

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Get actively involved in discussions about SDI-Africa issues](#)
[Sign up for the SDI-Africa discussion list](#)

SDI-Africa Newsletter

April 2005

Vol. 4, No. 4

Spatial Data Infrastructure - Africa (SDI-Africa) is a free electronic newsletter for people interested in GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues in Africa. It aims to raise awareness and provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives and support synchronization of regional activities. The [Executive Working Group of CODI-Geo](#) and [EIS-AFRICA](#) are regional fora that are promoting SDI development.

To subscribe to SDI-Africa, please do so online at:
<http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp>

To unsubscribe, or change your email address, contact:
<http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp#existingsubscriber>

Please mention SDI-Africa as a source of information in correspondence you may have about items in this issue.

If you have news or information related to GIS, remote sensing, and spatial data infrastructure that you would like to highlight (e.g., workshop announcements, publications, reports, websites of interest, etc.), kindly send them in. I'd be happy to include your news in the newsletter.

PLEASE share this newsletter with colleagues who may find the information useful, and ideally they will subscribe to the GSDI News List themselves.

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

Best regards, Kate Lance, Editor, lancekt@aya.yale.edu

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Fikru Yifter, Centre for Geo-Information, Wageningen University (the Netherlands & Ethiopia); Michelle Quistgard, ESRI (USA); Eugene Silayo, UCLAS (Tanzania); Theresa Sebina, National GIS Coordination Unit (Botswana); and Chris Lungu, UNDP (Zambia) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

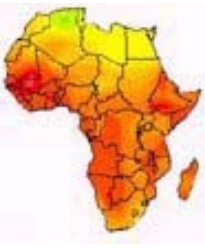
SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[Development of Geographic Information Sciences based Education and Research Program at the National University of Rwanda](#)

The main objective of the project is to develop capacity at the National University of Rwanda (NUR) to serve as a training and research centre in the field of Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing, with the aim to address the issues of rural sector transformation and poverty reduction. This will be done by introducing the subjects of GIS and remote sensing into under-graduate and graduate programs, as well as through the development of short and tailor-made courses for client organizations outside the University. A multi-disciplinary team of specialists will be developed at the University through an extensive staff development program that encompasses short courses as well as MSc and PhD programs. Through the staff development program, staff at NUR will attain knowledge and skills to develop and present high quality training and research as well as professional services in a range of key applications that are considered relevant for the national development efforts in Rwanda. Specific application fields relate to the planning and management for the development of the urban and rural sector (i.e. natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, urban planning, public health, conflict management). [January 2005 – December 2008, Euro 1.739.883]. An Inception Workshop for the project was held 2-3 March 2005. Pictures and proceedings will be available soon at the [Center for Geographic Information Systems & Remote Sensing \(CGIS\) website](#). Contact: cgisnur@yahoo.fr.

[Ethiopia Web Atlas Project](#)

Fikru Yifter Kidane, a PhD candidate Geo-Information Science Wageningen University and staff member of Mekelle University (Ethiopia), developed a web atlas of Ethiopia, making use of open source web mapping technologies (Minnesota Mapserver). It is an implementation to demonstrate that resources exist and are readily available for



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

African GIS experts to advance SDI. The intention of the project is to inspire colleagues - visitors of the website – and build enthusiasm for additional inputs to create an even more resourceful web Atlas of Ethiopia. At the moment, content of the Atlas is limited. But with time and dedication, it would be possible to make it more purposeful and rich with information. Such an online Atlas could serve as a good source of information to those who are engaged in development research, as well as those who might be interested to know and explore Ethiopia, virtually, in depth. The sources of the data used in this project are diverse and, at the moment, the site does not include references. However, metadata will be available in due time. The site is currently hosted by the [Centre for Geo-Information at Wageningen University and Research Centre](#). The Centre is not responsible for the quality and accuracy of the information. If you have questions or comments, please send them to fikru.kidane@wur.nl.

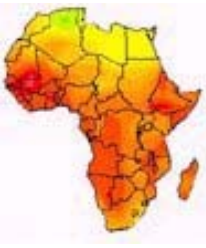
[e-Government Project Launched in Gambia](#)

The government of The Gambia under the auspicious of DOSCIT recently launched the E-Government project. In her launching remarks, VP Njie Saidy, said "The Government is pleased to bring information technology to the door steps of every Gambian in respective of age, tribe, colour political affiliation or creed", she added, noting that the emergence of the new information age plays an important role in the socioeconomic development of the country. She noted that "the effective use of information and knowledge is becoming the most critical factor for rapid economic growth and wealth creation for improving the socio-economic wellbeing. "At the national level, my government is determined to ensure that all Gambians have equal access to reliable and affordable information and communication technology", she added. She further indicated that government will continue to adopt legislation, policies and human resources programs that will assist Gambians to become key players in information age. "The government of The Gambia and UNECA have drawn up an ambition programme to ensure timely implementation of these objectives. The E-Government programme will demonstrate to Gambia and non-Gambian citizens and business, how information and communications technologies can improve the quality of life; streamline public administration and promote economic activity", she concluded. See also [National Information and Communication Infrastructure \(NICI\) Policy Workshop in the Gambia](#), 29 November 2004.

Status of the Integrated Geographic Information System (IGIS) Project Phase 2 at Department of Surveys and Mapping (Botswana) The agreements between SwedeSurvey and the Department of Surveys and Mapping (on behalf of Botswana Government) were signed in November 2004, and the project start-up workshop took place in December 2004. The project is still at the planning stage (inception period). During this period, the Implementation Plan for the project and the Annual Plan for the first year of the project will be drawn. A workshop scheduled for April 2005 is mainly to agree and finalize the plans. There are nine objectives within the project and nine Task Groups have since been formed to deal with these. One of the objectives is to contribute to NSDI activities, and this has been assigned to a SDI Task Group at DSM. In order that this objective is achieved, the Task Group needs to be familiarized with what is happening within the NGCC Working Groups or the whole NSDI initiative. It was therefore agreed that a meeting between NGCC Working Groups and DSM SDI Task Group be arranged.

[Results of the SISEI sub-regional workshop on legal issues for English-speaking countries](#), Nairobi, Kenya, 13-17 December 2004. The sub-regional workshop on legal aspects of the 'Environmental Information Circulation and Monitoring System on the Internet in Africa (SISEI)' programme was held from the 13th to the 17th of December 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of this workshop, organized in collaboration with the Kenyan "National Environment Management Authority", was to evaluate the SISEI process in each country so far and to give the participants an overview over the legal aspects of environmental information management and sharing. The workshop marked the start of the legal capacity building process to implement the SISEI programme in participating countries. [Workshop report. Recommendations.](#)

[Résultats de l'atelier de SISEI sous régional sur les aspects juridiques des pays francophones](#), Nouakchott, Mauritanie, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2004. Dans le cadre des activités de suivi du programme de 'Le Système de Circulation d'Information et de Suivi de l'Environnement sur Internet en Afrique (SISEI)' un atelier sous régional sur les aspects juridiques du programme a été tenu du 29 novembre au 3 décembre 2004 à Nouakchott, Mauritanie. Le but de cet atelier, organisé en collaboration avec le PNUD Mauritanie, était d'évaluer le processus de SISEI dans chaque pays et de donner aux participants une vue d'ensemble sur les aspects juridiques de la gestion et de la circulation de l'information environnementale. L'atelier marquera le début du processus de renforcer le capacité juridique aux pays associés pour y mettre en oeuvre le programme de SISEI. [Rapport de l'atelier. Recommandations.](#)



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Rockefeller grant to implement GIS training throughout Uganda](#)

Ben Ofori-Amoah, professor of geography and chair of the geography and geology department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP), has been awarded a \$356,000 Rockefeller Foundation grant to build GIS capacity throughout Uganda. The four-year grant is a collaborative effort between UWSP's Geography and Geology Department, the Uganda Ministry of Local Government, Makerere University and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture located in Kampala, Uganda. "Our mission is to facilitate the use of GIS in local, regional and national planning in Uganda," said Ofori-Amoah. "In many ways it mirrors the local, regional work our faculty has been doing here in Wisconsin." Ofori-Amoah is working on this project with fellow geography professor and GIS expert, Keith Rice, and two students from the department. Currently they are developing training manuals with the first pilot training project scheduled for July 2005 in Kampala. UWSP personnel also will help the Department of Geography and Geology and the Institute of Environment and Natural Resources at Makerere University to establish their own undergraduate GIS program. Makerere University faculty members who are already knowledgeable in GIS will participate in the pilot and subsequent training sessions. According to Ofori-Amoah, the hope is for those faculty members to take over leadership of the project and to also serve as GIS resource persons for 53 district planners throughout Uganda. Contact: bofori@uwsp.edu.

New environmental information management course soon ready

The interactive web-learning course on Environmental Information Management within the [UNU/Global Virtual University](#) Global Environment and Development Studies (GEDS) specialization is under development by the working group of UNEP/GRID-Arendal and [Prof., Dr. Paul van Helden, the University of Pretoria](#), and Dr. Thor S. Larsen, Noragric. The main objective of the course is to prepare students for environmental policy- and decision-making as well as management based upon environmental knowledge. The course also focuses on teaching students how to prepare adequate and relevant environmental information for the public. The information has to be appropriately assessed using modern analytical tools, it has to be analyzed, packaged and communicated to those concerned and prepared in forms that maximize its impact. The two main pillars are a profound understanding of environmental information generating processes and its usage at all geographical scales as well as the capability to implement information management systems nationally and locally. Students will have a deeper understanding of the linkages between economic, social and ecological systems and how they are affected by institutional and political settings on the local and global scale over time. [Source: E-Learner, the GUV Newsletter, Feb / Mar, 2004, # 6]

UNU/GVU Workshop - Building capacity in environmental information management, 29–30 March 2005, University of Pretoria. The goal of the workshop was to explore the possibilities of building a network of institutions that can cooperate in designing, developing and offering educational programmes in environmental information management and environmental information systems. Discussion points included:

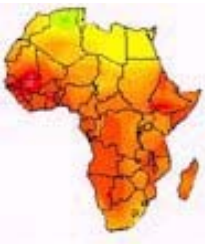
- Overview of the [UNU/Global Virtual University](#).
- Goals of the GUV Global Environment and Development Study Programme.
- The need for environmental information management capacity in developing countries (discussion of AEIN report, etc.)
- Goals of the EIM study programme.
- Curriculum of the EIM programme.
- Pedagogic approach.
- Strategy to develop a network of universities and research institutions.
- Establishing a committee to manage the EIM programme.

[Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology](#), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Tel: +27 12 420 3536, Fax: +27 12 420 3808

Newly appointed Southern African Reseller for ERM Mapper

[ER Mapper](#) (Perth, Australia) has appointed a new master reseller, [DataNet Solutions \(Pty\) Ltd.](#) (Cape Town, South Africa), for the Southern African region. DataNet Solutions is a new company dedicated to the advancement of geospatial enterprise software solutions. Managing director, Bill Feast said, "We are tremendously excited about this new initiative for our region. As ER Mapper's Master Reseller for the Southern African region we will not only be concentrating on our traditional core market for ER Mapper, but also on the emerging enterprise imagery market."



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

Mick Armstrong, regional manager of ER Mapper's European and African operations added, "[DataNet Solutions'] combined experience in traditional remote sensing and exploration applications and their overall GIS and enterprise imagery solutions expertise makes them an ideal partner for our operations."

African Regional Centres awarded grants in support of the Global Map/GSDI Program

The Africa Regional Centre Grant was established to complement the [Global Map/GSDI Grants](#), in memory of John E. "Jack" Estes, which many national mapping agencies in Africa have received. Both the Global Map and GSDI programs are working in close cooperation to support the development of cartographic and geographic data sharing in the context of a Global Spatial Data Infrastructure program. ESRI is pleased to be working with the [International Steering Committee for Global Mapping \(ISCGM\)](#) and the [GSDI Association](#) to support these efforts, and now hopes to see African regional centers furthering the efforts of these organizations as well. Many African Regional Centers have valuable data, research, and outreach capabilities that can be enhanced with the grant of GIS software, training, and technical support. The Africa Regional Centre grantees are receiving applicable ESRI GIS software and are encouraged to compliment this with the recommended ESRI virtual campus courses. In return for the grant, the grantees have agreed to provide their datasets, which are created and maintained with this ESRI software grant, to the national mapping agency or SDI organization in the countries served by their regional centre. This will reinforce the national spatial data infrastructure efforts currently underway in Africa, and will aid these countries in providing their submissions to the Global Map program. Publishing their data includes the preparation of basic data descriptions, called metadata, to facilitate searching within the GSDI Clearinghouse and the Geography Network. They also are strongly encouraged to publish other appropriate data sets at larger scales as well. For further questions about any aspect of the grant, please contact Michelle Quistgard by post at 380 New York Street, Redlands, CA 92373 USA; by telephone at +1-909-793-2853, extension 1882; or by e-mail at mquistgard@esri.com.

-- SDI update from Canada

[Government of Canada announced \\$60 million for renewal of the GeoConnections/Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure \(CGDI\) Program](#)

On February 23, the federal government tabled its 2005 budget and demonstrated a continued commitment to further building the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure and promoting its use, particularly in key priority areas such as health, public safety, sustainable development, the environment, and issues of importance to Aboriginal people. The new federal government investment of \$60 million over the next five years is intended to maintain the momentum achieved by the initial program and to continue leveraging the efforts of partners. The first phase of GeoConnections' activities ended on March 31, 2005. Over the next few months, details regarding the redesigned GeoConnections program will be worked out. The next phase of GeoConnections is expected to adopt a more user-focused approach. GeoConnections is partnering with Geomatics Industry Association of Canada on a cross-Canada series of one-day workshops that will provide the geographic information community an opportunity to input on the next five years of CGDI implementation. A full description of the new initiative will be unveiled later this year, when the redesigned program is officially launched.

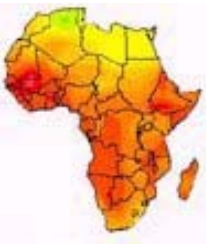
--SDI news from Europe

[INSPIRE Work Programme Preparatory Phase 2005 - 2006](#)

INSPIRE has developed a FINAL DRAFT work programme of preparatory actions to support the future implementation of INSPIRE - establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe. The aim of the work programme is to draft Implementing Rules on implementation issues as called for in the proposal for an INSPIRE Directive. To this end, the Preparatory Phase (2005-2006) work programme summarises the requirements for an INSPIRE Directive. It presents the process by which the European Commission will proceed in developing the Implementing Rules through the participation of stakeholders in the drafting and review activities. Environmental policy and stakeholder requirements will be addressed and various groups of stakeholder experts will be called on to assist the Commission services in charge of co-ordination and consolidation. Terms of reference have been included for those various groups.

[Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem: the role of statistics in evidence-based policy-making](#)

PARIS21 commissioned a report entitled "Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem" that demonstrates how the availability and use of statistics has led to positive development results and how the absence, or lack, of statistics has



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

led to bad policy decisions. This report shows clearly that better use of better statistics leads to better policy and better development outcomes. Making the transition to evidence-based policy-making can best be achieved through formulating a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), which is fully integrated into national policy processes.

[Call for papers – Special Issue – Journal of Information Technology for Development](#)

Implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in Transitional Economies. Authors are encouraged to develop a multiplicity of perspectives towards understanding the complexity and dynamics of SDI implementation, including socio-technical, economics, development studies, and political science. Approaches that are multi-disciplinary, critical, historical, and empirically based will be especially welcomed. Paper submissions due by May 31, 2005.

[GML Days 2005 – Call for Papers](#)

GML Days 2005 is the 4th annual conference on the OGC Geography Markup Language (GML) and Web Services for GIS. At GML Days 2005 you can learn about new GML and Web Service Technologies, advances in OGC specifications, and see new products and services in action. The conference will include keynote speakers, panel sessions, product demonstrations, workshops and educational sessions. Abstracts should be a maximum of 200 words and should be sent to papers@gmldays.com no later than April 30, 2005. Papers are welcome on the following topics:

- Processing GML data - schema parsers, object filters
- GML and Imagery
- GML and Geographic Ontologies
- GML Applications (ITS, LBS, Telematics, Resource Management, Oceanography, Geo-Intelligence)
- Real World examples and Use Cases
- GML and Web Services
- Web Service Visualization
- Policy Issues and Standardization

Upcoming fora for sharing SRTM project results

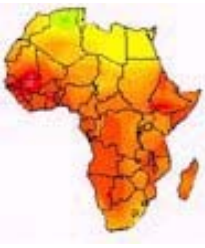
The first opportunity is a workshop to be held in Reston, Virginia, USA in June 14-16, 2005 - "[The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission – Data Validation and Applications](#)". Abstracts for workshop presentations are due April 15, 2005. The second opportunity is a special issue of [Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing \(PE&RS\)](#) to be published in February 2006. Manuscripts for the special issue are due July 1, 2005. [See call for papers for the PE&RS special issue](#). February 2005 marked five years since the flight of the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM), a joint project of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

NASA's large collection of satellite images of coral reefs

The International Space Station of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) announced the availability of 1,490 satellite (Landsat 7) images of coral reefs in an Internet-based library for the [Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project](#). The collection was created in a partnership including NASA, NOAA, international agencies, universities and other organizations to provide natural resource managers a comprehensive world data resource on coral reefs and adjacent land areas. To access the Millennium Coral Reefs Landsat archive, visit <http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/cgi/landsat.pl>. For more information on the Institute for Marine Remote Sensing Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project at the University of South Florida, visit <http://imars.usf.edu/corals/index.html>

"Active Fire Mapper" Service - a joint project in collaboration with NASA, University of Maryland, MODIS satellite imagery, and Conservation International. This service sends via email the locations of active fires in protected areas specified by the user and attaches a map either as a shape file or as a jpeg. For instance, colleagues in the Serengeti using the service get an email every morning itemizing the location and time of active fires in all protected areas in Tanzania. The satellite passes over twice daily so the coverage is great. Small fires are missed (i.e. poacher



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

camps etc), but larger hotter fires are registered. It also is possible to download the locations of historic fires through the project website or have a look at (<http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). To register for the email alert contact Nicole Guanzon, n.guanzon@conservation.org, with the following information: Name, Email, Organization, and if you would like to receive shapefiles or jpegs or both. Put "Subscribe" in the Subject line. [Source: Grant Hopcraft granthopcraft@fzs.org - TZGISUG, Serengeti GIS and Database Coordinator, Frankfurt Zoological Society]

Cap Vert: Un CD-ROM avec un logiciel pour cartographier les résultats de la classification des zones rurales et urbaines selon la prévalence de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté

Un CD-ROM a été réalisé pour cartographier les résultats de la classification des quelque 400 zones rurales et urbaines du Cap Vert selon la prévalence de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté (IAP), en utilisant Dynamic Maps, un des outils fournis par le logiciel Dynamic Atlas pour publier et accéder facilement à l'information. Dynamic Maps peut être utilisé, copié et distribué librement. Il est développé par le Service Environnement et Ressources Naturelles de la FAO (SDRN) et [SKE Inc.](#) Le CD-ROM inclut un visionneur SIG, Dynamic Maps, qui permet de cartographier les résultats par zone administrative pour l'île de Santiago, la seule île pour laquelle nous disposons des cartes digitalisées aujourd'hui. L'île de Santiago est toutefois très importante puisque la moitié de la population capverdienne y vit. Le CD-ROM sera mis à jour dès que les cartes digitalisées seront disponibles pour les autres îles. Dynamic Maps permet d'importer et de cartographier de nouvelles séries de données pour cette île. Les résultats sont présentés en Anglais avec traduction des textes introductifs en Français. Le CD-ROM présente également sous forme de tableaux les données utilisées pour calculer l'indice de précarité qui a servi à établir la classification et l'indice lui-même, à différents niveaux de regroupement (île, municipalité, zones administratives, localité), à partir des données du Recensement de la Population et de l'Habitat (RGPH 2000). L'approche utilisée pour établir cette classification a été décrite en détails dans le numéro précédent du bulletin SICIIV (voir [FIVIMS Newsletter Vol.6 No.3](#)). Le CD-ROM peut être obtenu gratuitement en contactant le Secrétariat SICIIV (fivims.secretariat@fao.org) ou Françoise Trine (francoise.trine@fao.org). [Source: [FIVIMS Newsletter Vol.6 No.4](#)]

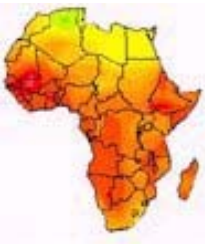
Cape Verde: A CD-ROM with software to map the results of the classification of rural and urban areas according to the prevalence of food insecurity and poverty

A CD-ROM was produced to map the results of the classification of about 400 rural and urban areas according to the prevalence of food insecurity and poverty, using Dynamic Maps, one of the tools of the software Dynamic Atlas which provides a suite of information publishing and access tools. Dynamic Maps which is included in the CD-ROM is free to use, copy and distribute. It is developed by the Environment and Natural Resources Service of FAO (SDRN) and [SKE, Inc.](#) and enables the easy publishing of maps, databases and documents. The CD-ROM includes a GIS viewer, Dynamic Maps, which enables to map results up to the zone level for the island of Santiago, the only island for which digital maps are available. The island of Santiago is however very important since half of the population lives there. The CD-ROM will be updated as soon as digital layers are available for the other islands. Dynamic Maps also allows to import and map new datasets for this island. Results are presented in English. The introduction has been translated into French. The CD-ROM provides all the datasets which have been used to calculate the Vulnerability Index, created to establish the classification, and the index itself at four levels of disaggregation (island, municipality, administrative zone and locality) for the whole country. The data are based on the 2000 Demographic Census. The method used to classify vulnerable areas was described in the previous issue of the FIVIMS newsletter (see [FIVIMS Newsletter Vol.6 No.3](#)). The CD-ROM can be obtained for free by contacting the FIVIMS Secretariat (fivims.secretariat@fao.org) or Françoise Trine (francoise.trine@fao.org). [Source: [FIVIMS Newsletter Vol.6 No.4](#)]

SaTScan™ software has been developed to analyze spatial, temporal and space-time count data using the spatial, temporal, or space-time scan statistics. It is a free software program designed for any of the following interrelated purposes:

- To evaluate reported spatial or space-time disease clusters, to see if they are statistically significant.
- To test whether a disease is randomly distributed over space, over time or over space and time.
- To perform geographical surveillance of disease, to detect areas of significantly high or low rates.
- To perform repeated time-periodic disease surveillance for the early detection of disease outbreaks.

The software may also be used for similar problems in other fields such as archaeology, astronomy, criminology, ecology, economics, engineering, genetics, geography, geology, history or zoology.



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Carbon Project Releases New Geospatial Web Browser](#)

The Carbon Project released new version of the Gaia geospatial web browser for download. Gaia 2.0 is a free, standalone application that runs on any Windows desktop. It installs quickly and handles maps and Geography Markup Language (GML) features from any Web Map Server (WMS) or Web Feature Server (WFS) that properly implements Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards. The mission of [CarbonTools](#) is to make open geospatial services accessible to Windows developers. The CarbonTools SDK provides an open and extendable framework on which Windows and .NET developers can build software solutions. [CarbonTools 2, a .NET Software Development Toolkit](#) for geospatial applications, is available as a free download.

Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[How could Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\) better inform Economic Development Practices, Processes and Activities?](#)

This paper seeks to provide a practical insight into the existing uses of mapping and GIS in order to inform practitioners and the public of current practice in the field of economic development. It also seeks to identify current practices in the area of Indicator Development and, although this is not the primary focus of this paper, to provide an initial overview this into the area of Neighbourhood and Community development and their uses of GIS and mapping. The paper identifies the problem that GIS has not hitherto been in the vanguard of Economic Development analysis. It identifies some reasons for this position and attempts to draw upon GIS related work undertaken in the areas of Neighbourhood Indicator development, Community Development, Poverty Mapping and Vulnerability Analysis. The paper concludes that web based mapping applications are becoming well established within the Economic Development community. Further, it concludes that, until completion of the Common Address File project, the use of point based enterprise information is not presently sufficiently developed to allow useful geo-spatial analysis.

[Western Cape, South Africa Education Department Shares and Manages Information with WebFOCUS](#)

Organization: The Provincial Government of the Western Cape, South Africa, a second-tier government responsible for the Provincial Governance of the Western Cape Province.

Challenge: Analyze and distribute information from thousands of schools in a consistent, cost-effective way to help prioritize investments and allocate funds.

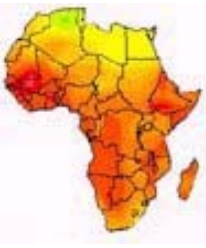
Strategy: Supply flexible, simple, self-service reporting via the intranet and extranet so managers have immediate and accurate answers to their questions. In addition to textual reports, make the data available graphically through Geographical Information System (GIS) views.

[Mapping Made Easy: A Guide to Understanding and Responding to HIV Vulnerability](#)

This document is a step-by-step Guide to understanding and identifying spatial links related to HIV vulnerability. It provides examples of how to use information to make maps and how maps are used to explain concepts in a visual way that most people can easily understand. The Guide has drawn from field experiences in Asia and Africa and includes maps and graphics from these experiences. This document is designed for community members, professionals, and leaders working in HIV prevention and AIDS care and mitigation. It is both for those who make HIV vulnerability maps and for those who use maps to assist in doing their work. In addition to the health sector, this Guide can be useful for various development sectors such as agriculture, construction, education, poverty reduction, etc. by UNDP-SEA HIV, UNESCO, World Bank, World Food Programme, Family Health International, USAID, International Organization for Migration and World Vision International, October 2004, 55 p. ISBN: 974-92512-6-1. [Source: www.ppgis.net]

[Investigating access to reproductive health services using GIS: proximity to services and the use of modern contraceptives in Malawi](#)

This paper attempted to identify whether access to reproductive health services partly explains use of modern contraception in Malawi. Recent changes in Malawi's population policy have brought the state's population ambitions into alignment with the consensus reached at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994. Concurrently, Malawi witnessed a large increase in the use of modern contraceptives from 7% in 1992 to 26% in 2000. A geographic information system (GIS) was employed to integrate health facility data from the Malawi health facilities inventory and global positioning data from the 2000 Malawi demographic and health survey. An effort



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

to detect a plausible causal pathway was made by using distance to health services as a proxy variable for access to services. In a multivariate logistic regression analysis, after controlling for background variables traditionally associated with use of modern contraception, access could not be shown to explain use of modern contraception in Malawi. African Journal of Reproductive Health, Vol. 8, Num. 2, 2004, pp. 164-179

Etude sur l'accès aux services de la santé de reproduction à l'aide du SIG: proximité aux services et l'utilisation des contraceptifs modernes au Malawi. Cet article a tenté d'établir si l'accès aux services de la santé de reproduction explique en partie l'utilisation de la contraception moderne au Malawi. Grâce à des modifications récentes dans la politique démographique, les ambitions de la population de du pays vont maintenant dans le sens du consensus auquel on a abouti à la Conférence Internationale sur la Population et le Développement qui a eu lieu au Caire en 1994. En conséquence, l'utilisation des contraceptifs au Malawi a connu une grande hausse au Malawi en passant de 7% en 1992 à 26% en l'an 2000. Les données de services de santé tirées des inventaires des infrastructures médicales au Malawi et les données des dispositions globales tirées de l'enquête démographique et de santé ont été intégrées à l'aide d'un Système d'Information Géographique (SIG). Nous nous sommes tâché de détecter une voie causale plausible en considérant la distance aux services de santé comme un variable de procuration pour l'accès aux services. En nous basant sur l'analyse de la régression logistique multifactorielle, ayant contrôlé pour les variables de fond traditionnellement liés à l'utilisation de la contraception moderne, il n'a pas été possible de montrer que l'accès peut expliquer l'utilisation de la contraception moderne au Malawi.

Training Opportunities

[Start of the next GFM4 course at UCLAS](#)

The first cycle of GFM4 Course at UCLAS, which is jointly conducted by ITC and UCLAS, is coming to the end in May 2005. The next cycle is scheduled to begin the first week of September 2005. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Eugene Silayo, GFM4 Course Coordinator, silayo@uclas.ac.tz or telephone Head of Geomatics Department at 022 2775248, for details regarding fee structure, course information, [application forms](#) and entrance qualifications.

[2nd Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers](#), July 25-29, 2005 (tentative), Ifakara, Tanzania

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) is pleased to announce the 2nd annual Summer Institute for researchers who are new to the field of global health research. By "new" they mean researchers who have become involved in this important area within the past five years. This year's Summer Institute is being hosted locally by the [Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre](#). A limited number of spaces are available for this training opportunity with half of the participants from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC's) and half from Canada. In particular, "dyads" are strongly encouraged to apply—that is, pairs of researchers—one LMIC person and one Canadian, who are members of the same project or program team. The underlying idea is to promote and support "LMIC-Canada partnerships" in addressing a specific research to action challenge. Participants will be expected to develop a specific implementation plan by the end of the institute. The deadline for receipt of applications is [April 8, 2005](#).

[Upcoming ESRI Live Training Seminars](#)

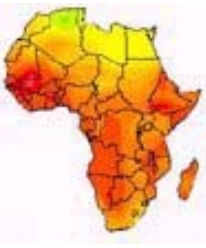
(For those with adequate bandwidth...) GIS training by a technical expert streamed directly to your desktop. Live Training Seminars are live, interactive, and free.

- April 28, 2005: Introduction to ArcGIS Network Analyst
- May 19, 2005: Introduction to ArcSDE

The Live Training Seminars are recorded and made freely available to you as either, [viewable at your convenience](#).

[Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health Training Awards 2005 - Call for Applications](#)

The Ecohealth Training Awards encourage graduate-level students to examine the relationships between the environment, human health, and sustainable development from a holistic perspective through field research. The focus of this year's competition is the links between agricultural transformation and health with a particular focus on nutrition. Applicants are asked to submit proposals that use ecosystem approaches to analyse the links between human health, nutrition and agro-ecosystem conditions, as well as identify potential intervention strategies based on



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

better natural resource management that improve human health and ecosystem sustainability. Deadline for receiving applications: May 16, 2005.

[International Postdoctoral Scientist Network for Earth Systems Science - First Workshop](#), Breckenridge, Colorado June 23-25, 2005. Many of the challenges we face in earth system science require not only the integration of complex physical processes into climate system models (e.g., the NCAR CCSM) but coupling biogeochemistry and chemistry with climate. Additionally, the global research community will require components that allow interactions between policy and decision making with environmental and climate considerations. The complexity of full biophysical models of the Earth's System requires considerable computational expense and makes deconvolution to understand the underlying processes difficult. Accordingly, intermediate complexity and simple models are tools that are valuable towards understand the more complex models and the real system they attempt to represent. As a step towards fuller integration of earth system science, IGBP/AIMES (International Global Biosphere Project/Analysis, Integration and Modeling of the Earth System) are planning an international postdoctoral scientist network for earth system science. This network will serve as a mechanism for promoting the development of the next generation of scientists to be increasingly cross-cutting as will be required by the future of Earth system modeling. An important element will be including participants from developing countries to both contribute their expertise in quickly changing and highly vulnerable environments, as well as to build the human resources in important regions of the globe for future science projects. To inaugurate the network, a first [workshop](#) is planned for June 2005.

Applications should be received by April 15, 2005 (or until workshop is full) and include a CV, statement of research interests (1 page), statement of how the postdoctoral network can best serve the postdoctoral community (1 page), and a recommendation letter. We plan to obtain sufficient funding to support 50 postdoctoral scientists to attend, but please indicate in your application if you can only attend if you receive full support. Please note: The preferred format of the submitted documents is pdf (PostScript, MS Word and ASCII text also accepted). Send applications to: asp-apply@asp.ucar.edu with the subject "ESS Workshop".

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building \(TFSCB\)](#)

The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building is a global funding facility, managed by the Development Data Group of the World Bank on behalf of donors, to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems and to make investments at the national, regional and global levels to improve the collection, processing, analysis, storage, dissemination and use of timely, good quality statistics to support poverty reduction and economic and social development. Applications for grants to support statistical capacity building projects can now be submitted and the deadline for the submission of completed applications is April 29, 2005. The statistical capacity building projects must be based on a formal assessment of the statistical system and must demonstrate how they will address the main identified capacity weaknesses. All proposals must be submitted using the standard format provided in the [Guidelines and Procedures](#). All applications must be endorsed by the appropriate Country or Sector Management Unit. For further information, contact Mustafa Dinc (mdinc@worldbank.org) or Barbro E. Hexeberg (bhexeberg@worldbank.org). Applications should be sent electronically to Mustafa Dinc and Barbro Hexeberg.

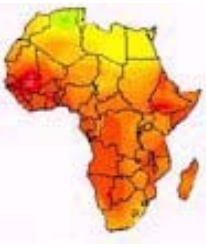
[Volkswagen Stiftung Call for proposals: Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Thematic Scope of the Call for Preproposals Four main areas of natural resources are in the focus of this call for preproposals: a) land, b) water, c) biological resources, and d) sustainable energy for domestic use. Projects focusing on natural hazards are accepted, if the applicants can provide evidence that these hazards have a major effect on large parts of the population in Africa. Studies on non-renewable natural resources, such as minerals and oil/gas, will not be eligible under this call. Pre-proposals must arrive at the Foundation's office not later than June 1, 2005. Contact: anne@volkswagenstiftung.de.

[Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan \(CSFP\)](#)

CSFP provides opportunities for Commonwealth students to undertake advanced academic study in other Commonwealth countries. Candidates should be Commonwealth Citizens who hold an undergraduate degree.

[Countries offering awards](#) include: Australia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Arica, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United Kingdom. Potential



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

candidates for awards are advised to confirm the situation with their home national agency before proceeding with formal applications.

[Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan \(CSFP\) Professional Fellowships 2005-2006](#)

These are open to key professionals from developing countries to spend a short period of time in the UK for the purposes of career updating and skills enhancement. Applications must be made by organisations based in the United Kingdom which have the capacity to host fellows. Applications will not be accepted from individuals directly. Host organisations can be from the public, private or voluntary sectors. Applications should be on behalf of named individuals. Each host organisation can nominate up to six individuals in their application. The closing date for applications is 31 May 2005.

[Applied Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

The [ProVention Consortium](#), a global partnership of governments, international organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society organizations aimed at reducing disaster impacts in developing countries, has announced a second round of grants to support research on innovative disaster risk management and encourage competent young professionals dedicated to reducing disaster risk in developing countries. Students and young professionals from developing countries are invited to propose creative projects and ideas. These proposals may include research projects, professional internships, or professional development programs. They should focus on the links between disasters, development, and the environment, and should fall into three general categories: risk identification and analysis, risk reduction, and risk sharing/transfer. The selected projects will be awarded a maximum grant of \$5,000 and must be completed within nine months of the award under the guidance of a faculty advisor or a mentor who is a disaster professional. Proposals submitted via e-mail are due May 15, 2005.

[UNEP-WCMC Chevening Scholarship in Biodiversity](#)

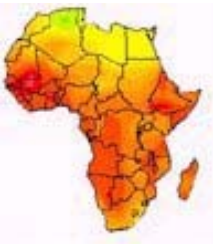
The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in collaboration with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the British Government and the British Council, offers six UNEP-WCMC Chevening Scholarships in Biodiversity, beginning in October 2005. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to spend a year at the Cambridge-based Centre, where they will work and contribute to UNEP global assessments and to work on international environmental agreements. Candidates will be able to work with UNEP-WCMC on such areas as: Species of conservation, importance, Ecological restoration, Biodiversity scenarios, Biodiversity indicator testing, African freshwater, biodiversity, Threatened tree species, Coastal ecosystems, Marine ecosystems, Protected areas, Biodiversity Information Service development, GIS and database development, Importance of biodiversity in achieving development goals, Broad-scale analysis of potential impact of industrial activity on biodiversity. Applications will be considered from candidates resident in the following regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia. Candidates must also: be fluent in English (IELTS band 7 or above), be under 35 years of age, hold a good first degree and preferably also a postgraduate degree in a biological or environmental science. Closing date for applications: April 22, 2005.

[ESRI Academic Challenge for ModelBuilder Users](#)

School faculty and students who use [ModelBuilder](#) are invited to submit models that relate to geospatial analysis and GIS or remote sensing, to The Best Practices in Science Modeling Challenge. Cash prizes totaling \$10,000 will be [awarded](#). Please read the [Official Rules](#) and carefully follow the [submission guidelines](#) before submitting your entry. Cash prizes totaling \$10,000 will be awarded. Please address any questions regarding the Best Practices in Science Modeling Challenge to higherred@esri.com. Winners will be announced June 20, 2005, with a special presentation at the [2005 ESRI International User Conference](#), July 25–29, 2005, in San Diego, California. Deadline: April 29, 2005.

[Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition: 2005](#)

The Barbara Petchenik Award was created by the International Cartographic Association in 1993 as a memorial for Barbara Petchenik, a past Vice president of the ICA and cartographer who worked through her life with maps related to children. The aim of the contest is to promote the creative representation of the world in graphic form by children. The awards are given every two years during an ICA conference or an ICA general assembly, preferably at least one for each continent, with special consideration to the age of the child producing the drawing. The awarded drawings are submitted to UNICEF for consideration as greeting cards. Each ICA member nation must nominate a coordinator



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

to run the contest in his/her country. Each national committee will select a maximum of five maps to be forwarded to the ICA Secretary General. The maps should be sent so as to arrive by June 1, 2005.

[Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa or Least Developed Countries \(LDC\) at Centres of Excellence in the South](#)

These Fellowships of the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS) are meant to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of women leaders in science and technology, and to promote their effective participation in the scientific and technological development of their countries. The scheme provides fellowships to young female students from Sub-Saharan African countries and/or LDCs, to enable them to pursue postgraduate studies leading to Ph.D., degrees, at centres of excellence (renowned research institutions/universities). The institute must be in a developing country other than the applicant's home country. Each fellowship will be offered for a maximum of three years and will cover travel expenses and a modest monthly living allowance, the amount of which will be determined in consultation with the host institution. The minimum qualification of applicants is an M.Sc. degree (or equivalent), or an outstanding B.Sc. honours degree, in the following fields of natural sciences: agriculture, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, earth & environmental resources, engineering & technological sciences. The deadline for the application is May 30, 2005.

[UNESCO Science Prize / Prix UNESCO pour la Science](#)

UNESCO Science Prize for an outstanding contribution to the technological development of a developing country or region. Awarded to an individual or group in recognition of their contribution to the technological development of a developing Member State or region through the application of scientific and technological research.

Deadline: 15 May 2005.

[UNU-IAS PhD Fellowship](#)

The Ph.D. Fellowship programme targets five Ph.D. candidates from educational institutions around the world who can benefit from a period of stay of up to ten months at UNU-IAS. With a view to strengthening capacity building in developing countries, students from developing countries — particularly from developing country institutions — are especially encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications for the 2005 Fellowships is 6 May 2005. See also [UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) and [JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship](#).

[Earth and Space Annual Awards](#)

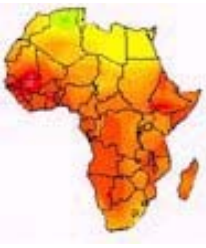
Most expeditions are eligible. They include university expeditions and other expeditions from private or non-profit organisations and government expeditions. Awards are currently \$500 each. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2005.

[Five College African Scholars Programme: Fellowship](#)

The Five College African Scholars Programme, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, invites proposals for competitive residency fellowships from junior and mid-level teaching staff employed full-time in African universities. Candidates for the 1 May 2005 deadline may apply for one of two residency periods: mid-January to May 2006 OR mid-August to December 2006. Proposals for the January residency are invited on the topic of [Health & Society](#), while the August residency is open to all projects relevant to the study of Africa in the humanities and social sciences. The programme cannot fund projects in the natural or physical sciences. Proposals should be based on the applicant's current research, which can be completed and prepared for publication during the residency. Three to four candidates will be chosen for each term. Scholars will receive a stipend of \$3,000 per month, roundtrip airfare, laptop computer, housing, health insurance, and a modest research allowance. Deadline: 1 May 2005.

[Bernard Conyers Award 2005](#)

The Award offers individuals in the Third World (or lesser privileged areas of Europe) the opportunity to disseminate original material in the field of rural development and/or education. This may take the form of a book, newsletter, workshop, video or via the internet etc. This is not a research award. £8000 in total is available for the 2005 award(s). Application deadline: 15 May 2005. Apply to: The Arkleton Trust, Enstone, Oxon, OX7 4HH. Email: arkleton@enstoneuk.demon.co.uk



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

Employment Opportunities

[Geographic Information Systems Officer \(P-3\)](#), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Under the general guidance of the Chief of the Development Information Services Division, the Geographic Information Systems Officer is responsible for collection, treatment of information and charting of geoinformation activities in Africa: compilation work for maps and charts from indicators and other statistical data sets; assessment of geoinformation activities, capabilities and infrastructure on the continent and providing expert advice to member States on geoinformation issues; providing guidance to UN experts for preparation of maps and schemes they may need; conducting specific studies relating to geoinformation in Africa; performing other related technical and administrative duties as required by the Secretariat. Specifically the incumbent will: provide expert advice to United Nations experts in the design of maps for their reports and other publications; compile maps and charts from sketches, notes or statistical data suitable for publication; draw up working specifications for both analog and digital drawings for the guidance of technical geoinformation staff; maintain ECA's clearinghouse nodes and map servers; maintain hardware, software, peripherals and other mapping and geoinformation equipment in ECA; provide expert advice, when required, to relevant institutions of the member States on geoinformation issues; assist in the development of skills of ECA staff on the use of geoinformation tools and techniques; collect reports on geoinformation and related activities from African countries, as well as from other governments and mapping agencies abroad; compile and analyze information on the implementation of spatial data infrastructure and related mapping resources in Africa and maintain indexes on the status of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in Africa; assess, on a regular basis, national and regional geoinformation activities, capabilities and infrastructure on the continent, keeping an up-to-date data base on such issues; prepare documents reporting on SDI and geoinformation developments; attend and contribute professionally to seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences related to geoinformation issues; performs other related administrative and technical duties as required. Deadline: 12 April 2005. Vacancy Announcement Number: 05-IST-ECA-405237-R-ADDIS ABABA

[Human Settlement Officer \(Monitoring\)](#), (P-3), Nairobi, Kenya

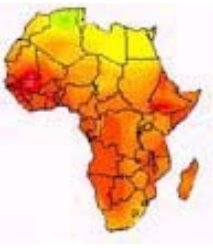
Under the supervision of the Chief, Global Urban Observatory, the Human Settlement Officer (HSO) - Monitoring shall: help to strengthen the networking and dissemination functions of the Global Urban Observatory (GUO)(Tools and Networking - cross-cutting function). The incumbent requires experience in remote sensing and GIS activities in developing countries, including training related activities. He/she should have experience on the collection and analysis of data at city level with a proven capacity to conceptualize and operationalize information to support the formulation of urban policies; experience on information and dissemination of information through different media channels (internet, printed media), including networking activities with partners. Vacancy Announcement No. 05-PGM-UN-HABITAT-405194-R-NAIROBI. Closing date: Tuesday, 12 April 2005

[Regional Coordinator - CIFOR Central Africa office](#), Yaounde, Cameroon

The [Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\)](#) is looking for a Regional Coordinator for its Central Africa office to provide regional input on forestry research priorities and support regional and collaborative research with partners. The RC will provide scientific leadership, identify strategic opportunities, develop and maintain functional partnerships, support capacity building initiatives, develop and maintain donor relations, and implement efficient administrative systems. He / she will support the research efforts of CIFOR scientists and collaborators, and ensure coordination with regional activities and research programmes. The Regional Coordinator will manage the Regional Office and liaise with Corporate Services with respect to financial, human resources and administrative matters. Deadline: 15 April 2005. [Details of the position's Terms of Reference](#).

[Soil Resources Officer](#), Harare, Zimbabwe

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations seeks a Soil Resources Officer (P-4). Duties: promote land and soil resource management in the Sub-region; advise the Sub-regional Representative on all matters related to land and plant nutrition management in the Sub-region, and contribute to the implementation and reporting on Regular Programme and Field Project activities covered by the Land and Plant Nutrient Management service; advise FAO Members, technical departments and institutions in the Sub-region in the application of integrated approaches to soil, water and plant nutrition management at regional, national and community levels, in particular through the promotion of Farmer Field Schools, and in the application and the use of information and decision support systems on



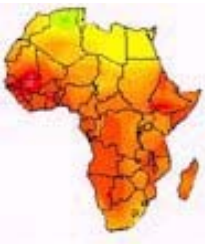
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

integrated land and water resources management; and analyse and disseminate data and information related to (i) land resources use and sustainable land and water management practices (including soil and water conservation and water harvesting) and (ii) constraints and opportunities for Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems in the Sub-region.

Requires: Advanced university degree in Soil science, ecology or agronomy with specialisation in soil science or plant nutrition management; seven years experience in soil sciences in developing countries and with different agro-ecologic and socio-economic conditions; and working knowledge of English and limited knowledge of French. Deadline: April 26, 2005. Reference vacancy announcement number: 1386-SAFR in all correspondence.

Head, Capacity Building and Partnership Section, (P-5), Nairobi, Kenya

The United Nations Environment Programme seeks a Head, Capacity Building and Partnership Section (P-5) for the Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA). Duties: manage DEWA capacity building activities to support Integrated Environmental Assessment at global, regional and national levels, with particular emphasis on the Global Environment Outlook Section (GEO) process and the Science Initiative follow-up; manage the follow-up of Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum decisions and recommendations on strengthening scientific base of UNEP; establish and manage the Scientific Advisory Committee for GEO and similar bodies if and when required; be responsible for UNEP's support to International Assessment of Agricultural Science & Technology for Development; and serve as a member of the management team in the planning, management and operation of the Branch and Division. Requires: Advanced university degree in an area of environmental science or management, particularly w 9 t



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

the work related to coastal and marine related assessment activities within the division; assist in the organisation and co-ordination of the joint implementation of regional and sub-regional projects; facilitate the development of partnerships with collaborating agencies working with UNEP; liaise with other UNEP Divisions, collaborating centres and other institutions as appropriate on marine related issues; and perform reporting and administrative duties appropriate to the implementation of the Assessment Branch – Water. Qualifications: University degree in an area of environmental science or natural resources management, with particular emphasis on coastal and marine science or equivalent, including the analysis of environmental and socio-economic data in marine, environmental assessment. Minimum of three years at national level and/or at least two years at international level. Experience in a relevant technical field is required. Vacancy Announcement No.: 05-PGM-UNEP-405649-R-NAIROBI. Deadline: 3 May 2005.

Chief, Cartographic Section, (P-5), New York, NY, USA

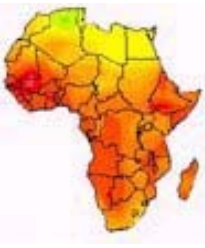
the Chief, Cartographic Section, manages the Cartographic Section of the Logistics Support Division (LSD) of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and performs the following duties: As the mapping authority of the Organization, particularly DPKO, oversees Cartographic/Geographic Information Systems (GIS) production, publication and services for the UN Secretariat. Coordinates the provision of timely and accurate geographic information as well as maps in support of the decision-making and operational needs of DPKO. Coordinates the preparation of briefing materials for the Security Council and Senior Management of the UN. Acts as Programme Manager of the UN field mission GIS units. Develops and implements policies, procedures and standards in Cartography/GIS for the UN Secretariat. In the capacity of a neutral expert body, manages ad hoc projects that provide technical assistance to boundary dispute settlement. Coordinates access and sharing of geographic information with other UN agencies, strategic partners and member states that play an active role in various UN operations. Ensures that the output of the Section meets required standards and complies with relevant mandates. Provides input for the work programme of the Service/Division. Determines priorities and allocates resources for the completion of outputs and their timely delivery. Carries out the necessary administrative tasks for the smooth functioning of the Section. Represents the Organization at inter-agency meetings, seminars and conferences. Vacancy announcement number: 05-IMA-DPKO-405666-R-NEW YORK. Deadline: 17 May 2005.

Director, Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland

The position of GEO Secretariat Director in the coming two years will have the critical task of overseeing the successful launch of the [GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan](#) and ensuring the achievement of the 2-year targets contained in the Plan. Requires sound basic university education in the physical sciences or a related scientific field, followed by a high scientific qualification, preferably at the Ph.D level, from a recognized university, in the physical sciences, such that the successful applicant would have had a broad basic education relevant to a large number of fields required to address the nine societal areas described in the GEOSS Implementation Plan. Applicants should have long and wide-ranging experience in a practical geo-science, physical science, or related discipline and in organizing and coordinating observational programmes, such as would be acquired in a responsible and significantly senior post in a national physical sciences-related or in a comparable scientific or technical institution. A good knowledge of the various elements of Earth sciences and information technology, is indispensable. Vacancy Notice No. 1602. Deadline for applications: 15 April 2005. You may download the WMO Personal History Form at <http://www.wmo.int/web/hrm>. Questions should be directed to geosec@noaa.gov.

DFID Contract Opportunity - Support to Phase 1 of the Land Reform Process in Rwanda

DFID is supporting the Government of Rwanda to implement their new land policy and law, once it has been passed. The Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines (MINITERE) will take the lead in a way that supports economic development and poverty reduction, whilst securing the rights of the vulnerable; contributing to national reconciliation; and promoting environmental sustainability. A suitably qualified service provider is required to assist in developing the capacity within MINITERE to develop and deliver policy and implement aspects of the land reform process. This will involve management of the programme; assisting in developing a road map for implementing land reform and coordinating support from other donors; the provision of expertise with skills in sector planning, strategy development and budgeting; land administration and sustainable land use planning; and institutional capacity building. The service provider will also manage a supporting fund for associated activities, including subcontracting monitoring and evaluation; and the provision of specialist advice. [Draft Terms of Reference](#).



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[DFID Contract Opportunity - Supporting the development of land assets for urban and rural livelihoods: South Africa](#)

The programme will focus on two marginalised groups: farm dwellers and informal urban settlers. In doing so it will work in the urban and rural context, drawing the linkages between them. The aim is to strengthen people's secure access to, and use of, land as a key asset for their urban and rural livelihoods. It will be designed to deliver and facilitate: improved co-ordination for the delivery of land; innovation; improved knowledge base; empowering marginalised groups to enhance responsive policy processes; progress on meeting government land reform targets. The programme will work in two Provinces, possibly Kwa-Zulu Natal and Western Cape. In order to deliver these outcomes, a service provider will be responsible for managing and co-ordinating all aspects of the programme including effective co-ordination, the funding of agreed activities, analysis and initiatives, as well as any requirements for long and short term programme staff and office costs. Within the first three months, the service provider will be required to work up a detailed and prioritised implementation plan and M&E system. During this start-up process the service provider will also develop strategies for communication and learning; build linkages and collaboration with other donor-funded and government-funded programmes. The service provider will be responsible for the cost-effective delivery of targets and outcomes. An important early requirement during implementation of the programme will be to establish constructive working relationships with potential partners including line government departments, private and commercial sector, NGOs and CBOs working in these areas. While the core management team will include expertise in land policy and land reform processes, it will likely combine substantive experience and skills in communication; facilitating better joined up working; supporting champions for change; replicable approaches for local-level capacity building for resolution and implementation of land reform processes. Applications are welcome from consortia or individual organisations. The service provider is encouraged to draw consortium members and individual expertise from South Africa and the region in the first instance, using international expertise where added value can be demonstrated. The make-up of any consortium should reflect capacity and expertise in both rural and urban land reform related issues. Deadline: 12 April 2005.

[Appel à Manifestation d'Intérêt à participer à des sessions d'information sur la démarche PARIS21 d'élaboration d'une Stratégie Nationale pour le Développement de la Statistique \(SNDS\)](#)

Chaque pays conduira lui-même sa propre démarche d'élaboration d'une SNDS, et fera très probablement appel aux services de consultants dans le cadre de programmes d'appui financés sur ressources nationales ou extérieures. Il n'est pas dans l'intention du Secrétariat de PARIS21 de financer la fourniture de services de consultation. Par contre il apparaît hautement souhaitable que les intervenants partagent les mêmes conceptions de la stratégie pour le développement de la statistique. PARIS21 organise deux sessions d'informations:

- la première à Dakar pour les consultants résidents en Afrique, du 18-21 avril 2005
- la seconde à Paris pour les autres consultants, du 3-4 mai 2005

La sélection des participants sera faite par le Comité de pilotage de PARIS21. Les frais d'hébergement et de transport seront pris en charge par PARIS21 mais aucun honoraire ne sera versé. Pour toute information, veuillez contacter Samuel Blazyk (samuel.blazyk@oecd.org) ou Gérard Chenais (gerard.chenais@oecd.org).

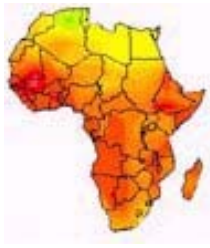
Other

[Annual Hazards and Disasters Paper Competition for Undergraduate and Graduate Students](#)

The Natural Hazards Center is now accepting submissions for this year's paper competition. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit papers related to their recent literature reviews, theoretical arguments, case studies, or descriptions of research results on topics relevant to the social/behavioral aspects of hazards and disasters. Paper topics may include, but are not limited to, the Asian tsunami, climate change, public warnings, natural hazards mitigation, land use, women and children in disasters, earthquake prediction, disaster myths, and the transport of hazardous materials. Papers will be judged on their originality, organization, and demonstrated knowledge of the topic. Awards will be given in both undergraduate and graduate categories. The deadline for submissions is April 29, 2005.

[To what extent can libraries ensure free, equal and unhampered access to Internet-accessible information resources from a global perspective?](#)

This PhD thesis concludes that as Internet infrastructure and use within a country develops, more obstacles to accessing information become apparent, and the extent to which libraries are able to overcome them is dependent on their ability to influence decision-making processes at a number of levels,



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

from the local community up to levels of international governance. The [thesis is available online](#). [Source: CODATA_International eList]

Development of electronic commerce in Ivory Coast: “Monicash” launches a mastercard

From now on, Ivorians will be able to use a Mastercard-based card called Web Surfer to buy products and services on the web. This is the one of two products unveiled by Monicash, a company specialising in electronic payment transactions. Web Surfer is designed solely for use on the internet and is not cheap. It costs FCFA 12,500 to buy it and it has been available since mid-January. Users need to have a bank account. The card can be used to do a variety of transactions including booking hotels and buying books. The second product - Travelcard - will be available in mid-March. It costs FCFA 15,000 and is the equivalent of an electronic debit card which can be used for purchases in stores and to obtain cash in European banks. Each card can be recharged but the user pays 2.5% of the sum for the privilege. According to Monicash's Louis Diakité, his company has invested FCFA 1.3 billion and "we are serious about developing e-business in Côte d'Ivoire." [Source: fr.allafrica.com - Le Patriote]

Développement du commerce électronique en Côte d'Ivoire: "Monicash" lance la mastercard

Désormais, les internautes et les entreprises ivoiriens pourront effectuer les opérations commerciales à partir de l'internet grâce aux cartes web surfer et Maestro travelerscards de master card "Monicash", société spécialisée dans les transactions électroniques de paiement a présenté ses deux nouveaux produits à la presse. Le premier, la web surfer est uniquement utilisable sur internet au prix de 12500 francs Cfa et est disponible, depuis mi-janvier. Il ne nécessite aucune ouverture de compte bancaire. Cette carte est chargée, avec un minimum de 10.000 francs. Selon M. Louis Diakité PDG de "Monicash", cette carte permet, au détenteur, de faire des réservations d'hôtel (pour l'obtention du visa), l'achat d'un livre, etc.. La maestro « Traverlscards », deuxième produit, verra le jour à la mi-mars. C'est un chèque de voyages électroniques qui coûte 15000 Fcfa qui permet, aux voyageurs, de faire des achats dans les grands magasins et de retirer de l'argent dans les distributeurs de toutes les banques européennes. Il faut préciser que les deux types de cartes sont rechargeables du montant souhaité par le détenteur contre le paiement d'une commission de chargement de 2,5 % du montant. Et elles sont valables pour un an. Pour le PDG, ce projet a nécessité un investissement de plus 1,3 milliards de francs cfa. "Nous avons l'intention de développer le commerce électronique en Côte d'Ivoire. [Source: fr.allafrica.com - Le Patriote]

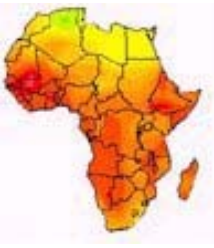
2005 Ralf Yorque Memorial Competition - "Novel Approaches of Integrative Science for the Future"

Ecology and Society invites their 10,000+ subscribers and all other readers to participate in a manuscript competition that exploits novel ways of performing integrative science and policy research. The annual 'Ralf Yorque Memorial Prize' of 5,000 Euro will be awarded to the most novel paper that integrates different streams of science to assess fundamental questions in the ecological, political, and social foundations for sustainable social-ecological systems. The contributions of the winner and others that pass the normal peer-review process will be published in E&S. Each submission will be peer-reviewed for content and assessed by a panel of judges for novelty. Full details for submission to this competition can be found at http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/submissions/ry_guidelines.php. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2005.

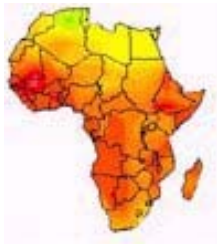
Conferences, Events

Items newly added to this listing of events since the last SDI-Africa issue are marked * **NEW** *

| Date | Location | Event |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| April 2005 | | |
| 3-7 April | Yaounde, Cameroon | <u>"Building Civil Society Through Community Development" Conference</u> Organized by International Association for Community Development (IACD); Government of Cameroon. The conference will be highly relevant to all those concerned with the role that community development can play in building or rebuilding the structures and processes of civil society. Contact: Jean Marie Minkoulou, minjm@camnet.cm |
| 4-6 April | Frascati, Italy | OGC Technical and Planning Committee Meetings - http://www.opengeospatial.org/events/?page=events |

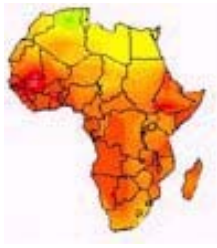


Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter



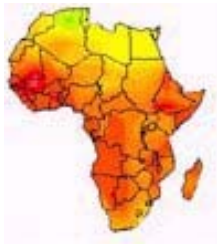
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| 6-8 June | Porto, Portugal | 25th EARSeL Symposium - Global Developments in Environmental Earth Observation from Space Followed by workshops on Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone and 3D Remote Sensing |
| 6-10 June | Stockholm, Sweden | ISO/TC 211 20th Plenary Contact: Jörgen Wyke, Swedish Standards Institute, jorgen.wyke@sis.se |
| 9-11 June * NEW * | Istanbul, Turkey | 2nd International Conference on Recent Advances in Space Technologies Space in the Service of Society (RAST 2005) |
| 16-18 June | Zaragoza, Spain | 5th International Workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Forest Fire Management: Fire Effects Assessment |
| 16-18 June * NEW * | Minneapolis, MN, USA | Open Source Geospatial '05 – MUM3/EOGEO Call for Presentations. Deadline: April 15, 2005 |
| 20-24 June | Angers, France | Colloque - Evaluation Environnementale et Developpement d'une Agriculture Durable |
| 20-24 June | St. Petersburg, Russia | 31st International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment "Global Monitoring for Sustainability and Security" |
| 29 June – 1 July * NEW * | Sardinia, Italy | 11th EC-GI & GIS Workshop, European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI): Setting the Framework Deadline for abstracts: 16 April 2005 . |
| July 2005 | | |
| 3-6 July | Southampton, UK | Cambridge Conference: The Exchange – to be held at Ordnance Survey's head office in Southampton, UK. With a greater emphasis on networking and round-table discussions, CC:The Exchange is designed to strengthen relationships between national mapping organization senior representatives and to complement the 2007 Cambridge Conference. Contact: nmonetwork@ordnancesurvey.co.uk |
| 6-8 July | Mauritius | AITEC Indian Ocean - Mobilising ICTs for Development and Competitiveness in Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion & Seychelles |
| 9-16 July | La Coruña, España | XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference . Call for abstracts . Abstracts due 1 November 2004 . A limited number of travel awards will be made to young cartographers who are nationals from developing countries. |
| 18-22 July | Vancouver, Canada | GML Days 2005 - will be the fourth annual conference on the OGC Geography Mark-up Language (GML) and Web Services for GIS. Abstracts due: April 30, 2005 . |
| 18-23 July | Tours, France | International Union for the Scientific Study of Population - XXV International Population Conference |
| 19-23 July | Elmina, Ghana | 1st Regional Biannual Conference of Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE) Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges (Paysages Changeants de l'Afrique: Une Approche Commune aux Défis Divers). Contact: hbulley@calmit.unl.edu ; http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/cd/ ; http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/index.html ; Africa-iale mailing list |
| 24-29 July | San Diego, CA, USA | ESRI International User Conference |
| 31 July – 2 August | Cleveland, Ohio, USA | 4th Annual Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) Conference . Deadline for abstracts: March 11, 2005 . |
| August 2005 | | |
| 22-26 August | Copenhagen, Denmark | 2nd International Workshop on Geographic Information Management (GIM '05) in conjunction with DEXA 2005 and EGOV 2005. Submission of full papers: March 04, 2005 . |
| 24-26 August | Cape Town, South Africa | 2nd Annual Conference of the Community Informatics Research Network Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: 1 February 2005 . |



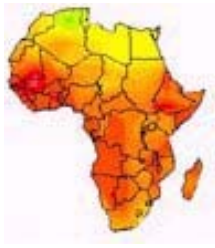
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| 29 August – 3 September | Grand Baie, Mauritius | 4th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium - Advances in Marine Science in Western Indian Ocean Region: Contribution of Research in Improving Human Welfare and Poverty Alleviation Contact: secretary@wiomsa.org |
| September 2005 | | |
| 5-9 September * NEW * | Cape Town, South Africa | <u>14th Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians</u> |
| 6-8 September | Bologna, Italy | <u>River Basin Management 2005</u> - the third conference in the series which marks the growing international interest in the planning, design and management of river basin systems -- including all aspects of hydrology, ecology, environmental management, flood plains and wetlands. |
| 6-8 September | Pretoria, South Africa | <u>International Workshop on Strategies for Permanent Access to Scientific Information in Southern Africa: Focus on Health and Environmental Information for Sustainable Development</u> |
| 6-9 September | Johannesburg, South Africa | <u>ACT 2005 – Seventh Annual African Computing & Telecommunications Summit</u> Presentation proposals deadline: <u>30 June 2005</u> . |
| 7-9 September | Brno, Czech Republic | <u>EnvirolInfo 2005 - Informatics for Environmental Protection - Networking Environmental Information</u> Deadline for abstracts: <u>February 1, 2005</u> . |
| 7-9 September | Trier, Germany | <u>1st International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Processing in Assessment and Monitoring of Land Degradation and Desertification</u> |
| 7-10 September | Nairobi, Kenya | <u>Mapping for Change: International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication</u> Contact: pgis2005@itc.nl |
| 12-14 September | Bologna, Italy | <u>2nd International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development (Sustainable Planning 2005)</u> The papers presented at Sustainable Planning 2005 will be published in volume 83 of <i>WIT Transactions on Ecology & the Environment</i> |
| 13-15 September | Tanta, Egypt | <u>Water, Health and Environment 2005</u> Contact: Dr Bakenaz A. Zeydan, Conference General Secretary, Head of Water Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Tanta University, bakenaz@dec1.tanta.edu.eg |
| 15-16 September | Montreal, Canada | ISO/TC 211 21st Plenary http://www.isotc211.org/ |
| 16-17 September | Cambridge, U.K. | <u>GEOMED 2005</u> is the fifth international, interdisciplinary conference on geomedical systems. GEOMED brings together statisticians, geographers, epidemiologists, computer scientists, and public health professionals to discuss methods of spatial analysis, as well as present and debate the results of such analyses. Deadline for abstracts: <u>15 May 2005</u> . |
| 25-27 September | Magdeburg, Germany | <u>Second International ICSC Symposium on Information Technologies in Environmental Engineering (ITEE'2005)</u> The deadline for submission of papers is: <u>February 28, 2005</u> . |
| 26-28 September * NEW * | Kuwait | <u>Kuwait First International Remote Sensing Conference & Exhibition</u> Deadline for abstracts: <u>June 30, 2005</u> . |
| October 2005 | | |
| 8-12 October | Kansas City, Missouri, USA | <u>Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)'s 43rd Annual Conference</u> Abstract deadline extended to: <u>February 11, 2005</u> |
| 9-13 October | Bonn, Germany | <u>6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community</u> |
| 23-27 October | Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA | <u>Pecora 16 - "Global Priorities in Land Remote Sensing"</u> Deadline for abstracts: <u>February 15, 2005</u> . |
| 25-29 October | Kusadasi, Turkey | <u>MEDCOAST 2005 – 7th International Conference on the Meditterrean Coastal Environment</u> Deadline for abstracts: <u>January 31, 2005</u> . |



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 30 October – 4 November | Pretoria, South Africa | AFRICAGIS '05 7th bi-annual Africa GIS Conference. Theme: Beyond Talk: Geo-information working for Africa. This conference aims to take people beyond talking about what can be done with geo-information, to sharing information and experiences about what is being done on the continent and to showcase examples of where geo-information has made an impact on people's lives, particularly through local development and partnerships. Deadline for submission of abstracts: <u>15 April 2005</u> . |
| November 2005 | | |
| 14-16 November | Tunis, Tunisia | IRFD World Forum on Information Society . Organized by the the International Research Foundation for Development. One of the Session Themes is Geographical Information System and Sustainable Information Society. Abstract deadline: <u>March 31, 2005</u> . Contact: wfis2005@irfd.org . |
| 16-18 November | Tunis, Tunisia | World Summit on the Information Society – 2 nd phase |
| 27 November – 2 December | Yaounde, Cameroon | Colloque Africain Systemes d'Information et Traitement de l'Image et du Signal (SITIS) / International Conference on Signal-Image Technology and Internet-Based Systems (SITIS'05) Deadline for abstract submission: <u>May 15, 2005</u> ; proposals for tutorials due: <u>June 15, 2005</u> . Contact: sitis@u-bourgogne.fr . |
| 28-29 November | Pretoria, South Africa | International Conference on the Changing Politics of Land in Africa Domestic Policies, Crisis Management, and Regional Norms Deadline for papers: <u>April 30, 2005</u> . |
| December 2005 | | |
| 16-21 December | Cairo, Egypt | 13th International Conference of the Geological Society of Africa on Geology and Development . Local lead organisation, the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS). Contact: Dr Mahmoud Abdeen, GSAf Vice-President (North Africa), m_m_abdeen@hotmail.com |
| January 2006 | | |
| February 2006 | | |
| March 2006 | | |
| 9-12 March 2006 | Accra, Ghana | 5th FIG Regional Conference for Africa The proposed theme is " <i>Modern Technologies in Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance</i> ". |
| 16-22 March 2006 | Mexico | 4th World Water Forum The main theme of the Forum will be "Local actions for a global challenge". A series of regional meetings will be held throughout the preparatory phase in order to identify good practices and learn lessons from shared experiences, as well as to support and encourage local commitments. Guiding principles, main objectives, framework themes and topic sessions available for comments in the concept paper . |
| April 2006 | | |
| May 2006 | | |
| 25-26 May 2006 | Orlando, Florida, USA | ISO/TC 211 22nd Plenary http://www.isotc211.org/ |
| June 2006 | | |
| July 2006 | | |
| 9-15 July 2006 | Philadelphia, PA, USA | IUSS 18th World Congress of Soil Science |
| 13-17 July 2006 | Wollongong and Sydney, Australia | COAST - GIS 06 - 7th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management . GIS for the coastal zone: Spatial th Tw 0 - |



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 31 July – 4 August 2006 | Denver, Colorado, USA | IEEE/IGARSS 2006 |
| August 2006 | | |
| September 2006 | | |
| October 2006 | | |
| 9-13 October 2006 | Santiago, Chile | 9th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure organized by the GSDI Association & Instituto Geográfico Militar Contact: gdi9@igm.cl |
| October 2006 | Cairo, Egypt | 6th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference. Contact: aarse@rcmrd.org . |
| October 2006 | Beijing, China | 20th CODATA (Committee on Data for Science and Technology) Conference Contact: codata@dial.oleane.com . |
| November 2006 | | |
| 14-15 November 2006 | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | ISO/TC 211 23rd Plenary http://www.isotc211.org/ |

Please mention SDI-Africa as a source of information in correspondence you may have on items in this issue.

To subscribe to SDI-Africa, please do so online at:
<http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp>

Kate Lance, Editor, lancekt@aya.yale.edu
 Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association
<http://www.gsdi.org>

Copyright © 2005. All rights reserved.

DISCLAIMER:
 The Editor and Web Host will not be held liable for any errors, mistakes, misprints or incorrect information.