in their own websites search functionality, filters and display results only the metadata records of the institution that are present in portal to Chile. The widget is scheduled to run on any CMS like Joomla, Wordpress or Drupal, even in a blog. Each of its components are configurable, can work independently and graphic style can be adjusted to the design of your website. IDE-Chile invites everyone to request this plugin and help with the installation on your website. Contact: [snit@mbienes.cl](mailto:snit@mbienes.cl).

Source: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/2014/item/geoportal-de-chile-en-tu-sitio-web.html>

### **Peru: Acquiring French Earth Observation Satellite**



Peru's government signed a US\$ 213 million contract to purchase a French-made, high-resolution earth observation satellite which is expected to be launched in 2016. The bilateral agreement between Peru and France covers supply of the optical high-resolution spacecraft, a ground control segment for data reception and image processing, as well as a long-term research co-operation and comprehensive training program.

The contract was awarded to Airbus defense and Space. The Asrosat-300 satellite will be able to provide Peruvian authorities most accurate information to take measures to prevent natural disasters by researching and predicting weather patterns. The spacecraft's acquisition establishes a long-term collaboration work among the two nations and the company in charge of building and, eventually, launching the high-tech satellite, a process in which Peruvian experts will be involved.

Source: <http://www.namnewsnetwork.org/v3/read.php?id=MjY2NjUx>

### **Panamá: Implementan Sistema de localización y seguimiento de Proyectos**



El Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, a través de la Dirección de Programación de Inversiones (DPI), puso en marcha la implementación del Sistema de Información Geográfica (SIG), herramienta que permitirá la visualización geográfica de los proyectos de inversión pública del Estado. La puesta en marcha de la herramienta

permite también que los ciudadanos obtengas datos actualizados en el proceso de seguimiento y monitoreo de la ejecución de los proyectos programados dentro de su comunidad. Correspondió a la viceministra de Economía, Gladys Cedeño, hacer el lanzamiento del acto y en su intervención

exteriorizó que la política de inversiones públicas establecida por el Gobierno Nacional, tiene como principal objetivo, mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población, en especial, disminuir los niveles de pobres y marginalidad, a través de opciones de inversión con calidad, eficiencia y equidad. En ese sentido, el Sistema Nacional de Inversiones Públicas (SINIP), se constituye en una herramienta fundamental para lograr inversiones de alta calidad, optimizando el proceso de asignación de los limitados recursos que tiene el Estado, mediante la promoción y aplicación de herramientas técnicas y metodológicas modernas y eficientes, subrayó. Cedeño. Agregó que el SINIP, se fundamenta en la participación de todas las instituciones públicas del país, teniendo como rector el Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas, a través de la Dirección de Programación de Inversiones.

El Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas (MEF) se ha unido a las 27 instituciones del gobierno que ya forman del Sistema de Información Geográfica (SIG) al lanzar el portal de la Dirección de Programación de Inversiones. La plataforma SIG permite que las instituciones compartan información en formatos estándares para que puedan trabajar de manera conjunta.

*English summary:* GIS-based system for tracking and tracing public investment projects of the State

The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) has joined the 27 government institutions already in the Geographic Information System (GIS) to launch the website of the Directorate of Investment Programming (DPI). The GIS platform allows institutions to share information in standard formats so that they can work together in visualizing of public investment projects of the State. The implementation of the tool also allows citizens in the process of tracking and monitoring the implementation of projects within their community.

See also: Advancing the data revolution through country-owned data (World Bank blog), at: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/advancing-data-revolution-through-country-owned-data>

Source: <http://laopinionpanama.com/economia/implementan-sistema-de-localizacion-y-seguimiento-de-proyectos/>

### **Costa Rica: Country's first satellite to be launched into space in 2016**



The Central American Aeronautics and Space Administration (ACAЕ) officially announced that the first Central American satellite, built in Costa Rica, will be launched into space in 2016. The satellite will collect and relay daily data on carbon dioxide to evaluate the effects of climate change. That data will be sent to monitoring bases in tropical forests at the Santa Rosa National Park in Costa Rica's northwestern province of Guanacaste. Information will then be broadcast to another base station at labs operated by the Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR) for analysis and processing. The project was declared of public interest by an executive decree signed Monday by President Laura Chinchilla, who leaves office in May.

*"The signing of this decree is an historic event for Costa Rica that will allow the country to position itself as an innovative nation. It is a message to the world that this country is still thinking big. This project will return our people the ability to dream,"* ACAЕ President Carlos Alvarado said.

Source: <http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/04/22/costa-ricas-first-satellite-to-be-launched-into-space-in-2016>

### **México: Contribuye AEM con información geoespacial para proteger a la población ante desastres naturales**



Con el propósito de apoyar a la población en materia de protección civil ante inundaciones y diversos fenómenos climatológicos, la Agencia Espacial Mexicana (AEM) coadyuvará de manera coordinada con los estados del sureste del país, por medio de información y protocolos de respuesta rápida. El director general de la

AEM, Javier Mendieta Jiménez, informó lo anterior durante el “Primer Taller de información Geo-Espacial: Fortaleciendo la Conectividad en el Sureste”. En el acto, organizado por el Centro de Cambio Global y la Sustentabilidad en el Sureste (CCGSS), el Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), el Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática (INEGI), y la Universidad Juárez Autónoma de Tabasco (UJAT), Mendieta puntualizó que estas acciones son posibles gracias a las acciones del Gobierno Federal, a través de la Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT), para fortalecer la conectividad. De esta manera, la AEM como organismo sectorizado de la SCT, en coordinación con instituciones locales, contribuirá a integrar un modelo basado en tecnologías geoespaciales para generar un mapa de riesgo actualizado y permanente.

El primero de los protocolos de información será un programa piloto, que será operado por Protección Civil del Gobierno del Estado de Tabasco, cuya puesta en marcha se prevé inicie en diciembre de este año, para generar respuesta pronta en las zonas de inundación con rutas de rescate y monitoreo en tiempo real de cantidad de agua, así como alerta epidemiológica que podrá enviarse por medio de mensajes de texto a la población.

De manera adicional, en tiempos de no desastre esa infraestructura de telecomunicaciones y espacial también permitirá implementar un modelo integral de ciberseguridad (orientación médica de Internet y celular), aplicada a las zonas de mayor marginalidad del sureste.

Este programa se replicará a nivel regional y nacional, a fin de crear un canal de información puntual en medicina preventiva en todas las zonas vulnerables de la República Mexicana, en especial para la población indígena en sus diferentes lenguas.

El evento contó con la presencia del Vicepresidente de la Junta de Gobierno de INEGI, Rolando Ocampo; de la representante del Director General del Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres (CENAPRED) de la Secretaría de Gobernación, Lucrecia Torres; del Director General de Geomática de la Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Rainer Röss; y, por parte de la Coordinación de la Sociedad de la Información y el Conocimiento (CSIC) de la SCT, Sofía Fernández Del Castillo, quien destacó ante los presentes la importancia social de la conectividad.

Como expertos internacionales, también compartieron sus conocimientos el Vicepresidente del Programa de Litorales de la Unión Europea, Gunnar Tietze, el Investigador del Woodshole Research Center, Wayne Walker, el Investigador del Instituto de Geografía de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Stephan Couturier, y el Investigador de la Unidad de Investigación de Vida Silvestre y Pesca Cooperativa de Carolina del Norte, Damian Shea.

*English summary:* Space agency contributing geographic information to protect population from natural disasters

In order to support the population in the area of civil protection from floods and various weather phenomena, the Mexican Space Agency (EMA) will contribute in a coordinated way with the states in the southeast, through information and rapid response protocols.

- With the geospatial technology of Mexico's space agency (EMA), in coordination with local institutions, this program will help produce an integrated risk map that is permanently updated.
- The program will focus on the high risk area in the southeast.
- The pilot program will be operated by Civil Protection of the State Government of Tabasco in December this year.

*Source:* <http://www.sct.gob.mx/despliega-noticias/article/contribuye-aem-con-informacion-geoespacial-para-proteger-a-la-poblacion-ante-desastres-naturales/>



### **Guyana: Geospatial Information Management Unit has been officially launched**



Guyana's first Geospatial Information Management Unit has been officially launched at an event on April 10. The expectation and aim is that the Unit, using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), will boost existing efforts to track changes in deforestation, legal and illegal mining, silting conservancies, breaches and other illegal activities in relation to Guyana's natural resources. There was much talk of improved sharing of information among natural resources agencies such as: the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. More particularly, the five member Unit, comprising of a Manager, IT Specialist and three GIS Analyst will be tasked with providing information on monitoring, regulations and compliance; general management, integration, documentation and dissemination of spatial data; conduct accuracy and consistency checks on data and designing and developing spatial database among other others.

Speaking at the launch was Commissioner of the GFC James Singh, Commissioner of the GLSC Doorga Persaud and GGMC's Commissioner Rickford Vieira. All three Commissioners indicated the support of their agencies to the unit and noted their anticipation to commence work. Meanwhile, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Robert Persaud spoke of the potential of the unit to boast the already existing 'even handed approach' to ensure enforcement of local laws and compliance with regulations by all parties, both local and international.

Source: <http://www.inewsguyana.com/new-unit-launched-to-track-illegal-mining-deforestation/>

### **The Grenadines: Marine Resource Space-use Information System (MarSIS)**

PhD research entitled 'A Participatory GIS for Marine Spatial Planning in the Grenadine Islands' has resulted in several peer-reviewed publications. Also, the entire PhD, the MarSIS Google Earth and ArcGIS database as well as a number of maps and documents on the Grenadines continue to be available for download via the Grenadines MarSIS site. Feel free to contact Kimberly Baldwin, PhD ([kimberly\\_baldwin@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberly_baldwin@hotmail.com)) with any questions.



See: *A Participatory GIS for Marine Spatial Planning in the Grenadine Islands*, <https://www.ejisd.org/ojs2/index.php/ejisd/article/view/1268>

Authors: Kim Elaine Baldwin, Robin Mahon

*The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, Volume 63 (2014)

Abstract: Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a strategic way of improving decision-making and delivering an ecosystem approach to managing human activities in the marine environment. Notwithstanding the central role of human agency in these approaches, it is recognised that many times marine management has not been effective in part due to a failure to use all available sources of information and knowledge, particularly the local knowledge of the resources' users. The transboundary Grenadine Islands, which rely heavily on the marine environment for livelihoods, provide an example of a complex system where there is a high diversity of uses and all available information is needed for effective management. We illustrate how a participatory GIS approach can be applied as a sound basis for practically incorporating an ecosystem approach within marine spatial planning initiatives. Key benefits include effective data management, increased spatial understanding and the definition of critical areas across the Grenada Bank. We found the application of a PGIS approach to support spatially-based ecosystem-level analyses of the Grenada Bank to be conducted and presented in ways that could be expected to increase stakeholder understanding of information generated thus supporting marine governance.

Keywords: Participatory GIS (PGIS); marine spatial planning (MSP); transboundary Grenadine Islands

Source: *carib-gis-users Yahoo group*

## North America Region SDI News

### **Canada: CGCRT Geomatics Strategy, Action, and Implementation Planning Workshop**



The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table (CGCRT) Geomatics Strategy, Action, and Implementation Planning Workshop will be taking place at the Delta Ottawa City Centre in downtown Ottawa June 9-10, 2014. Day One meeting objectives:

- Review Round Table developments to date
- Shared understanding of why we are all here (i.e., build the Action and Implementation Plan).
- Introduce the Strategy
- Workshop the Strategy Dimension Priorities

Team Canada Event Agenda: [http://cgcrt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Team-Canada-Event-Agenda\\_Preliminary\\_April22\\_2014.docx](http://cgcrt.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Team-Canada-Event-Agenda_Preliminary_April22_2014.docx)

Request an invitation to the event here: <http://cgcrt.ca/invitation/>

The Canadian Geomatics Community Round Table is an open and collaborative group, made up of representatives from industry, academia, professional associations, NGOs and federal, provincial and territorial governments, spanning the geomatics (geographic, geospatial, location information) domain. This group is examining issues facing the Canadian Geomatics Community and developing a Pan-Canadian Geomatics Strategy to support, strengthen and guide the sector for years to come.

Source: <http://cgcrt.ca/>

### **USA: NSGIC Midyear Report highlights federal geospatial failures**

"You're in a bad spot when the normally low-key National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) examines four areas of geospatial enterprise and then opines that Federal efforts are sorely lacking."



Read for yourself: *Report of Stakeholder Engagement on Four Geospatial Issues with National Importance* (NSGIC, April 1, 2014) at:

[http://www.nsgic.org/public\\_resources/Issues\\_and\\_Recommendations\\_for\\_Four\\_National\\_Geospatial\\_Issues\\_040114\\_Final\\_Revision.pdf](http://www.nsgic.org/public_resources/Issues_and_Recommendations_for_Four_National_Geospatial_Issues_040114_Final_Revision.pdf)

Source: <http://www.epcupdates.org/2014/04/nsgic-midyear-report-highlights-federal.html>

### **USA: Department of Commerce Geospatial Strategic Plan (FY 2014 - 2018)**

The U.S. Department of Commerce Geospatial Strategic Plan 2014-2018 charts a course forward for making geospatial data more widely available, well managed, and more useful to Commerce, its partners, and the public.



The Plan includes a goal for prioritizing data activities to “improve government, business, and community decisions and knowledge by transforming Department data capabilities and supporting a data-enabled economy.” This strategic plan further develops the goal as it relates to geospatial data and ties it to the Federal Geographic Data Committee’s (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan 2014-2016.

Many of the heavily used and valued Commerce datasets have a geospatial component. Examples include geodetic control, nautical charts, weather forecasts, broadband access zones, socio-economics,

and demographic boundary areas. In order to realize the potential value of the data Commerce produces, barriers to accessing and using the data must be minimized. Barriers include an absence of common formats and standards, capacity constraints limiting the amount of data that can be directly accessed, suboptimal organization across various websites, and a lack of customer awareness about what data Commerce provides. These are target areas for improvement outlined in the Commerce Geospatial Strategic Plan.

See also: 'NOAA's products and services affect a third of US GDP' – interview with Joseph F. Klimavicz, Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Director, High Performance Computing and Communications, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in April 2014 Geospatial World edition, <http://geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=30961>

Source: [http://www.cio.noaa.gov/docs/FINAL\\_DOC\\_FY14-18\\_Geospatial\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.cio.noaa.gov/docs/FINAL_DOC_FY14-18_Geospatial_Strategic_Plan.pdf)



### ***USA: Nation's authoritative land cover map new and improved***

Just released, the latest edition of the United States' most comprehensive look at land-surface conditions from coast to coast shows the extent of land cover types from forests to urban areas. The National Land Cover Database (NLCD 2011) is made available to the public by the U.S. Geological Survey and partners. Dividing the lower 48 states into 9 billion geographic cells, the massive database provides consistent information about land conditions at regional to nationwide scales. NLCD is constructed by the 10-member federal interagency Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC).

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3862>

### ***USA: State of the Map US 2014 – Proceedings***

The conference on April 12 and 13 featured a series of sessions on OpenStreetMap from community, business, government and non-profit sector. We focused on technology, mapping parties, ideas and tools to help improve the map, and much more. Videos are available for all sessions - just click on a session below to watch.

Source: <http://stateofthemap.us/schedule/>

### ***USA: OGC calls for participation in USGS Interoperability Assessment Virtual Exercise***

USGS data services get over 1 million hits per day. These data are used by a range of communities including governments at state, county, and city levels for a variety of purposes (science, decision-support, etc). As such, there is an increasing desire to determine whether the USGS data services are fully compliant with relevant OGC standards, and if there are opportunities to improve how the data is being served to the different communities.

As part of the USGS Interoperability Assessment Initiative, the OGC and its members are evaluating the different USGS data services with the goal of assessing whether OGC standards as implemented in USGS servers are meeting users' requirements. To achieve this goal, the OGC is issuing a Call for Participation (CFP) for the USGS Interoperability Assessment Virtual Exercise Responses to this call for participation are due by 31 May 2014.

The overall goal of the initiative is to improve the user's experience with USGS data services. The exercise will help evaluate the current tools, service instances, standard services, and best practices. The recommendations derived from the exercise will serve developers and users. They will guide the developers of tools and standards to better serve the needs for the communities of use, and those communities will learn about additional tools and approaches to optimize their workflows. More information about the project: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/usgsia>

Source: <https://portal.opengeospatial.org/files/58813>

### ***CIESIN seeks Associate Director for its Geospatial Applications Division***

CIESIN, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network of the Earth Institute at Columbia University in Palisades, New York, seeks an Associate Director for its Geospatial Applications Division. The individual will play a leading role in the development of Internet mapping activities and the design of spatial data management systems for CIESIN, other Earth Institute centers and projects, and external partners. He/she will promote geographic information system development, remote sensing data management, and the implementation of spatial data infrastructure and will provide technical expertise and training in implementing geographic information technologies and standards. As Associate Director, he/she will hire, supervise, and evaluate about 10 staff, ensure the smooth distribution of tasks and workloads with other CIESIN divisions, respond to requests for proposals, and seek out funding sources. The individual will work directly with researchers and others at the Earth Institute to advance their knowledge of spatial technologies and enhance research proposals and grant applications. The position requires a MS or MA in Geography, Computer Science, or other related field emphasizing knowledge of spatial analysis techniques germane to CIESIN's ongoing and planned activities, plus 4 years of experience using GIS and related geospatial technologies. The position was posted on 2 May 2014 and the search will stay open for 30 days after the ad appears and will continue until the job is filled. Visit the online application site for further information about this position and to submit your application. Annual salary will be commensurate with experience.

Source: <https://academicjobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=59253>

## **Middle East & North Africa Region SDI News**

### ***Qatar: Draft Open Data Policy released for comments***



The Qatari Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (generally referred to as ictQATAR) launched in March 2014 a public consultation on its draft Open Data Policy. It is the objective of this consultation to seek feedback and comments on the proposed policy provisions from the government agencies, the private industry and general public in the State of Qatar. The policy states: "Opening up government data and information is a key foundation to creating a knowledge-based economy and society. Releasing up government-held datasets and providing raw data to their citizens, will allow them to transform data and information into tools and applications that help individuals and communities; and to promote partnerships with government to create innovative solutions." Instructions on how to respond to the consultation are included in the documents available, together with the Open Data Policy Draft. The deadline for submission of feedback from stakeholders was extended May 1, 2014. Should you have any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to write to us at [policyfeedback@ict.gov.qa](mailto:policyfeedback@ict.gov.qa).

See also: Public sector Open Data in Qatar: current status (Open Knowledge Foundation blog), <http://blog.okfn.org/2014/04/24/draft-open-data-policy-for-qatar/>

Source: <http://www.ictqatar.qa/en/documents/document/public-consultation-draft-open-data-policy>

### ***United Arab Emirates: A web-based GIS enabled soil information system***



The United Arab Emirates Soil Information System (UAESIS) is comprised of data from the Soil Survey of Abu Dhabi Emirate, and the Soil Survey of the Northern Emirates. The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi has undertaken the Soil Survey of Abu Dhabi Emirate in partnership with the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) (2006-2009) and the Soil Survey of the Northern Emirates in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Water (2010-2012). Both surveys were completed

using the latest norms and standards of the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), modified to fit the United Arab Emirates conditions. A total of 65,000 observation sites have been fully described, classified and populated to the database. Additionally, various thematic maps, such as irrigated suitability, soil salinity, current land use, land degradation, vegetation, etc. are also included, and available to users.

There are two types of user access, Guest and Advanced User. For basic soil information the user can access the system as Guest and this does not require registration. However, if the user would like to have detailed soil and related information, the user has to use the Advanced User access. To register as Advanced user, please contact Environment Agency Abu Dhabi.

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

See also: *A web-based GIS enabled soil information system for the United Arab Emirates and its applicability in agricultural land use planning*, at:

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12517-014-1289-y>

Authors: Mahmoud A. Abdelfattah, Anil T. Kumar

Arabian Journal of Geosciences, February 2014 [not an open access journal; however, full text can be access by those with ResearchGate account]

**Abstract:** A comprehensive soil information system was identified as essential for land use planning decisions, especially for sustainable agriculture and natural resources conservation in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The lack of such a system limits the capacity of government, businesses, policy makers, and land users to make sustainable land use planning decisions, and considerably hampers land degradation assessments and adaptive sustainable land management interventions. This paper presents a solution developed to disseminate value-added soil information gathered from soil surveys, enabling decision makers, policy formulators, land use planners, and agriculturalists to efficiently manage soil resources. The UAE Soil Information System (UAESIS, [www.uaesis.ae](http://www.uaesis.ae)) is a web-based repository of soil data with geographical representation and provides descriptive, quantitative, and geographical data in a simple interface. The system has a number of components including a geospatial soil database, a field operating system, and a highly intuitive web-based secure application. This paper highlights the structure, capabilities, functions, benefits, applications, and uses of the UAESIS. Two case studies demonstrate the application of the system to evaluation of land suitable for date palm production and the growth of salt tolerant crops are presented.

Keywords: UAESIS, GIS, Geospatial, Soil survey, Web-based, UAE

### ***Saudi Arabia: 9th National GIS Symposium***

28-30 April 2014, Dammam, Saudi Arabia



Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness; Governor of the Eastern Province, The High Committee of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Eastern Province hosted “The 9th National GIS Symposium in Saudi Arabia”. Featuring a state-of-the-art exhibit, plenary, keynote, and technical sessions, it brought all stakeholders in the geospatial domain - academia, researchers, students, and the industry - onto one platform for interaction, sharing and discussion on various topics such as collaboration on technologies and experiences gained. The symposium aimed to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience in geospatial sciences among researchers, practitioners, and professionals within the country and abroad.

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

## Global SDI News

### ***g7+ positions Fragile States for integrated national SDI over multiple silo short-term data fixes***

The g7+ (<http://www.g7plus.org/>), comprised of 18 fragile and conflict affected countries, met last month with spatial data experts and global policy makers to discuss the effective use of spatial data infrastructure at a conference organised by The Centre for International Earth Science Information Network and The Earth Institute (CIESIN) at Columbia University, held at the Rockefeller Foundation's Center at Lake Como, Bellagio, Italy.

The gathering of 22 conference participant entities, including the g7+ secretariat, and technical experts from the Earth Institute, United Nations Environment Programme, World Resource Institute, Google, ESRI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the GPC Group among others, aimed to define the long-term spatial data needs of fragile states, whilst articulating the case for significantly coordinated investments at the national scale. As part of the process of breaking out of fragility to achieve sustainable peace and development, participants agreed that fragile states must enhance their spatial data capabilities to maximise whole-of-government effectiveness.

In order to secure the data revolution dividend in fragile states, the participants agreed on a strategy to provide collective expertise via the g7+ institutional framework; via an independent international advisory group and a technical support unit. In the first instance, an action plan for implementing the ingrained use of spatial data infrastructure would be consolidated, starting with designing systematic assessments of current spatial data capacities (as part of the current g7+ fragility assessments) and identifying core gaps and needs.

The main objective of the g7+ is to share experiences and learn from one another, and to advocate for reforms in ways the international community engages in conflict-affected states. One third of the world's poor and 17% of the world's seven billion live in fragile states. The 18 members of the g7+ include: Afghanistan, Burundi, CAR, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo.

Source: <http://www.thegpcgroup.com/insightsandsounds/the-g7-positions-fragile-states-for-integrated-national-spat.html>

### ***UNGIWG meeting - Provisional UNGIWG-14 agenda***

14th UNGIWG Plenary Meeting, 14-16 May 2014, New York, NY, USA

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) cordially invite you to attend the 14th Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) (<http://www.ungiwg.org/meetings/14th-ungiwg-plenary-meeting>) to be held in New York, USA on 14 - 16 May 2014. Formed in 2000, UNGIWG is a network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geospatial information management science to address issues of common concern. Since its inception, UNGIWG has been laying the foundations for a United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI). At its core, the UNSDI contributes substantively to the mission of the United Nations by engaging member states, regional organizations and partners in building consensus, policy and governance mechanisms to ensure that geospatial data and information sharing practices are used widely in advancing social, economic development, environmental and humanitarian agendas. Contact the UNGIWG Secretariat at [secretariat@ungiwgsec.org](mailto:secretariat@ungiwgsec.org) for further information.

Source: [http://www.ungiwg.org/sites/default/files/meetings/agenda\\_files/Agenda\\_UNGIWG\\_15\\_April\\_2014.pdf](http://www.ungiwg.org/sites/default/files/meetings/agenda_files/Agenda_UNGIWG_15_April_2014.pdf)

### ***International Workshop: Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information, 9-12 June 2014, Beijing, China***

The International Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Information is taking place in Beijing, China, from 9-12 June 2014. The meeting is being organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, as the Secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission and the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG) of China, and substantively supported by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP). It aims to contribute to the global consultation and communication with relevant experts about the development of a global statistical-geospatial framework, initiated by the UN Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM, and the work of the recently established Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. The Workshop will discuss and demonstrate the importance of geography and geospatial information to census activities, and for collecting, processing, storing, integrating, aggregating, and disseminating the data on appropriate platforms. The Workshop will also share country experiences of the benefits that national geospatial information authorities have derived from meeting the specific needs of census geography/cartography and statistical analysis, and their overall cooperation with national statistical offices. See Concept Note (April 14, 2014): <http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/International%20workshop/Concept%20Note%2010Apr2014.pdf>

Source: <http://ggim.un.org/International%20Workshop.html>

### ***4<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), from 6-8 August 2014, New York, NY, USA***

The Fourth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from 6-8 August 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Fourth Session of UN-GGIM will bring together senior executives from national geospatial information authorities within Member States, and international geospatial experts from across the globe. Discussions and outcomes will further recognise and determine the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joined initiatives, to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support global sustainable development.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organisations and entities to its Fourth Session as it continues to move forward in fulfilling its mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally. The Secretariat would like to inform participants that, as an action arising from the third session, a UN-GGIM Expert Group will be convening a UN Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (in conjunction with the fourth session of UN-GGIM. This Global Forum and a number of smaller side events will take place from 4-5 August 2014.

See: UN Global Forum on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, 4-5 August 2014, New York, NY, at:

<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM4/Stat-Geo%20Global%20Forum%20Flyer%2010April2014.pdf>

Source: [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html)

### ***UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary Meeting***

1st October 2014, LEOGRAND Hotel & Convention Centre. Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

In anticipation of the establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe during the UN-GGIM4 meeting 6-8 August 2014 (UN-GGIM Upcoming Events) provisional arrangements are being made for the first plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. Further information will be uploaded when available. Until a UN-GGIM:

Europe secretariat is established, further information is available from [dave.lovell@eurogeographics.org](mailto:dave.lovell@eurogeographics.org). (Note: Dave Lovell is also President-elect of the GSDI Association)

Source: <http://un-ggim-europe-plenary-meeting>

### **XXV FIG International Congress 2014 – SDI offerings listed in Draft Technical Program**

The Draft Technical Program (dated 23 April 2014) for the XXV FIG International Congress 2014, to be held 16-21 June 2014, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, includes a number of presentations that cover SDI development. There may still be changes in session slots and timing, so interested parties are asked to check for the final version later. There are two sessions on Wednesday, 18 June, dedicated to NSDI/SDI (Commission: 3). Plus, there are contributions throughout that address aspects of SDI. Below is a sample of some of the paper titles:

- Vukan Ogrizović, Zoran Krejović, Jelena Gučević, Siniša Delčev and Saša Đurović (Serbia): Cadastre and SDI Updates in South-Eastern Europe (6886)
- Corali Gonzalez, Julio Neira and Colonel Riquelme (Chile): Spatial Data Infrastructure, IDE-CHILE (SNIT) (6802)
- Punya P. Oli (Nepal): Preparation of Database for Urban Development (6817)
- Aart Jan Klijnjan and Rik Ebbeling (Netherlands): SDI, Key Registers and Changing Role of NMCA's (7120)
- Nabila Ibrahim, Ghazali Desa and Malik Tassaduq Abbas (Malaysia): A Framework of Local Geospatial Data Infrastructure for Sustainable Urban Development (7182)
- Stéphane Roche (Canada): Living in a Spatially Enabled City (7219)
- Tahsin Yomralioglu and Arif Cagdas Aydinoglu (Turkey): Policies and Standards for Building Turkey National GIS Infrastructure (7220)
- Analía Isabel Argerich and Marcela Elizabeth Montivero (Argentina): ISO 19100 Conformity Model of Cartography Quality (7278)
- Heri Sutanta, Head of Research Centre for SDI Development, Trias Aditya, Purnama Santosa, Diyono and Dany Laksono (Indonesia): I-SRI, an SDI Readiness Index for Local Government in Indonesia (7298)
- Torben Juulsager (Denmark): Free Geographic Basic Data – “a Driver for Growth and Efficiency Both in Private and Public Economy” (7267)
- Behnam Alizadehashrafi and Siddique Ullah Baig (Malaysia): Framework for Malaysian 3D SDI in CityGML (6899)
- Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria): Nasarawa Development Platform: a Progress Report on the Development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in Nasarawa State – Nigeria (7309)
- Hoda Tahami and Majidreza Farahani (Iran): Integration of Land Information and Standard GIServices in an Interoperable Framework for the City-Planning System in the Context of Housing Problems (7147)
- Juerg H. Luethy (Switzerland): Geocentraleapps – an Integration Platform for a Spatially Enabled Society (7031)
- Abbas Rajabifard (Australia): Cadastre 2014, in Relation to Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) (7412)
- Mulyanto Darmawan Darmawan, Heri Sutanta and Adi Rusmanto (Indonesia): Developing Local Government Capacity for SDI Development in Indonesia
- Mohd Sidek Abd Ghafar and Fuziah Abu Hanifah (Malaysia): MyGeoOntology – An Information-Focused Geospatial Ontology for SDI towards Knowledge Interoperability (6874)

Source: <http://www.fig.net/pub/fig2014/techprog.htm>

### **Call for Funding Proposals: Transformations to Sustainability**

Transformations to Sustainability is a new global research funding programme implemented by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and intended to make a major contribution to the work of



Future Earth. This preparatory call for seed funding will support up to 30 proposals of up to €30,000 per successful proposal, and will be followed by an open call for proposals for Transformative Knowledge Networks that will each receive up to €300,000 per year over a three-year period.

Transformations to Sustainability will promote research on the fundamental and innovative processes of social transformations needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions to some of today's most urgent problems of global change and sustainability, including climate change, biodiversity loss, water and food security, energy production and consumption, poverty and growing inequalities.

The programme will support researchers from the social, behavioural and economic sciences to take the lead in developing international Transformative Knowledge Networks that will bring together researchers from different disciplines and fields of science. Networks will focus on the needs and opportunities for social transformation in concrete contexts of application, and will engage stakeholders in the co-design and co-production of solutions-oriented knowledge and the development of networks of knowledge exchange and mutual learning.

A full description of this programme is available for download. This call will be implemented by the ISSC, and the deadline for submissions is 31 May 2014. The open call for Transformative Knowledge Networks will be issued towards the end of October 2014. The ISSC anticipates implementing this call in partnership with the Belmont Forum.

Source: <http://www.worldsocialscience.org/documents/transformations-sustainability-programme.pdf>

### **Call for papers: Workshop on Interoperability and Open-Source Solutions for the Internet of Things**

September 18, 2014 (a full-day workshop), Split, Croatia (in conjunction with SoftCOM 2014)

The Internet of Things (IoT) can be seen as the next evolutionary step in the Internet life-cycle, with already more than 10 billion connected devices in 2013. However, to enable wide adoption and proliferation of IoT services, further development is needed in the area of interoperability and standardisation as well as the convergence of the Web and IoT standards in the M2M space, e.g., W3C SSN and OneM2M. Moreover, we are witnessing the emergence of open-source solutions targeting the IoT and cloud integration which can further drive innovation and provision of utility-driven IoT services.

This workshop aims at bringing together researchers and practitioners from industry, academia, and standardisation bodies, to showcase their practical work, exchange ideas and experiences, discuss novel solutions and future development. Workshop participants will also find common ground for collaboration in the area of interoperability for the Internet of Things. Submission deadline: June 10, 2014.

Source: <http://www.openiot.eu/?q=softcom2014workshop>

### **GEOSS Data Core Survey**



You are invited you to complete a short online survey about the added value of the "GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data CORE)". The survey is being carried out in the framework of the European FP7 GEOWOW project (<http://www.geowow.eu/>) and is available online at link above. The primary motivation of the survey is to gather information on the Community's awareness, use and perceived value of the GEOSS Data CORE, and compare the results with a similar survey run last year to see if perceptions have changed. GEO would be grateful if you could complete the survey by May 15, 2014.

Source: <http://sdi-survey.jrc.ec.europa.eu/limesv/index.php?sid=89869&lang=en>

### **1<sup>st</sup> Group on Earth Observations GEO Appathon 2014**



The GEO Appathon is a global applications (App) development competition that aims to develop new, exciting and - most importantly - useful Apps using Earth observation data from the open and expansive Earth Observation data sets in the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI, [www.geoportal.org](http://www.geoportal.org)).

The Appathon kicks off on 7 May 2014 and runs until 31 August 2014. Participation is open to any non-commercial entity, individual or team from any background in any country. Apps can be created for any of the main operating systems, and can be designed for any type of portable device. All Apps will be judged and the top three winners will receive a cash prize and a year-long GEO network endorsement and publicity for the App.

Visit the GEO Appathon website for more rules, details of how to register and information about how you can help GEO unleash the power of Earth observation data. If you have questions, contact: Dan Williams at: [dan@geoappathon.org](mailto:dan@geoappathon.org).

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

### **Environmental Citizen Science (December 2013)**

This In-depth Report from Science for Environment Policy explores academic research into citizen science practice and theory, and outlines a number of case study projects. The value of such projects for science, society, education and environmental policy-making are considered.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/IR9.pdf>

### **The Analysis of Open Source Software and Data for Establishment of GIS Services Throughout the Network in a Mapping Organization at National or International Level**

Mehrdad Jafari Salim, Doctoral dissertation, Politecnico di Torino, Italy (February 2014)

This thesis discusses available Open Source Software solutions to cover data collection, database management, data processing, and data services and presentation. Open Source Data available globally also are discussed using predefined data quality criteria (such as theme, data content, scale, licensing, and coverage) according to the metadata statement inside the datasets by mean of bibliographic review, technical documentation, and web search engines. The thesis further explores data quality concepts and defines protocols for evaluation of all datasets according to tasks in different disciplines such as: reconnaissance, city planning, topographic mapping, transportation, environment control, disaster management, etc.

Source: [http://porto.polito.it/2540693/1/mehrdad\\_jafari\\_salim\\_final\\_thesis.pdf](http://porto.polito.it/2540693/1/mehrdad_jafari_salim_final_thesis.pdf)

### **URISA GIS Management Institute discussion paper #1 (March 2014)**

URISA (The Association for GIS Professionals) has published the first in what is intended to be a series of occasional GIS Management Institute® (<http://www.urisa.org/main/gis-management-institute/>) discussion papers. These papers are intended to stimulate thought and open discussion about issues related to GIS management that are important to the GIS community. The paper, titled “A Distributed Model for Effective National Geospatial Data Management: Building a National Data Sharing Infrastructure” is available online. Jim Sparks (State of Indiana GIO), Philip Worrall (Indiana Geographic Information Council Executive Director), and Kevin Mickey (Indiana University Polis Center Geospatial Education Director) are authors of the paper. GIS professionals are encouraged to read this paper and provide your comments and further suggestions to the authors. Interested

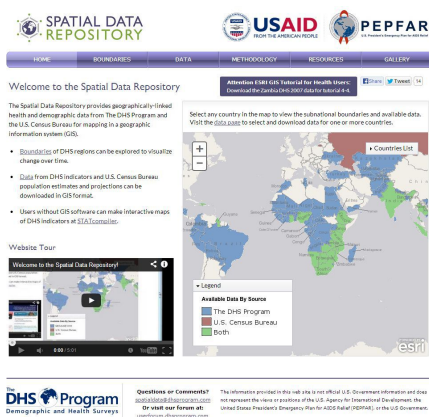
authors should send their papers to URISA's Executive Director (wnelson@urisa.org) for review and consideration by the GIS Management Institute.

Source: <http://www.urisa.org/clientuploads/directory/GMI/Discussion%20Papers/GMIDiscussionPaper1.pdf>

## **New (Beta 1.0) Release - Global Land Cover-SHARE (2014)**

A new FAO land cover product, the Global Land Cover-SHARE (GLC-SHARE), has been released. This new product collects previously scattered and unharmonized land cover information from around the globe into one centralized database, marking a major improvement in information regarding the physical characteristics of the Earth's surface.

Source: [http://www.glcnet.org/databases/lc\\_glcshare\\_en.jsp](http://www.glcnet.org/databases/lc_glcshare_en.jsp)



## **New Release - U.S. Census Bureau International Population Data and Maps**

The Census Bureau has added to and updated the online collection of subnational population data linked to maps (shapefiles) that are available at the Spatial Data Repository. The Repository contains a variety of data and maps primarily for countries that receive assistance via the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). To access the maps, start at the web page above and:

1. Click on Data in the ribbon below the title
  2. Under the Select Countries tab at the left, click on Single Country
  3. Choose a country in the dropdown menu immediately below the Single Country tab to see available data sets. Census Bureau population data and maps are available for the countries listed below.
- Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
  - Americas: Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti
  - Asia/Europe: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand

In the near future, the Census Bureau will release a seamless global map containing population estimates for tens of thousands of subnational administrative areas globally.

The website (<http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/mapping/>) contains links to other Census Bureau international data and map products, including gridded data sets containing population estimates for 100-meter cells for several countries. These are ideal for obtaining neighborhood-level population estimates.

The site provides detailed demographic data primarily for countries that receive assistance via the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The data are available for single countries and also multiple countries through a data package, all of which the user chooses and customizes. Through the site, the US Census Bureau has added to and updated the online collection of subnational population data linked to maps.

To access the maps and data, begin at the main website for the project, select Data, select countries, select indicators (variables), select the format (shapefile or geodatabase), and indicate whether you want to download it now in a browser or receive an email when the package is ready. You can choose up to 25 variables at a time to be included in the package. Also, in the near future, the US Census

Bureau will release a seamless global map containing population estimates for tens of thousands of subnational administrative areas globally.

### **GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR**

If you're in the process of planning travel in 2014, or if you're looking for venues where you can exchange ideas with colleagues, then visit GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at <http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf>. The calendar 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 [lancekt@aya.yale.edu](mailto:lancekt@aya.yale.edu). 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"***