



# GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

for the Global Geospatial Community  
covering



Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America, and the Middle East & North Africa

July 2015 – Vol. 2, No. 6

The **GSDI Regional Newsletter** is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in all aspects of implementing national and regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) around the globe. The newsletter continues the tradition of the GSDI Association’s former separate regional newsletters that covered Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, from 2002 onwards. The purpose of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SDI issues and provide useful information to strengthen SDI implementation efforts and support synchronization of regional activities. The archive of all past copies of the previous regional newsletters can be accessed from the GSDI website by following the link to Newsletter Archive at [gsdi.org](http://gsdi.org).



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## ***Announce your news or information!***

Feel free to submit any news related to spatial data infrastructure implementation that you would like to highlight, including new tools, policies, application stories, studies or reports from your area, profession, organization, country or region. Send your contributions to the News Editor, Kate Lance, at [newseditor@gsdi.org](mailto:newseditor@gsdi.org) and we will try to include these in our next newsletter. Share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves.

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

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

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## Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

### ***Namibia: Spatial Data Policy gazetted***



The government formulated and approved a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The implementation of the policy will be done through the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA, <http://nsa.org.na/page/spatial-data-surveys-cartography-and-regional-affairs/>). Alex Mudabeti, Deputy Director for spatial data and national spatial data infrastructure said the policy will be supervised by the minister of economic planning and director-general of the National Planning Commission (NPC). “The policy is aligned to regional and international commitments such as the United Nations and Southern Africa Development Community of which Namibia is a member.

The policy applies to government institutions and government spatial datasets. Private sector institutions which produce spatial datasets are encouraged to follow the relevant provisions of the policy” he said.

Namibia Statistics Agency: Data collection, processing and dissemination policy and practice (government gazette 27 January 2015)

[http://www.parliament.na/index.php?option=com\\_phocadownload&view=category&download=7248:government%20gazette%20no.%205656%20of%202015&id=139:government-gazettes-of-2015&Itemid=1269](http://www.parliament.na/index.php?option=com_phocadownload&view=category&download=7248:government%20gazette%20no.%205656%20of%202015&id=139:government-gazettes-of-2015&Itemid=1269)

Source: <http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=27619>

### ***Seychelles: Spatially-based decision support system (DSS) for the Outer Islands***



The Environment Data and Information Section (EID) of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) is responsible for the data handling and information dissemination of the entire Ministry. The EID Section is in the process of hiring a technical staff member (GIS technician) to enhance the capacity of the Section in data management and to help develop and maintain the decision support system. This position is to be financed by the GOS-UNDP-GEF Project ‘Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of Seychelles’ (<http://www.pcusey.sc/index.php/pcu-projects/ongoing/141-oi-project>) for a period to be defined, up to four years; discussions will be held for the position to be funded through the annual budget for the MEECC thereafter.

In addition, the GOS-UNDP-GEF Project and its Integration into the Broader Land and Seascape (Outer Islands project) will draw upon the expertise of national consultants to carry out the following assignments:

- Establish an integrated marine and terrestrial biodiversity information system: The objectives of the consultancy are to: a) standardise data collection for an integrated information system for the Outer Islands, b) create a secure project database, fitted to the infrastructure and capacity requirements of Island Conservation Society (ICS), c) establish standardized institutional procedures to maintain the database beyond the time period of this consultancy, and d) support ICS staff in developing needed competencies for using and maintaining the database. The assignment is for 28 working days commencing June 2015 and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2015. [Deadline for applications was June 3, 2015].
- Build capacity for the use of geographic information system technologies: The objectives of this consultancy are to build capacity and provide the knowledge and skills needed to improve the capacity for efficient

protected areas management through the integration of GIS, GPS and multimedia technologies. The target group are managers and staff of Island Conservation Society (ICS) and other organizations concerned with conservation management in the outer islands. Specific tasks include: a) preparation of a training plan including a step-by-step training manual, b) delivery of the training programme, c) preparation of a report assessing the training programmes and lessons learned. The assignment is for 21 working days over a period of about 8 weeks, commencing June 2015. [Deadline for applications was June 3, 2015]

Source: <http://www.pcusey.sc/index.php/vacancies>

### **Rwanda: Spatial Information and Data Portal for Disaster Risk Reduction launched**



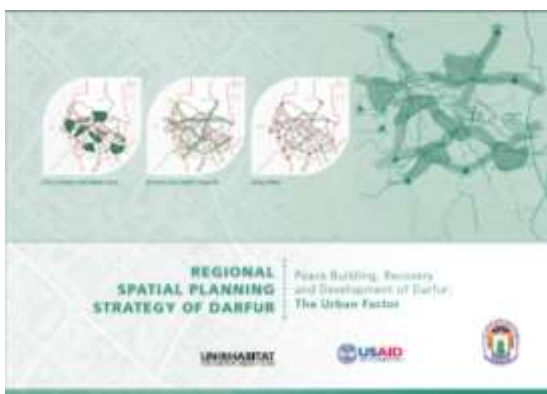
The Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR, <http://www.midimar.gov.rw/>) in Rwanda

and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) comprising of national, international and private agencies in Rwanda dealing with disaster management worked the SERVIR-Africa program to develop and establish a National thematic disaster risk reduction data and information portal. The Rwanda Spatial Information and Data Portal for Disaster Risk Reduction (Rwanda-SpIDeRR, <http://41.74.166.109/>), launched on the 31st of March 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda is intended to give national agencies and individuals working in the area of DRR with access to spatial data and information relevant to the different areas of disaster management; early warning/preparedness, capacity building, mitigation, response and rehabilitation. The portal will also act as a platform to facilitate data sharing amongst these agencies and will give the general public a source of hazard and or disaster related maps and climate information and data available from Earth Observations such as those available from NASA and other agencies working in partnership with the SERVIR program. Some of the immediate products that will be disseminated through the portal are results and products from the risk profiling project funded through the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) initiative of the World Bank and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The portal already gives access to climate data (rainfall) and data analysis tools developed by scientists at the United States Geological Surveys (USGS) with support from SERVIR and NASA.

MIDIMAR is in the process of establishing an end-to-end early warning systems and disaster communication system to fully functional making response actions timely and effective. Capacity building and public awareness is at the core of our mandate, according to officials from the ministry. Rwanda is now finalizing a National Risk Atlas through a comprehensive risk assessment so there is a strong need of having in place a well-coordinated manner of disaster data and information management, whereby the DRR web portal comes to bridge the gap.

Source: <http://www.rcmrd.org/rwanda-launches-a-spatial-information-and-data-portal-for-disaster-risk-reduction-in-rwanda-with-support-from-rcmrd-servir-eastern-and-southern-africa/>

### **Republic of the Sudan: Regional Spatial Strategy of Darfur**



Even though the peace in Darfur has not yet been restored, the first steps towards the reconstruction of the Sudan region have already been taken. Through the spatial development of the region, important results are achieved which should decrease the dependence on emergency and humanitarian aid. Luc Boerboom, a lecturer and researcher connected to the department of Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management at the ITC faculty of the University of Twente, is involved in the reconstruction of Darfur, as commissioned by UN-Habitat. Recently, UN-Habitat published their final report (<http://unhabitat.org/?wpdmact=process&did=MTY2OS5ob3RsaW5r>), which should ensure that the 3.4 billion euros from donors should be spent on the right things in the right places.

Together with a UN-Habitat team and with funding from USAID, Boerboom developed a new method for spatial regional and urban analysis, the Spatial Development Framework (SDF). The newly developed regional structure is being mapped out on the basis of simple and existing data. This analysis is the main input to ensure investments in economy, infrastructure, health care, education, water and sanitation are being made in the right places and as a carefully coordinated whole.

Source: <http://www.itc.nl/Pub/News-overview/in2015/in2015-may/ITC-researcher-Boerboom-develops-method-for-spatial-reconstruction-strategy-Darfur.html>

## ***Not just a tool. Taking context into account in development of a mobile App for rural water supply in Tanzania***



Author(s): Anna Wesselink, Robert Hoppe and Rob Lemmens  
*Water Alternatives* 8(2): 57-76 (2015)

**Abstract:** The 'eGovernance' hype around the potential of mobile phone and geoweb technologies for enhancing 'good governance' is soaring. In East Africa, the extensive use of mobile telephony adds to the imagined promises of ICT. We reflect on the assumptions made by the proponents of such tools, using our own action research project as an example. We took great care to consider context in the development of software for enhancing empowerment and accountability in rural water supply in Tanzania. However, we found that the rural water supply context in Tanzania is much more complex than the contexts for which successful mApps have been developed previously. Institutional analysis and public administration theory help to understand why. Rural water supply shows institutional hybridity, with water being at the same time a private, public and common-pool good. In addition, in accountability relations, many informal mechanisms prevail where explicit reporting is not relevant. Finally, our proposal sat uneasily with other ongoing iGovernment initiatives. We conclude that we need to consider eGovernance tools as political Apps that can be expected to trigger political responses.

Keywords: mApp, eGovernance, iGovernment, institutional analysis, informal accountability

Source: <http://www.water-alternatives.org/index.php/alldoc/articles/vol8/v8issue2/281-a8-2-4>

## ***Rwanda: Int'l Conference on Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Urban and Rural Development, Kigali 18-20 November 2015***



The International Conference on “Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Urban and Rural Development” is organised by the University of Rwanda in collaboration with the University

of Twente/ITC, The Netherlands. The conference will be held in Kigali-Rwanda, on 18th to 20th November 2015. The main objective of this conference is to share knowledge and experiences on cutting-edge research and innovations using geospatial information technologies to address critical issues on sustainable urban and rural development at local and national levels. The conference targets professionals, technologists, planners and managers from institutions of higher education, governmental institutions, NGOs and the private sector who are using or have an interest in geospatial technologies and their use in spatial development issues.

You are invited to participate by submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation. Please submit your abstract through the Submission Form or send an email to [conference-ur-itc@utwente.nl](mailto:conference-ur-itc@utwente.nl) by **31 July 2015**, mentioning ‘GeoTechRwanda 2015’ in the subject line. Abstracts must be submitted in English and should contain no more than 300 words.

Source: <https://www.geotechrwanda2015.com/>

## ***Kenya: International GIS Conference, 13-14 August 2015, Kakamega***

International Conference on “Expanding Theoretical and Applied Roles of GIS in a Dynamic Global Environment”

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (Kakamega, Kenya), Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Makerere University (Uganda) have, since January 2010, been involved in DAAD funded UnivGisKoop project, to harmonize GIS teaching programmes in universities. The project realized that there seem to be very limited interaction between the academia (theoretical) and the practitioners (applied) GIS. Therefore, the general objective of this conference, is to provide a platform for interaction between researchers in institutions of higher learning and practitioners/users in the field/practical world. The specific objectives of this conference are to: (1) share experiences of pedagogy of GIS, its applications as a teaching and research tool at high learning institutions (UnivGisKoop project), and (3) share latest research efforts and real world application of GIS.

### Sub-Themes

- GIS pedagogy
- GIS in sustainable development
- GIS in resource planning and management
- GIS in Agriculture

- GIS in disaster management
- Legal and policy issues in GIS
- Trends in GIS technologies and instrumentation
- Emerging issues in GIS

See Call for abstracts: <http://www.mmust.ac.ke/images/Docs/GIS/callforabstracts.pdf>. A soft copy (in MS Word 97-2003) of an abstract, less than 300 words in English, typed in Times New Roman, font 12, single spaced, should be submitted by Friday, **3rd July 2015** via e-mail: [gisconference@mmust.ac.ke](mailto:gisconference@mmust.ac.ke).

Source: <http://www.mmust.ac.ke/index.php/gisconference2015>

### **High Level Policy Dialogue on Development Planning in Africa, 7-8 July 2015, Cotonou, Benin** **Theme: The impact of the Data Revolution on development planning**



The Capacity Development Division (CDD) of ECA, in collaboration with the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), is organizing a High Level Policy Dialogue on the topic "The impact of Data Revolution on

Development Planning in Africa" from 7 to 8 July 2015 in Cotonou, Benin. The dialogue follows a Conference that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27 to 29 March 2015, which culminated in the Africa Data Consensus, which defined the data revolution as "a shift in the way that data is harnessed to impact on development decision-making, with a particular emphasis on building a culture of usage." See:

[http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PageAttachments/final\\_adc\\_-\\_english.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PageAttachments/final_adc_-_english.pdf)

The High Level Dialogue will provide an opportunity for African Development Planners to discuss and identify the strategies, instruments, and mechanisms that can be adopted by member States to promote evidence-based decision-making, through the integration of the recommendations of the Africa Data Consensus in national planning processes. The meeting will also provide a platform for participants to share knowledge on the policy implications of the Data Revolution to national planning, and ultimately, the structural transformation agenda and how to leverage on the already existing community of practice.

Participants will include African National Development Planning Officers from the 54 countries, as well as RECs, AfDB, UNDP, NEPAD and AU and UN officials. Development experts and partners interested in the data revolution including private sector and civil society are encouraged to participate. See Concept note:

[http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/concept\\_data\\_revolution\\_and\\_dvpt\\_planning\\_final\\_11\\_jun.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/concept_data_revolution_and_dvpt_planning_final_11_jun.pdf)

Source: <http://www.uneca.org/hlpd-dpa2015>

### **Uganda: 11th Int'l Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment** **24-28 November 2016, Kampala**



The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing

of the Environment (AARSE2016) will be held in Kampala, Uganda from Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2016. Makerere University together with other organizations and institutions in Uganda are taking the local lead in organizing the conference. At the international level, the AARSE executive together with leading scientists will be involved in the conference organization to ensure a smooth running and realization of the conference goals. The conference is expected to host between 700-1000 participants from all over the world including conference oral presenters, conference poster presenters, exhibitors, organizers of special sessions, policy makers and a range of young scientists. The gist of the conference is to learn from ongoing technological advancements and applications and to explore modalities of galvanizing space science and geospatial technologies into policy and evidence-based decision making that will contribute to the realization of the sustainable development goals.

Source: <http://aarse2016.org/>

### **East African Community and IUCN establish framework for Observatory for Protected Areas**



The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania is now the host institution for a regional observatory to support more effective protected area management and biodiversity conservation in the region, made possible through a partnership recently signed with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) supported by the EU-funded Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) programme.

The BIOPAMA programme (<http://www.biopama.org>), financed by the 10th European Development Fund of the European Union and implemented by IUCN and partners, aims to assist countries to improve technical and institutional approaches to conserve biodiversity, and address threats to biodiversity in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries while also reducing poverty.

An Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity is being established in the East African Community Secretariat to provide decision- and policy-making support on protected areas and biodiversity, in particular within the landscape context in which they exist.



Supported by a regional reference information system (RRIS), the Observatory will be a central access point to authoritative data on protected areas, biodiversity and related information. It will provide free and open access to global and regional data and information on thematic areas such as land-use, biodiversity, protected areas, mineral deposits and publically accessible mining, oil and gas concessions.

“The observatory will provide relevant data and information that will enhance planning, policy, and decision-making. It will support effective protected area management and biodiversity conservation within the region, in line with the mandate of the environmental sector of the EAC that is to promote co-operation in the conservation and management of natural resources including trans-boundary resources,” said Ms. Wivine Ntamubano, Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, East African Community Secretariat.

“The EAC Observatory is the first of several others planned for the Eastern and Southern African region and we are very excited about the opportunities for better decision-making that it will provide to the East African Partner States”, said Christine Mentzel, IUCN Senior Programme Officer and BIOPAMA Coordinator for the Eastern and Southern African region. In addition to the free and open access to data and information, the Observatory will also provide support to the users of the system. An initial workshop to present the regional reference information system (RRIS) and train relevant staff of the Partner States in its functionalities and tools will be held in July 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Source: [http://www.eac.int/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1899:the-east-african-community-and-iucn-establish-framework-for-observatory-for-protected-areas&catid=146:press-releases&Itemid=194](http://www.eac.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1899:the-east-african-community-and-iucn-establish-framework-for-observatory-for-protected-areas&catid=146:press-releases&Itemid=194)

### ***Vacancy: Technical Specialist, Census Cartography/Mapping and GIS, P-4, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***

The Census Cartography/Mapping and GIS Specialist will be based at the Central Statistical Office (CSA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Under the overall guidance of the Census Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), he/she will assist in the development of pre- and post-census computer mapping and GIS capabilities at the CSA. The Census Cartography/Mapping and GIS Specialist will work with the Director General of the CSA, the Director of the Division of Census Cartography/Census Cartography Commission, and in close collaboration and coordination with the CSA technical staff and other international personnel attached to the Census project, to ensure the full implementation of the pre-census EA field mapping, the digitizing of the field returns (updated topographic maps and satellite imagery) and post-enumeration development of GIS analysis/dissemination. Deadline: **7 July 2015** (5.00 p.m. New York time)

Source: <http://unjobs.org/vacancies/1434496631774>

### ***AGRHYMET Recruitment of an Expert in Database Management, Abuja, Nigeria***



Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought control in the Sahel



AGRYMET is recruiting 1 Expert in Database Management for the support

project to the operationalization of "the Regional Integrated Agriculture Information System (ECOAGRIS). The contract should last 48 months, with a 3-month trial period. Candidates must be from CILSS/ECOWAS regions. The Database Management Expert will be responsible for the regular development and update of all the ECOAGRIS thematic database component and the organisation and management of the entire statistics from thematic experts and facilitate data access for analysis on Food and Nutrition Security. The candidate will work in Abuja, Nigeria at the ECOWAS Commission's headquarter, within the Directorate: Rural Development and Agriculture Directorate (DADR), Department: Water Resources and Environment Agriculture (DAERE). Deadline: **July 24, 2015**.

Source: [http://www.agrymet.ne/eng/PDF/emploi/Experts%20DATABASE\\_ecoagris.pdf](http://www.agrymet.ne/eng/PDF/emploi/Experts%20DATABASE_ecoagris.pdf)

### **Scholarships (for selected countries) for MSc in Italy in NRM for Tropical Rural Development**



In 2015, the Italian Cooperation will provide funding for MSc degree program in Italy in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development for 16

participants to be selected from the following countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal.

The Application Procedure applies only to applicants from countries eligible for scholarships by the Italian Cooperation, and who are interested in the Land and Water curriculum. Candidates from other countries, including Italy, are invited to apply directly to the University of Florence, at their own expense.

Admission requirements:

- If you have earned a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Forest Sciences or Natural Sciences, after no less than a 3-year undergraduate course, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship to attend the MSc in Management of Natural Resources for Tropical Rural Development.
- A very good knowledge of English, the working language of all academic activities, is an essential requirement.
- Women are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Applicants employed in public or academic institutions and non-governmental organizations are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for accepting applications is Friday, **10 July 2015**. Materials received after this deadline will not be considered.

Source: [http://www.iao.florence.it/landwater/?page\\_id=411](http://www.iao.florence.it/landwater/?page_id=411)

### **Film on satellite imagery helping sustainable management of Congo Basin tropical forests**



Early June 2015, AFD and FFEM broadcast a film titled “Beyond the Maps: Illustrating the contribution of satellite images to sustainable management of African forests.” The OSFT and Geoforafri projects are two projects financed by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and AFD which provide satellite data and build the capacities for analysis and action of actors in the field in Africa.

Watch the film:

Long version, in English (24:17):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uCP9mJHknBs>

Version longue, en français (24:17):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4ceXjwuaJE>

Short version, in English (6:01):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mQOOB749Bg>

Version courte, en français (6:01):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7tSptqky8>



The consortium in charge of project management for the provision of SPOT satellite data for the Congo Basin in the context of the REDD+ initiative is led by IGN France International and also includes the French Geographical Institute (IGN), the National Centre for Spatial Studies (CNES) and the Institute for Research for Development (IRD). ONF International is also associated with this operation. The implementation was entrusted to ASTRIMUM.

Source: <http://www.ignfi.fr/en/content/film-satellite-imagery-help-sustainable-management-tropical-forests>



## Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

### ***Laos: GIS Committee workshop discusses coordinated collection and use of geographic data***



In a three-day workshop in June 2015, members of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee worked towards a joint understanding of standardized production, sharing and technical standards of geographic data.

The main aim of the workshop was to come to agreements on a joint data sharing policy and technical standards. Coordination of line ministries regarding geographic data is necessary, because there is no general regulation on geographic information, nor an authority to decide on standards and practices of production, distribution and sharing of geographic information. As a result authorities have their own standards and practices, which are not always coherent. The GIS Committee supports the introduction of standards and promotes exchange of information to avoid overlapping work.

GIS Committee Chairman, National Geographic Department (NGD) Director General Mr. Bouasoth Souvannakoumane stated the importance of standardized systems for data use and sharing: “The coordination of data collection, including the use of standardized maps across all Government organizations is a main prerequisite of a modern and useful system of geographic data. It saves resources to coordinate the efforts of all departments working with geographic data, and in the end furthers the development of our country.”

Attendees included representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, Home Affairs, Natural Resources and Environment, Public Works, Energy and Mines, Education and Sports and the Lao Statistics Bureau. During the workshop, various ministerial departments presented their way of data collection and use and shared information on applied data formats. On the second day, working groups discussed a draft data sharing policy and technical standards.

The workshop was supported by the Strengthening Natural Geographic Services Project, with funding from the Government of Finland.

Source: <http://www.ngd.la/?p=3198&lang=en>

### ***Nepal: National Geographic Information Infrastructure Project releases Interactive Earthquake Web Map***



Interactive Earthquake Web Map  
<http://old.ngiip.gov.np/EARTHQUAKE2072/Earthquake.html>  
Post-Disaster map of Earthquake Affected Districts  
<http://old.ngiip.gov.np/Earthquake/index.html>  
Free GIS Layer for Disaster Mapping  
<http://old.ngiip.gov.np/EARTHQUAKE2072/DataDownloader.html>

Government of Nepal, Survey Department have provided the option of free download data of the earthquake affected area which includes 17 districts. The data includes transportation, hydrography, VDC boundary and name. The data can be used freely for earthquake disaster analysis purpose only by the organizations that are working for disaster rescue and



**Attributions:**  
OSM data: OSM Contributors  
Boundaries and Place Name: Survey Department  
Earthquake Disaster Points: Tomnod (crowdsourced)  
Map developed by Pashan Niraula and Sumeer Koirala,  
Department of Land Information and Archive

mapping activities of the disaster occurred due to the recent earthquake of

25th and 26th April, 2015. The data will be available for free download for two months from the date of publish. Use of this data set for any other purposes is strictly prohibited.

Source: <http://www.ngiip.gov.np/>

## Pakistan: Finally, PAK-NSDI initiated



On May 6, 2015, the 2nd GIS Conference was held at the Ministry of

Planning Development and Reform Planning Commission, Energy Wing, Islamabad. It was interesting event as major stakeholders shared their diverse understanding about NSDI. Indeed, understanding SDI is (still) in its infancy in Pakistan. Member Energy Syed Akhtar Ali, amicably synthesized all the views and stressed the need for unlocking the spatial datasets possessed by various organizations for economic and social development of the country. After the meeting, National Working Groups were formed including NSDI, Policy, Standards, Base Mapping, Academia and Training etc. The groups were tasked, as well. A website also was established. The core purpose of the website to connect with peers of the similar interest who are aware of the value of sharing information resources and/or want to know what efforts are being made in the NSDI domain of Pakistan.

Source: <https://paknsdi.wordpress.com/>

## The Philippines: Why we need to liberate public map data

By David Garcia June 5, 2015 7:14pm

Despite the tremendous need for maps in helping solve the country's problems—disasters, climate change, environmental degradation, urban decay, etc.—public map data in the Philippines is either inaccessible, closed, for sale, or any combination of the three. Why is this so?

Fellow Filipinos, here is how you can enjoy high-quality map data of your town, during “normal” days:

First, you need to send out formal letters of request to various agencies because different map layers—topography, geology, political boundaries, etc.—are held by different agencies. It's not unheard-of for months to pass, even after numerous follow-up requests, before the data finally arrives. And even then, the data is usually in a “closed” (non-editable .jpg or .pdf) format. Because the data is “closed”, you would have to redraw the map layers to make them ready for validation and to make them readable to the common barangay resident. This may take weeks to months for a team to accomplish.



Thankfully, in times of crisis, agencies have shown themselves capable of stepping up to the plate:

After Super Typhoon Yolanda, our humanitarian mapping team sent out the same letters to various data stewards in government. Some of the map data only took weeks, instead of the usual months, to arrive. Some of the map data were sent in open format (a.k.a. shapefiles), instead of .jpg and .pdf. The topographic data that was previously for sale was now free. It was possible to get access to open and free data due to the disaster. But why does it take a disaster for data to be released openly, freely, and without much formality?

David Garcia is a geographer and licensed urban, regional, and environmental planner. On mission for the Human Settlements Programme of the United Nations (UN-HABITAT), he made maps and plans in Guiuan, Ormoc, and Tacloban City for rehabilitation after Super Typhoon Yolanda. In addition, his current missions for the UN are in the cities of Iloilo, Silay, Cagayan De Oro, and Zamboanga for urban planning and design for sustainable urban development.

Source: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/499182/scitech/science/why-we-need-to-liberate-philippine-public-map-data>

## Thailand: GISTDA workshop



The Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), in cooperation with the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute, organized a workshop course on “Using Geographic Information System (GIS) to basic water management at the local level” in the development of geospatial Water District

Phase 3 on 23-25 June 2015. Opening courses and “development and networking Web Map Service for local authorities” was also held on June 26. GISTDA aims to provide local authorities with the knowledge of the preparation and use of geospatial information in the form of maps or Web Map Services and help prepare the local authorities to access and use the search service – ultimately to improve the use and exchange of national geospatial information (ThaiSDI) more effectively.

Source: [http://thaitsdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=209:260658&catid=36:latest-news;](http://thaitsdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=209:260658&catid=36:latest-news;)  
<http://thaitsdi.gistda.or.th/index.php>



### ***New Zealand: Hydro Day highlights need for charts***

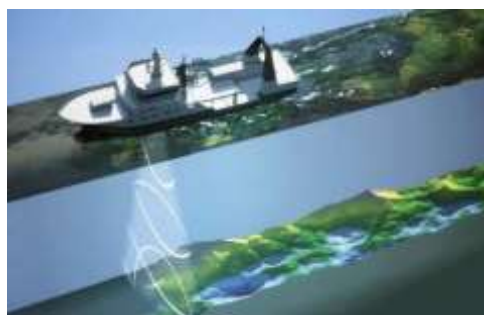


Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) says the theme for this year's World Hydrography Day, "Our seas and waterways – yet to be fully charted and explored," reflects its work helping Pacific countries develop much needed nautical charts. World Hydrography Day on 21 June 2015 was an annual reminder

of the vital role of hydrography – the science of mapping undersea features – to support transport, industry and recreation.

LINZ Group Manager Hydrography Tim Holloway says that in addition to providing hydrographic services, such as nautical charts for New Zealand, it is working to help Pacific nations improve their maritime safety. "Many Pacific countries lack charts for areas that are well used by shipping, or are reliant on charts that are over fifty years old and badly need updating. This is a real safety concern for countries that are so reliant on shipping," says Tim.

"In recent months, we've provided the Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga with maps that highlight areas of risk to shipping so these countries can make decisions on where chart updates and other safety improvements are most needed. "We're now contributing our expertise to a NZ Aid project to improve navigation charts in the region. We've also helped build capacity in the region by holding workshops on hydrography to build skills."



LINZ's risk mapping approach will also have benefits for New Zealand. LINZ is now introducing this approach to help prioritise its programme of chart updates for New Zealand waters.

See also: Mapping Kapiti's submarine landscape:

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-06/mapping-kapiti%E2%80%99s-submarine-landscape>

Source: <http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2015-06/hydro-day-highlights-need-for-charts>

### ***International Workshop on NSDI and its Applications, 9 June 2015, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia***



Aimed to strengthen the capacity of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), UN-GGIM-AP and the Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAGaC, <http://www.gazar.gov.mn/>) of Mongolia organized the international workshop on NSDI and its Applications in Terelj, Mongolia on 9 June, 2015. Best practices and experiences from the member countries were shared under the 3 sessions: NSDI policy planning and the legal framework; Framework data of NSDI, standardizations and its architecture; and NSDI applications. The workshop adopted "Terelj Declaration on National Spatial Data Infrastructure and its Applications", which recommends actions to contribute to the development and utility of an effective and efficient NSDI of the member countries in close cooperation with UN-GGIM-AP and relevant international organizations.

NSDI Workshop Program [PDF 92KB] [http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI\\_Program.pdf](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI_Program.pdf)

Terelj Declaration on National Spatial Data Infrastructure and its Applications [PDF 88KB] [http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI\\_Terelj%20Declaration.pdf](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI_Terelj%20Declaration.pdf)

Source: [http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI\\_WS\\_150609.html](http://www.un-ggim-ap.org/Document/NSDI_WS_150609.html)

### ***Pacific Islands: New tools to increase resilience of Pacific Island countries to natural disasters***

A major regional geospatial information system and other innovative risk assessment tools are being developed to assist Pacific Island countries to undertake evidence-based decision making in development planning and finance. A four-day workshop, which ran from 9 to 12 June 2015 in Suva with representatives from Pacific region governments and development partners attending, focused on the disaster risk modelling and assessment tools.



The tools, including a rapid impact estimation tool and the Pacific Risk Information System (PacRIS), are being developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), World Bank and the Asian Development Bank with the financial support of the Government of Japan and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

“These tools can be used to improve the resilience of Pacific Island countries by providing the technical information needed to make informed decisions about risk of disasters to communities and their assets,” the Director of SPC’s Geoscience Division, Professor Michael Petterson, said.

The workshop was hosted by SPC and the World Bank through the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI, <http://pcrafi.spc.int>), which aims to establish an upgraded disaster and climate risk information platform, and to enhance the capacity of Pacific Island governments to use it.

PacRIS contains detailed, country-specific information on assets, populations, hazards and risks. For example, information can be extracted in relation to hazard zones for townships to be used in landuse planning decisions. PacRIS has several applications, including use in the development of the Pacific catastrophe risk insurance pilot, which made a payout to Tonga of USD 1.27 million, following Cyclone Ian, and of USD 1.9 million to Vanuatu, following Tropical Cyclone Pam. The PacRIS products utilise free and open source software which research from the World Bank has shown to have enormous benefits for both developed and developing countries and allow for a wide range of actors to be able to participate in building resilience.

PCRAFI is a joint initiative between SPC, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank with the financial support of the Government of Japan and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and technical support from AIR Worldwide, New Zealand GNS Science, Geoscience Australia, Pacific Disaster Centre (PDC), OpenGeo and GFDRR Labs.

Source: <http://gsd.spc.int/media-releases/1-latest-news/615--new-tools-to-increase-resilience-of-pacific-island-countries-to-natural-disasters>

### ***U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Pacific-American Climate Fund***



The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM, <http://www.pgrd.org/projects/pacam/>) is a five-year project that provides grants to civil society organizations in the developing countries of the Pacific Islands to support measures for climate change adaptation. PACAM will consider proposals that reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change and that provide other benefits such as livelihoods enhancement, food security, improved health, better governance, or sustainable management of natural resources. The eligible countries are Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Organizations that do not have previous experience with USAID are encouraged to apply. Grants are up to US\$250 thousand for projects of up to two years. The deadline for concept papers is **10 August 2015**.

Source: [http://www.pgrd.org/assets/documents/PACAM\\_Cycle\\_3\\_Grant\\_Solicitation\\_Issued\\_June\\_26\\_2015.pdf](http://www.pgrd.org/assets/documents/PACAM_Cycle_3_Grant_Solicitation_Issued_June_26_2015.pdf)

### ***Calls for proposals: APN 2015 CRRP & CAPaBLE Programmes***



The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) invites proposals under two separate programmes, the Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) and the CAPaBLE Programme, for funding from June 2016, and is able to provide a limited amount of financial support for regional collaborative research and capacity development activities that fall within its areas of interest.

APN fosters the understanding of global environmental change by conducting regional research through collaboration and capacity development. APN’s activities promote research that improves understanding of the physical, biological and human dimensions of change in the Earth system and advances science that informs decision-making regarding adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development in the following specific areas:

- Climate Change and Climate Variability;
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- Changes in the Atmospheric, Terrestrial and Marine Domains;
- Resources Utilisation and Pathways for Sustainable Development; and
- Risk Reduction and Resilience.

The above themes are interrelated and involve the interface of natural, social, behavioural, economic and political sciences. In the 4th Strategic Phase (2015-2020), APN will increasingly emphasise this interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach in addressing regional issues. APN will also continue to support research on thematic issues, such as climate adaptation, low carbon approaches, and biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In addition to supporting capacity development under its research agenda, APN also has a focus Capacity Development Agenda (CAPaBLE). CAPaBLE is enhancing scientific capacity to improve decision-making related to global change and sustainability. This includes capacity development for early-career scientists and capacity enhancement for experience leading scientists in developing countries.

Activities of Interest to APN for Funding from 2016: APN is prepared to support activities in the area of global change and sustainability relevant to APN's thematic areas outlined above and relating to:

Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) under the thematic science areas:

- Global change and sustainability collaborative research particularly via gaps, analysis, synthesis and assessment work.
- Research that develops pathways and mechanisms to achieve sustainable development and develop adaptation strategies.
- Place-based integrative research particularly from developing countries.
- Collaborative research that contributes to the evolving global change arena, including IPCC, IPBES, post-2014 Sustainable development goals, ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.

CAPaBLE Programme under the thematic science areas:

- Scientific capacity development in the context of the 5 thematic areas.
- Awareness raising and dissemination activities for policy- and decision-making communities, civil society and the public.
- Science-policy interfacing in the context of the 5 thematic areas.
- Capacity-building partnership activities that contribute to the capacity development components of the evolving global change arena, including IPCC, IPBES, post-2015 Sustainable Development goals, and ongoing and new global change and sustainability research programmes.

Deadlines:

- Advisory Service – year round (no deadline)
- Stage 1. Submission of Online Summary Proposal (Compulsory, online submission for CRRP; for CAPaBLE): Sunday **9th August 2015**, midnight (24:00) – Japanese Standard Time.
- Stage 2. Submission of Full Proposal (template for CRRP; for CAPaBLE) by the Successful Stage 1 Proponents (Compulsory and by Invitation Only): Sunday **18th October 2015**, midnight (24:00) – Japanese Standard Time.

Source: <https://www.apn-gcr.org/call/2015/>

### ***Call for applications: Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research Proposal Development Workshop***



The APN's annual Proposal Development Training Workshop will be held November 2015 in Mongolia. The workshop aims to enhance the capacity of young scientists and practitioners in Temperate East Asia to

develop competitive project proposals for funding. The main topic of the workshop will be "Land Use and Climate Change." The workshop will focus on the following priority research topics taken from the APN's fourth Strategic Plan:

- Assessment and enhancement of land use sustainability
- Nature, extent, causes and impacts of land use and land cover change
- Global environment change and land use planning
- Urban land use change

Applicants requiring funding support will be accepted from young scientists/practitioners (age 40 or younger) who are from, living, and working in China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation. The application deadline is **15 August 2015**.

Source: <http://www.apn-gcr.org/2015/06/25/call-for-participants-apn-2015-proposal-development-training-workshop/>

## Europe Region SDI News

### **Denmark: Data collection for new nationwide Danish digital elevation model is complete**



Data collection for the new nationwide Danish Elevation Model was not anything that went according to plan. The elevation model impatiently has been being waited on, not least of which by public administration agencies. The elevation model should provide an even better basis to predict the unpredictable future and thus be able to respond effectively and quickly to the challenges ahead. To meet the need for Denmark's detailed, accurate and updated elevation model, the supplier, the Danish Geodata Agency, had four small airplanes allocated into three flying seasons. The airplanes have flown and scanned the country thinly in the 700 meters altitude. The Danish Geodata Agency had unusually high

number of problems with equipment and weather. The successful completion of the barely-succeeded plan required flying both day and night.

Denmark's elevation model is a basic data used by different users. Read more about Basic data program sub-program GD4 Geodataprogrammet at <http://gst.dk/emner/grunddataprogram/geodataprogrammet/> and <http://eng.gst.dk/>. As geographic basic data, from 1 January 2013 a large part of the data at the Danish Geodata Agency has been available for commercial and non-commercial purposes - free of charge by all for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. This includes topographic data (maps), the cadastral map and the Danish Elevation Model.

Source: <http://gst.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2015/maj/gyseren-fik-en-god-afslutning/>

### **Denmark: Consultation Report and specification for new maps of Greenland is ready**



There are positive and high expectations for the new maps of Greenland and the consultation on the contents of the card is now complete.

The Danish Geodata Agency (Geodastyrelsen), Greenland and Asiaq have completed the technical consulting vector specification for new maps in 1: 50.000 in Greenland. During the consultation phase there has been a lot of good and practical input to the adjustments of the specification. Therefore, there is now a definitive specification that will form the basis for the production of vector data in the pilot project. Furthermore, there is prepared a consultation report summarizing the consultation process results. Further information Specification and consultation report can be downloaded via <http://www.gst.dk/grønland>, where there is also information about the pilot project work in general. See also: New mapping of Greenland, <http://gst.dk/emner/landkort-topografi/groenland/>

Greenland has focused on spatial data potential to support economic growth and modernization of management. Therefore, Greenland and the Danish Geodata Agency started with a new mapping in Greenland. Geographical infrastructure is an important basis for a community development and welfare. In Greenland, there is not today in the same way as in Denmark access to updated spatial data and maps that support the safety of those who live in Greenland as well as the management and development of the Greenlandic society.

The Danish Minister of Environment is responsible for the survey in both Greenland and Denmark. It is therefore both natural and effective to integrate mapping of Greenland with the production and processing processes that underlie the spatial data and spatial data infrastructure in Denmark. The Danish Geodata Agency houses the Centre of Expertise for Spatial Information for the Ministry of the Environment and thus plays a central role in the organising of the use of shared public data (<http://eng.gst.dk/>) which forms the foundation for a more efficient and modern public sector.

Source: <http://gst.dk/nyheder/nyhedsarkiv/2015/jun/hoeringsrapport-og-specifikation-for-nye-landkort-i-groenland-er-klar/>

### **UK: MoD tasks HP with £8.5m project to improve geospatial intelligence system**



The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has handed HP an £8.5 million contract to improve its ability to react to humanitarian crises and conflict abroad. HP will be responsible for transforming the way geospatial intelligence is used and shared across the government department, helping military personnel and civil servants access this data more easily inside the MoD's secure network.

Delivering the first phase of the MoD's Defence Geospatial Services (DGS) programme, HP will work with geospatial software specialist Envitia to build a system that lets users search, discover and retrieve information from any terminal within the Defence Information Infrastructure.

This data is intelligence on human activities that can be tagged to specific locations, helping the MoD identify and monitor crises as they unfold. The system will act as a foundation for the MoD's Spatial Data Infrastructure, with plans to build upon it in the future. HP will serve up its own infrastructure to store MoD data in, including maps, while HP will also use Envitia's software to help the MoD manage its large datasets.

Simon Fovargue, VP of enterprise defence & security at HP, said: "Built upon open standards and an open architecture, this new enterprise-wide solution from HP and Envitia will ensure that all users are fighting off the same map."

Source: <http://www.itpro.co.uk/business-intelligence/24771/mod-tasks-hp-with-85m-project-to-improve-intelligence-system>:  
<http://www.ukauthority.com/news/5423/mod-signs-hp-to-support-geospatial-programme>

### **Spain (Euskadi): 7<sup>th</sup> GeoEuskadi portal workshop held on environmental mapping**



A 7<sup>th</sup> GeoEuskadi portal workshop was held on June 23, 2015 to review environmental mapping and geographic information, accessible at <http://www.geo.euskadi.eus>. Use cases, forms, and tools also were reviewed. The workshop briefly described and disclosed the features of the base map and geoEuskadi derivatives that may be important in environmental analysis of the territory. The workshop also was a time for open participation, where community members could reflect and identify new data needs and services in the environmental field in Euskadi.

GeoEuskadi is a website for finding and viewing mapping and official maps of the Basque Government which allows access to that information from mobile devices and tablets free of charge, both by companies and by individuals, which allows use in office work and in field work. The web portal, with access to the latest available aerial orthophotos, enables the mapping of different sectoral information, where one can find the official toponymy, cartography of natural spaces or street mapping flood zones.



Source: <http://www.geo.euskadi.eus/albisteak/2015/geoeuskadi-atariaren-7-tailerra-ingurumenaren-kartografia-geo-euskadi-atariaren-s69-geonot/eu/>; <http://www.tvsmagazine.com/geoeuskadi-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-ide-de-euskadi/>

### **Spain: Geoportal for Alboran Sea Governance**



The Geoportal for Alboran Sea Governance is a participatory platform encompassing information on natural resources and biodiversity of the Alboran Sea. The development of the Geoportal for Alboran Sea Governance is part of the activities under the project POCTEFEX-ALBORÁN, "Cross-border Space of Nature Shared Management", which aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences among stakeholders as to identify and unify the priorities that will improve the governance of natural resources in the Alboran Sea and promote sustainable and integrated management of the marine environment.

The beneficiary partners are the regional Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Andalucía, the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, and the University of Almería. The Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime is also a participating partner from Morocco. The geoportal development has been supported by the Biodiversity Foundation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Spain. Recently, a consulting opportunity was issued to develop the 2nd phase of the Alboran geoportal (deadline for proposals was 30 June 2015)m [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/tor\\_geoportal\\_fase\\_2.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/tor_geoportal_fase_2.pdf) (in Spanish).

Source: <http://www.iucn-geoportalalboran.org/en/>



## Spain: VI Jornadas Ibéricas de Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales (JIIDE2015)



**VI Jornadas Ibéricas de Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales**  
"Interoperabilidad y armonización: compartiendo conocimiento y fomentando innovación"  
4 - 6 de Noviembre de 2015, Sevilla

The 6th Iberian Days of Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE2015) will be held this year in the wonderful city of Seville and at a

great time to visit, from 4-6 November 2015. The event is being organized by the National Center for Geographic Information (CNIG) under the IGN, the Institute of Statistics and Cartography of Andalusia (ACE) and the School of Informatics, University of Seville, which will host the celebration in their event facilities.

The event has become of great scientific and technical importance to the Iberian community of those who work and research in the field of SDI. As usual, there will be workshops (workshops), round tables, conferences, presentations, an exhibition and much more. The theme this year is interoperability and harmonization: sharing knowledge and promoting innovation and the proposed topics:

- Implementation and Monitoring Directive Inspire
- Data Policies and licenses. Open Data
- Implementation Services
- Interoperability of spatial data
- Managing metadata and catalogs
- Web and mobile applications in the SDI
- Development and Technological Innovation
- The SDI in smart cities
- semantics and linked data
- SDI Projects Administration and the private sector
- SDI, Neocartography and cooperation
- Training and dissemination

Abstracts can be submitted in Spanish, Portuguese or English up to **15 September 2015**.

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

## Estonia: Land Board has completed cadastre statistical service



The Estonian Land Board (ELB, <http://www.maaamet.ee>) has completed the land cadastre statistical service through which you can aggregate data from registers of the land. At first, the cadastre statistical service through the inherited (draw), five kinds of statistics: the land registers cadastral units; land reform, in paragraph omandamisviiside formed cadastral, cadastral land use type, and intended use (as well as the cadastral area). Statistical list will be updated in the future.

The data can be accessed for the whole of Estonia or counties, and municipal tables contain data. The statistics are produced each month and new tables are published on the first day of every month. The table data is downloadable in CSV format, which is the appropriate structure for Excel. Visualization of statistical data and charts are prepared in a variety of cartograms.



**REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
LAND BOARD**

The Estonian Land Board is responsible for development and maintenance of relevant data portals, also they have authority to require INSPIRE-related spatial data from other governmental agencies. In Estonia, spatial data management is regulated by the Spatial Data Act and Public Information Act, Implementing Rules of the INSPIRE Directive and different regulations, development plans, and framework documents.

### Note also: *Estonia: Spatial Data Act*

This Act provides the requirements for making available and sharing spatial data sets and services, the conditions of administration of the geodetic system and the address data system and acquisition and grant of use of topographic data, coordination of the development of a spatial data infrastructure and organisation of reporting, administrative supervision over the establishment of location addresses and liability for violation of the requirements for the protection of geodetic marks. <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/Riigikogu/act/517062015006/consolidate>

Source: [https://www.maaamet.ee/index.php?lang\\_id=1&news\\_id=1154&page\\_id=1&menu\\_id=1&no\\_cache=1434636726](https://www.maaamet.ee/index.php?lang_id=1&news_id=1154&page_id=1&menu_id=1&no_cache=1434636726)

### ***Macedonia: Council for Spatial Data Infrastructure holds 2nd session***

The Council for National Spatial Data Infrastructure held its second session on June 11, 2015. Deputy Prime Minister of Economic Affairs, Vladimir Pesevski, chaired the session. During the session, decisions were made for the establishment of:

- Working Group for institutional and legal issues and capacity building;
- Working Group for technological issues (standards, metadata, services and other);
- Working Group for public relations and communications;
- Working Group for economic issues;
- The NSDI committee.

The National Geo-Portal also was presented and promoted at the session. The National Geo-Portal aims to provide swift, easy and efficient exchange of spatial data among state institutions. The data, developed in line with European standards, will be available for citizens, but can also be used by companies for their own needs and development of new added value products for commercial purposes. The geo-portal contains cadaster data on the state border, statistical regions, populated places, local self-government units, national parks, age of population, potential wildfire sources etc.



"The geo-portal will raise the efficiency and effectiveness of institutions, but also contribute to the economic development and facilitate the access to required data for citizens and the business community", said Pesevski at the session. The Director of the Agency for Real Estate Cadaster, Slavce Trpeski said users previously had to go from one institution to another in order to obtain spatial data, but now they can do it online. "The geo-portal is a web solution for searching, downloading and publishing of spatial data by state institutions," added Trpeski.

The geo-portal is available at the Cadastre website, <http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk>.

Source: <http://www.independent.mk/articles/18465/Council+for+Spatial+Data+Infrastructure+to+Hold+Session>;  
<http://www.independent.mk/articles/18492/National+Geo-Portal+Promotion+Held>;  
<http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk/geoportalCms/?p=645>

### ***Croatia: SDI in Croatia; shifting from NSDI 1.0 to NSDI 2.0***



Author: Tomislav Ciceli, Head of NSDI Division at State Geodetic Administration at State Geodetic Administration

Croatia has strong legacy in Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) domain. First activities started already at the beginning of 21st century with a few studies about possibilities for data exchange

between different institutions on governmental level. All activities which followed those studies were formalised in an Act on State Survey and Real Cadastre in 2007 (Official Gazetteer 13/2007). In the period after the Law came in force, all activities were focused on the formal framework for the establishment of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) which resulted in a three-level hierarchy of NSDI Bodies; Council, Board and Working groups. That period can be viewed as phase 1.0 of SDI establishment in Republic of Croatia. From 2013, Croatia became member of European Union and with other obligations, the country needed to transpose Directive 2007/2/EZ to its legislation, which was done in May of 2013 with the Act on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (Official Gazetteer 56/2013). With that Act, Croatia became legally compatible with EU legislation in domain of SDI and implementation on operational level started. Formal structure was kept, with introducing State Geodetic Administration as the National Contact Point for NSDI and INSPIRE. Many new activities came with putting the Act on NSDI in force, such as creating of NSDI Registries, creating of National metadata catalogue, and publishing of the National geoportal. During 2014, activities on Monitoring of SDI/INSPIRE in Croatia also were accomplished. All those activities were very operational, with a focus on real implementation, and according to that, this phase can be treated as phase 2.0 in SDI development in Republic of Croatia. Given the scope of this work, this presentation provides a brief overview of main activities for phase 1.0 and phase 2.0.

See also: Lessons learned through implementation period of NSDI in Croatia:

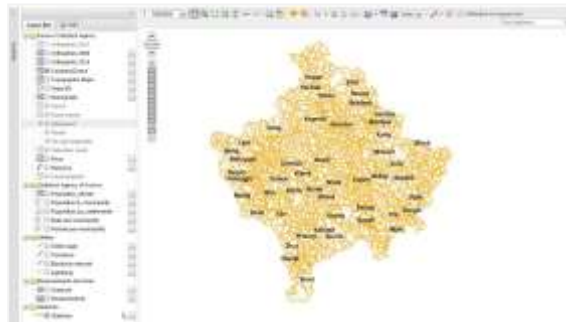
<http://www.slideshare.net/TomislavCiceli/t-ciceli-nsdilessons-learned>

Source: <http://www.slideshare.net/TomislavCiceli/t-ciceli-sdi-in-cro-v20small>

### **Implementing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure for a Modern Kosovo**

Author(s): Murat Meha (Kosovo), Joep Crompvoets (Belgium), Muzafer Çaka and Denis Pitarka (Kosovo)  
FIG Working Week 2015: From the Wisdom of the Ages to the Challenges of the Modern World, Sofia, Bulgaria, 17-21 May 2015

**Summary:** In the context of the Real Estate Cadastre and Registration Project, the Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) is currently working on the development of a strategy for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) of the Republic of Kosovo. This NSDI aims to transform the way spatial data and services are shared within Kosovo so it may underpin national social and economic development to the benefit of all. An incremental and sustainable implementation path is needed so stakeholders move from the current state of disparate GIS systems to an integrated and harmonised infrastructure for sharing spatial data. The strategy is strongly based on the principles of the EU Directive INSPIRE (Directive 2007/2/EC on 'establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community'). The strategy refers to relevant issues such as the vision/mission, objectives, list of stakeholders, funding model, NSDI-implementation costs and benefits, governance structure, communications plan and other issues (such as outreach and capacity building). Moreover, it includes a road map for the implementation. A final version of the strategy plan is scheduled for April 2015. Implementing the strategy will contribute to the formation of a modern Kosovo.



KCA launched the national geoportal June 2013. This geoportal (<http://geoportal.rks-gov.net>) is developed in accordance to INSPIRE standards meaning the inclusion of network services for searching, viewing and downloading geospatial data.

Source: [http://www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig\\_proceedings/fig2015/papers/ts04d/TS04D\\_meha\\_crompvoets\\_et\\_al\\_7451.pdf](http://www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig_proceedings/fig2015/papers/ts04d/TS04D_meha_crompvoets_et_al_7451.pdf)

### **8th Regional Conference of Cadastre and Land Administration held in Kosovo**

Under the organization of the Kosovo Cadastral Agency in Prishtina, the 8th regional conference of Cadastre and Land Administration was held, entitled "Multi-purpose cadastre in land administration procedures". Harmonization of spatial data and land administration harmonized with the EU member states is considered of a great importance, and for this reason in today's conference besides representatives of states of the region, attended representatives of the main European institutions in cadastre, land administration and spatial data infrastructure, as well and representatives of several EU member states as Croatia, Slovenia, Sweden, Belgium, etc.

The conference was opened by the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Mr. Ferid Agani, who thanked guests for participation and in his opening speech emphasised on the importance that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo gives to land management. "Like many developed countries that have designed, developed and used the land as a significant resource for the welfare of their citizens, the Republic of Kosovo since its establishment as an independent state, has implemented a modern infrastructure, land management, cadastre and spatial data benefits of which are daily non-stop for our citizens", said Mr. Ferid Agani. CEO of KCA Prof. Dr. Murat Meha, as the organizer and leader of the central institution for cadaster in republic of Kosovo, spoke about the importance of the land in general and the implementation of important projects in this area that are being implemented by the Kosovo Cadastral Agency, as Kosovo Cadastral Land Information System in Kosovo, Unified Address System, Reconstruction of Cadastral Information, Creating Building Cadastre, Reconstruction of all Municipal Cadastral Offices, Strategy for Spatial Data Infrastructure, State Geoportal.

Also during the conference other professional papers where presented by representatives of the countries of the region such as Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Croatia, Sweden, as well as experts from international institutions for cadastre and spatial data such FIG, Eurogeographics, EULIS-of, etc. Conference serves for exchange of experiences and knowledge, which will result in increased quality of land management, and the same conferences will continue in the future.

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

## **European Union Location Framework (EULF) Transportation pilot is first to test ELF delivery platform**



Seamless, cross-border geospatial information delivered via the European Location Framework is helping to speed up the exchange of safety-related road data.

The European Union Location Framework (EULF) Transportation pilot scheme is the first to test the cloud-based infrastructure which is providing access to road information from public authorities in Norway and Sweden. The data will then be assessed by commercial map application developers, TomTom and HERE who have signed the first European Location Framework evaluation licences.

Source: <http://www.eurogeographics.org/news/eulf-transportation-pilot-first-test-european-location-framework-delivery-platform>

## **EarthServer**

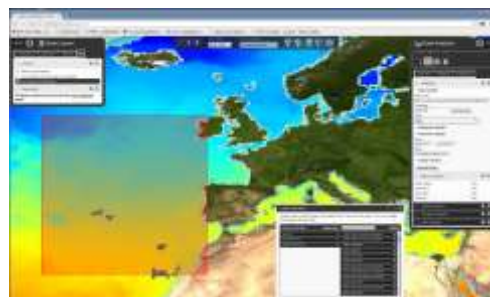
Big Earth Data at your fingertips - this is the vision of EarthServer, an intercontinental initiative for unleashing the potential of Big Data through a disruptive paradigm shift in technology:



- from isolated silos of data with disparate functionality towards a single, uniform information space;
- from a difficult, artificial differentiation between data and metadata access to unified retrieval;
- from zillions of files towards few whatever-size datacubes;
- from limited functionality to the freedom of asking anything, anytime, any server in a peer network of data centers worldwide.

In phase 1, EarthServer has established open ad-hoc analytics on massive Earth Science data, based on and extending leading-edge Array Database technology, rasdaman. According to EU Commission and phase 1 reviewers, rasdaman will "significantly transform the way that scientists in different areas of Earth Science will be able to access and use data in a way that hitherto was not possible". Six Lighthouse Applications with over 200 TB have demonstrated this. Additionally, EarthServer-1 "with no doubt has been shaping the Big Earth Data landscape through the standardization activities within OGC, ISO and beyond".

Now phase 2 of EarthServer is starting. With an even more ambitious goal: each data center will provide at least 1 Petabyte of 3-D and 4-D datacubes. Technology advance will allow real-time scaling of such Petabyte cubes, and intercontinental fusion. This power of data handling will be wrapped into direct visual interaction based on multi-dimensional visualization techniques, in particular: NASA WorldWind. Following the motto "a cube says more than a million images" EarthServer-2 has set out to redefine the Big Data service landscape even more.



See also: Big Earth data at your fingertips becomes a reality, <http://phys.org/news/2015-06-big-earth-fingertips-reality.html>

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

## **ConnectinGEO Workshop: Observing Europe - Networking the Earth Observation Networks in Europe 21-22 September 2015, Paris, France**



The Workshop will explore the benefits and options of constituting a European Network of Earth observation Networks that encompasses current networks in Europe in single entity. The ENEON will be a forum for discussing gaps in the EO networks and proposing concrete solutions to the European Commission in terms of completeness but also for ensuring continuity of critical infrastructures both in-situ and space based. It will also serve as a coordination point for the European contribution to GEOSS in the matter of in-situ networks and to encourage the alignment of a transversal set Essential Variables GEO is currently advocating.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- Know more about the main current Earth Observation networks in Europe.
- Review previous umbrella initiatives.
- Clearly define the goals, objectives, benefits and impacts.
- Develop a strategy to setup the network of networks.

- Consider the legal status of the network.

Venue: MINES ParisTech 60 Bd. St Michel, 75272 Paris Cedex 06. Pre-registration: **September 1st, 2015.**

Registration form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zOG07ygc1xoIHyt\\_7RmGqdt6ygaCm66w48oneaElvls/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zOG07ygc1xoIHyt_7RmGqdt6ygaCm66w48oneaElvls/viewform?usp=send_form)

Source: <http://www.connectinggeo.net/Events.htm>

### **Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Baltic**



## **INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC REVIEW**

Author(s): Peter Hartmann

*International Hydrographic Review*, Number 12 (November 2014)

*Abstract:* At its 15th Conference, the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) decided to establish a working group on marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) with the task of promoting MSDI in the Baltic Sea region. The working group's focus is on national coordination of maritime information. Thus far, the group has conducted an in-depth survey of the participating countries' respective approaches to coordinated access to maritime information. The study identifies areas where MSDI implementation is underway and where challenges can be foreseen.

Source: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/ihr/article/view/22844>

### **Spatial Data Infrastructures empowered by interoperable Volunteered Geographic Information**



Author(s): Gloria Bordogna, Paola Carrara, Tomas Kliment, Luca Frigerio, Simone Sterlacchini

*Plurimondi. An International Forum for Research and Debate on Human Settlements*, Vol 7, No 15; The XIX European Colloquium in Theoretical and Quantitative Geography (ECTQG2015), 3-7 September 2015, Bari, Italy

*Abstract:* Until recently the exploitation of Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) by web applications has been prevented for the difficulty of integrating the VGI created by smart applications with authoritative geo-data. This is due to the lack of VGI applications compliant with standards to publish on the Web and to access the created information. Applications platforms for the creation of VGI such as Ushahidi are generally closed worlds. To see and analyse VGI often there is no other alternative than accessing the application geoportal, thus preventing the possibility to correlate the created information with both VGI by other applications, and authoritative geo-data relative to the same territory.

On the other hand, SDI architecture allows decoupling information providing units and portals that access them, so that a single information source can serve different web clients. This is the case when information collected by volunteers is exploited by web sites having different purpose such as environmental protection, agriculture support, tourists' guide.

In this contribution, we propose a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) framework that allows integrating VGI, created by applications for smart devices, and other information. In fact, an SDI allows publishing VGI on the Web by means of standard geo-services; with respect to current practices, this approach offers the advantage of viewing and analysing the created VGI by any geoportal compliant with OGC standard communication protocols and Web services. One could then access to distributed heterogeneous geo-data, comprising several sources of VGI, through a single access point. For example, tourist operators could integrate in their geoportal VGI from other sources thus enriching the offer to their customers.

The Android smart application "Orti di Bergamo" has been developed by us to allow volunteers wandering around the urban and surrounding area of Bergamo named "Orti di Bergamo", tagging points of rural interest by associating categories of crops typical of the area, and enriching tags with images and free text. Such VGI is immediately published and available on the Web and can be freely downloaded or accessed by other geoportals compliant with OGC standards.

"Orti di Bergamo" has been conceived in the framework of the regional project Space4Agri (S4A, <http://space4agri.irea.cnr.it>), jointly funded by CNR and Regione Lombardia, to support optimized agricultural practices and policies. In the S4A geoportal, such VGI can be analysed and correlated with other geo-data, both created by researchers within the project,



to identify both vegetated areas, crop covers, and with authoritative information of the Lombardy Regional Agronomic Database (SIARL - Sistema Informativo Agronomico Regione Lombardia). However, VGI from the application can be easily consumed by others, OGC standard-based geoportals, in particular for touristic information and visitors' guide. Specifically, we will illustrate a proof of concept implementation of the integrated SDI framework, developed within the regional project Space4Agri (S4A).

Source: <http://web.poliba.it/plurimondi/index.php/Plurimondi/article/view/234>

## Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

### Colombia: Borrador Decreto ICDE 2015



El documento que contiene el borrador del Decreto ICDE 2015, puede ser consultado a través del siguiente vínculo: [alfresco2.1-5.1.1.1/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/efb9ecae-144b-11e5-8392-77326e1cb3b3/Borrador\\_Decreto\\_ICDE\\_Junio2015.docx](http://alfresco2.1-5.1.1.1/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/efb9ecae-144b-11e5-8392-77326e1cb3b3/Borrador_Decreto_ICDE_Junio2015.docx)

*English summary: Draft Colombian SDI Decree 2015.* The document containing the draft Decree ICDE 2015 can be accessed online (in Spanish).

Fuente: <http://www.icde.org.co/web/guest/noticias>

### Brazil: IBGE offers satellite images of Piauí and Tocantins letters image



The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, <http://www.ibge.gov.br/>) made available in June in its Internet portal, orthorectified image mosaics of Piauí and a set of 30 letters image of Tocantins. With spatial resolution of 10 meters, the images that gave rise to these products were obtained by AVNIR-2 sensor ALOS satellite.

The ortomosaicos of Piauí cover 99.8% of the state. The remaining 0.2% of the images showed high percentage clouds obscuring the territory and, therefore, were not used. Future to cover that small portion of the state not portrayed by AVNIR-2, IBGE may use images of another sensor.

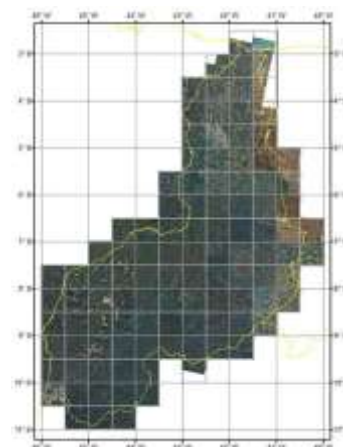
The individual orthorectified images of Piauí, available in 2013 and 2014, and the cutouts for sheets 1: 100,000 (1 cm = 1 km) of ortomosaicos released today, are in GeoTIFF format, for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and can be transferred from the IBGE web site at: [ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/imagens\\_orbitais/ortoimagem\\_mosaicos/](ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/imagens_orbitais/ortoimagem_mosaicos/)

Already the 30 letters image Tocantins (corresponding to 23% of the state area) are also represented on the scale 1: 100,000, corresponding to a type of cartographic representation consists of mosaic of orthorectified satellite images with geographic names and marginal information, following to cut the leaves of Systematic Land Mapping.

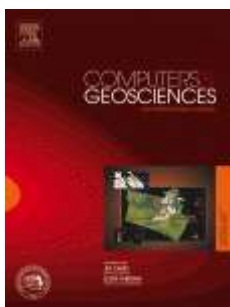
The corresponding ortomosaicos in GeoTIFF, have been made available between 2012 and 2013. The letters image released in June, in PDF format, have geometric properties of a topographic sheet and are available on the IBGE web site at: [ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.uk/carta\\_imagem/escala\\_100mil/pdf](ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.uk/carta_imagem/escala_100mil/pdf)

The available images collection is part of the "Cartographic Base 1: 100,000" (BC100), which is designed to give the Brazilian company access to orthorectified images, image ortomosaicos and letters from various units of the federation. The proposal is to meet the demand for current and consistent information to the representation scale 1: 100,000 (1 cm = 1 km).

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/pt/noticias-inde/8322-ibge-disponibiliza-imagens-de-satelite-do-piaui-e-cartas-imagem-de-tocantins>



## ***Development of a spatial decision support system for flood risk management in Brazil that combines volunteered geographic information with wireless sensor networks***



Author(s): Flávio E.A. Horita, João Porto de Albuquerque, Lívia C. Degrossi, Eduardo M. Mendiondo, Jó Ueyama  
*Computers & Geosciences*, Volume 80, July 2015, Pages 84–94 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Effective flood risk management requires updated information to ensure that the correct decisions can be made. This can be provided by Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) which are a low-cost means of collecting updated information about rivers. Another valuable resource is Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) which is a comparatively new means of improving the coverage of monitored areas because it is able to supply supplementary information to the WSN and thus support decision-making in flood risk management. However, there still remains the problem of how to combine WSN data with VGI. In this paper, an attempt is made to investigate AGORA-DS, which is a Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) that is able to make flood risk management more effective by combining these data sources, i.e. WSN with VGI. This approach is built over a conceptual model that complies with the interoperable standards laid down by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) – e.g. Sensor Observation Service (SOS) and Web Feature Service (WFS) – and seeks to combine and present unified information in a web-based decision support tool. This work was deployed in a real scenario of flood risk management in the town of São Carlos in Brazil. The evidence obtained from this deployment confirmed that interoperable standards can support the integration of data from distinct data sources. In addition, they also show that VGI is able to provide information about areas of the river basin which lack data since there is no appropriate station in the area. Hence it provides a valuable support for the WSN data. It can thus be concluded that AGORA-DS is able to combine information provided by WSN and VGI, and provide useful information for supporting flood risk management.

**Keywords:** Flood risk management; Spatial decision support system; Volunteered geographic information; Wireless sensor network; Interoperability standards; Application case

**Source:** <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0098300415000746> ;  
[http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joao\\_De\\_Albuquerque2/publication/275060774\\_Development\\_of\\_a\\_spatial\\_decision\\_support\\_system\\_for\\_flood\\_risk\\_management\\_in\\_Brazil\\_that\\_combines\\_volunteered\\_geographic\\_information\\_with\\_wireless\\_sensor\\_networks/links/55324e400cf27acb0deadb4b.pdf](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joao_De_Albuquerque2/publication/275060774_Development_of_a_spatial_decision_support_system_for_flood_risk_management_in_Brazil_that_combines_volunteered_geographic_information_with_wireless_sensor_networks/links/55324e400cf27acb0deadb4b.pdf)

## ***Uruguay: Spatial and digital record of all the national territory***



Dirección Nacional de Catastro

“Uruguay will have a spatial and digital record of all the national territory within the next five years, using the best technology available in the market,” said Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and

Finance, Pablo Ferrari, during the seminar “Case studies on good cadastral practices,” conducted jointly in Montevideo on June 24<sup>th</sup> by the Uruguay National Directorate of Cadastre (<http://catastro.mef.gub.uy/>) and its counterpart in the Republic of Korea, the Korea Cadastral Survey Corporation

Undersecretary Ferreri said Uruguay is going through a very important period of modernization, which is allowing significant progress on land records. Exchange and cooperation agreements between the National Directorate of Cadastre and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are fundamental to enabling all citizens to have access to the cadastral information gathered. He added that the modernization also will be possible by a cooperation and exchange agreement signed with the Republic of Korea. Incorporating the best international experiences, such as that of the Republic of Korea, will give Uruguay higher quality digital records and precision.



For his part, the National Director of Cadastre, Syla Amado, said the agency continues to work on a strategy of modernization in order to update information and develop the appropriate tools. “Today to cadastral information is free and for the most part virtual,” he said.

Access here the presentation by the National Cadastre (in Spanish)  
<https://www.mef.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/15885/4/seminario-intercambio-con-kcsc.pdf>  
Access here the presentation by Korea Cadastral Survey Corporation

[https://www.mef.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/15885/4/dnc\\_seminarkcsc.pdf](https://www.mef.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/15885/4/dnc_seminarkcsc.pdf)

See: Visualizador de Datos Catastrales, <http://catastro.mef.gub.uy/12360/10/areas/geocatastro.html>

See: Strengthening of the National Cadaster Project,

<http://www.iadb.org/en/projects/project-description-title.1303.html?id=UR-T1103>

Source: [http://www.elprofesional.com.uy/web/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=7169](http://www.elprofesional.com.uy/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7169);

<https://www.mef.gub.uy/15885/1/mef/buenas-practicas-catastrales.html>; <http://catastro.mef.gub.uy/15911/10/areas/intercambio-con-la-corporacion-catastral-de-corea---buenas-practicas-catastrales.html>

### **Peru: ONGEI realizará Conferencia Buenas Prácticas En Gestión de la Geo-Información y Presentación del Nodo Nacional de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Perú (IDEP) 2015**



Esta conferencia le permitirá conocer los avances en la implementación de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Perú (IDEP) y sus Nodos Institucionales, los avances en la implementación de la IDE de los Gobiernos Regionales Amazónicos, así como permitirá a los participantes, acceder a la información geográfica ofrecida a través de Internet por más de 30 instituciones públicas productoras de datos geo-espaciales en los tres niveles de Gobierno.

La Oficina Nacional de Gobierno Electrónico e Informática (ONGEI) es el Órgano técnico especializado que depende jerárquicamente de la Presidencia del Consejo de Ministros y en su calidad de Ente Rector del Sistema Nacional de Informática, se encarga de dirigir e implementar la Política Nacional de Gobierno Electrónico. ONGEI es Secretaría Técnica del el Comité Coordinador Permanente de la Infraestructura de Datos espaciales del Perú (CIDEP).

### **English summary: ONGEI Best Practices Conference held in Management and Geo-Information Node Presentation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (IDEP) 2015**



This conference, held 25 June 2015, will allow you to progress in the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (IDEP) and the Institutional Nodes, progress in the implementation of regional

governments IDE Amazonian and allow participants to access Geographic information offered on the Internet by more than 30 public institutions producing geospatial data at all three levels of government.

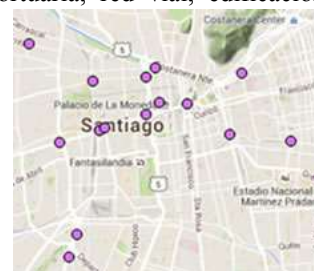
The National Office of Electronic Government and Information Technology (ONGEI) is the specialized technical body which reports to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and in its capacity as lead agency of the National System of Information, is responsible for directing and implementing the National Policy on e-Government. ONGEI is the Technical Secretariat of the Permanent Coordinator of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (CIDEP).

Fuente: <http://www.geoidep.gob.pe/index.php/noticias/191-conferencia-buenas-practicas-en-gestion-de-la-geo-informacion-y-presentacion-del-nodo-nacional-de-la-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-del-peru-idep-2015>;  
<http://siar.regionsanmartin.gob.pe/index.php?accion=verDestacados&idevento=318&idtipoevento=4>

### **Chile: Disponible “Centro de descarga de capas información geográfica” en sitio web IDE Chile**

Se encuentra disponible en el sitio web de IDE Chile una sección donde es posible descargar más de 100 capas de información geográfica. El vínculo es el siguiente: <http://www.ide.cl/descarga/capas.html>. La información disponible en el centro de descarga del Sitio Web IDE Chile es una recopilación inicial de capas en formato shape, kml y ortofotos, que actualmente publican distintas instituciones del Estado. Entre estas capas figuran División Político Administrativa, acuíferos, áreas protegidas, erosividad, santuarios de la naturaleza, infraestructura portuaria, red vial, edificación pública, zonas de inundación por tsunamis, humedales, ciclovías, plan cuadrante y unidades policiales, entre otras. Entre las instituciones que han publicado información geográfica para la descarga al público general, se destacan:

- Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
- Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Armada de Chile (SHOA)
- Ministerio de Obras Públicas
- Ministerio de Agricultura
- Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública / Subsecretaría de Desarrollo Regional y Administrativo.





- Ministerio de Transporte y Telecomunicaciones

Se espera que durante el presente año la cantidad de capas disponible en el centro de descarga del Sitio Web IDE Chile vaya en aumento. En tal sentido, y con el objetivo de orientar a la Secretaría Ejecutiva SNIT, en cuanto a facilitar el acceso a información que los usuarios consideran necesaria y prioritaria, se invita al público general enviarnos sugerencias a partir de la pregunta ¿Qué otra capa de información geográfica esperaría usted encontrar en el centro de descarga? en el siguiente vínculo: <http://bit.ly/1SKhkDC> Desde ya, agradecemos su contribución.

*English summary: Available "Download Center GIS layers" on website IDE Chile*



There is available on the IDE Chile website a section where you can download more than 100 layers of geographic information. The link is: <http://www.ide.cl/descarga/capas.html>. The information available from the 'Download Center' is an initial collection of layers in shape format, KML and orthophotos, currently published various State institutions. These layers include Political-Administrative Division, aquifers, protected areas, erosivity, nature sanctuaries, port infrastructure, roads, public buildings, tsunami flood zones, wetlands, bike paths, dial plan and police units, among others. Among the institutions that have posted geographical download information to the general public, are:

- Ministry of Environment
- Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Navy (SHOA)
- Ministry of Public Works
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Interior and Public / Undersecretary of Regional and Administrative Development Security.
- Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications

It is expected that the number of layers available in the Download Center of IDE Chile website will be increasing this year. In order to guide the Executive Secretary SNIT in facilitating access to information that users consider necessary and priority, the general public is invited to send suggestions from the question at the link <http://bit.ly/1SKhkDC>: What other geographic information layers would you expect to find in the Download Center? Of course, your contribution is appreciated.

Fuente: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/centro-de-descarga-de-capas-informacion-geografica.html>

### **Chile: Con éxito finalizó la primera reunión del Comité Técnico Interministerial del SNIT**



Con la asistencia de representantes de ministerios, servicios públicos y organismos dependientes del Estado, se realizó la primera reunión del año 2015 del Comité Técnico Interministerial del SNIT; en la cita, se presentó formalmente al nuevo Secretario Ejecutivo del SNIT y se discutió la planificación anual del organismo de información territorial.

El acuerdo central de la reunión fue la elaboración y distribución de un plan de trabajo detallado, sobre las líneas de acción presentadas por el Secretario Ejecutivo del SNIT, referidas a la generación de información, acceso y uso, interoperabilidad y marco institucional.

El Comité Técnico Interministerial del SNIT se reunirá periódicamente durante este año para hacer seguimiento a los avances en la ejecución de las actividades programadas.

*English summary:* Successfully completed the first meeting of the Interministerial Technical Committee SNIT. Attended by representatives of ministries, public services and agencies dependent on the state, the first meeting of 2015 of the Interministerial Technical Committee SNIT was made; in the event, he was formally introduced the new Executive Secretary of SNIT and annual planning agency territorial information discussed. The central agreement of the meeting was the development and distribution of a work plan detailed on the lines of action submitted by the Executive Secretary of SNIT, based on information generation, access and use, interoperability and institutional framework.

The SNIT Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee will meet periodically during the year to monitor progress in the implementation of planned activities.

Fuente: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias-2/item/con-exito-finalizo-la-primera-reunion-del-comite-tecnico-interministerial-comit-del-snit.html>

### ***Transboundary water security in action: Collaborative research across the Central Andes***

The central Andean region of Mendoza, Argentina, along with the region of Rio Maipo/Santiago, Chile, have been selected for study in the project entitled ‘Transboundary water security in the arid Americas’, supported by the International Water Security Network (IWSN) and the Lloyd’s Register Foundation, and managed by the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona.

On 11 May 2015, teams of researchers from the National Council of Scientific and Technological Investigation (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas; CONICET) in Mendoza, Argentina, and The Center for Global Change (Centro de Cambio Global) at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUCC) met at the CONICET campus in Mendoza. IWSN postdoctoral research associate Rafael de Grenade from the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy facilitated the meeting via Skype.



The primary purpose of the meeting was to define key issues faced by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders on both sides of the central Andes as the foundation for collaborative International Water Security Network research. The priorities of water security, adaptation, and resource management guided discussion throughout the day.

The teams collectively agreed that the first step in designing effective research strategies would be to develop a systematic characterisation of the basins on both sides of the central Andes. This would facilitate an information gap analysis, as well as provide an opportunity to analyse the information and communication disparities among scientific disciplines and between the two countries. Case studies of successful and unsuccessful projects and policies could be evaluated in both countries and adapted for implementation in future transboundary science-policy initiatives.

For the first year of this transnational aspect of the collaborative IWSN research, the CONICET and PUCC teams proposed a research plan of systematically assessing the state of water-resource knowledge, and the production and utilisation of hydroclimatic information across temporal and geographic scales. They will chart similarities in and differences between the two regions and identify key actors engaged in water resource management and climate adaptation. The attendees proposed to analyse the transparency in management and communication of information, as well as information diffusion and sharing. During the second year, the teams will choose one or two specific case studies in which to engage stakeholders and policymakers on both sides of the Andes in resource security and adaptation discussions.

Source: <http://www.watersecuritynetwork.org/transboundary-water-security-in-action-collaborative-research-across-the-central-andes/>

### ***Argentina: Congreso Internacional de de Geografía y 76º Semana Nacional de Geografía***



La Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Geográficos – GÆA- invita a participar en el Congreso Internacional de Geografía y 76ª Semana de Geografía que se realizará en la provincia de Salta del 24 al 27 de septiembre de 2015.

Circular: [http://www.gaea.org.ar/congreso\\_2015.pdf](http://www.gaea.org.ar/congreso_2015.pdf)

Ficha de inscripción: [http://www.gaea.org.ar/Ficha\\_Inscripcion\\_2015.doc](http://www.gaea.org.ar/Ficha_Inscripcion_2015.doc)

Contacto: [informes@gaea.org.ar](mailto:informes@gaea.org.ar)

Fuente: Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Geográficos, <http://www.gaea.org.ar/>

### ***Technical assessment of GeoSUR and comparison with INSPIRE experience in the context of an environmental vulnerability analysis***

Author(s): Castillo Villamor, Liliana Carolina LU

Lund University GEM thesis series NGEM01 2015, Dept of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science

**Abstract:** The use of spatial information has become an important resource for decision support making at national and regional levels. In this respect, several private and public



organizations are continuously collecting and producing geospatial data. However, there are still problems that affect the usage of spatial information. As a response to these problems, several spatial data sharing initiatives have been implemented at national, regional and global level. This is also the case of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) and the Integrated Geospatial Information Network for South America (GeoSUR), both created in 2007.

GeoSUR works together with the PAIGH, the Geocentric Reference System for the Americas (SIRGAS) and the Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) to consolidate the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas. In this context, the role of GeoSUR is to provide the distribution platform for the SDI and develop geoservices and applications based on institutional spatial databases.



Figure 2. Elements that affect data accessibility, applicability and usability

This research performs a technical assessment of GeoSUR to identify the extent to which the spatial resources provided by the network area accessible, applicable and usable for decision making processes at regional (multinational) level. In order to do so, this study is conducted in the context of a real case study that implements Spatial Multicriteria Evaluation to assess the

environmental vulnerability of the Amazon IIRSA region.

Results show strengths at finding spatial resources, and regarding the accessibility to regional datasets in GeoSUR. However several obstacles still limit accessibility, applicability and usability of spatial data to perform regional analysis. In this respect, elements considered by INSPIRE such as common implementing rules and technical guidelines are identified as useful to tackle these obstacles and make the spatial services and datasets of the participant institutions compatible to perform regional analysis.

Source: <https://lup.lub.lu.se/student-papers/search/publication/7371834>; PDF <http://lup.lub.lu.se/student-papers/record/7371834/file/7371900.pdf>

### **Belize: Belize modernizing its GIS network - 5th Annual Belize GIS Conference**



Scores of active GIS users convened on May 13-14, 2015 for a conference on GIS. Dubbed the 5th Annual Belize Esri User

Conference (<http://gis.com.bz/beuc/>), the meeting provided a chance for GIS users to hear from practitioners at home and abroad on how GIS can work better for them, and the meeting also provides an opportunity for users to become more GIS-savvy.

Loretta Palacio, managing director of Total Business Solutions Ltd. (TBSL) in Belize, the organizer of the conference, said that their purpose is to nationalize GIS in a fun way through meetings like these. Their goal, she said, is to promote the use of GIS technology as a platform for national development. Palacio spoke of using GIS for more effective development of the nation's infrastructure, as well as for natural disaster monitoring and response.

Dr. Paul Flowers, director of strategic planning and policy in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize, spoke of the progress the Government has been making with the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), a mechanism which would allow them to develop rules and standards for the sharing of spatial data to help drive national development. Flowers spoke of a series of stakeholder consultations which have been held over the past few years, and those consultations should finally lead to formulation of the Belize National Spatial Data Infrastructure Master Plan, which, he said, would yield significant benefits for the export, and particularly the agricultural, sector, for government revenue collection, disaster and crime management as well as the implementation of pro-poor initiatives. Flowers said that they are thankful to TBSL for supporting the government in a process that is private-sector-driven to bring to the fore what the country needs for the development of information technology.

Agenda: <http://gis.com.bz/beuc/agenda2015/>; Speakers: [http://gis.com.bz/beuc/beuc15\\_speakers/](http://gis.com.bz/beuc/beuc15_speakers/)

Source: <http://amandala.com.bz/news/belize-modernizing-gis-network/>

### **Trinidad: Ministry of Land and Marine Resources to use drones for mapping**

Minister of Land and Marine Resources (<http://mlmr.gov.tt/>), Jairam Seemungal, spoke recently of two drones purchased by the Ministry that will help in battling the splurge of illegal



occupation of State lands, land grabbing and praedial larceny. He said the technology can also help in mapping the high crime areas in the country even as the criminal activity is taking place and can be useful in locating the more than 60,000 squatters on State lands.

He was speaking at the launch of a two-day conference on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) entitled GIS In Motion- “Enhancing GIS for a better tomorrow through a spatially enabled society (<http://mlmr.gov.tt/WebGallery/GISinMotion.aspx>).” The conference was held in Port-of-Spain on May 26-27, 2015 by the Ministry in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, the St Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies and the Land Settlement Agency.

Seemungal said the drones allow the ministry to take detailed, high resolution pictures of State land in different parts of the country and will make the ministry more efficient in managing State lands. He pointed out that 66 percent of the land in the country is State lands and there are about 60,000 squatters and over 40,000 buildings on those lands, in addition to 6,000 commercial ventures.

And Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, Dr Bhoë Teewarie, said the use of the drone technology provides all Government departments with access to extensive data and tools to support the process of decision making and policy formulation. He said it would even improve the performance of the Government’s Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

Dr Teewarie said that the PSIP usually consists of about \$8 billion worth of projects but many times about twenty percent of the allocated sums remain unspent because of the Government’s inability to effectively monitor the many projects. He said with effective GIS mapping, the Government would be able to target national, regional and community projects “and align them in such a way that you can map them with the flow of funds and the project management that is needed, you can map it out in terms of the impact that you want for a community or a region or nationally. And you can also follow very closely, project by project, the expenditure process and the extent to which the project is in alignment with the rate of expenditure of the funds.” He said this would yield a more efficient spending of State resources and would probably see more of the PSIP being implemented.

Seemungal said the drone technology will make it easier for the ministry to help the 8,000 former Caroni workers by speeding up the identifying, processing, and distribution of the land promised to them. Some of them do not even know where the lots allocated to them are located.

Source: <http://newsday.co.tt/news/0,211767.html>

### ***Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS) Call for Expressions of Interest***



The Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS) is one of eleven regional associations that together form the regional component of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (<http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/>). The mission of CariCOOS is the timely delivery of accurate and reliable ocean data to its stakeholders in the US Caribbean

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). From its inception, the design of the CariCOOS observing system has been based on need-assessment and direct consultation with stakeholders. CariCOOS’ development plan offered to meet prioritized stakeholder needs for coastal information through an efficient design, minimizing permanent observing assets while developing complementary modeling tools.

CariCOOS is currently preparing to submit a proposal for its third implementation phase (2016-2021), in which CariCOOS is faced with the task of maintaining its current observational and modeling infrastructure while developing new products and data streams in response to stakeholder needs. The present call for expressions of interest (EOI's) presents an opportunity for individuals and organizations to help CariCOOS shape the future of ocean observing in the US Caribbean. CariCOOS is soliciting proposals for projects focused on observing, understanding and predicting coastal and ocean conditions in the US Caribbean that will improve safety in our coasts, enhance the efficiency of operations and support management of our coastal resources. New initiatives, identified through this EOI process and selected following the criteria outlined below, will be included in the proposal and be subjected to the re-scope process required by IOOS once the funding level is assigned. CariCOOS is interested in new projects which: a) address a direct need of CariCOOS stakeholders, and b) will result in an operational product or data stream that will aid with decision-making and which is of societal benefit.

Examples of potential project topics include (but are not limited to):


- Coastal water quality observations at high spatial and temporal resolution (buoys AUV's, drones)
- Assimilation of HF Radar, mooring and other data types into regional circulation models (ROMS and

- FVCOM)
- Simplified visual representations of CariCOOS data products
- New ocean observing sites, deep water data buoys / instrumented FADs
- Novel use of oceanographic sensors and platforms to tackle difficult issues in ocean observing and prediction
- Beach monitoring, other projects which address hazards to beachgoers
- Benthic assemblage and structure assessments
- Projects that improve the quality and cost efficiency of current operational CariCOOS products and services
- Outreach and education strategies and services that would optimize the widespread and proper use of the national IOOS CariCOOS data and services
- Projects that propose to leverage the requested CariCOOS support with other funding sources are especially welcome.

Who is eligible? US-based academic institutions, federal, state and municipal agencies, academic institutions, for profit and non-for profit organizations, and individuals. EOIs should be sent via email no later than **July 15, 2015** to: Miguel Canals, Technical Director, Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System, [miguelf.canals@upr.edu](mailto:miguelf.canals@upr.edu).

Source: [http://cara.uprm.edu/sites/default/files/caricoos\\_expression\\_of\\_interest.pdf](http://cara.uprm.edu/sites/default/files/caricoos_expression_of_interest.pdf)

### **Request for proposals: Research on Land Policy and Urban Development in Latin America 2016**

 The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy calls for proposals on several themes related to land policy and urban development in Latin America. One of these themes is climate change and environmental risks, such as for populations living on flood plains and steep slopes. The Lincoln Institute will pay for the research project based on the scope of work and the justification of the proposed budget. Most recent projects are under US\$30 thousand. The deadline for proposals is **20 July 2015**.

Source: <http://www.lincolnst.edu/education/rfp.asp>

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## **North America Region SDI News**

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### **USA: FGDC seeks nominations for National Geospatial Advisory Committee**



The Department of Interior and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) announced on June 8 that they are seeking nominations for appointment to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC, <https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac>). Nominations received through this call for nominations may be used to fill vacancies on the NGAC that will become available in 2015 and 2016.

Nominations for appointment to the NGAC should be submitted electronically to [ngacnominations@fgdc.gov](mailto:ngacnominations@fgdc.gov) by **July 17, 2015**. Nominations may come from employers, associations, professional organizations, or other geospatial organizations. Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior to make an informed decision regarding meeting the membership requirements of the Committee and permit the Department of the Interior to contact a potential member. Nominees are strongly encouraged to include supporting letters from constituents, trade associations, alliances, and/or other organizations that indicate the support by a meaningful constituency for the nominee.

The NGAC provides advice and recommendations on Federal geospatial policy and management issues and provides a forum to convey views representative of partners in the geospatial community. The NGAC was established by the Department of the Interior on behalf of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The NGAC includes up to 30 members, selected to generally achieve a balanced representation of the viewpoints of the various types of entities involved in national geospatial activities, including all levels of government, nonprofits, academia and the private sector. NGAC members are appointed for staggered terms. Final decisions on appointments to the committee will be made by the Secretary of the Interior. Individuals who are Federally registered lobbyists are ineligible to serve on all FACA and non-FACA boards, committees, or councils in an individual capacity. The term "individual capacity" refers to individuals who are appointed to exercise their own individual best judgment on behalf of the government, such as when they are designated Special Government Employees, rather than being appointed to represent a particular interest.

Source: <https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/2015-ngac-nominations>

### **USA: USGS webinar - Using The National Map services to enable your Web and mobile mapping efforts**



Are you a developer, firm, or organization using mobile or web applications to enable your users? The USGS has publicly available geospatial services and data to help your application development and enhancement.

The USGS' National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) hosted a 30- minute webinar on “Using The National Map services to enable your web and mobile mapping efforts” on June 16 at 9am Mountain Time.

This webinar featured a brief overview of services, data and products that are publicly available, a quick overview on how AlpineQuest, a leading private firm, is leveraging this public data to benefit their users, and a

Question & Answer session with a USGS developer to help you get the most out of the national geospatial services.

Brian Fox, the NGTOC Systems Development Branch Chief said this was an opportunity to bring developers and users together for some demonstrations and starting some dialogue. The webinar format allowed NGTOC to improve awareness of USGS geospatial services and develop a better understanding of what users and developers need to make our data and services more available and usable. The session was recorded and slides and transcript are available

Slides: [http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/slides/presentation\\_June2015.pdf](http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/slides/presentation_June2015.pdf)

Transcript: [http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/transcript\\_June2015.html](http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/transcript_June2015.html)

To find out more about this and other NGOC webinar conferences, go to:

[http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/webinar\\_june2015.html](http://ngtoc.usgs.gov/webinars/webinar_june2015.html)

Source: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4243>

### **Data-driven Delivery: Lessons from the O'Malley administration of Maryland**



This report on lessons from Maryland helps improve our understanding of what works when it comes to governing more effectively. Baltimore's use of the CitiStat initiative and StateStat initiative has put Maryland at the forefront of a growing movement towards more open government and data-driven performance management.

The report – from the Institute for Government – looks at the evolution of the ‘Stat’ model in Maryland, how and why it works, and the challenges involved. As Maryland Governor O'Malley's administration comes to an end, the report also offers a reflection on how governments can approach the task of inheriting an existing performance management system.

Access the report:

<http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Maryland%20briefing%20note%20final.pdf>

Source: <http://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/data-driven-delivery-lessons-o%E2%80%99malley-administration-maryland>

### **USA: Combining GIS and ethnography to better understand and plan ocean space use**



Author(s): Colleen M. Sullivan, Flaxen D.L. Conway, Caroline Pomeroy, Madeleine Hall-Arber, Dawn J. Wright

*Applied Geography*, Volume 59, May 2015, Pages 70–77 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Agencies in the US with oversight for marine renewable energy development idealistically have sought space where this new use might proceed unhindered by other uses. Despite experiential evidence of spatial overlap among existing ocean uses, a lack of documentation made the identification of potential space-use conflicts, communication between existing and potential ocean users, and the design of mitigation exceedingly challenging.

We conducted a study along the US Atlantic and Pacific coasts to gather and document available spatial information on existing use through a compilation and organization of geographic information system (GIS) data. Stakeholder group meetings were used to vet the collected spatial data, and ethnographic interviews were conducted to gather knowledge and cultural perspectives. Results show extensive coverage and overlap of existing ocean space uses and provide a

visualization of the social and cultural landscape of the ocean that managers can use to determine which stakeholders to engage.

Marine resource managers are encouraged to recognize that marine space use is dynamic and multi-dimensional and as such research thereof requires a balance between the efficiency of GIS and the stories captured and told by ethnographic research. There are important linkages within and across fisheries and other uses, communities and interests, and across the land–sea interface. Therefore, it is important to use techniques demonstrated in this research that (1) integrate ethnographic and geospatial data collection and analysis; (2) engage stakeholders throughout the process; and (3) recognize the unique qualities of each geographic location and user group to support sound decision-making.

Keywords: Ethnography; GIS; Marine spatial planning; Ocean space use; P-GIS; Participatory mapping

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622814002823> ; <http://dusk2.geo.orst.edu/Sullivan-et-al.pdf>

### **Canada (Nova Scotia): GeoNOVA publishes first edition of GeoPulse**



GeoNOVA is the Province of Nova Scotia's gateway to geographic information about Nova Scotia. Access to geographic information is our goal. GeoNOVA partners contribute to the Nova Scotia Geospatial Infrastructure to support the discovery and delivery of better information, products and services. Geographic data, products and services are available from participating departments and agencies.

GeoPulse launch is raising geoawareness in government. Everyone uses geographic information every day – and they might not even know it.

Geographic information provides the foundation behind so many tools that help you discover where you are in the world – and we want to increase that geoawareness across government.

We are pleased to launch the first edition of GeoPulse. This newsletter is published by Geographic Information Services. The target audience is our partners and anyone who wants to learn more about the government geocommunity.

Source: <https://geonova.novascotia.ca/news-blog/check-pulse>

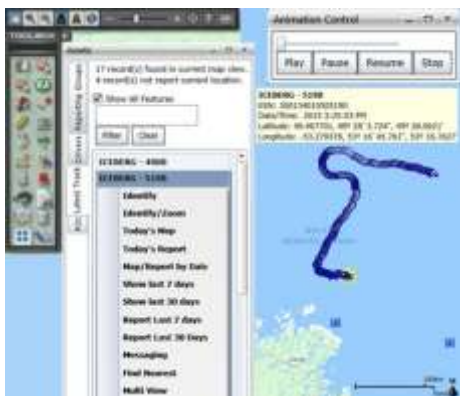
### **Canada (Nova Scotia): Geomatics Association of Nova Scotia (GANS) introduces Mentorship Program**



The Geomatics Association of Nova Scotia (GANS) Private Sector Working Group launched in May 2015 the new GANS Mentorship Program which aims to address the need for leadership within the Nova Scotian geospatial community through guidance and support of newcomers or junior practitioners by those already established within the industry - <http://www.gans.ca/GANS-Mentorship-Program>.

Source: <http://www.gans.ca/geo-news/3344878>

### **Cold assets: GeoDecisions Platform used to track Icebergs**



A Canadian expedition team used GeoDecisions' GeoILS platform to help track icebergs during a voyage to better understand how icebergs drift. An intelligent location server using the Esri ArcGIS platform, GeoILS enables users to monitor and locate assets and facilitate quick and coordinated responses.

Led by University of Manitoba Scientist David Barber, the crew of Canadian Coast Guard Icebreaker Amundsen sailed off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador to research ice hazard mitigation, the effects of climate change, and polar region technology requirements. GeoILS location intelligence helped crew members visualize, analyze, and leverage project-pertinent data.

“During the expedition, researchers and scientists used GeoILS to assess drifting through sensor monitors attached to the icebergs,” said Brian Smith, vice president of commercial solutions with GeoDecisions. “In addition to reporting

and notifications, GeoILS provided the project team with maps that were tailored by selecting desired iceberg information and the geographic area of interest based on user-defined criteria.”

Source: <http://geospatial-solutions.com/cold-assets-geodecisions-platform-used-to-track-icebergs/>

### **Geospatial Data Quality Guarantee**

Author(s): Katherine Plante, a Marc Gervais  
*GEOMATICA*, 2015, 69(1): 29-48 [not an open access journal]



**Abstract:** Geospatial data has become ubiquitous in our society and abundantly used by public institutions fulfilling their mandates as well as citizen managing their day-to-day affairs. But the dissemination of geospatial data raises certain issues surrounding the nature of the contract involved along with the quality guarantees that may be applicable.

Should this data be treated as a tangible or intangible asset? Would the standard guarantees defined by our legislation apply if it were considered intangible? What about the specific characteristics of geospatial data? How simple would it be to guarantee its quality?

This article presents an overview of geospatial data quality guarantees under Quebec law. We will first address the intrinsic characteristics of geospatial data, the concepts of quality guarantees and precision, along with implied and conventional guarantees. Next, we will investigate the potential effects of various contract categories on the scope, if not the very existence, of quality guarantees.

The results of the analysis hold that a number of quality guarantee variations are possible and that some legal uncertainties remain, which further complicates the dissemination of geospatial data for any organization that seeks to do so.

Source: <http://pubs.cig-acsg.ca/doi/ref/10.5623/cig2015-102>

### **Free Geospatial Data and Quality: Implications for Users, Contributors and Distributors**



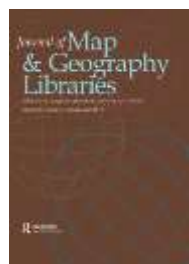
Author(s): Izaak de Rijcke, Megan Mills  
*GEOMATICA*, 2015, 69(1): 49-63 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Geospatial data is widely available and used by a broad range of users for a wide range of purposes—from government planning for service delivery to directions on how to get to a coffee shop. What, if any, duties and standards of care are owed to users of geospatial data by the provider? This is a question complicated by a growing trend toward volunteer geographic information (or VGI) that is itself part of the broader trend of user generated content whereby the users of data contribute geographic data and create a wide range of value-added products based on available data.

This paper is a companion piece to the article authored by Katherine Plante and Marc Gervais entitled “Geospatial Data Quality Guarantee.” Plante and Gervais provide an overview of geospatial data quality guarantees in the legal context of the Quebec Civil Code. This paper, in contrast, looks at similar concepts, but from the perspective of the common law in Canada and drawing at times from other common law jurisdictions.

Source: <http://pubs.cig-acsg.ca/doi/abs/10.5623/cig2015-103>

### **Identifying User Needs: A Case Study on Geospatial Data Requests at McGill University**



Author(s): Jennifer Congyan Zhao  
Journal of Map & Geography Libraries: Advances in Geospatial Information, Collections & Archives, Volume 11, Issue 1, 2015, pages 37-59 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** Geospatial data service units in higher education are facing challenges from collection budgets, staff shortages, rapidly evolving data manipulation technologies, and increasing research and learning interests. Many units have adopted a user-centered approach to address these issues. The core of this approach is to understand what their users need. This study aims to answer this question by analyzing 455 geospatial data requests that were received and fulfilled at McGill

University Library during the past two academic years. Results include which departments primarily need geospatial data, which data sets are requested most frequently, which geographic areas receive the most GIS research interest, and



a distribution of request numbers over the study period. Recommendations are made about data discovery instruction and consultations, data organization and access, and data collection management based on this study's results. Findings and recommendations may also be of use for other geospatial data units in a similar context to enhance their services.

Keywords: geospatial data, data users, data instruction, data access, data collection development

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15420353.2015.1010057>

### ***International Conference on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Geomatics (UAV-g 2015) August 30 - September 2, 2015, Toronto, Ontario, Canada***

This is the third event of the series of UAV-g Conferences following the very successful meetings in 2011 in Zurich, Switzerland and in 2013 in Rostock, Germany.

The aim of UAV-g 2015 is to bring together experts in photogrammetry and remote sensing, surveying, robotic mapping, computer vision, artificial intelligence, aerospace engineering, geosciences and various users' communities.

Using small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) as data acquisition platforms and measurement instruments has become attractive for many emerging applications.

It is a great opportunity to learn about the most recent developments and to exchange views on the future directions of UAV in geomatics research, applications and services.

As a complementary forum to the main conference, pre-conference tutorials and workshops are to be held on Sunday 30 August 2015.

UAV-g 2015 is organised by the ISPRS ICWG I/Vb on Unmanned Vehicle Systems (UVS): Sensors and Applications and is hosted by the Lassonde School of Engineering, York University. Contact: [uavg2015@yorku.ca](mailto:uavg2015@yorku.ca).

Source: <http://www.uav-g-2015.ca/>

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

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### ***Libya: International Conference on Geospatial Technologies, 6-9 December 2015, Tripoli***



Abstract deadline: **15 August 2015**

Deadline for full papers: 15 October 2015

For inquiries, contact: [libyageotec1@gmail.com](mailto:libyageotec1@gmail.com)

See also: GIS Users in Libya: <https://www.facebook.com/GIS.Users.Ly>

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/LibyaGeoTec1>

### ***Libya: UNDP supporting GIS training for Environment General Authority in Libya (EGA)***



UNDP Libya has been providing technical support to the Environment General Authority in Libya (EGA, <http://www.environment.org.ly/>) in several aspects such as, policy advice, institutional capacity building, hardware and software equipment including laboratories and Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS) lab.

Strengthening Environment General Authority's Capacity for Sound Environment Management project was developed in and later initiated in 2014. The main objective of this project is to assist the Government of Libya in tackling environmental issues through developing the capacity of the EGA at the technical and management levels. The project will enhance the capacity of the EGA in the use of already Established Environmental Geographic Information System (EGIS), laboratories and climate change unit

UNDP issued in May a request for proposals to identify a consulting firm to undertake EGIS on-job training that includes projects and modules to shape and enhance EGA's human capacity to effectively run a comprehensive EGIS system as a supporting tool for decision-making and advice, natural resource management, environmental pollution monitoring and sustainable planning. The deadline for proposals was May 17th, 2015.

See: Strengthening Environment General Authority's Capacity for Sound Environment Management

[http://www.ly.undp.org/content/libya/en/home/operations/projects/environment\\_and\\_energy/project\\_sample2.html](http://www.ly.undp.org/content/libya/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/project_sample2.html)

Source: [http://procurement-notice.undp.org/view\\_notice.cfm?notice\\_id=22031](http://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=22031)

## Egypt Launches its First National Urban Forum



In June 2015, Egypt last week held its first ever National Urban Forum, which enabled meaningful, public discussion on urbanization challenges and opportunities and by allowing free access to all who registered, provided a rare opportunity for members of the public to directly engage with high level government officials.

The forum was opened by the Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb and was also attended by UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos. The national event was preceded by a series of sub-national urban consultations. It was attended by over 600 participants from civil society, private sector, government and the general public, from across Egypt, including Cairo, Giza, Upper Egypt, North and South Sinai, Ismailia, Tanta, Alexandria, as well as various international experts.

Titled “My City, My Responsibility” the Forum emphasized that everyone has a role in shaping urbanization and debated many key urban issues that affect the daily lives of Egyptians and their built environment. Under the themes of urban planning and design, urban service delivery, urban economy, housing, and urban legislation and governance, the debate revolved around pertinent questions such as “What are innovative tools to tackle Cairo’s traffic congestion?” to “What are solutions for the vacant housing units across the country?” “Why do many new urban communities remain unpopulated?” “What are the impacts of gated communities on social equity?”

“How should the challenge of informal settlements be addressed?” “What are alternatives to informal settlements for the urban poor?” and “How can more public spaces be created in already congested cities?”

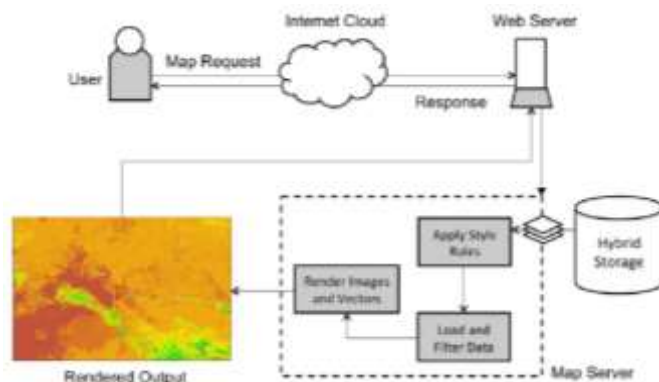
Source: <http://unhabitat.org/egypt-launches-its-first-national-urban-forum/>

## Jordan: An Integrated GeoAgro Webtool for Spatial Data Visualization and Dissemination



Author(s): Jalal Eddin Omari, Chandrashekhar Biradar, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Jordan  
In Proceedings of the 1st Int. Electron. Conf. Remote Sens., 22 June–5 July 2015; Sciforum Electronic Conference Series, Vol. 1, 2015, f001; <http://sciforum.net/conference/ecrs-1>

**Abstract:** Today, with massive flow of the spatial and non-spatial database, enormous field data collection with enhanced electronic protocols in agricultural research has led to assemblage of massive caches of digital information on agriculture that describe the context-options for technological as well as socio-economic interventions at multiple scales and scenarios. However such tools and web services are often limited to certain geographical regions and do not exist for drylands in developing countries. In a bid to improve digital agricultural services in the dry areas, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) recognizes that Geoinformatics in agriculture is critical in obtaining adequate data for tackling food security and improving livelihoods, particularly in dry areas of the developing world that struggle with limited natural resources. In order to make spatial information available at the finger tips in the era of smart phones and personal computations, the ICARDA developed number of geospatial tools and web portals for data access, visualization and sharing to help researcher and decision makers at various scales to influence agricultural research, programs, and policies. In this paper, we discuss latest trends and advances in an integrated web based spatial data visualization tools and technology for agro-ecological research and application. The workflow uses the hybrid protocols for data storage/access (e.g., AWS, SAN), processing (e.g., numpy, rasterio and GDAL) and map server interface (e.g., ArcGIS online, OA APIs). An interactive end-user segment consists of Django, AngularJS, Open Layers and WDSL. System renders multiple spatial data to website and web services via Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards, Web Mapping Service (WMS) for map images and Web Coverage Service (WCS) for raster data. Such user friendly map interface allows researchers to take into account of different factors such as land cover dynamics, cropping patterns and intensities, water use and availability, changing demographics, infrastructure, poverty, markets, climate change, and more. Information generated can be used to assess vulnerable areas for possible pathways to increased resilience and mitigation of risks whether biophysical (land



degradation and drought) or socioeconomic (price shocks or policy changes in land tenure). See also: Landsat 8 Tool, <http://geoagro.icarda.org/aws18.html>

Keywords: Spatial data, Geoinformatics, Webtools, Visualization, Agro-ecosystems

Source: <http://sciforum.net/conference/ecrs-1/paper/2900>

### **UAE: Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre unveils new E-Government Strategy during 6th Abu Dhabi E-Government Forum**

مركز الأنظمة الإلكترونية والمعلومات  
SYSTEMS & INFORMATION CENTRE



Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Centre (ADSIC, <https://adsic.abudhabi.ae>), the pioneering Government entity responsible for the UAE capital's ICT agenda and transformation efforts, has revealed the Centre's new and improved e-Government strategy for 2015 and

beyond, during its hosting of the 6th edition of the Abu Dhabi e-Government Forum, under the theme 'Towards a Digital Abu Dhabi', which took place at the St. Regis Hotel, Corniche on 9th June 2015.

The new and improved e-Government strategy which has been mapped out by clear and scalable objectives, mechanisms and KPI's, aims to rapidly enable the digital transformation of Government services and shared ICT infrastructure through a road map that will be followed in the years to come in order to fully reach smart-government through a unified e-gateway, which will primarily focus on the various aspects of world-class m-Government services. The road map has also been designed to accelerate the speed and capacity in which additional Government services can be absorbed. It also outlines how the partner Government entities will play a visible role in adopting and applying the new strategy, especially in the realm of m-services.

Source: <http://abudhabicityguide.com/news/news-details.asp?newsid=19467&newstype=Local%20News>

### **UAE Governmental Roadmap for E-Participation and Empowerment: The roles of location based services (LBS), volunteer geographic information (VGI), and crowdsourcing spatial data**

Author(s): Ahmad Bintouq, Jamil Brownson

*Plurimondi. An International Forum for Research and Debate on Human Settlements*, Vol 7, No 15; The XIX European Colloquium in Theoretical and Quantitative Geography (ECTQG2015), 3-7 September 2015, Bari, Italy

**Abstract:** This research assesses the effectiveness of the UAE e-Participation Policy toward achieving a Smart City vision. It compares how key Federal and Emirate level government organizations meet the E-participation guidelines and e-empowerment goals using crowd-sourced spatial information and Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI). In particular, it examines government Spatial Data management effectiveness in developing greater efficiency in Location Based Services (LBS) by Federal, Abu Dhabi and Dubai institutions. It assesses their VGI outreach and management capacity in mobile telephony and online tools that reflect the government's commitment to citizen empowerment. The paper concludes that each government level is progressing in its capacity, but with less cross-collaboration than might be desired.



**Background:** Among the Arab Gulf States, the UAE is taking a leading role in its commitment to Smart City initiatives, e-participation, and e-empowerment. It has heavily invested in ICT infrastructure and human resources to achieve these goals. With one of the world's largest proportion of smart phone users among its population, of which 85% are non-citizen expatriates, and progressing well into a knowledge economy and digital society, the UAE, especially Dubai and Abu Dhabi, was well suited for this leading role. UAE leaders are seriously committed to accomplish a high level of "smart city" by Dubai's 2020 world exposition. The intent is to have created an "internet of everything" by adopting global open standards in forging global collaborations, and public-private partnerships, with localized international standard regulations. This is the UAE vision for a post-petroleum smart service economy in which LBS oriented global transportation and communication logistics will play a key role. **Framework:** As the UAE's rapid growth and adaptation of emerging technologies drive development at breakneck speed, academic research must attempt to assess dynamic change constantly in transition. Therefore, while this research may already be obsolete, it sets a transitional benchmark for existing progress in implementing UAE ICT and Spatial Data policies and plans.

Keywords: UAE smart government vision, spatial data policies, crowdsourcing, VGI, LBS

Source: <http://web.poliba.it/plurimondi/index.php/Plurimondi/article/view/244>

### **WeatherTech GCC, 16-17 September 2015, Dubai, UAE**



Weather Tech GCC is the first event of its kind in the GCC that will provide the first platform in the GCC for specialists to share best practice, evaluate solutions and implement innovations in weather forecasting and climate change to ensure achievement of current and future development objectives. This event will facilitate accurate and next-generation weather forecasting and climate-change measurement technologies and services. Weather Tech GCC will support economic development, reduce damage to property and in extreme cases potentially save lives.

Weather Tech GCC will bring together international experts, GCC federal and national meteorology and environment organizations with industry representatives from Aviation, Oil & Gas, Marine and Media to discuss next-generation weather forecasting and climate change measurement technologies and services. Contact: [opportunities@acm-events.com](mailto:opportunities@acm-events.com).

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

### **2nd Meeting of UN-GGIM for the Arab States held in Algeria**



The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Regional Committee for the Arab States (<http://www.un-ggim-as.org/>) held its second meeting in Algiers, Algeria on 10-11 June 2015, chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the General Commission for Survey (GCS). The first meeting UN-GGIM for Arab States was held 24-25 February 2015 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Algeria was elected head of the Geodetic Reference working group. Three other working groups were created during the meeting. The group in charge of data, references and standardization is chaired by Tunisia, the group responsible for the integration of statistics and geospatial information is chaired by Oman, while the group for institutional arrangements is chaired by the United Arab Emirates.

The groups, including the one entrusted to Algeria, are primarily in charge for developing geospatial information both at national and regional levels, and to transmit the results of their work to the Secretariat of the United Nations Committee of Experts for the geospatial information management. Such data sharing enables a generalization of geospatial information of the Arab countries, members of other regional committees.

Moreover, the proceedings of this second meeting have set the operating rules of UN-GGIM for the Arab States. The third meeting of the UN-GGIM Regional Committee for Arab States will be held in the UAE.

Agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: <http://www.un-ggim-as.org/MeetingAttachments/2nd-Meeting-of-UN-GGIM-Arab-States - Agenda.aspx>

Source: <http://www.aps.dz/en/algeria/7760-arab-committee-on-geospatial-information-algeria,-elected-as-head-of-world-geodetic-reference-working-group>

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## **Global SDI News**

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### **Presentations from Inspire Conference and Geospatial World Forum 2015**



INSPIRE-Geospatial World Forum, held 25-29 May 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal, has successfully concluded on a high note. The five-day long conference was attended by 1700+ delegates from 104 countries, cutting across geospatial companies, user industries, minister-level government representatives and senior academia. All contents presented at the conference (i.e., presentations of the thematic sessions and workshops) now are available for download on the Conference Proceedings page.

Source: <http://geospatialworldforum.org/proceedings.html>

## NASA's Software Catalog 2015-216



NASA has made available to the public its second annual software catalog, a huge compendium of more than 1,000 programs available with open source to the industry, government agencies, and the general public. The software catalog contains all code and aeronautical engineering software made by NASA engineers at work.

Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/13/it-rocket-science-nasa-releases-abundance-free-code>

## Satellite Emergency Mapping experts participate in IWG-SEM meeting in Bonn on 28-29 May 2015



More than 20 experts participated in the International Working Group on Satellite Emergency Mapping (IWG-SEM, <http://www.un-spider.org/network/iwg-sem>) meeting in Bonn on 28-29 May 2015, with the goal to further consolidate cooperation mechanisms during the different phases of Emergency Mapping. The focus of the meeting was on collaborative mapping and crowdsourcing, with ad-hoc presentations from Tomnod, HOT-OSM and ImageCat. The annually rotating position of official Chair of IWG-SEM was handed over from DLR to UNOOSA.

The IWG-SEM is open to membership by representatives of not-for-profit organizations active in Satellite Emergency Mapping. Interested Representative Professional Associations that promote the use of satellite technology for emergency management activities are also invited to actively contribute to the Group's efforts (through a representative from the Association staff). Please contact [iwg-sem@dlr.de](mailto:iwg-sem@dlr.de) for additional information on IWG-SEM membership and activities.

IWG-SEM Emergency Mapping Guidelines: The aim of the guidelines is to help support an effective exchange and harmonization of emergency mapping efforts leading to improved possibilities for cooperation amongst involved Emergency Mapping Organizations. This will facilitate the convergence of the mapping procedures and thematic content across production teams in response organizations, especially in the early response phases of disaster events. By enabling easier exchange, merging and quality checking of individual data/information layers generated by more than one Emergency Mapping Organization, the final goal of enhancing coordination and community effectiveness can be achieved among those willing to engage. The current version of the Guidelines can be downloaded here. [http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/IWG\\_SEM\\_EmergencyMappingGuidelines\\_A4\\_v1\\_March2014.pdf](http://www.un-spider.org/sites/default/files/IWG_SEM_EmergencyMappingGuidelines_A4_v1_March2014.pdf)

Source: <http://www.un-spider.org/news-and-events/news/unoosa-becomes-new-chair-international-working-group-satellite-based-emergency>

## Esri launches Human Health and Climate Change App Challenge



Esri has unveiled its Human Health and Climate Change App Challenge, calling on the worldwide GIS community to create apps that help communities visualize, understand, and combat the health impacts of climate change. Esri will award three winners more than \$15,000 in cash prizes or the equivalent in software. The app challenge is part of Esri's comprehensive effort in support of the White House Climate Data Initiative under President Obama's Climate Action Plan (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/19/fact-sheet-president-s-climate-data-initiative-empowering-america-s-comm>).

Participants are encouraged to create apps using Esri's ArcGIS platform that provide decision-making support for health professionals and empower the public to take action. Apps should help private and public organizations combine open data to gain new insights into the impacts of climate change on health. Deadline to enter: **August 14, 2015**.

The app challenge is open to everyone—including developers, start-ups, governments, academics, and nongovernmental organizations. Participants are encouraged to use the growing pool of open data and Esri apps, maps, services, and APIs to develop their app.

Judges will select the top three apps to be highlighted at the Esri Health and Human Services GIS Conference in September. In addition to awarding prizes, Esri will feature the winning apps on its collaborative resource portal.

For more information, visit:

<http://esri.com/climate-app>; <http://www.esri.com/library/brochures/pdfs/resilience-and-gis.pdf>

Source: <http://www.esri.com/esri-news/releases/15-2qtr/esri-launches-human-health-and-climate-change-app-challenge>

### **Esri Support for Geospatial Standards: OGC and ISO/TC211**

New Esri whitepaper - Support for Geospatial Standards: OGC and ISO/TC211. Interoperability and openness are often interconnected. The ArcGIS platform is designed to help our users be interoperable with other GIS and IT systems and enable them to openly share their data and work. Learn how ArcGIS supports open and protected source, open standards and open data.

Source: <http://www.esri.com/library/whitepapers/pdfs/supported-ogc-iso-standards.pdf>



### **Issue 15 of Eye on Earth View (Newsletter)**



Organizers of the Eye on Earth Summit are in the final stages of setting the agenda and securing speakers; they we look forward to sharing these with you in the near future. In this edition of the Eye on Earth View, the editors take a look at the economic case behind sustainability as they highlight why

Eye on Earth (EoE) makes business sense and why the world needs EoE. As always, the valuable Special Initiative (SI) members have provided insight into the current projects in operation as the Eye on Earth community works together to do our part in creating a sustainable future. Download: <http://www.eoesummit.org/?wpdmdl=2790>

Note also: **Webinar on the emerging field of data ontology, interoperability, and ways to make information more accessible.** There is an open invitation from the EoE Global Network of Networks special initiative (GNON, <http://www.eoesummit.org/initiative/eye-on-global-networks-of-networks/>) to attend an interesting presentation at their next upcoming online call on **July 8, 2015 at 13:30 GMT**. The presentation relates to the emerging field of data ontology, interoperability, and ways to make information more accessible. Dr Steven Ray will be the presenter.

Steve's specialization is information interoperability, semantics, ontologies, and standards. Steve brings insight on these key topics from complimentary perspectives including ubiquitous sensors/internet-of-things. He is a Distinguished Research Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University – Silicon Valley Campus, where he researches information interoperability and standards in the smart electrical grid, the Internet of Things, manufacturing, and medical devices. He has a twenty-seven-year track record of initiating and leading technical R&D projects related to information standards at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland. A common theme of his work is the use of ontologies and formal representations to ensure unambiguous definitions of terms and relations.

Anyone interested in sensors; live data streams, internet of things, and the challenges of managing the vast data sets these will generate should find this 30 minute presentation fascinating.

You're welcome to extend the invitation to related professional networks. You can join the GoTo meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://www.gotomeeting.com/join/590388837>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (224) 501-3318, Access Code: 590-388-837.

Source: [http://www.eoesummit.org/issue-15/?utm\\_source=Eye+on+Earth+View+Newsletter](http://www.eoesummit.org/issue-15/?utm_source=Eye+on+Earth+View+Newsletter)

### **Global Mapping Newsletter No. 78 (June 2015)**



International Steering Committee for Global Mapping  
- Mapping the World, Advancing Global Understanding -

The International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM, <http://www.iscgm.org>), in cooperation with relevant organizations of respective countries and regions around the

world, has been working for the Global Mapping Project, an effort to develop, provide and promote the use of geospatial information necessary for addressing global challenges, including environmental problems and disaster prevention, and advancing sustainable development of the world.

Note: The 22nd meeting ISCGM will be held on August 4th, 2015 in New York. See: Draft agenda <http://www.iscgm.org/iscgm22/>.

Source: <http://www.iscgm.org/aboutus/pdf/newsletter078.pdf>

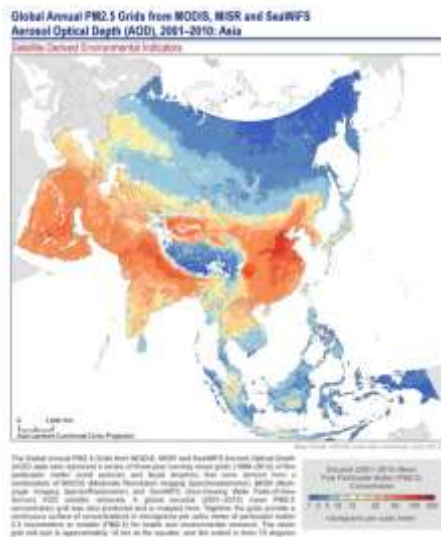
### **Call for nominations: 4th Annual Open Access Awards**

The Electronic Publishing Trust is offering its fourth annual award to individuals in developing and transition countries who have made significant contributions to the advance of Open Access and the free exchange of research findings. Nominations should be received by **September 1, 2015**. Individuals may be nominated by themselves, by others or by

organisations, sending a statement using the indicated form to the chair of the EPT Awards Committee, Barbara Kirsop, outlining the achievements of the individual. Selection of a winner will be made by a panel of EPT Board Members. The result will be announced in October 2015 and it is intended that a presentation will be made during the 2015 Open Access Week, at a location convenient to the winner. See: <http://epublishingtrust.net/4th-annual-oa-award>

Source: <http://epublishingtrust.net/ept-awards/>

### **Satellite data provide insights into long-term air quality trends**



A new data release offers insights into the extent of global human exposure to fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) over more than a decade. The new data set replaces an earlier one released by the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center operated by CIESIN and features improved accuracy, a longer time span, and higher spatial resolution than the previous version.

Satellite-derived estimates of PM<sub>2.5</sub> provide one of the few ways of assessing changes in exposure to air pollution around the world over the long term. The data set consists of a series of global grids representing three-year running averages, from 1998-2012, derived from measurements of Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) from three different NASA instruments: MODIS (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer), MISR (Multi-angle Imaging SpectroRadiometer), and SeaWiFS (Sea-Viewing Wide Field-of-View Sensor). The grids were developed by Aaron van Donkelaar and colleagues at Dalhousie University in Canada.

These global grids of estimated PM<sub>2.5</sub> surface concentrations, expressed in micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>), are useful for health and environmental research and have already served as a valuable input to the

World Health Organization (WHO) global burden of disease study. Fine-particulate matter represents one of the most serious types of air pollutants and is of particular concern in many parts of Asia. For example, the estimated proportion of the people in East Asia living above the WHO Interim Target-1 of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> increased from 51% in 1998–2000 to 70% in 2010–2012.

See: Global Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Grids from MODIS, MISR and SeaWiFS Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD), v1 (1998–2012) <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/sdei-global-annual-avg-pm2-5-modis-misr-seawifs-aod-1998-2012>

Source: <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/>; <http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/news.html#pm2.5-new>

### **On predicting and improving the quality of Volunteer Geographic Information projects**



Author(s): Gloria Bordogna, Paola Carrara, Laura Criscuolo\*, Monica Pepea & Anna Rampina  
*International Journal of Digital Earth*, Published online: 17 Nov 2014

**Abstract:** Initiatives that rely upon the contributions of volunteers to reach a specific goal are growing more and more with the success of Web 2.0–interactive applications. Also scientific projects are testing and exploiting volunteers' collaboration, but the quality of information obtained with this approach is often puzzling. This paper offers a rich overview of many scientific projects where geographic contributions are committed to volunteers, to the aim of defining strategies to improve information quality. By describing real examples of Volunteer

Geographic Information (VGI), the contribution establishes a categorization based on the characteristics of the information, tasks, and scopes of the projects. After a discussion on the relationships of categories and VGI quality, the paper analyses techniques to improve the quality of volunteered information according to the moment of its assessment (i.e., ex ante, ex post, or both with respect to information creation). The paper outlines the main limitations of the different approaches and indicates some guidelines for future developments.

Keywords: Volunteered Geographic Information, Citizen Science, information quality, quality improvement

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17538947.2014.976774>;  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269099307\\_On\\_predicting\\_and\\_improving\\_the\\_quality\\_of\\_Volunteer\\_Geographic\\_Information\\_projects](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269099307_On_predicting_and_improving_the_quality_of_Volunteer_Geographic_Information_projects)

### **GSDI ONLINE CALENDAR**

GSDI's calendar of upcoming international events at <http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf> is a unique summary of global and regional conferences, symposiums, workshops, and other related gatherings that pertain to spatial data infrastructure, such as spatial data handling, data visualization, open data policy, research cyberinfrastructure, and RS/GIS applications. GSDI is always on the lookout to include appropriate events, so if you know about one which is not already included, feel free to submit it.

### **GSDI DISCUSSION FORUMS**

To see the latest news from the e-mail Forums maintained by the GSDI Committees and the regional SDI news, visit the website at <http://www.gsdi.org/discussionlists>, choose the Forum of interest and select the 'Archives' option. All discussion lists are open to anyone who is interested in participating, and joining instructions are at the web site above. You do not have to be a member of the GSDI Association in order to join a Forum.



### ***The GSDI Association***

***Our Vision*** ... is of a world where everyone can readily discover, access and apply geographic information to improve their daily lives.

***Our Purpose*** ... is to encourage international cooperation that stimulates the implementation and development of national, regional and local spatial data infrastructures.

***Our Mission*** ... is to advance geo-information best practices, knowledge sharing and capacity building for the improved sharing and application of geographic information.

For more information, visit the GSDI Association website at <http://www.gsdi.org>

The GSDI Regional Newsletter is edited by Kate Lance, GSDI News Editor, and published by the GSDI Association. The Editor may be contacted at [newseditor@gsdi.org](mailto:newseditor@gsdi.org). Please feel free to submit your news to the Editor, relevant to SDI initiatives at any level, or send e-mail announcement to [news@gsdi.org](mailto:news@gsdi.org).



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