

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

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Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association](#) (GSDI). It focuses on aspects related with Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues, related with SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to raise awareness, provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives, and support synchronization of regional efforts.



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

GSDI

[GSDI Definition](#)

The [Pan-American Institute of Geography and History](#) (PAIGH), member organization of GSDI, and the [Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas](#) (PC-IDEA), promote SDI development in the region. The newsletter is prepared by PAIGH for GSDI.

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Message from the Editor

This SDI-LAC issue highlights the following updates: The **Global and Regional SDI** section comprises messages from GSDI President and President-Elect, and of the Outreach and Membership Committee; it also add notes on a new SIRGAS Experimental Processing Centre in Central America; CAF joining the United Nations; the ILAF OGC Corner; Launching of Landsat 8; the EU Citizen OBservatory WEB (COBWEB); the Kerala State SDI; and relevant events taking place worldwide. The **IGS section** includes comments on the first version of the "120 Theses" (MA and Ph.D.). The **National SDI** segment informs on the publication of IDERA Bulletin No. 8; the 2013 TUCUMANSIG; the Chilean Rivers' SDI; Colombian IDECA Alliance with GeoSUR, 8th Progress Report of the IDESC; Peruvian SDI Nodes and Geoportals; and Geographic Boundaries of the Dominican Republic. **Articles and Publications** of the month include papers on the Uruguayan project called "Plan Ceibal"; the ISC-GEM catalogue; and the Use of open Geographic Information Systems in Costa Rica. **Geospatial Research and Applications** underline St Thomas, USVI Street addressing; Climate Jeopardizing the Amazon Forest; and Hyperspectral data in environmental monitoring. The **Training and Funding Opportunities** section encompasses calls for international initiatives, among them OAS Courses on Cadaster, and a United Nations/Japan Fellowship Programme. Finally, several

Events taking place in the Americas are listed in the last section.

Translation of SDI-LAC Portuguese is possible thanks to undergrad students from UNESP **Mateus de Barros Manhani** and **Esrom A. Rissate Júnior**, from UFPE **Caroline Martins** and the cartographic engineers: **Alexandre Scussel**, editorial assistant MundoGEO. **Annette Pic**, MSc in Remote Sensing; **Camila Bassetto Guedes**, advisor of the Operations Department of the DECEA; **Edilce Figueiredo Burity**, Technologist of IBGE/PE Geographic Information and Statistics; **Edmilson Martinho Volpi**, Natural Resources Secretary in SP; **Eduardo Freitas**, editor of the MundoGEO portal and magazine; **Flávio Porfírio**, UGP-Dam of the ITEP; **Juan Carlos Gironda Mamani**, a consultant in Geotechnology and IT solutions for Geoinformation; **Rodrigo Quirino** Technologist of IBGE/RJ Geographic Information and Statistics; **Silvana Camboim** Professor at UFPR; **Silvane Paixão**, PhD in Land Administration and Land Information Management. Under the general coordination of Silvane Paixão and review of Eduardo Freitas.

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>

Editor, Nancy Aguirre, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), <http://www.ipgh.org>, cnaguirre@ipgh.org

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Input to this Issue

Thanks for their contributions to this SDI-LAC Newsletter issue to:

Mabel Alvarez	President of the International Geospatial Society (IGS), Argentina
Santiago Borrero	Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH, Mexico
Arturo Brun-Martinez	Architect, Colombia
Joan Capdevila-Subirana	Regional Service of the National Geographic Institute in Catalunya, Spain
Conrado De Leon	CATHALAC Education Division, Panama
Kate Lance	
Joshua Newell	Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, USA
Madiodio Niasse	Director, ILC Secretariat, Italy
Imma Serra	National Geographic Information Center, National Geographic Institute, Spain
Eric van Praag	Coordinator, GeoSUR Program, Venezuela

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Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations

AfricaGIS 2013

GSDI 14



UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
November 4-8, 2013

Year-end Messages from our President and President-Elect

Source: GSDI and IGS Global News Volume 2 (2012) Issue 8

From the President:

(2012) has been a very satisfying year for the GSDI Association. We enjoyed a rewarding GSDI 13 Conference in Québec City, Canada in May, and our volunteer committees continue to do great work. The discussions promoted by our Legal and Socioeconomic Committee members are continuing to help shape policy debates underway in different countries. The international projects supported through our Societal Impacts Committee's Small Grants Program are making a difference in terms of capacity-building in emerging nations. GSDI's regional and global newsletters produced through our Outreach and Membership Committee, continue to communicate best practices and news of interest to our colleagues around the world.

We are now in the midst of planning GSDI 14, to take place in Africa next November, and are contacting a new and wider range of potential sponsors to support the next round of projects to be supported by our highly successful Small Grants Program.



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On behalf of the GSDI Association, I want to thank everyone for their continued support of GSDI's vision of building a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives. I look forward to meeting and working with old and new friends in 2013.

Dr David Coleman, President

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association The GSDI Association: Advancing a location enabled world

From the President-Elect:

Looking back at 2012 we can be very satisfied that the Association responded well to the many challenges that this changing world and the challenging economic climate has presented.

The good work of the Executive Team, led by Harlan Onsrud, with the support of the Board, has ensured that the Association is well run. The leadership of our President, and those members active in our many Committees, has continued to shape and sharpen thinking on many topics important to the Geospatial World.

A review of the year shows that the importance of geospatial information and the expectations that a growing number of political leaders, business managers and ordinary people have for it, has reached new heights. On every continent of the world the use of geospatial information continues to grow, there are few people whose lives and livelihoods have not been influenced by it.

In 2012 geospatial information found its way into more classrooms, more planning offices, more emergency response centres, onto more mobile platforms, more desktops than ever before. Geospatial Information was spoken about at Rio+20 and its importance and benefits recognised globally from the Arctic SDI to Zimbabwe.

Looking forward to 2013, be assured that GSDI can expect another successful and exciting year. There will be more challenges and many changes, but we know that the commitment of the Association's members will lead to positive responses to these. I look forward to seeing you at GSDI 14 or wherever our crossing paths may take us.

Dave Lovell, GSDI Association President-Elect; Secretary General and Executive Director, EuroGeographics

Outreach and Membership Committee

Committee vice-Chairs, Roger Longhorn and Joep Crompvoets, were in Ethiopia in December, at the invitation of GSDI Member UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) to participate in the "Workshop on Legal and Policy Issues for African SDI". They were joined by Laila Aslesen, Kartverket-Norwegian Mapping Authority, a member of the Legal and Socioeconomic Committee, and Tesfaye Korme, Director, GIS and Remote Sensing, from GSDI Member Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Kenya. The meeting was organised by Andre Nonguierma, UN ECA GIS Officer and GSDI Association Board Member, who also serves on the GSDI 14 Conference local organizing committee in Ethiopia.

The experts were invited to respond to a background paper on legal and policy issues for geospatial information prepared by L&SE Committee member, Kevin Pomfret, who is also Director of the Centre for Spatial Law & Policy in Washington, D.C., USA. The 3-day workshop examined issues for developing a legal and policy framework suited to continental Africa and individual African states.

The meeting took place at UN ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa from 11-13 December 2012, following preparation of a draft background document, commissioned by UN ECA prior to the meeting. An important objective for UNECA is to support Member States to harmonize national policies in various sectors to support integration efforts, including in the information sector. In past years, UN ECA has continued to put in place policies, resources and structures to make available geo-enabled information and communication technologies that are easily accessible and used by decision makers and the community in a coordinated way.

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UN ECA believes that setting up an enabling legal and regulatory environment will foster adoption of appropriate mechanisms for the cooperative production, management, dissemination and use of geoinformation resources at regional (ARSDI - African Regional SDI) and national levels (NSDI) in the continent.

The meeting was attended by a dozen selected experts from Australia, Belgium, Ethiopia, Norway, South Africa, United States, African regional institutions, and UN ECA. The invited experts were asked to present brief perspectives on the subject of legal and policy frameworks for SDI, based on current developments in their sector and/or country/region. The presentations were discussed and reviewed for relevance, coherence and complementarities in relation to the African situation and international status.

The draft African SDI policy and legal framework strategy report is being prepared under the auspices of the UN ECA's Committee on Development Information Science and Technology (CODIST) and, in the future, will be presented to and discussed with officials of the African Union, which represents all African states at the policy level. One of the three current CODIST Sub-committees focuses on Geoinformation, and the current Chair of that Sub-committee, Dr Derek Clarke, from South Africa, was one of the invited experts, who also provided insight into conditions in African states regarding the issues to be faced, which were of great value to the visiting experts from other regions of the world. For more information on CODIST and CODIST-II, visit <http://repository.uneca.org/codist/>.

While in Ethiopia, Longhorn and Cromptvoets also visited the conference facility of the Africa Union in Addis Ababa, the most likely site for the GSDI 14 Global Conference, accompanied by Dr Ephrem Gebremariam, from the Local Organising Committee for GSDI 14 and AfricaGIS, to see first-hand the excellent facilities that are available in Addis Ababa for the combined Conferences in November 2013. Watch the EIS-Africa and GSDI web sites for more details as plans are firmed up over the next few weeks.

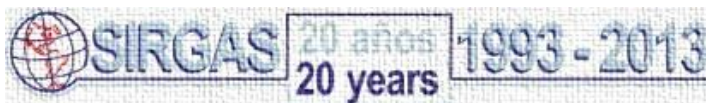
During the visit to Ethiopia, Longhorn, Cromptvoest and Dr Derek Clarke, Chief Director, National Geospatial Information (NGI), South Africa, were also invited to meet with senior staff from the Ethiopian Mapping Agency (EMA) (<http://www.ema.gov.et/>) to discuss SDI developments within Ethiopia and Africa. The EMA staff were interested especially to learn more about the experiences to date in regard to the INSPIRE Directive implementation across Europe, while realizing that the political, technological and economic situation within Ethiopia was quite different - and much more challenging! Dr Clarke is also Chair of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation of CODIST, the UN ECA Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology, which is currently involved in preparing the "Guidelines for Best Practices for the Acquisition, Storage, Maintenance and Dissemination of Fundamental Geo-spatial Datasets (Mapping Africa for Africa)" documentation. Anyone wishing to know more about this document or contributions to it, contact Derek at DClarke@ruraldevelopment.gov.za.



The above notes are from Issue 8 of Volume 2 (2012) of the GSDI and IGS Global News distributed to all parts of the globe. Current and past issues of the GSDI and IGS Global News available in pdf format are available at <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#GSDI> with direct access to the current news at http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1174

A new SIRGAS Experimental Processing Centre in Central America

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



The Escuela de Topografía, Catastro y Geodesia (ETCG) at the Universidad Nacional (UNA) in Heredia, Costa Rica acts as a SIRGAS Experimental Processing Centre since the GPS week 1721 (December 30, 2012). The main characteristics of this Processing Centre are:

- Name: CNPDG-UNA: Centro Nacional de Procesamiento de Datos GNSS, Universidad Nacional
- Abbreviation: UNA
- Processed stations: ABMF, AZUL, BOAV, BOGT, BRMU, BUEN, CBSB, CHET, COL2, CRO1, DARI, DAVI, ELEN, ETCG, EXU0, GLPS, GOLD, GRE0, GTK0, GUAT, HER2, IDGO, IGN1, INEG, IPAZ, IQUI, ISCO, MAGA, MANA,

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MDO1, MERI, MEXI, MTY2, NAS0, OAX2, PIE1, RIOH, RIOP, SAGA, SCUB, SMRT, SSIA, TEG2, TOL2, USNO, VIL2

- Software: Bernese 5.0, Windows
- Team: Sara Bastos Gutiérrez, Jorge Moya Zamora, María José Rivas Guzmán, Francisco Valverde Calderón.

CAF joins the United Nations

Source: Eric van Praag by way of Santiago Borrero

This news, hopefully, should reinforce the relationship of GeoSUR with Eye on Earth, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations (UN) more general:

[The multilateral financial institution was granted observer status by the United Nations General Assembly](#): The United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 2012 granted observer status to CAF, in recognition of its role as the development bank of Latin America. The decision was taken as a result of a determined push by all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the support of the 193 members of the United Nations organization. Bank present Enrique García noted that “in recent years, CAF has consolidated its position as the development bank of Latin America. This new dimension positions us as a regional player that performs a vital role in promoting integration and sustainable development, and in projecting the Latin American region on the global stage. The moment had arrived for CAF to join the United Nations.” “In this way,” added Garcia, “CAF continues to build bridges between Latin America and the rest of the world.” The participation of CAF as an observer in the General Assembly will allow it to play a more active role in following through on key issues related to the regional and international agenda, which the UN addresses and which are consistent with CAF’s mission to promote sustainable development and regional integration. In addition, CAF’s observer status will strengthen its relationships with other organizations that are part of the United Nations system, allowing for more effective coordination of programs and activities in areas of common interest. The General Assembly is the deliberative body that represents the United Nations and is responsible for policy formulation. UN observers are invited to participate and voice their opinions in the General Assembly meetings. It is worth noting more than 60 international organizations qualify as observers, including other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Asian Development Bank.

ILAF OGC Corner

Source: Imma Serra and Joan Capdevila

Did you know that ...



The [Open Geospatial Consortium](#) works jointly with other organizations to foster development and use of standards. To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by which the type of collaboration for an increased acceptance and application of standards between organizations is established. In other words, organizations obtain support on how to codify their standards' geolocation, while OGC learn from these organizations on how to bring harmonization among these standards. Standards are tested and validated through test beds, interoperability experiments, or pilot projects. There is also collaboration on reference architecture to improve interoperability inside and within interested stakeholder communities. There is a [list of associates](#) that are working together with OGC on capacity building programs that seek to increase awareness among users and producers for an increased OGC Standards' application and integration at the local, national and regional levels. As an example of the above you may see the [Memorandum of Understanding between OGC and OSGeo](#).

OGC News

07/01: OGC organizes a webinar on energy management. [Link](#)

1.8: OGC published GeoPackage (GPKG) as a Candidate OGC Standard. [Link](#)

14/01: OGC publishes the document on OGC Wide Area Imagery Motion Best Practice. [Link](#)

¡More on OGC at the ILAF OGC Iberin and Latin-American Forum [website](#)!

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[Longest Permanent Earth Surface Data Record Continues](#)

Source: GIM International

NASA's Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM), the eighth satellite in the Landsat series, is set to launch on 11 February from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, USA. LDCM is a joint NASA and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) mission and is a continuation of the longest continuous data record of Earth's surface as viewed from space. After launch, LDCM will enter a polar orbit, circling the Earth about 14 times daily from an altitude of 705 kilometers, returning over each location on Earth every 16 days. After launch and the initial checkout phase, the USGS will take operational control of the satellite, and LDCM will be renamed Landsat 8. Data will be down linked to three ground stations: in Gilmore Creek, Alaska, Svalbard, Norway, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The data will be archived and distributed at no cost to users from the USGS's Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls. LDCM carries two instruments, the Operational Land Imager (OLI), built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies in Boulder, Colorado, and the Thermal Infrared Sensor (TIRS), built by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. OLI will continue observations currently made by Landsat 7 in the visible, near infrared, and shortwave infrared portions of the electromagnetic spectrum. It also will take measurements in two new bands, one to observe high altitude cirrus clouds and one to observe water quality in lakes and shallow coastal oceans as well as aerosols. OLI's new design has fewer moving parts than previous versions. TIRS will collect data on heat emitted from Earth's surface in two thermal bands, as opposed to the single thermal band on previous Landsat satellites. Observations in the thermal bands are vital to monitoring water consumption, especially in the arid western United States.



[EU citizens to collect data to help shape policy](#)

Source: <http://www.spatialsource.com.au>



A new collaborative European project seeks to empower citizens to collect and contribute data for use in policy formation and governance. The €8.5 million, 4 year, COBWEB (Citizen OBServatory WEB) project will develop an "observatory framework" that will make it easier for citizens to collect environmental data suitable for use in research, decision making and policy formation. The project is built around UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), with test areas in Biosphere Reserves within the UK, Germany and Greece. The COBWEB project is led by the University of Edinburgh, which put together a consortium of thirteen partners from five European countries. The Citizen's OBServatory WEB seeks to increase the value and interoperability of crowdsourcing technology to policy makers by enabling the fusion of citizen-sourced data with reference data from a range of sources, including data published by public authorities. This will be achieved through integration with the European INSPIRE (Infrastructure for

Spatial Information in Europe) Directive, compliant national SDIs (Spatial Data Infrastructures) and GEOSS (the Global Earth Observation System of Systems).

[Kerala logs onto State Spatial Data Infrastructure portal](#)

Source: <http://keralaitnews.com/>

Kerala is trending towards an information and knowledge society, specifically with the focus on IT and transparent e-governance. As a step in this direction, the Government has set up the Kerala State Spatial Data Infrastructure (KSDI) to promote geospatial data sharing at State level. The KSDI geo-portal (kdsi.kerala.gov.in) was launched by Minister for Industries & IT, Shri P K Kunhalikutty on January 18, 2013. In his remarks, the Minister said that with the KSDI geo-portal launch, Kerala is moving ahead of other States in terms of IT implementation for e-governance. "Through this venture, spatial data information



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for different domains such as infrastructure, traffic planning, resource availability, demographic status, socio-economic status, health and culture-related information etc., even up to cadastral scale will be within a mouse click away”, he added. Over the past years, Kerala has produced a lot of information through topographic surveys, geological surveys, soil surveys and the use of the remote sensing images. With the formation of KSDI, these maps and images have been integrated with other Department level data. The portal is a gateway to access the geospatial data content, which has the capability to handle data storage, retrieval and updating. The web-based geo-portal is built on a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), by means of interoperable OGC-Compliant Web Services, which would allow the users spread across the internet, to view the data availability, query, download and perform various spatial and non-spatial functions and analysis through the KSDI network and publish them seamlessly. Access to and maintenance of the underlying master database will be done by uploading data by KSDI itself or from remotely available servers of the spatial data generating agencies. KSDI would serve as integral medium between various environmental, economic, socio-cultural and governmental stakeholders. This will foster access to organized spatial data, and use of infrastructure at community, local, state, regional and national levels for sustained economic growth.

Call for papers -- special issue IJGIS

Source: Joshua Newell

The International Journal of Geographical Information Science Special Issue on Land Change Modelling: moving beyond Projections Call for papers. A special issue titled “Land Change Modelling: moving beyond projections” has been approved by the Editors and Publisher of the International Journal of GIS. You are encouraged to submit relevant and high quality manuscripts for this special issue. The special issue will be guest-edited by Martin Paegelow (University of Toulouse II, France), María Teresa Camacho Olmedo (University of Granada, Spain), Jean-François Mas (UNAM, Mexico), Thomas Houet (GEODE – CNRS, France) and Robert Gilmore Pontius Jr. (Clark University, United States). The objective of this special issue is to examine a wide range of land change simulations in order to clarify models’ assumptions, to allow conscious modelling choices, and to illustrate a variety of modelling solutions. This special issue will review existing modelling approaches and introduce new ones. In this framework, this special issue will focus on the essential components of land change modelling, especially concerning process stationarity, model validation, and model comparison. The papers will not focus on local implications of isolated case studies of land change projections. A condition of acceptance will be that papers must pass the normal IJGIS double-blind review process. In addition, authors of conditionally accepted papers will be asked to link and cross reference other papers from the special issue, and these links and cross-references will then be subject to a second review by the guest editors. The special issue will be about 192 pages. Each paper will be about 20 journal pages. Please refer to the guide for authors of IJGIS journal to prepare this submission (<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tgisauth.asp>). IJGIS offers some free colour pages to all authors. The deadline for submission of papers is **May 31 2013**. When you wish to submit your special issue paper online to the International Journal of GIS <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijgis>, please choose 'Special Issue Paper' from the Manuscript Types field. For more information please contact the special issue guest-editor Martin Paegelow, University of Toulouse II, France. Email: paegelow@univ-tlse2.fr

Japan to host World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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



The UN General Assembly confirmed that Japan will host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 when it passed its annual resolution yesterday on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Previously, Japan successfully hosted the last two such world conferences. The world's first comprehensive framework for disaster risk reduction resulted from the last world conference held in Kobe in January 2005 where there was unanimous support for the "Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)." The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction resolution passed yesterday also encourages Member States to develop national disaster loss databases, and to employ

disaster risk mapping and financial tracking systems. These tools improve availability of evidence and risk information to decision makers at all levels of society. The year 2015 is also when the Millennium Development Goals culminate and the world decides on the post-2015 development agenda. The resolution stresses linkages between disaster risk reduction and long term development planning and asks governments to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction within the post-2015 development agenda

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Geospatial Conference in Tunis

Source: GIM International Latest News

The second Geospatial Conference in Tunis (GCT) will be held from 18 to 22 February 2013 at the Ramada Plaza Conference Center. The GCT focuses on geospatial industry solutions to support the infrastructure development of North Africa, showcasing the latest technologies, software and geoinformation services for regional government and industry users. On Monday, 18 February, the principal sponsors Hexagon Geosystems and ESRI are hosting pre-conference in-depth presentations of their solutions, followed by the opening of the conference on Tuesday, 19 February by the Tunisian Minister for IT and Telecom, Dr Mongi Marzoug. On the three core conference days (19 to 21 February), government and industry presentations are planned, together with a trade fair and live demonstrations. More information can be found at www.gct-tunisia.com

AGILE'2013: List of Accepted Workshops

Source: The AGILE 2013 workshops committee by way of Santiago Borrero



Eight workshops out of 10 proposals have been accepted for AGILE 2013. These are full days workshops taking place on May 14th at Leuven, just before AGILE conference (May 15th to May 17th). This year it will be possible to attend only a workshop but fees will be lower for conference attendees.

The list is entailed below. More information coming soon on our web site (<http://www.agile-online.org/>).

- Analysing spatio-temporal data with R
- Web cartography for national SDIs
- Analyzing eye-tracking data in real, virtual and mixed environments
- Integrating 4D, GIS and Cultural Heritage
- 3D Urban Modeling with ESRI City Engine
- Action and Integration in Volunteered Geographic Information
- Understanding Urban Cycling : A Data Challenge (Cdc2013)
- The Data Complexity Challenge - New Approaches to Data Harmonisation

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IGS News, Links, Publications



International
Geospatial Society



Dear International Geospatial Society (IGS) Members,

Please send *David Coleman*, President, GSDI Association (dcoleman@unb.ca) nominations for president and vice-president of the International Geospatial Society! The term of our first president, Mabel Alvarez, has expired and our president-elect had to step down due to a change of jobs.



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The nominations committee consists of:

Mabel Alvarez, Past President, International Geospatial Society (Argentina)
Bas Kok, Past President, GSDI Association (Netherlands)
Santiago Borrero, Past President, GSDI Association (Mexico)
Abbas Rajabifard, Past President, GSDI Association (Australia)
David Coleman, President, GSDI Association (Canada)

This committee will select two to five nominations to be placed on the ballot for each of the two open positions. If more than two candidates are listed, ranked instantaneous runoff voting will be used.

Feel free to nominate yourself or look at the list of members at <http://www.igeoss.org/members> and nominate someone you would like to see as president of the organization. I will contact other than self-nominations to see if those nominated are willing to stand for election. Please have nominations sent to me before **February 15** at dcoleman@unb.ca. Unless I hear objections, we will try to have electronic elections within two weeks of that date.

The term of president is for two years. The elected president will serve from the date of election in 2013 until December 31, 2014. The elected vice-president/president-elect will serve as vice-president until December 31, 2014 and then president from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Nominees for president and president-elect should:

1. Let me know if you are willing to have your name on the ballot
2. Prepare a short personal statement. This might include a vision for the organization, any priority goals or objectives, personal commitment, etc. Please keep this under 500 words. The statements for all candidates will be compiled and circulated to all IGS members.
3. If not already posted, post your resume/vita within the Geographic Information Knowledge Network. Go to <http://giknet.org>, login (upper right hand corner) and then follow the path My Submissions > Enter Profile for Individual.

Listed below is how we will carry out the election process.

If you are required to pay dues, don't forget to pay your 2013 dues at <http://igeoss.org/join> if you hope to vote in the elections.

I look forward to hearing from you. Best regards,

David Coleman, President, GSDI Association (dcoleman@unb.ca)

Appendix: Process for Election for IGS President and IGS Vice-President/President-Elect

Note: The approved operating procedures of the International Geospatial Society may be found at http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=505 starting on page 31.

To run the elections we will use the open source code software called LimeSurvey. As such, the code has been scrutinized and improved upon by many volunteer software developers.

Ensuring One Vote or Response Per IGS Member

Each International Geospatial Society member will receive an email from Harlan Onsrud, Executive Director of the GSDI Association at the email address they have recorded with the International Geospatial Society in the Member Services System. The software system is programmed to allow one and only one random token to be sent to your email account with that token being included in a one-time use web link where you may vote. Thus no person should be able to vote more than once.

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Ensuring Anonymity (extracted from the software documentation)

This survey is anonymous. The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed the survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

Casting and Counting of Ballots

The instructions for casting ballots will be along the following lines:

President: Please vote for President from the candidates listed by ranking your first choice as 1, second choice as 2, third choice as 3, etc.

Vice-President/President-Elect: Please vote for Vice-President/President-Elect from the candidates listed by ranking your first choice as 1, second choice as 2, third choice as 3, etc.

The approach of preferential voting which supports instantaneous runoff is described in the Appendix of the International Geospatial Society Operating Procedures that may be found at http://memberservices.gsd.org/files/?artifact_id=505. The ballots as cast in LimeSurvey will be verified by at least three past presidents of the GSDI Association as selected by the current president.

120 Theses (MA and Ph.D.)

Source: Mabel Alvarez

First version of the "120 Theses" (MA and Ph.D.) of the period between January 1st 2000 to April 30th 2012, is available for download on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKnet).

This document is the result of a collaborative work carried out by the International Geospatial Society (IGS) (www.igeoss.org) members and external collaborators from Universities and Research Groups.

The importance of Spatial Data Infrastructure and geospatial information in general has led to the compilation of thesis, as a source of information on recent research, from different countries, giving rise to the 1st Version of the document entitled "120 Theses", which is expected to continue being updated.

The Theses compiled, have been provided by the authors or obtained through publicly available repositories.

The document "120 Theses", consists of two parts: A paper on 57 Theses in 31 pages in English and one including 63 theses published in Spanish in 208 pages.

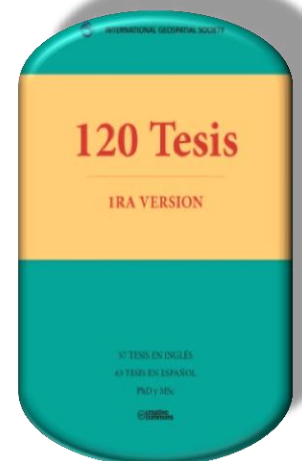
The Spanish document includes abstracts of each thesis, plus links to download the full text in the vast majority of cases, and two broad theses with a summary. The English document includes some thesis summaries (not all), along with direct download links or links to the university or institution from which you may access these documents.

To download the documents over 120 theses, the user must be logged in GIKnet. Registration is free and encourages readers to sign in: <http://www.giknet.org/join.php>

If you are a member of GIKnet, after logging in, you may access documents from the following links:

Thesis in English: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/index.php?docid=78>

Thesis in Spanish: <http://www.giknet.org/depot/index.php?docid=80>



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National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

ARGENTINA

Now Available IDERA Bulletin No. 8

Source: IDERA Outreach Group

The newsletter is a means of communication among who make up the Argentinean SDI (in Spanish IDERA), and the rest of the world; it presents progresses made, as well as advances in other regional SDIs. It also includes events that will take place throughout the year, software updates, and other information related to georeferencing systems.

[Download the newsletter No. 8.](#)

Call for papers - 2013 TUCUMANSIG

Source: IDERA Outreach Group



Users of the Province of Tucumán, Argentina expect to know about the project's vision, and GIS or remote sensing applications for both the province and the country. Please submit your abstract by **February 15th**, 2013 and take this opportunity to be part of this conference nationally. Whatever your field, position or level of experience with GIS or remote sensing technology, do not miss the occasion to share and discuss experiences, and presenting your work in TUCUMANSIG 2013. The Conference will be organized into central conferences of national and international benchmarks, oral presentations (case studies, best practices, lectures, and panel discussions), murals and participation of the industry on GIS and Remote Sensing. The Conference shall be conducted in San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina on April 18-19, 2013. [Learn more](#)

CHILE

Rivers of Chile SDI

Source: IDERA Outreach Group



From January 2nd, 2013 it is available the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for the community in the Region of Los Ríos. It is a tool that allows searching, locating, viewing, downloading and applying Geographic Information Systems in this region of Chile.

The Ríos SDI (in Spanish IDE) is part of an SDI-nodes network at the community, sub-national and national levels, integrating interoperable geoservices using OGC international standards and Geographic Information Chilean standards <http://www.idelosrios.cl>

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COLOMBIA

[District Cadastral Special Administrative Unit as Coordinator of IDECA Reaches Alliance with GeoSUR](#)

Source: <http://www.ideca.gov.co>

After two months of bilateral approaches, the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Capital District's (in Spanish IDECA) participation within the Geospatial Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoSUR) was finally made official. This important partnership will benefit the district community primarily in terms of knowledge management, access to new technology, and development and dissemination of



geographic information in regional and global scenarios, thus opening the door for its institutional recognition in Latin America. IDECA currently receives articulated support by GeoSUR for technological innovation and development, specifically in the frame of a project to implement geographic information service provision in the cloud. This is a pilot project in Latin America, and during 2013 GeoSUR will provide specialist advice for short term implementation.

[Eighth Progress Report of the IDESC](#)

Source: <http://www.cali.gov.co>



The eighth progress report on the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Santiago de Cali (in Spanish IDESC) reports the activities developed during the period from July to December 2012. Topics covered in this document are:

1. Activities
 - 1.1. New and redesigned portal Geoservices
 - 1.2. Construction of the IDESC Object Catalogue
 - 1.3. Update of the Geographic Information Policy
 - 1.4. Update of the IDESC Technology Platform
 - 1.5. Working with entities related to IDESC
 - 1.6. Adjustments in cartography
 - 1.7. New maps available in the GeoVisor
2. Web GeoVisor
3. Objectives for 2013

PERU

[IDEP Nodes and Geoportals](#)

Source: <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe>



Now is available at geoportal of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (in Spanish IDEP) the different nodes and geoportals of IDEP. In these sites you will find access to thematic maps, Juridical Geographic Information System, Regional Information System for Decision Making, the National System for Disaster Prevention and Attention, the geographical platform of the Peruvian Amazon, and the Integrated National Cadastral Information System. The geoportals and nodes may be found [here](#)

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

[ONE Strengthens Division that Sets the Country Limits and Boundaries Geographically](#)

Source: <http://www.one.gob.do>

The Dominican Republic has 386 municipal demarcations, distributed in 154 towns, 231 townships plus the National District, issued under the laws of Congress and promulgated by the Executive Branch. Its disaggregation is produced by the National Statistics Office for Territorial Division for the 2010 IX National Population and Housing Census Division of Limits and Boundaries Cartography Department. Compared to the 225 existing municipalities in 2002, when the previous census was done, there is a difference of 161 new municipal demarcations, equivalent to a percentage increase of 41.71% in just eight years. This, however, can produce a distorted picture of urban growth and the demographic reality of the country.

Whereas the creation of a territorial demarcation is related to different cultural, geographical, historical, demographic and economic factors, in the Dominican Republic political issues are above these aspects and disproportionately increases territorial division, while partitioning the population into communities that often lack minimum utility services such as potable water, paved roads, schools, and hospitals, among others.

Previously, the National Statistics Office, through its Department of Cartography, has strengthened its technical capacity to the aim of the census mapping and to improve the production of national censuses, surveys and official administrative records of the institutions that make up the National Statistical System, thus supporting planning and decision making of the Dominican Government. Nowadays, there is an improved mapping of limits and boundaries, in order to guide local authorities and District Boards directors regarding the limits of communities.

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Articles and Publications of the Month

Free Download Publication "Geographic Information Systems and Research in Humanities and Social Sciences"

Source: Kate Lance

The High Level Council of Scientific Research (in Spanish CSIC) Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (CCHS) GIS Unit have shared on the Digital CSIC website a manual on "Geographic Information Systems and Research in Humanities and Social Sciences", which exemplifies (with real projects) the enormous use of GIS in this field of application.

Abstract: GIS, commonly used in the field of geosciences, have begun to be implemented in other fields and disciplines such as research in Human and Social Sciences, which is the focus of this book. The possibilities offered by this technology are enormous and are exemplified by use cases of real projects developed at the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences (CCHS) of the CSIC, in which the Center's GIS Unit has participated, to which the authors of this book belong. [Full text may be found at: <http://digital.csic.es/handle/10261/64940>]

FIG Article of the Month

Source: FIG e-Newsletter January 2013



The Article of the Month in January 2013 is written by Msc. Ing. Raquel SOSA, Msc. Ing. Agrim. Rosario CASANOVA, Facultad de Ingeniería and Ing. Agrim. Jorge FRANCO, Dirección Nacional de Topografía, Uruguay: gvSIG Batoví an Educational GIS. The paper summarises a keynote presentation given at the 8th FIG Regional Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay, 27 November 2012 and describes a comprehensive and impressive Uruguayan project called "Plan Ceibal". All school children have received a free lap top, and a software to manage geographic information has been developed, implemented and used at all Uruguayan schools. At the same time the project shows a remarkable cooperation between different Uruguayan organizations. [The complete article may be

found at: http://www.fig.net/pub/monthly_articles/January_2013/jan_2013.html]

ISC-GEM catalogue coming soon

Source: GEM Newsletter January 2013 by way of Santiago Borrero

The ISC-GEM Global Instrumental Catalogue team has released v1 of the catalogue on January 31st. More than 20,000 events cover 110 years of seismic history in a highly homogenous way. Thousands of records were processed,

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which has led to improved, homogeneous estimates of magnitude and location. All main parameters are furnished with estimates of uncertainty. This results in a unique global catalogue that can be used for global hazard assessment and as well as contribute to harmonizing ongoing efforts to compile more detailed regional catalogues.

Use of open geographic information systems in Costa Rica

Source: Kate Lance

By Solano Mayorga *Revista Geográfica de América Central*, 1(48) 2012: 61–74



REVISTA GEOGRÁFICA DE AMÉRICA CENTRAL

Abstract: This article discusses the use of open source Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Costa Rica. It begins by establishing the advantages and benefits associated with technology, followed by a description of the use of commercial software on

the part of national institutions and the many fields in which it is used. The importance of GIS in land-use planning and how institutions are managing that information is discussed. The article goes on to deliberate on the advantages of using open software and how it is being implemented by these institutions. It ends with conclusions about the status of an open GIS and various activities that have been undertaken. Key words: Geographic Information Systems; Open GIS; gvSIG; and Draft Policy Project. [Full text may be found at: <http://www.revistas.una.ac.cr/index.php/geografica/article/view/3998>]

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Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

[St Thomas, USVI: Street addressing becomes](#)

Source: Kate Lance

St Thomas, USVI: Street addressing becomes a reality in 2013.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor, in partnership with the University of the Virgin Islands and the Eastern Caribbean Center, will soon launch the pilot phase of the territory's street addressing initiative by implementing street addresses in three local communities. The pilot project is the initial component of introducing Virgin Islanders to a standardized addressing system for the territory's roads, according to a press release issued by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

The custodian of the territory's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has steadily worked towards making street addressing a reality, to include undertaking a study of the territory's existing addressing environment. This study, which was conducted by nationally recognized leaders in geospatial infrastructure development, was completed last year. Completion of the study positions the Lieutenant Governor's Office to create an addressing system that allows for the efficient use of GPS technology, full functionality of the emergency 911 system, and expanded postal delivery to 911 homes.

Lt. Gov. Gregory Francis is eager for street addressing to become a reality in the territory. "The lack of a standardized addressing system affects more than the ability of our residents and tourists to navigate our streets with ease," Francis said. "It is a public safety issue that we are committed to improve." Francis is hopeful that the pilot projects will boost the community's participation in the Street Addressing Initiative. "Address assignment cannot take place on unnamed roads. Street addressing is a community initiative, and community participation is critical to our goal of achieving addressing throughout our community."

He is calling on residents to work together within their communities to collect and submit their street name recommendations to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Representatives of the project team are also available to meet with neighborhood associations to discuss the Street Addressing Initiative.

For more information or to set up a presentation for an organization's next event, contact Chris George, GIS coordinator/SAI project manager, at 776-8505, ext. 4321 or e-mail vistreets@lgo-vi.gov.

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[Study Finds Severe Climate Jeopardizing Amazon Forest](#)

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

An area of the Amazon rainforest twice the size of California continues to suffer from the effects of a megadrought that began in 2005, finds a new NASA-led study. These results, together with observed recurrences of droughts every few years and associated damage to the forests in southern and western Amazonia in the past decade, suggest these rainforests may be showing the first signs of potential large-scale degradation due to climate change. An international research team led by Sassan Saatchi of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., analyzed more than a decade of satellite microwave radar data collected between 2000 and 2009 over Amazonia. The observations included measurements of rainfall from NASA's Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission and measurements of the moisture content and structure of the forest canopy (top layer) from the SeaWiFS scatterometer on NASA's QuikScat spacecraft.

The scientists found that during the summer of 2005, more than 270,000 square miles (700,000 square kilometers, or 70 million hectares) of pristine, old-growth forest in southwestern Amazonia experienced an extensive, severe drought. This megadrought caused widespread changes to the forest canopy that were detectable by satellite. The changes suggest dieback of branches and tree falls, especially among the older, larger, more vulnerable canopy trees that blanket the forest.

The biggest surprise for us was that the effects appeared to persist for years after the 2005 drought," said study co-author Yadwinder Malhi of the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. "We had expected the forest canopy to bounce back after a year with a new flush of leaf growth, but the damage appeared to persist right up to the subsequent drought in 2010."

Saatchi said such megadroughts can have long-lasting effects on rainforest ecosystems. "Our results suggest that if droughts continue at five- to 10-year intervals or increase in frequency due to climate change, large areas of the Amazon forest are likely to be exposed to persistent effects of droughts and corresponding slow forest recovery," he said. "This may alter the structure and function of Amazonian rainforest ecosystems."

The drought rate in Amazonia during the past decade is unprecedented over the past century. In addition to the two major droughts in 2005 and 2010, the area has experienced several localized mini-droughts in recent years. Observations from ground stations show that rainfall over the southern Amazon rainforest declined by almost 3.2 percent per year in the period from 1970 to 1998. Climate analyses for the period from 1995 to 2005 show a steady decline in water availability for plants in the region. Together, these data suggest a decade of moderate water stress led up to the 2005 drought, helping trigger the large-scale forest damage seen following the 2005 drought.

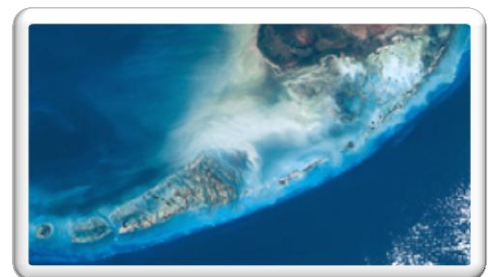
Saatchi said the new study sheds new light on a major controversy that existed about how the Amazon forest responded following the 2005 megadrought. Previous studies using conventional optical satellite data produced contradictory results, likely due to the difficulty of correcting the optical data for interference by clouds and other atmospheric conditions.

In contrast, QuikScat's scatterometer radar was able to see through the clouds and penetrate into the top few meters of vegetation, providing daily measurements of the forest canopy structure and estimates of how much water the forest contains. Areas of drought-damaged forest produced a lower radar signal than the signals collected over healthy forest areas, indicating either that the forest canopy is drier or it is less "rough" due to damage to or the death of canopy trees.

[Hyperspectral data plays important role in environmental monitoring](#)

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org>

In cooperation with Galileo Group, UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office (RSO) in Hungary, the Karoly Robert University College, participated in an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) flight operations and hyperspectral data collections for a NASA sponsored project to map sea grass beds and coral reefs in the Florida keys. Hyperspectral data collections can play a crucial role in environmental mapping and monitoring. The Galileo Group is an American technology company specializing in applied hyperspectral imaging.



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The information contained in the hyperspectral data sets is used to establish sea grass bed location, extent and its photosynthetic production, and can play a key role in monitoring changes over time relating to environmental conditions. Over 320 gigabytes of mission data was collected over the deployment. Working together, Galileo and the RSO's fellows operate as a consolidated team and perform a good service, which can serve as a reference for future work worldwide. A manned sensor aircraft flown by Galileo provided concurrent hyperspectral measurements for independent cross referencing purposes. The NASA grant, known formally as "High Resolution Assessment of Carbon Dynamics in Seagrass and Coral Reef Biomes," was awarded to the UAV Collaborative, located in Silicon Valley, which managed the overall project under the leadership of Dr. Stanley R. Herwitz as the Principal Investigator. Galileo performed the airborne collection work as contractor for the UAV Collaborative.

For purposes of advancing environmental research with hyperspectral imaging and computer processing techniques, Galileo has previously established a formal collaborative relationship with Dr. Csaba Lenart, professor of the Research Institute of Remote Sensing and Rural Development, Karoly Robert University College, Hungary. The College is a UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office and conducts basic and applied remote sensing research, focusing on the applications of state-of-the-art remote sensing and GIS systems and on the development of techniques to enhance the usefulness of these systems in environmental applications. The Institute also offers a team of experienced professionals in the integration and deployment of various sensors in remote sensing through LIDAR, thermal and hyperspectral imaging technologies as well as in computer sciences (digital image processing and analysis). Working together, Galileo and the College operate as a consolidated team and perform a wide portfolio of service missions across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

[GPS Intellectual Property Issue Resolved](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com>



The Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America have reached a common understanding of intellectual property rights related to the Global Positioning System (GPS) and will work together to address broader global navigation satellite systems' intellectual property issues. This understanding is part of a broader shared effort to advance compatibility and interoperability among civil satellite navigation systems and transparency in civil service provision. The two governments affirmed their joint commitment to ensuring that GPS civil signals will remain free and openly available for users worldwide. As part of this effort, the UK is dedicating all government-held patents and patent applications relating to U.S. GPS civil signal designs and their broadcast from GPS and other global navigation satellite systems to the public domain. The UK has committed to not pursue or assert intellectual property rights over any aspect of these signals, now

or in the future. Referring to the agreement reached, UK Defence Minister for Equipment, Support and Technology Phillip Dunne said that the joint approach to providing this intellectual property free to end users underpins the central role GPS plays in defence operations and in wider civil applications and civil resilience.

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Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

Academic offer of CATHALAC

Source: Conrado De Leon

CATHALAC is an international nonprofit based in Panama since 1992 and is recognized as a center of excellence for its scientific, technical and educational agenda in four areas, namely: Integrated Watershed Management, Climate Change, Environmental Modeling and Analysis, and Risk Management. Academic offer for March 2013 includes:



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- Basic GPS Course: March 1-2
 - International Course on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for contamination of water sources: March 18-22
- For more information on CATHALAC and its courses, please visit www.cathalac.org

OAS Courses on Cadastre

Source: Pan American Professional Network



The Department for Effective Public Management, Department of Political Affairs of the Organization of American States, in Washington, DC, includes among its priority activities to strengthen the cadastral capacity of public servants in the region (Central and Local Government). Hence, it is pleased to announce registration for two of its courses on cadastre to be held in 2013. Please contact: Mike Mora (mmora@oas.org).

The link to the page where the information is published is found at:

<http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Sector/SAP/DepartamentoparalaGesti%C3%B3nP%C3%ABlicaEfectiva/NPA/MuNetCatastro/Training>

[/tabid/1818/Default.aspx](http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Sector/SAP/DepartamentoparalaGesti%C3%B3nP%C3%ABlicaEfectiva/NPA/MuNetCatastro/Training/tabid/1818/Default.aspx)

The two courses are:

- Introduction to Cadastral Management, 7th edition. Its Call may be found at: <http://portal.oas.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=LaZpWNOMEN4%3d&tabid=1826>
- Use of GIS Technology in Cadastre, 9th edition. Its call may be found at: <http://portal.oas.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fcJpUbcDIEc%3d&tabid=1826>

[Fulbright Colombia Calls for graduate scholarships in the U.S.](#)

Source: Fulbright Colombia

The Call for Scholarship will be open from February 15 to **May 31**, 2013. Informative virtual talks will take place on February 6, 19, 21, 26 and 28 from 6 to 8pm (Calle 37 # 15-73 Bogota, Free admission). Fulbright Colombia offers approximately 90 scholarships annually for masters or doctoral studies in U.S. universities through cooperation agreements with national agencies. On February 15, 2013 it will open

the call for Colombian professionals interested in doing postgraduate studies at top U.S. universities. There will be talks and mentoring in 21 cities across the country for those who are interested. The scholarships are available to scholars, researchers, teachers, artists and professionals from all over the country conspicuous for their academic and professional careers, and who may have an impact project for the country. You may review the general and specific requirements of each program [here](#).



DISCCRS VIII Interdisciplinary Climate Change Research Symposium

Source: Hdgc_aag mailing list



The Symposium (<http://disccrs.org/disccrsposter.pdf>) will take place on October 12-19, 2013 in Colorado, USA. Application Deadline is **February 28**, 2013. Participation is limited to 30 early-career Ph.D. scholars. Airfare and on-site expenses are supported through grants from NSF and NASA (<http://disccrs.org>). The Dissertations initiative for the advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS) hosts symposia for early-career climate change researchers. The goal is to catalyze international, interdisciplinary collegial networks and foster

collaborative interdisciplinary research and dynamic interactions between science and society to enable us to better

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understand and respond to the myriad challenges posed by climate change. During the weeklong symposium, 30 competitively selected recent Ph.D. graduates will share their research, engage in discussions with peers, mentors, and funding agency representatives, and hone their teambuilding and communication skills. Most importantly, scholars will depart from the symposium with a collegial peer network that extends across the full range of climate science.

2012 Symposium Report: http://disccrs.org/files/DISCCRS_VII_Symposium_Report.pdf

2012 Symposium Scholars: http://disccrs.org/files/DISCCRS_VII_Symposium_Scholars.pdf

Symposium Eligibility: Ph.D. requirements completed on September 1st, 2010 - February 28th, 2013 in any field.

Applicants should be conducting research relevant to the study of climate change, its impacts, or its societal implications. We encourage applicants from the biological, physical, and social sciences, mathematics, engineering, and other fields. While U.S. citizens and residents have preference, some funds are available for non-U.S. participants.

Symposium Application Instructions: http://disccrs.org/application_instructions

DISCCRS Website: <http://disccrs.org>

United Nations/Japan establish Fellowship Programme on Nano-Satellite Technologies

Source: NASA

UNOOSA



United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Government of Japan in cooperation with the Kyushu Institute of Technology (KIT) have established a United Nations/Japan Long-term Fellowship Programme on Nano-Satellite Technologies for nationals of developing countries or countries with economy in transition. The Programme will provide extensive research opportunities in nano-satellite systems through the use of the nano-satellite development and testing facilities available at KIT. Every year this "Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)" Fellowship Programme will accept up to two students in the Masters course (2 years duration) and up to four students in the Doctorate course (3 years duration). Successful participants will be awarded a master or doctorate degree after successful thesis defence. The selected applicants will each receive a grant under Japanese government (Mobukagakusho: MEXT) scholarship (Research Students) of about 145,000 yen per month for the duration of their fellowship study (2 or 3 years) to cover housing, food, local transportation, and other expenses (actual scholarship amount is subject to change). Each candidate will be provided, according to his/her itinerary and route as designated by MEXT, an economy class air ticket between an international airport in the country of his/her nationality and Narita International Airport or Fukuoka International Airport. Fees for matriculation, tuition and entrance examinations will be paid by KIT. Applications for the Fellowship Programme will be accepted until **28 February 2013**.

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org/about-us/news/en/6324/2012-12-11t110100/united-nationsjapan-establish-fellowship-programme-nano>. The application forms and further information on the Fellowship Programme are available at <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/bsti/fellowship.html>.

gvSIG Course in English on gvSIG-training Platform

Source: gvSIG News Office

gvSIG-Training, the Distance Training Platform, opens its registration process for the second edition of the basic gvSIG course taught in English. The duration of the course shall be seven weeks, and is part of the gvSIG Association Certification Program [<http://www.gvsig.com/servicios/certificacion/certificacion>]. Course registration is open until **April 1, 2013**. The course will be held from April 8 to May 31, 2013. For more information, please visit the gvsig -training website at <http://www.gvsig-training.com> or contact registration@gvsig-training.com.

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Employment Opportunities

Job Opening: Associate Information Systems Officer/Knowledge Portal Specialist

Source: the UN-SPIDER Team by way of Santiago Borrero



UNITED NATIONS | UNOOSA | UN-SPIDER

United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for
Disaster Management and Emergency Response

OOSA/UN-SPIDER has announced a temporary job opening for an Associate Information Systems Officer/Knowledge Portal Specialist - P2. The deadline for application is **6 February** 2013. Further information on the position and the application process is available on our Knowledge Portal: <http://www.un-spider.org/job-en/6408/associate-information-systems-officerknowledge-portal-specialist-deadline-6-february>

Assistant Professor of Geomatics – University of Florida

Source: <http://www.fig.net/>

The Geomatics program is looking for someone who has a strong background in Geomatics and preferably a research interest in hydrographic surveying and/or natural resource mapping. For more details and to apply please go to the following website: <http://jobs.ufl.edu/postings/36000>. The deadline for applications is **April 1**, 2013.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation Seeks Land Tenure Officer

Source: <http://www.fig.net/>

At The Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC) Natural Resources Management and Environment Department (NR). The post is for a fixed Term of two years. Deadline For Application: **12 February** 2013. More information at: http://www.fig.net/jobs/2013/fao_jan_2013.pdf

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Other

The State of Food & Agriculture 2012

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

Quantity or quality? When it comes to investment in agriculture, a growing number of development experts vote for the latter. While the conventional approach to reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition has long been investing more, new evidence shows that targeted, fully informed investment works better, according to the latest edition of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) annual flagship report, [*The State of Food and Agriculture 2012: Investing in Agriculture for a Better Future*](#).



ILC Call for membership applications: deadline extended to February 15, 2013

Source: Madiodio Niassé by way of Santiago Borrero

Please note that the deadline to apply for membership in the International Land Coalition (ILC) has been extended to 15 February 2013. This decision is due to the fact that many organisations that expressed interest in becoming members did not have time to complete the application procedure yet. We hope that this new deadline will enable those who are interested in joining the International Land Coalition to gather the required documentation in time. The applications already received and to be received by the new deadline will be reviewed for a final decision at the ILC Assembly of Members, which will take place in April 2013. For more details on the application process, please visit <http://www.landcoalition.org/members/call-for-new-members/how-join-ilc> or contact: Mr. Andrea Fiorenza at a.fiorenza@landcoalition.org.

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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

[XXII National Meeting of Geography Teachers](#)

Source: Pan American Professional Network

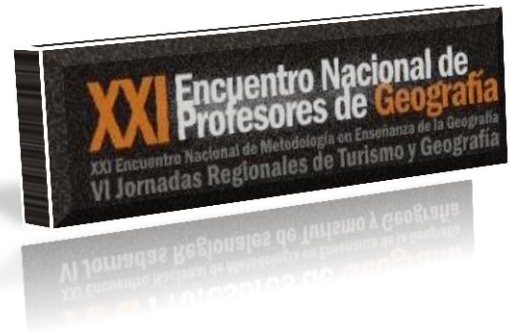
Members of the Pan American Professional Network invite participation to the XXII National Meeting of Geography, XXII National Meeting in Teaching Methodology, and VII Regional Days on Tourism and Geography, to be held in Villa Mercedes, San Luis (Argentina) from 30 May to June 1, 2013 (http://www.isnsc.com.ar/general/Formularios/circular_01.pdf).

Contacts:

Fabiana Ayub - fabianayub@gmail.com

Fernando Aguirre - ferhistoria1999@yahoo.com.ar

Valeria Bendazzi - vbendazzi@hotmail.com



Fourth Conference: TUCUMANSIG 2013.

Source: Idera Subscriptions

The Conference will be held in San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina on April 18-19, 2013. Please submit your abstract by **February 15, 2013** and take this opportunity to be part of this conference nationally. Whatever your field, position or level of experience with GIS or remote sensing technology, do not miss the opportunity to share and discuss your experiences and work in GIS TUCUMAN 2013. The Conference will be organized into central conferences of national and international benchmarks, oral presentations (case studies, best practices, lectures, panel discussions), murals, and participation of the industry on GIS and Remote Sensing. Contact: tucumansig@gmail.com

[International Interdisciplinary Conference on Geo- and Environmental Information and Communication \(CEGeoIC\): Achieving Sustainability Goals through Knowledge Sharing](#)

Source: Kate Lance



The Conference will take place on February 6-8, 2013, in Bogota, Colombia. This International and Interdisciplinary conference is dedicated to scientific and technical methods of environmental information and communication. Special regard is given to the central role of Cartography and Geoinformation. The CEGeoIC conference will provide a forum for the presentation of scientific papers illustrating the efforts of the research community, professional papers describing the cutting-edge methods employed by environmental and Geoinformation organizations and companies, furthering their national as well as international collaborative efforts to advance knowledge and techniques of environmental information and communication. More Information Link: CEGeoIC <http://cegeoic2013.net/>

[II National Congress on Geographic Information Technologies and II Days of Geographic Information Systems](#)

Source: www.ungs.edu.ar

The Polvorines, Malvinas Argentinas. Province of Buenos Aires. Argentina, 3 and 4 October 2013. Deadline for abstract (300 words): April 30, 2013. Contacts: iicongresotig2013@gmail.com / infosig@ungs.edu.ar

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Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

YEAR 2013

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FEBRUARY 2013

3-6	Buenos Aires, Argentina	5th International Interdisciplinary Academic Conference - The International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, IISES
6-8	Bogota, Colombia	CEGeoC Conference 2013
7-8	Raleigh NC, USA	The Power of Place GIS Conference
11-12	Columbia SC, USA	SCARC 2013
11-13	Denver CO, USA	International LIDAR Mapping Forum
18-22	Anchorage AK, USA	47th Annual Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference
24-28	Annapolis MD, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Mid-Year Meeting 2013
NEW		
25-27	Washington DC, USA	ESRI Federal GIS Conference
28	Washington DC, USA	Conference for open source geo applications in the federal government FedGeoDay -
NEW		

MARCH 2013

4-7	Albuquerque NM, USA	GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference
NEW		
5-7	Phoenix AZ, USA	Alteryx Inspire 2013
NEW		
10	Panama City, Panama	Keynote Conference on Theme in Wastewater Treatment
NEW		
11-14	San José, Costa Rica	11th Congress of Water and Environmental Sanitation
NEW		
12-14	Washington D.C, USA	MAPPS Federal Programs Conference
NEW		
13-14	Redlands CA, USA	ESRI Pacific User Conference - CA / HI / NV
18-22	Havana, Cuba	8th International Congress on Geomatics
23-26	Palm Springs CA, USA	ESRI Partner Conference
24-27	Mendoza, Argentina	5th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment - CILCA 2013 Latin America
24-28	Baltimore MD, USA	ASPRS 2013 Annual Conference
25-28	Palm Springs CA, USA	ESRI Developer Summit

APRIL 2013

1-5	Havana, Cuba	V Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences - Geosciences 2013 http://www.lagf.org/
4-5	Banff, Alberta, Canada	The 12th International Symposium on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS 2013)
7-11	Ciudad de Panama, Panama	3rd SOLBABIAA Latin American Congress: Biotechnology for Service to Society
8-11	Washington DC, USA	Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty
9-13	Los Angeles CA, USA	2013 AAG Annual Meeting
9-13	Los Angeles CA, USA	Land Systems Science Symposium at AAG 2013
13-14	Vancouver, Canada	The 5th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Technology 2013 (ICCET 2013)
13-17	Chicago IL, USA	APA National Planning Conference in Chicago
14-17	Denver CO, USA	16th Annual AAAE Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference and Exhibition
15-17	West Long Beach CA, USA	19th Annual CalGIS Conference
15-18	Colorado Springs CO, USA	SPAR International
NEW		
17-18	Vancouver, Canada	The 2013 AASRI Conference on Intelligent Systems and Control (ISC 2013)
NEW		
18-19	Córdoba-Argentina	International Symposium on Latin American Studies
18-19	San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina	4th Conference on Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing "TUCUMAN GIS 2013"

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21-23	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Joint Urban Remote Sensing Event (JURSE 2013)
22-25	Chicago IL, USA	International BIO Convention
22-25	Indian Wells CA, USA	Field Service 2013
22-25	Mexico City, Mexico	International Congress on Sustainability IBERO
NEW		
24-26	Buenos Aires, Argentina	FOSS4G 2013
24-26	Manizales, Colombia	4th Colombian Regional and Local History Symposium
Apr.29-May.1	Jacksonville FL, USA	ESRI Southeast User Conference

MAY 2013

5-10	Quito, Ecuador	Latin American Forum on Noteworthy Instruments for Urban Intervention
NEW		
5-8	Boise ID, USA	AASHTO GIS-T 2013
7-8	Muncie IN, USA	2013 Indiana GIS Conference
7-9	Houston TX, USA	ESRI Petroleum GIS Conference
7-10	Havana, Cuba	Vegetable Biotechnology Congress
8-10	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Call for International Seminar: Poverty, Inequality and Health in Latin America and the Caribbean: Overcoming whirled
NEW		
13	San Antonio TX, USA	URISA Leadership Academy 2013
14-16	Redlands CA, USA	ESRI Forestry GIS Conference
15-17	Webinar	IV National Working days on Social History and Second Meeting of the International Network of Social History
NEW		
17-27	San Francisco CA, USA	International Conference on Software Engineering - ICSE 2013
20-22	Washington DC, USA	Location Intelligence & Oracle Spatial and Graph User Conference
20-23	Cincinnati OH, USA	World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2013
NEW		
21-24	Denver CO, USA	2013 The National Map Users Conference and Community for Data Integration Workshop
22-24	Ciudad de General Roca, Argentina	II Iberoamerican Meeting on Policy Management and Cultural Industries "Promoting Rights through Culture"
26	San Francisco CA, USA	GTSE 2013, SEMAT Workshop on a General Theory of Software Engineering (GTSE)
28-30	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentinean Congress on Landscape Ecology CAEP 2013
May 28-Jun.1	Lawrence KS, USA	Changing Nature: Migrations, Energies, Limits

JUNE 2013

3-5	State College PA, USA	2013 PA GIS Conference
3-6	Las Vegas, NV, USA	Hexagon 2013
12-14	México City, México	SIGSA/ESRI Users National Meeting 2013
NEW		
12-15	San Jose, Costa Rica	Third IUFRO Latin American Congress
17-20	Miami FL, USA	URISA's GIS in Public Health Conference
NEW		
18-20	Sao Paulo, Brazil	MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2013
19	São Paulo, Brazil	Location Intelligence Brazil
NEW		
18-21	Victoria BC, Canada	CoastGIS 2013 Conference: Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast The 11th International Symposium for GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management
19	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Location Intelligence Brazil
25-27	Toronto, Canada	Optech Third Imaging and Lidar Solutions Conference. ILSC 2013

JULY 2013

3-5	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	14th Iberoamerican Conference on Geographic Information Systems (CONFIBSIG)
6-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Education GIS Conference
6-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Survey Summit
7-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Business and Location Analytics Summit
7-12	East Lansing MI, USA	15th International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS 2013)

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8-12	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI International User Conference
22-24	San Jose CA, USA	COM.Geo 2013
22-26	San Diego CA, USA	CMSC 2013
22-26 *NEW*	Rockport Maine, USA	2013 MAPPS Summer Conference
23-26	Barquisimeto, Venezuela	5th International Congress on Historical Sciences in Venezuela (1st Call)
To be determined	Lima, Peru	14thth Latin American Geographers Meeting (EGAL), Lima 2013. "Latin American Regional Knowledge Gathering"

AUGUST 2013

21-24	Colorado Springs, CO USA	GeoGathering 2013
26-27	Raleigh NC, USA	2nd International Conference on Hydrology & Ground Water Expo

SEPTEMBER 2013

7-10	Cambridge MA, USA	International Map Industry Association (IMIA) Americas Annual Meeting and Member Showcase
8-11	Daytona Beach FL, USA	Lucity Annual Conference and Training (ACT) 2013
11-13	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Latin America Geospatial Forum 2013
16-19	Providence RI, USA	GIS-Pro 2013: URISA's 51st Annual Conference for GIS Professionals
23-25	Edmonton Alberta, Canada	Ga3 - Geospatial - anywhere, anytime for anyone
24-26	Atlanta GA, USA	Conferencia Servicio de Campo del Este 2013
Sep.30-Oct.4 *NEW*	Turrialba, Costa Rica	Climate-smart Territories at the tropic. Information: conferenciawallace@catie.ac.cr

OCTOBER 2013

3-4	Polvorines, Argentina	II National Congress on Geographic Information Technologies and II Days on Geographic Information Systems Deadline for abstracts (300 words): April 30, 2013 E mail: iicongresotig2013@gmail.com / infosig@ungs.edu.ar
4-5	Entre Rios-Concordia, Argentina	26th Forestry Working Days from Entre Rios
9-11 *NEW*	Buenos Aires, Argentina	4th Congress on Environmental Sciences
10-13	Oakland CA, USA	North American Association for Environmental Education: 41st annual conference
16-18 *NEW*	Washington DC, USA	GIS in Transit Conference
27-31 *NEW*	Kansas City MO, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Annual Meeting 2013
Oct.31-Nov.2 *NEW*	Tampa FL, USA	Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries

NOVEMBER 2013

6-9	Havana, Cuba	3rd International Congress on Local Development "For Local Sustainable Development"
21-24 *NEW*	Chicago IL, USA	38th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association (SSHA)

DECEMBER 2013

2-6	Lima, Peru	15th United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Conference 2013
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