

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

January

2013

Vol. 10, No.1

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 notes on GSDI 14 Conference; PAIGH/ SIRGAS/ PC-IDEA/ GeoSUR 2013-2015 Joint Action Plan to develop SDI in the Americas; GeoSUR Award 2012; The Status of Geospatial Standardization Activities by December 2012; The ILAF OGC Corner; The Regional Conference on Land Information System Projects; and News from FIG Office. The **IGS section** includes comments on membership procedures. The **National SDI** segment informs on the Working Day on "SDI of Buenos Aires 2012"; The BNGIS to Welcome Acquis Group in Bahamas; Introduction of GeoBolivia's version 0.4; The Chilean Geographic Information Standards Project Seminar; Colombia's Plenary 37 of Committee 28; The SDI of Guatemala; and New Agreements published to regulate the SNIEG in Mexico. **Articles and Publications** of the month include comments on the eBook Version of "*Fundamentals of SDI*"; The New Handbook for Brazilian Vegetation; The Historical Atlas of El Salvador; and MundoGEO Magazine 70. **Geospatial Research and Applications** underline SIRGAS activities on the earthquake of November 7, 2012 in Guatemala; The Newly launched Geo-matching.com; The Emergency Medical Coordinator established in El Salvador; A GEOSS for Biodiversity Video; and Launching of European Commission Open Data portal. The **Training and Funding Opportunities** section encompasses calls for international

initiatives, among them the Online Training Series on Geospatial ISO Metadata. 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.gsd.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

Jennifer Balch	Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University, USA
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Santiago Borrero	Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH, Mexico
Arturo Brun-Martinez	Architect, Colombia
Julie Binder Maitra	FGDC Standards Coordinator, Federal Geographic Data Committee, Core Science Systems, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior, USA
Joan Capdevila-Subirana	Regional Service of the National Geographic Institute in Catalunya, Spain
Aude Areste Lamendour	Responsible marketing & communication, IGN France International, France
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

GSDI 14 Conference Update!

Source: News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society Volume 2, Number 7, 2012

The GSDI Association, EIS-Africa, the International Geospatial Society, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) continue their partnership in offering the joint GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 2013. The theme of the conference is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction. Pre-conference and post-conference workshops, meetings and seminars will also be supported."

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the whole continent. The GSDI World Conference moves to sites across the globe to offer geospatial specialists from all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from peers in building spatial data infrastructure. For past conferences, see: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>.

The conference program is being designed to accommodate opening and closing plenary sessions with keynote speakers, daily plenary sessions focused on the conference theme and related topics, technical paper sessions in several parallel tracks, and pre-conference and post-conference workshops freely open to all registrants. The conference program will also include a poster exhibit and competition, an exhibition area highlighting agency initiatives and corporate product and service offerings, and numerous organized round table discussions to allow people from common regions of Africa or the globe or with common interests to present, discuss, and share issues, experiences and plans.



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The selected theme of the conference is "Spatial Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction" The pressing needs of African nations, their citizens, and the needs of economically disadvantaged nations generally are a particular emphasis of the conference and include such concerns as: sustainable development; economic development; business intelligence and business geographics; disaster prevention, warning, management, response, and recovery; alleviation of poverty and crime; lessening the digital divide including access to information technologies; ensuring food security; support of transportation, health and communication systems; and facilitating land ownership. GIS, spatial data infrastructure concepts, and affiliated tools and technologies are being utilized worldwide to help address all of these issues.

Substantial reduction in registration fees will be available for local participants, members of EIS-Africa and members of the International Geospatial Society who are from low income per capita nations. Substantial reductions in Exhibit and Sponsorship fees will be available for companies and agencies that are members of the GSDI Association. Consult the web site at <http://gsdi.org/gsdi14> as the Call for Papers and details about the program, facilities and sponsorship opportunities become available.

Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy!

Latest Edition of GSDI & IGS Newsletter PDF version is now posted on the GSDI Newsletters web site at: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1162. All previous issues are also available at www.gsdi.org/Newsletters/

PAIGH/ SIRGAS/ PC-IDEA/ GeoSUR presented novel "2013-2015 Joint Action Plan to accelerate the development of SDI in the Americas"

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



As part of the 44th Directing Council of PAIGH, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina the PAIGH, SIRGAS, PC-IDEA and GeoSUR signed a document that aims to strengthen, harmonize and accelerate in a coordinated and effective way the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Americas. "As a novelty in the development of data infrastructure of the Americas, the essential regional entities for its consolidation (PAIGH, SIRGAS, CP-IDEA, GeoSUR) present herein a document, which is directed to the specialized community, intended to harmonize their efforts and work plans, to promote their expertise, to avoid duplication and prepare the institutions relevant to the continuous technological changes and innovations taking place in this area of development. As in the case of the Internet, this is not about promoting a new form of SDI regional government, but rather seeks to consolidate a system of distributed responsibilities while respecting the necessary independence of the parties. This is expected to consolidate the role of PAIGH as "facilitator" of key regional processes and as a builder of skills due to the nature of its Cartography Commission; the SIRGAS function as undisputed supplier of the geodetic reference framework for the region; the high responsibility of PC-IDEA as regional fosterer of institutional policy and as direct link with the UN system; and of GeoSUR as a developer of services and applications based on institutional and regional spatial data." The draft document may be found [here](#).

GeoSUR Award 2012

Source: Eric van Praag and Santiago Borrero



GeoSUR La Red Geoespacial de América Latina y el Caribe



We are glad to announce that the first edition of the GeoSUR Award, for the year 2012, was awarded during the 5th GeoSUR Meeting that took place on November 14 in Buenos Aires, Argentina under the aegis of the 44th Directing Council of PAIGH. The GeoSUR Innovation Award was provided to the Project to Create a Seamless Integrated

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1:250,000 Digital Map of Mesoamerica, presented by the National Geographic Institute of El Salvador. The GeoSUR Relevance Award was provided to the Peru Ministry of Environment Map Service, presented by the Office of Land Planning of the Viceministry of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment.

Status of Geospatial Standardization Activities - December 2012

Source: Julie Binder Maitra



Every month Julie Binder Maitra, FGDC Standards Coordinator, prepares an update on geospatial standardization activities (Currently, she tracks 135 standards) from the following organizations:

- Federal Geographic Data Committee (U.S.)
- INCITS Technical Committee L1, GIS: this group focuses on national and international geospatial standardization activities. It serves as the U.S. TAG to ISO Technical Committee 211

- ISO TC 211
- OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium)
- others

You may find the updates at <http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/monthlyStandardsUpdate/index>

ILAF OGC Corner - December 2012

Source: Imma Serra and Joan Capdevila

Did you know that...

The Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc, usually known as OGC is an international industry consortium that brings together more than 470 companies, government agencies and universities that wish to collaborate in the development of standard interface specifications. Collaboration takes place through consensus processes and pertinent developments are to be public. Results are in the form of OpenGIS ® and OGC ® (registered trademark) [standards](#) that enable interoperable solutions to facilitate geographic information access, manipulation and exchange on the Web, on location-based services and mobile services, and more general on the fields of information technology. These standards allow developers to supply complex spatial information and services that may be accessed and used by all applications. The outline, frame and current status of OGC tasks are summarized in the *OGC Reference Model* ([ORM](#)) document.



OGC News

03/12: OGC and CRSCI (Cooperative Research Center for Spatial Information) working together. [Link](#)

05/12: The OGC Forms 3D Portrayal Standards Working Group. [Link](#)

10/12: OGC WaterML Standard Recommended for Adoption as Joint WMO/ISO Standard. [Link](#)

13/12: OGC Invites Public to Final Demonstration of Major Testbed Activity OWS-9. [Link](#)

13/12: OGC Calls for Sponsors for 10th Major Interoperability Testbed OWS-10. [Link](#)

More on OGC at the OGC Iberian and Latin American Forum [website](#) !

Regional Conference to Share Experiences on Land Information System Projects

Source: Aude Areste Lamendour

The consortium in charge of the implementation of the Design, Supply, Installation, Implementation of the Land Information System and Securing of Land Records (DeSILISoR) Project in Uganda is organizing a regional land conference in January 2013 to share experiences on Land Information System (LIS) projects. This regional land initiative will bring together key stakeholders engaged in the Ugandan project and representatives from development banks and prominent actors involved in land administration from across Africa and France. What are the main components of Land Information System projects? What are the key factors of success? Can this technology stand alone? What are the lessons to learn from the countries that have implemented LIS projects? What are the main issues to consider



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implementing a LIS? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in the course of the regional conference that will be held in Kampala, Uganda on January 17-18, 2013 on the theme "Modernization of land administration and management systems -Implementation of land information systems (LIS): Sharing experiences, innovations and good practices." More information on www.ignfi.com

News from FIG Office

Source: FIG e-Newsletter, December 2012

Welcome to six new FIG members: At its latest meeting in Uruguay, FIG Council approved six new members of FIG, among them the Corporate Member: Institut Cartogràfic de Catalunya - <http://www.icc.es/>; and the Following Academic Members: University of Stuttgart, Germany: <http://www.uni-stuttgart.de/ingeo/> and University de los Andes, Colombia: <http://www.uniandes.edu.co/>

FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and One-day International Symposium, 30 November - 4 December 2012: FIG President CheeHai TEO joined FIG Commission 7 Delegates at its 2012 Annual Meeting in San Luis, Argentina. The annual event included a One-day International Symposium with the theme "Land Governance in South America and International Perspectives."



8th gvSIG International Conference / 3rd gvSIG Brazilian Conference- Papers and Articles

Source: gvSIG News Office



Are now available the presentations, posters and papers presented at the 8th gvSIG International Conference [<http://www.gvsig.org/web/community/events/jornadas-gvsig/8as/descargas>], which were held from 28 to 30 November under the slogan "Generating Future: Technology and Business Solidarity". Also is available for download the Live-DVD with current versions of gvSIG and i3Geo. Forthcoming are the recordings of lectures and workshops presented as well as the Open Planet Magazine 6. Likewise, are now available the presentations and articles of the 3rd gvSIG Brazilian Conference

[<http://www.gvsig.org/web/community/events/jornadas-brasileiras/2012/apresentacoes>], which took place on 18 October 2012 in Sao Paulo (Brazil), under the slogan "Free Technology: Sustainability and Warranted Management."

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IGS News, Links, Publications



International
Geospatial Society



Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable>. To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>. To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time. Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

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National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

ARGENTINA

[Working Day on "Spatial Data Infrastructure of Buenos Aires 2012"](http://www.idera.gov.ar/)

Source: <http://www.idera.gov.ar/>



With support of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Argentina (in Spanish IDERA) the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Buenos Aires (in Spanish IDEBA) developed a working day on the "Spatial Data Infrastructure of Buenos Aires 2012", which took place on December 6, 2012 under the theme "Building SDI from below." The objective of this Conference was to summarize the state of the art of IDEBA and to deepen on the project progress, the experiences of different GIS groups and areas, ministries and municipalities that currently are part of IDEBA, and in parallel, to promote awareness of the importance of SDI projects at different scales besides the collaborative work that this group embodies. Representatives from 18 municipalities of the province of Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Entre Rios, as well as agencies, provincial and national ministries attended to this event. More information at: <http://www.gobierno.gba.gov.ar/subsecretarias/ideba/jornadaideba.php>. The main objective of the IDEBA Office is to establish links between technicians and officials from various provincial and municipal areas to develop a joint working strategy aimed at shaping the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Province of Buenos Aires (IDEBA). From IDEBA portal it will be possible to search geographic information, metadata, and WMS services developed by various provincial agencies. In turn the portal will allow participation in the IDEBA monthly meetings that are held to promote and consolidate this project.

BAHAMAS

[Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems Centre \(BNGIS\) Welcomes Acquis Group](http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/)

Source: <http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/>



The Ministry of the Environment and Housing on December 15 welcomed Acquis Group, a geographic systems company, to assist with creating digital maps of the nation's topography and geographic details for data and research purposes. Permanent Secretary Camille Johnson welcomed and thanked the company for coming to see firsthand the potential application of Geographic Information Systems to enhance decision making in The Bahamas. Ms. Johnson said that Geographic Information Systems or GIS is simply computer mapping that allows users to visualize geographically referenced data, such as roads, buildings coastlines, property boundaries etc. She said that this technology is used in the wider Caribbean region and around the world, and may be applied to a wide variety of governmental goals such as natural resource conservation, land and property administration, infrastructure and transport development, social statistics and so much more. "This demonstration is a culmination of discussions between BNGIS and Acquis Group officials to showcase a solution that we hope you would find beneficial as we seek to improve governance efficiencies and to facilitate synergistic working partnership for a more integrated GIS in The Bahamas."

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BOLIVIA

[GeoBolivia introduced its version 0.4](#)

Source: <http://www.geo.gob.bo/>

In December, GeoBolivia introduced version 0.4 which was very well received by 110 participants of an event in which other initiatives were presented, including GeoSinager under the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense, and SIBAB (Biodiversity Information System of the Bolivian Amazon). Fernando Molina, GeoBolivia technical coordinator explained the progress of this platform. There were also comments on the importance of implementing an SDI for the Plurinational State of Bolivia (in Spanish IDE-EPB) as it will allow displaying and georeferencing the territorial impact of public policies, which in the medium-term will become an instrument of territorial planning and coordination. At the closing of this event, participants received a GeoBolivia 12.12 LiveDVD, which will foster the use and expansion of geographic information technologies. The conclusion of the event was favorable due to the interest shown by new institutions wishing to participate and support the IDE-EPB both as potential users and providers of geographic information.



CHILE

Chilean Geographic Information Standards Project Concludes with a Seminar

Source: <http://www.snit.cl/>



The closing seminar of the project "Progress of Chilean Geographic Information Standards in contributing to the Development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure" was held in Santiago Chile, on December. The final results of the project were released during this event, among which stands out the development of 19 national GIS standards from ISO 19100 family, related to issues on documentation, quality, web services, product specifications, and reference systems, among others. Another notable finding of the project is the [technical paper on the application of Geographic Information Chilean Standards](#), which will be distributed free of charge and available to the entire community. The project has also helped to initiate participation of Chile into international standards development through the

country's intervention in the ISO TC 211 Technical Committee responsible for generating digital geographic information standards. The Chilean Geographic Information Standards Project has been driven by the National Standards Institute (in Spanish INN) and coordinated by the Ministry of National Heritage Executive Secretary of the Chilean SDI. The project involved major mapping agencies of the country with participation of the private and academic sectors.

COLOMBIA

[Plenary 37 of the Committee 28](#)

Source: <http://www.icde.org.co/>

On December it was held the 37th meeting of the Technical Committee for Standardization of Geographical Information (in Spanish CTN 28) at premises of the Geographic Institute "Agustin Codazzi" (in Spanish IGAC). The meeting was attended by producers, and users of geographic information, including directors and officers of public and private institutions. The meeting was the space to present progresses of the groups working on the Colombian Technical Standards Project. First results shown were "Land Survey" with the draft standard that bears his name; the second presentation was made by the group "Web Map Services (WMS)," which presented the work done during the year on the implementation guide on WMS interface. It





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was also proposed the updating of technical standard NTC 5661 "Methodology for Geographic Object Cataloging" by IGAC. Second proposal during the afternoon was the approval by the audience for adoption of ISO 17123 "Optics and optical instruments" prioritized by the group on Land Survey. The latest proposal in the afternoon, by IGAC, was the adoption of ISO 19119 on "Geographic Information-Services." The meeting concluded with a presentation on System Items by the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Capital District (in Spanish IDECA <http://geoitems.ideca.gov.co/geoitems/ano/index.iface>). The IDECA, which consolidates and integrates a sectorial node including over forty public district organizations, in December linked its geographic web services, web metadata management system, and geographic applications, to the portal of the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish ICDE).

GUATEMALA

New video on the SDI of Guatemala

Source: <http://www.segeplan.gob.gt/>

The portal of Spatial Data Infrastructure of Guatemala now includes a video on how to use resources of this infrastructure. You may watch the video through the Web page: http://www.segeplan.gob.gt/2.0/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=260.

SDI of Guatemala provides aerial Orthophotographs, base stats and other geographic information layers produced in the country, together with specific territorial indicators to support decision-making inside territories. It allows geospatial data location, search, connection, and measurement without using any specialized program. It is possible to overlap information layers from different sources in a way that is transparent to the user, as well as downloading information layers into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for further processing. Development councils, municipalities, institutions, NGOs, universities and research centers, the private sector, and the general public are now using this SDI. The geoportal as well as SDI services and maps may be found at: <http://ide.segeplan.gob.gt/geoportal/index.html>



MEXICO

[New Agreements Published in the Official Journal of the Federation to regulate the SNIEG](#)

Source: <http://www.snieg.mx/>



An Agreement that establishes rules for the Provision of Public Service Statistical and Geographic Information was published in the Official Journal of the Federation on December. These rules are referred to the establishment of general provisions to regulate and coordinate the delivery of Public Service Statistical and Geographic Information in order to ensure universal access and timeliness of the information of national interest, and to promote their use and knowledge. It includes sections on issues such as confidentiality and discretion in the public information service, openness and access to information, and access to micro-data, among other provisions that will be mandatory for government units, including the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, as well as for those government agencies and individuals who have been authorized by the Institute to provide these services.

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Articles and Publications of the Month

eBook Version of "Fundamentals of SDI"

Source: Miguel-Angel Bernabe

Is now available the eBook version of the book "*Fundamentals of Spatial Data Infrastructures*" at the price of 9.99 € ("Fundamentals of SDI" <http://goo.gl/AMGYL>):

- Amazon: <http://www.amazon.es/dp/B00AFDDNI8>
- iTunes Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/es/book/fundamentos-las-infraestructuras/id581901190?mt=11&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>



New Handbook of Brazilian Vegetation: Essential Information for the Study and Protection of Biodiversity

Fuente: <http://www.inde.gov.br/>



The Brazilian Institute of Geography and History (in Portuguese IBGE) released on December the second edition of the *Technical Handbook of Brazilian Vegetation* – a reference work for the study, research and mapping of vegetation in Brazil. It is worth mentioning that this is a publication of thematic geospatial information standards, for vegetation, of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Portuguese INDE). With this publication, the IBGE makes public the methodology used by this type of research and broadens knowledge in this area. The publication incorporates latest advances in research on vegetation cover in the country: new concepts and information, and fundamentals for the development of Brazilian biodiversity management and conservation policies, including the creation of more protected areas. The *Technical Handbook of Brazilian Vegetation* was drafted by the Directorate of Geosciences Coordination of Natural Resources, with participation of foresters, agronomists, biologists, naturalists, geographers and geologists. The publication is formed from the merger of two previous publications - the Brazilian Vegetation Classification Adapted to a Universal System (1991) and the Technical Manual of Brazilian Vegetation (1st Edition, 1992). The new edition is divided into four chapters: phyto-geographical system; inventory in forest and grassland; management techniques and botanical collections; and procedures for mapping. Concepts on reference and thematic data, and on added value, were presented in the construction process of the Plan of Action of the INDE. These concepts are important for the classification of data and metadata, as well for identifying the standards to be adopted for the various types of geospatial information. The vegetation is a kind of thematic geospatial information, with the standards set indicated in the *Technical Manual of Brazilian Vegetation* - IBGE. All information is available (PDF format) both through the IBGE website and on a CD-ROM that goes with the publication. It is accessible through: ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/documentos/recursos_naturais/manuais_tecnicos/manual_tecnico_vegetacao_brasileira.pdf

[Historical Atlas of El Salvador](http://www.cnr.gov.sv/)

source: <http://www.cnr.gov.sv/>



Centro Nacional de Registros



The Historical Cartographic Atlas of El Salvador has a total of 380 pages containing 174 historical maps from the years 1529 to 1909, representing the territory occupied by the current El Salvador. It contains an overview of the history of cartography in El Salvador, followed by a series of maps collected in different libraries and private collections worldwide.

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MundoGEO Magazine 70

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

The 70th edition of MundoGEO magazine is now available at: <http://mundogeo.com/mundogeo70.php/>. Among the interesting articles inside this edition is an interview with Claudio Brunini, President of SIRGAS. The SDI#Connect section includes a note on "SDI? IDE? Interoperability? Finally, what is a Spatial Data Infrastructure? "



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Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

[SIRGAS and the earthquake of November 7, 2012 in Guatemala](#)

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

On November 7, 2012, at 16:35:46 UTC (10:35:46 local time) a strong earthquake (magnitude 7.4) shook the area located at the southern part of Guatemala, close to the city Champerico. The epicenter was estimated at 13.977°N and 91.876°W in a depth of about 24 km. Unfortunately, this seism caused the death of almost 50 persons, some tens injured, and an extensive damage in the country. SIRGAS deeply complains this loss of life and express its solidarity with the Guatemalan people. To estimate the impact of this earthquake in the SIRGAS Reference Frame, daily station positions between November 4 and 10, 2012 were computed for selected continuously operating SIRGAS stations, including all the operative stations of the Guatemalan Geodetic Reference Network. This processing includes IGS Reference Stations located in North America, the Caribbean, Asia/Oceania and South America as fiducial points. The comparison of pre-seismic and post-seismic station positions shows the largest displacement (4,3 cm in S-W direction) at the station COAT (Coatepeque) and the second largest movement (1,7 cm in S-W direction) at station HUEH (Huehuetenango). Movements larger than 6 mm were also detected at the stations BARI (Huehuetenango), CHIQ (Chicaman), GUAT (Guatemala City) and COTZ (Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa). The vertical changes estimated after this processing are at the same order of the station position accuracy, and therefore, they are considered negligible. However, these results will be refined when the SIRGAS Analysis Centres process the corresponding week within the routinely computation of the continental reference frame and the post-seism station position time series are available. These computations were carried out by the SIRGAS Analysis Centre at DGFI (Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut) and are based on the observation data provided by the National Geographic Institute (in Spanish IGN) of Guatemala, the National Institute of Geography and Statistics (in Spanish INEGI) of Mexico, the Geographic Institute "Agustín Codazzi" (IGAC) of Colombia, the General Directorate of Cadaster and Geography (in Spanish DGCG) of Honduras, and the IGS (International GNSS Service, www.igs.org). We deeply acknowledge this support.



Newly launched: [Geo-matching.com](http://www.geo-matching.com)

Fuente: Santiago Borrero



Geo-matching.com is an initiative from FIG corporate member *Geomares Publishing*. Geo-matching is the independent product comparison website for professional hard- and software for geomatics and adjacent fields. The website leads you through the maze of specifications and gives the

opportunity to compare products of different producers, read up on reviews given by users, in order to reach a balanced judgment before buying. For more information about Geomatching please visit: <http://www.geo-matching.com/>. At Geo-matching.com you will:

- Find detailed spec-based comparisons for more than 500 products
- Read other industry professionals' comments and opinions
- Access data quickly, easily and free of charge

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El Salvador establishing an Emergency Medical Coordinator Center managed with Free Software

source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

The Ministry of Health of El Salvador has been supported by the example of the [Enterprise for Public Health Emergencies of Andalusia \(in Spanish EPES\)](#) to launch its Emergency Medical Coordination Center that will be opened next October 2013. The initiative is part of the plan to improve the health system of the country and is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank with US \$ 60 million. This action will centralize all Health Emergency resources in El Salvador (Ministry of Health, [FOSALUD](#), [commandos rescue](#), [red cross](#), [green cross](#), etc.). It will also link to the National Civil Police Coordinating Center 911. This set of changes will allow optimal management of resources to avoid duplication and streamline processes to emergency care.

The European Commission launches public beta of its Open Data portal

source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

More than 5,800 sets of data can be downloaded, reused and distributed freely by users. It is now available the beta version of the [Open Data Portal of the European Commission](#). The data portal will allow free access to open public data, so that any person, organization or institution



can download the published data for reuse, link and create innovative services. More than 5,800 data sets, of which the vast majority come from the [Eurostat](#) office (Statistical Office of the European Commission), are reflected in this website that provides access to information on the environment, education, culture, research, etc. , in order to promote transparency, innovation and open government. According to European Commission sources "data portal reports and facilitates knowledge on European data-while-organisms publishers, application developers and the general public can take advantage of semantic portal technology, which puts available this new functionality."

[GEOSS for Biodiversity Video on You Tube](#)

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

The video describes the role of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Common Infrastructure in supporting policy and research related to biodiversity. It shows an example of using global data and models available on the web to identify unique habitats in Africa in need of protection. The video may be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxuVTntEzJM>

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Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

CATHALAC - Professional Training Program January - March 2013

Source: CATHALAC Education

- Basic GPS Course: 25-26 January
- International Seminar: Application of mapping techniques and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the interpretation and representation of landscape: January 28 - February 1
- Basic GPS Course: March 1-2
- International Course: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for modeling contamination of hydrological sources: 18-22 March



Online Registration: www.cathalac.org/educacion/registro

For more information on other courses and diplomas visit: www.cathalac.org/educacion

Email: educacion@cathalac.org



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[Online training series: introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata](#)

Source: SDI Magazine <http://www.sdimag.com/>



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) is offering Introduction to Geospatial ISO Metadata, a free, online training series beginning in January 2013. Registration is now open for the next series which will be held every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m-10:30 a.m. CST from January 15 until March 5, 2013. The series will start with an introduction to metadata, and cover topics such as XML basics, tools, and data discovery. All materials will be made available online, and instructors will be available by request for special one-on-one "My Metadata" sessions to answer specific questions for individual participants. To register or for more information, please visit <http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training/course-one/> [Written by Roger Longhorn]

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Employment Opportunities

Penn State Geography - Faculty Position in Cyberscience

Source: Jennifer Balch



The Department of Geography at Penn State is currently conducting a search to fill an open-rank position in Cyberscience with emphasis on applying innovative data- and computation- intensive techniques to address critical problems in all areas of the earth, environmental, and geographical sciences. There is particular interest in cross-cutting research themes, such as exploring global change. <http://www.geog.psu.edu/news/search-underway-tenture-track-faculty-position-cyberscience>. This is part of a new exciting Cyberscience initiative at Penn State, with a "cluster hire" process underway that is planned to result in 10-12 new faculty being hired across three colleges: <http://www.ics.psu.edu/hire.html>. Emphasis is being placed in our college (Earth and Mineral Sciences) on the potential for synergy among the three participating departments in the College (Geography, Geosciences, and Meteorology) and in the department on connections to ongoing research in GIScience, environmental science, and human-environment science.

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Simultaneous Localization and Mapping Using UAVS and Postdoc in Mapping Informal Settlements

Source: FIG e-Newsletter, December 2012



Faculty ITC, University of Twente, the Netherlands. Please apply on-line through <http://www.utwente.nl/vacatures>

The deadline for applications is **January 4, 2013**. Web site: <http://www.itc.nl/>

[More details of the assistant professor position](#) - full text of pdf-file

[More details of the postdoc position](#) - full text of pdf-file

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Assistant Professor in Geomatics Engineering for Florida Atlantic University

Source: FIG e-Newsletter, December 2012

All applicants must complete the Faculty, Administrative, Managerial & Professional Positions Application and apply on-line at <https://jobs.fau.edu>, position number 991590. The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2013** or until the position is filled. Web site: http://www.eng.fau.edu/ge_position. [More details of the position](#) - full text of pdf-file.

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Other

[Inaugurated First Workshop of the Mesoamerican Observatory on Freight and Logistics](#)

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



The first workshop of the Mesoamerican Observatory on Freight and Logistics was held in Panama City. This project is run by the Georgia Tech Center on Logistics Innovation in Panama under the Mesoamerica Project and is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The workshop was held from 4 to 6 December, with participating members of the Mesoamerica Project Regional Technical Committee on Transport, the Project Executing Agency (Georgia Tech Center on Logistics Innovation in Panama) and representatives of public agencies that make up the network that generates logistics data and information in Mesoamerica. The Mesoamerican Observatory workshop took place in the framework of the first seminar of the network of observatories - "Collection and collation of data on freight transport and logistics: impact on public policy", organized by the IDB to present and exchange experiences on the progresses that several countries in the region have made in the collection of data on freight transport and logistics.

UNGA resolutions on SIDS

Source: EU Overseas Forum

On 28 November 2012, the UN General Assembly's (UNGA) Second Committee approved draft resolutions on "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.40) and on the "International Year of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/67/L.42). More information at <http://sids-l.iisd.org/news/unga-second-committee-approves-two-resolutions-on-sids/>



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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

[XV International Convention and Fair](#)

Source: <http://www.informaticahabana.cu/es/inicio>



From 18 to 22 March 2013, Havana will host the XV edition of the Convention and Fair "Informática 2013", which will be held in Havana, Cuba, for the first time,

with a branch in the city of Santiago de Cuba. "15 Editions thinking the future", is the central theme that will promote this meeting. *Informática 2013* is a space for exchange between professionals, scientists, engineers, businessmen, government officials, national and international organizations and the general public interested in research, promotion, and learning about the progress of information technology,

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telecommunications, electronics, medical technology and automation in Cuba and the world. The Convention will also include workshops and technical courses. Requests for exhibitions may be made until **January 31, 2013**.

Fourth TUCUMANSIG Conference 2013.

Source: Idera Subscriptions

The Conference will be conducted 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 national conference. 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, and panel discussions), murals and participation of enterprises related to GIS and Remote Sensing. Contact: tucumansig@gmail.com

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YEAR 2013

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JANUARY 2013

7-10 *NEW*	Santiago de Chile, Chile	Evaluative Research Symposium on Public Policy, Social Programs and Projects
7-10 *NEW*	Santiago de Chile, Chile	Third International Conference on Science Technology and Culture: "Dialogue between the disciplines looking to the Latin American and the Caribbean Future"
13-14	Vancouver, Canada	Ninth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society
22-25	Guadeloupe (F.W.I.)	2nd International Conference Caribbean Waves
Jan.23-Feb.6	On line, USA	GIS in Mining and Exploration Online Summit
18 *NEW*	Florida, USA	Webinar: I've Seen the Future and it's in my Browser
24-25	Redlands CA, USA	Geodesign Summit
29-31	San Diego CA, USA	DistribuTECH 2013 Conference and Exhibition

FEBRUARY 2013

3-6 *NEW*	Buenos Aires, Argentina	5th International Interdisciplinary Academic Conference - The International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, IISES
6-8	Bogota, Colombia	CEGeoIC Conference 2013
7-8 *NEW*	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
25-27	Washington DC, USA	ESRI Federal GIS Conference

MARCH 2013

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 *NEW*	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)

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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 *NEW*	Vancouver, Canada	The 5th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Technology 2013 (IC CET 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
18-19 *NEW*	Córdoba-Argentina	International Symposium on Latin American Studies
18-19 *NEW*	San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina	4th Conference on Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing "TUCUMAN GIS 2013"
21-23	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Joint Urban Remote Sensing Event (JURSE 2013)
22-25	Chicago IL, USA	International BIO Convention
22-25 *NEW*	Indian Wells CA, USA	Field Service 2013
24-26	Buenos Aires, Argentina	FOSS4G 2013
24-26 *NEW*	Manizales, Colombia	4th Colombian Regional and Local History Symposium
Apr.29-May.1	Jacksonville FL, USA	ESRI Southeast User Conference

MAY 2013

5-8 *NEW*	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
13	San Antonio TX, USA	URISA Leadership Academy 2013
14-16	Redlands CA, USA	ESRI Forestry GIS Conference
17-27 *NEW*	San Francisco CA, USA	International Conference on Software Engineering - ICSE 2013
20-22 *UPDATED*	Washington DC, USA	Location Intelligence & Oracle Spatial and Graph User Conference
21-24 *NEW*	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 *NEW*	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
12-15	San Jose, Costa Rica	Third IUFRO Latin American Congress
18-20	Sao Paulo, Brazil	MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2013
18-21 *NEW*	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 *NEW*	Sao Paulo, Brazil	Location Intelligence Brazil
25-27 *NEW*	Toronto, Canada	Optech Third Imaging and Lidar Solutions Conference, ILSC 2013



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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)
8-12	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI International User Conference
22-24	San Jose CA, USA	COM.Geo 2013
22-26 *NEW*	San Diego CA, USA	CMSC 2013
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 *NEW*	Colorado Springs, CO USA	GeoGathering 2013
26-27 *NEW*	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 *NEW*	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

OCTOBER 2013

3-4 *NEW*	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
10-13 *NEW*	Oakland CA, USA	North American Association for Environmental Education: 41st annual conference

NOVEMBER 2013

6-9 *NEW*	Havana, Cuba	3rd International Congress on Local Development "For Local Sustainable Development"
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DECEMBER 2013

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