

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

SDI-Africa Newsletter

January 2004

Vol. 3, No. 1

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. The newsletter is sponsored and prepared by the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure](#) Secretariat to complement CODI-Geo and EIS-AFRICA's efforts.

To subscribe to SDI-Africa, unsubscribe, or change your email address, contact: lancekt@aya.yale.edu. If you're subscribing, please indicate your institutional affiliation and how you learned about the SDI-Africa newsletter.

Please mention SDI-Africa in any correspondence you may have on 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 us the materials by the 15th of each month so that we can include them in the newsletter.

We encourage you to forward this newsletter onto colleagues who may find the information useful, and ideally they will subscribe themselves.

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website:GSDI: <http://www.gsdi.org/pubs2.html#SDINEWS>

Best regards, Kate Lance, Editor, info:infrastructure, LLC, lancekt@aya.yale.edu

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Mohamed Timoulali, UNECA (Ethiopia); Jide Kufoniyi, RECTAS (Nigeria); Mahamadou Coulibaly, UNDP-Mali (Mali); Jim Verdin, USGS EROS Data Center (USA) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

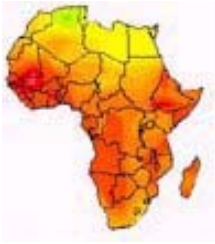
-- SDI update from South Africa

[Committee Members unanimously adopted the Spatial Data Infrastructure Bill](#). 25 November 2003

The purpose of the [Spatial Information Infrastructure Bill](#) is to achieve co-ordination with respect to the gathering, managing and dissemination of spatial data and information, in order to enable spatial-information driven planning and decision-making. Through the framing of a National Spatial Information Framework, the advancing of the utilization of spatial information is sought.

The Committee for Spatial Information is developing a [Project Registry](#) to serve a function of eliminating, overlapping and duplication with regards to the collection, management and supply of spatial information by public bodies, and achieve the alignment of spatial information systems under development. [Available projects can be browsed online](#). If you have any comments or would like to register a project, please e-mail [Sives Govender](#) or [Tilfred Mabuza](#).

-- SDI update from Nigeria



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public services delivery and increase participation in government decision-making processes. The first stage will involve 21 government departments in Maputo, including some 800 workstations, new process management guidelines, training, and the identification of steps for expanding GovNet to additional ministries and out to the municipalities. The assessment and formulation of GovNet was conducted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which has an ongoing cooperation with the government of Italy in the area of e-government for development. For more information, contact [Connie Eysenck](#).

for those interested in a GIS certification, here is an initiative in the United States

The [GIS Certification Institute](#) (GISCI) has announced that the **GIS Certification Program** has gone "go live" as of January 1, 2004. Professionals are able to download application materials and begin preparations for submitting their qualifications for recognition as Certified GIS Professionals and earn the designation, "GISP". URISA's Certification Committee was formed in 1999 and following several years of discussion and thousands of hours of work, including a comprehensive Pilot Program, the Committee members finalized its portfolio-based certification program in the summer of 2003. Along with a GIS Code of Ethics, the program was adopted by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) and is the basis for GIS Professional Certification. GISCI is the certifying body that was created to manage the program. The portfolio-based program requires minimum levels of achievement in three areas:

1. Educational Achievement
2. Professional Experience
3. Contributions to the Profession

An examination is NOT part of the program.

Note that during the first five years of the program, applicants may be "grandfathered" into the program by meeting specific requirements in the Professional Experience category only.

The Process

Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the program and begin collecting necessary documentation for their portfolios. Visit www.gisci.org for information about documentation and other requirements. A "how-to" slideshow will soon be available on the website to assist potential applicants with the submission process. Complete applications and portfolios must be submitted to GISCI, along with payment of \$250, to be reviewed. An administrative staff and the GISCI Review Team will review portfolios and substantiate claims made. Upon notification of a successful application, an applicant will be required to sign the GIS Code of Ethics to complete the certification process and earn the "GISP" credential.

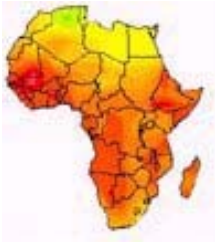
Re-Certification

As continuing education and professional development are key to the GISCI Certification Program, GISPs must submit new portfolios every five years that specify the additional work experience gained during the five-year period, along with education obtained and contributions made to the profession. Minimum levels of achievement in all three areas must be met to achieve re-certification.

-- Also see [critique](#) of certification scheme - **GIS certification: what's the point?** Peter Batty finds flaws in U.S. attempts to devise a certification scheme. Source: GeoConnexion Dec 2003/Jan 2004 issue.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

ACCUGLOBE 2004 - From the Applied-GIS-RS list - Digital Data Technologies (DDTI) has released a new desktop GIS called AccuGlobe 2004. AccuGlobe 2004 contains many robust GIS features typically found in higher end products, such as feature editing, support for SHP and TAB files, charts, smart labeling, web updates and creating project files. The primary purpose of AccuGlobe is to provide a mapping platform for individuals and organizations that have previously been unable to use GIS software because of the expensive license fees. It can be freely downloaded. Source: Forest Information Update Vol. 4, No. 51, 22 December 2003



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[Free VEGETATION Demo-CD](#)

[VEGETATION products](#) older than 3 months are available free of charge since October 2001. The VEGETATION mission provides a viable capacity for operational satellite based, global and continuous monitoring of the Earth's surface for the benefit of a large and diverse user's community.

[Revised SPOT VEGETATION data policy in support of GMES](#) (16 Jan 2002)

The [Natural Resources Information Management Toolkit](#) (the Toolkit) is a joint initiative of the National Land & Water Resources Audit (the Audit) and ANZLIC. The [Toolkit](#) is part of a strategy aimed at building capacity to implement natural resources information management solutions. The modules cover:

- 1 Information management and the sustainable management of natural resources
- 2 Data management principles
- 3 Interpretation and visualisation of data - an introduction to spatial information systems
- 4 Key data criteria - standards and compliance
- 5 Data discovery and access
- 6 Project management - lessons learnt, pitfalls and best practice procedures
- 7 Guidelines for selecting spatial information system software
- 8 Guidelines for choosing a spatial information system consulting firm
- 9 Map production guidelines
- 10 Introduction to global positioning systems (GPS) and best practice guidelines

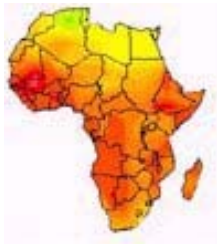
Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[NASA helps forecast reptile distributions in Madagascar](#)

NASA supported biologists developed a modeling approach that uses satellite data and specimen locality data from museum collections to predict successfully the geographic distribution of 11 known chameleon species in Madagascar. The findings, published in the latest issue of the journal Nature, demonstrate an approach for speeding up the process of regional species inventories, especially in poorly known tropical environments with diverse habitats and climates. The research also shows, both historical and modern field data can be extremely useful for predicting chameleon species distribution in Madagascar, although contemporary field data used in concert with satellite data provides more accurate biogeographic distribution predictions. This study is the first to successfully predict the distribution of any species in Madagascar using satellite imagery and information from museum specimens.

[Defining Land Unsuitable for Livestock](#) (April 2003)

FAO Animal Health and Production Division (AGA) has devoted considerable efforts and resources in recent years towards the mapping of livestock species at sub-national resolution, using a variety of statistical and modelling techniques. The techniques can be used to both enhance the level of detail and to interpolate from known data, thereby filling gaps in available distributions. They rely on first acquiring and collating survey and census data, in GIS vector (polygon) format at various resolutions as available, and co



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Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[West African Research Center Travel Grant](#)

The West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal is offering travel bursaries of up to \$2500 to West African scholars and graduate students. These funds may be used to:

- 1) Attend and read papers at academic conferences relevant to the applicant's field of research;
- 2) Visit libraries or archives that contain resources necessary to the applicant's current academic work.
- 3) Travel to a research site.

Deadline March 15, 2004 for travel to take place between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004.

[Bourses de formation à la recherche](#)

L'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie propose des solutions pour financer vos recherches ou vos études à l'étranger. Plusieurs bourses sont offertes pour favoriser la mobilité des étudiants en francophonie. Les bourses de formation à la recherche sont accordées aux étudiants titulaires d'un DEA (ou diplôme équivalent) qui poursuivent leurs études en vue de préparer et de soutenir une thèse de doctorat. La durée de ces bourses est de 10 mois renouvelable 2 fois et pour répondre à l'appel nous vous recommandons de lire les documents de présentation attachés à cette page pour connaître la procédure à suivre. Date limite : samedi 17 janvier 2004

[The International Fellowships Programme \(IFP\), West Africa](#), for the 2005/6 Academic Year. Applicants must be residents or resident nationals of Ghana, Nigeria, or Senegal. Deadline for applications is January 23, 2004.

[IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program 2004](#)

IIASA's annual Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP) is a three-month (June-August) research program for advanced students whose interests correspond with IIASA's ongoing research. The 2004 program starts on June 1, 2004 and ends on August 31, 2004. Applicants from all over the world are welcome. Students from countries in which IIASA has a National Member Organization (NMO) as well as students from non-NMO countries in both the developed and developing worlds are encouraged to apply. Deadline: 15 January 2004.

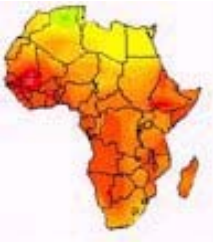
[START Fellowship/Visiting Scientist Award Program](#)

START invites applications for START fellows and visiting scientists to participate in the 12th round of the START Fellowship/Visiting Scientist Program. This program is designed to increase the number of developing country scientists who serve as active partners in global change research in START regional networks and in the Joint and Core Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (DIVERSITAS, IHDP, IGBP, and WCRP). Through this effort, these scientists will also be able to contribute to related aspects of sustainable development for their respective countries and regions. Deadline for submissions has been extended to 16 January 2004. [Application form](#).

[Microsoft Research Curriculum Development Request for Proposal for Europe, the Middle East and Africa](#)

Microsoft seeks to encourage the advancement of the Informatics, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Information Systems curricula in conjunction with the use of its corresponding technologies. This includes, but is not limited to, languages, compilers, distributed computing, operating systems, security, game technology, and mobile/wireless computing. Microsoft Corporation will consider and may accept proposals for this RFP from qualified academic institutions in Europe, the Middle East including Pakistan, and Africa. Microsoft Research expects to make numerous unrestricted gifts of approximately €5,000 -- €30,000.00 in value each depending on the size and complexity of the proposed project. Awards will be made starting on November 1st, and awards will be made until either all funds have been allocated, or until January 31st, 2004. Once all funds have been awarded, no further applications will be accepted.

The International Geographical Union (IGU) announces the availability of [travel grants](#) to help defray the costs of participation in the 15-20 August [2004 International Geographical Congress](#) in Glasgow, Scotland. Completed applications (including endorsement letters) are due at the IGU Secretariat no later than 31 January 2004. Glasgow.



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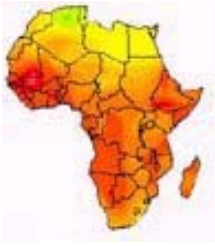
<http://www.icsu.org/index2.htm?http&&www.icsu.org/events/grants/home.htm>

<http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/icsugrants05.htm>

http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/grants_2005_statement_schedule.pdf

http://www.iugs.org/iugs/news/grants_2005_application_form.doc

ICSU Grants Programme supports collaborative scientific initiatives of relevance to science and society. It is a competitive, peer-reviewed programme for [ICSU Scientific Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies](#) (must be ICSU member to apply). Proposals should target [ICSU](#) priority areas and be international and multi-disciplinary. Projects should involve scientists across disciplines and national borders. Proposals directly related to followup action of the UNESCO/ICSU Wo



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Technologies (ICTs) to address development challenges facing many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Instructure: barbara.fillip@verizon.net. [Read the syllabus online](#); [See some sample materials from the newly updated course CD-ROM](#). [Source of announcement: InterAction ICT Initiative]

[International Postgraduate Course on Geographic Information Technologies](#), 31 May - 11 June 2004, Castellón, Spain. The international postgraduate course provides intensive, advanced-level education and training in geographic information technologies as well as in research methods. The instructors offer multiple perspectives on some of the key technical issues surrounding the processing and analysis of geographic information, and selected students are integrated into on-going research projects at one of 3 European partner universities. The course is designed for a maximum of 25 students, approximately 14 of which will be grant-holders pre-selected by the member universities of the EduGI.LA project. The remaining spaces will be filled by a competitive process based on analysis of the candidates' curriculum vitae. Candidates from around the world are invited to apply. Non-grant-holders (normal applicants) will be charged a nominal fee of Euro 300 for the 2-week course. (A reduced fee of 200 Euros will be charged to students from eduGI.net member institutions). This fee covers tuition, class materials (paper and CD) and weekend excursion. Meals, housing and travel to/from Castellón are not included in this fee; applicants will be asked to verify, at the time of application, that they are able to assume these additional costs. Deadline for applications: January 31, 2004.

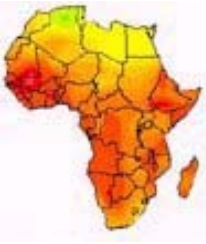
Employment Opportunities

[UNDP Kenya Internship Programme](#), Nairobi, Kenya

The purpose of the programme is to provide important interns with practical experience which complements individual field of study while also benefitting the UN offices to which the intern is assigned. NOTE that interns receive no remuneration. Costs of travel and accomodation, living expenses included, are the responsibility of interns or their sponsoring institutions.

[Cartographic Assistant](#) (2 posts), G-7, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Under the general supervision of the Chief of DISD, and the guidance of the team leader of the geo-information team, the incumbent will be responsible for the following duties: - prepare geographic databases for handling spatial data and produce cartographi



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[Executive Director](#), Stockholm, Sweden

International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) is an international research programme dealing with the causes and effects of global change. IGBP's goal is a systems analysis of planetary composition and dynamics, focusing on the interactive physical, chemical, and biological processes that define Earth System dynamics, and on the role of human activities in these dynamics. the Executive Director is responsible for guiding the development and implementation of the programme.

[Call for registration of consultants](#)

CTA is an ACP-EU organisation established under the Lomé Convention, now succeeded by the Cotonou Agreement, between the 15 EU and 78 ACP states. CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in these areas. The Centre keeps a register of consultants from which it draws for short listing or to which it sends invitations to tender. It is in the process of updating that register and invites interested firms or individuals to submit the relevant details. Applicants must be nationals of a Member State of the European Union or the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), signatories to the Cotonou Agreement. Closing date: 16 January 2004

[National Food Security Advisor](#), Luanda, Angola

Save the Children-UK Angola is working in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security Office and Vulnerability Analysis Unit in Angola. SC UK Angola is looking for a National Food Security Advisor to represent us in this partnership, by supporting National, Provincial and Municipal planning for food security and nutrition. Based in the GSA, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development the National Food Security Advisor will provide technical support and advise on FSN vulnerability analysis and build capacity of key technical stakeholders. You will also support the provincial FSN work and the municipal planning initiatives in Huambo, Uige and Kwanza Sul provinces and prepare training modules to enrich food security syllabuses at graduate education levels. Deadline for applications: January 11, 2004. E-mail: jobs-africa@scfuk.org.uk

[Technical Advisor Planning and Analysis](#), Maputo, Mozambique

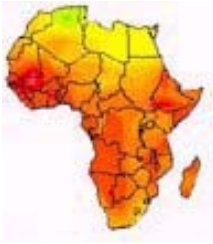
Project: Support for Capacity Building to the National Institute for Demining (IND) in Mozambique
Deadline for applications: Jan. 16, 2004

[Environmental Affairs Officer](#), P-4 , UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Under the overall supervision of the Director of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD), the Environmental Affairs Officer is responsible for the following duties: promoting among African member States the ECA policies and programmes that will ensure better stewardship of the environment and natural resources; analyzing and monitoring the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); advising and assisting governments in raising awareness and formulating projects addressing the three major elements of sustainable development --economic development, social development and environmental protection; assisting with the development, implementation and supervision of regional and sub-regional environmental programmes and projects; strengthening regional network of institutions, experts and general information on environment; collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and disseminating relevant information on the environment as it pertains to the region; advising and assisting ECA's expert advisory body, the Committee on Sustainable Development; undertaking analytical studies on environmental and natural resources issues; representing ECA in intergovernmental or expert group meetings and seminars; advocating for the Population-Environment-Development-Agriculture (PEDA) model and other information on national and regional environment and development activities; advising on environmental issues within ECA; liaising with other UN bodies, specialized agencies, relevant national agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs); conducting internal and external training activities; and undertaking other work as requested. Deadline for applications: Jan. 26, 2004

[Regional Adviser on Information and Communication Technology Policies and Strategies](#), L-5

In the context of the [African Information Society Initiative](#) (AISI), ECA resolution 812 XXXI, provide advisory services to ECA member States on the formulation and adoption of ICT-enabling policies, institutional and regulatory



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frameworks, and the integration of ICTs into the overall strategy of national social and economic development . For more information, refer to (). Deadline for applications: Jan. 24, 2004

[Regional Programme Manager](#), Gaborone, Botswana

[Technical Adviser - Invasive Alien Species](#), Gaborone, Botswana

[Technical Adviser - Access and Benefit Sharing](#), Gaborone, Botswana

IUCN-ROSA (World Conservation Union-Regional Office for Southern Africa)

Deadline for applications: January 12, 2004

[Lectureship in Environment and Development](#), Edinburgh, Scotland

College of Science & Engineering, School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh

The College of Science & Engineering, University of Edinburgh seeks a lecturer with vision and an outstanding record in research and teaching who can build on the strengths of the School of GeoSciences, particularly its cross-disciplinary Centre for the Study of Environmental Change and Sustainability (CECS). S/he will lead and implement a new MSc in Environment and Development. The School of GeoSciences offers a breadth and depth of research equal in potential to anywhere worldwide. Deadline for applications: January 16, 2004

Other

[Land tenure systems and Sustainable development in Southern Africa](#) (December 2003)

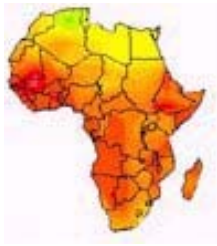
Despite the fact that security of land tenure is required for agricultural production and poverty eradication, cases of land tenure insecurity have been reported in the sub-region. What are the major sources of insecurity of rights to land of farmers under the current land tenure systems in the sub-region? What have the governments done to improve land tenure security of farmers? What is the status of women's land rights under the current land tenure systems? What are the barriers to women acquiring land rights under the current land tenure systems? What has been done to improve the land rights of women? This technical publication attempts to provide essential information on these central questions. The technical publication describes the major sources of land tenure insecurity in six selected countries: Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa. The publication presents a summary of the specific initiatives that the study countries are adopting to improve land tenure security of farmers and women's land rights. It offers recommendations on strategies that can be adopted by countries to improve land tenure security of the farmers in general and of the minority groups and women in particular.

[Managing rivers wisely](#). The World Wide Fund for Nature International's Living Waters Programme has recently published a book on Integrated River Basin Management. The well-illustrated 94-page softcover work begins with a summary of the global freshwater crisis and briefly describes the principles of IRBM. The book distills 11 'lessons' from 14 case studies from around the world. People who need the printed edition can obtain it free of charge from Berna Heikamp (bheikamp@wwf.nl) of the Living Waters Programme. More immediately, all of its parts can be downloaded in PDF chapter by chapter, by selecting individual case studies (in English) and/or the "Introduction & Synthesis" (in English, French or Spanish).

[Getting Serious About Meetings the Millenium Development Goals - A CDF Progress Report](#)

This report reviews the implementation of the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) principles in 48 low-income countries. It identifies six areas for increased attention:

- A long-term development perspective guiding shorter-term actions is often missing;
- It can take years to achieve a strong dialogue among stakeholders on the national strategy;
- National dialogue should be encouraged, with explicit linkages between consultations and permanent government institutions;
- At present, analytical work tends to be produced with limited country leadership;
- Investment projects are likely to continue to play a significant role in development, but often remain outside of strategy processes;



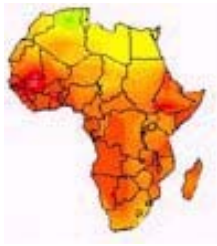
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- Few countries have adequate data and integrated and transparent systems to monitor progress toward their longterm goals.

Conferences, Events

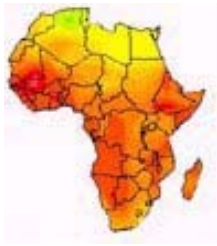
Items newly added each month to this listing of events will be marked * **NEW** * (starting next issue)

Date	Location	Event
January 2004		
12-16 January	Capetown, South Africa	<u>Idlelo - The First African Conference on the Digital Commons</u> Organized by the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), the African Virtual Open Initiatives and Resources (AVOIR) project at the University of the Western Cape and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). If you are working on an open source project, you are encouraged to <u>register</u> your project. The conference will address the challenges and opportunities of the creation and use of free / open source software and open content and their development potential for Africa. For additional information, contact: Bildad Kagai, Coordinator, Free Software and open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), Email: <u>fossfa@fossfa.org</u>
16 January		<u>Call for papers</u> Abstracts for the Annual ESRI User Conference have been extended to January 16, 2004. The conference is from August 9-13, 2004
February 2004		
2-6 February	Bangalore, India	<u>7th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference</u> Focus: Spatial Technologies, Applications and Policies
9-11 February	Marrakech, Morocco	<u>Soil Information</u> : a basis for better land management and prevention of desertification in the mediterranean environment
14-17 February	Khartoum, Sudan	<u>Management and Development of Municipal Services and Public Utilities in Arab Citites</u> , in conjunction with the 13th General Conference of Arab Towns Organization
17-19 February	Johannesburg, South Africa	<u>SatCom Africa 2004</u>
23-27 February	Capetown, South Africa	<u>GEO-3</u> . The ad hoc intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) will hold its third meeting. The meeting will further the development of a 10-year plan to implement a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or set of systems.
24-27 February	Brazzaville, Republic of Congo	<u>Global Workshop on Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies and Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest Management</u> . This country-led initiative will seek to develop: a more precise list of key technologies related to forests; an initial estimate identifying the obstacles and establishing the conditions of a successful transfer of these key technologies; and a framework that would encourage the successful implementation of the technologies and knowledge identified and requested. Contact: Jean Noel Marien, Workshop Secretariat, <u>marien.ur2pi@cg.celtelplus.com</u>
25-27 February	Vienna, Austria	<u>CORP2004</u> : 9th international symposion on information and communication technologies in urban and spatial planning and impacts of ICT on physical space
26-28 February	Tours, France	<u>IMTA Global Conference and Trade Show</u>



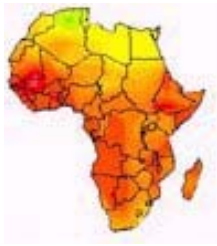
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		Facing the Future - A Mapping Challenge For more information. Contact Mike Cranidge, Executive Director IMTA (EAME), imtaeurope@btinternet.com , International Map Trade Association, imta@maptrade.org
29 February		Deadline for Abstracts for the 13th International Congress of the Names Society of Southern Africa, September 27-30, 2004 (see details below)
March 2004		
1-4 March	Berne, Switzerland	<u>IGS Symposium & Technical Workshop 2004</u> Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International GPS Service. The Symposium will recognize the unique history of the IGS as well as looking towards the future and what is on the horizon for an international GNSS services in the next decade. The Technical Workshop Series will focus in detail on many critical issues, analysis results, network/communication aspects, data systems, and the various applications addressed by the Projects, Working Groups, and Coordinators of the IGS. Abstract deadline: January 16, 2004.
4-5 March	Accra, Ghana	<u>The 3rd International Conference on Information Technology and Economic Development</u> . The three-day conference will explore how information and communications technologies may be employed to promote economic development. The 4 tracks will be Harnessing ICT for Development, National Strategies for ICT Policy Development, Africa and ICT Market Development and ICT for National, Regional and International Networking for Development.
7-13 March	Durban, South Africa	<u>Empowering People for Change: The BirdLife International World Conservation Conference & Global Partnership Meeting</u>
16-19 March	Nairobi, Kenya	The <u>Kenya National ICT Convention</u> Incorporating The African e-Commerce Forum (regional) and ea.telecom: The East African Telecommunications & Broadcasting Exhibition & Conference (regional). Organised by AITEC under the auspices of the ICT Board of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance. The Kenya National ICT Convention will be the culmination of a series of national sector-focused ICT conferences convened by the National ICT Board to drive forward effective ICT applications and solutions to underpin Kenya's economic transformation into an electronically empowered economy competing effectively in the world economy and providing increased employment opportunities for its citizens.
17-20 March	Alexandria, Egypt	http://www.millenniumassessment.org/2/about.meetings.bridging.aspx Bridging Scales and Epistemologies Conference: Linking Local Knowledge and Global Science in Multi-Scale Assessments
24-26 March	Antwerp, Belgium	<u>International SPOT 4/5 - VEGETATION Users Conference</u> under the auspices of OSTC / CNES / SNSB / ASI / EC. This Conference is the second dedicated forum where users of the SPOT4/5-VEGETATION 1 and 2 data have the opportunity to present the results of their research and development efforts as well as their operational applications, and exchange experiences and expectations. Deadline for the submission of abstracts: January 31st, 2004
26-29 March	Washington, DC	<u>GDIN2004. Sixth Conference of the Global Disaster Information Network</u> . Global Disaster Information Network (<u>GDIN</u>) is an organization that is dedicated to improving the flow of information before and during natural disasters. Conference themes include: emergency telecommunications, disaster manager needs, the UN International Strategy on Disaster Reduction, information management (including homeland security), urban search and rescue, and many more. Contact: gdin2003@hotmail.com [the GDIN Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Government of South Africa



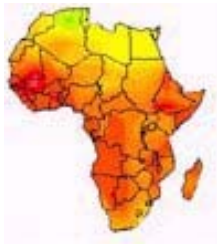
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18-22 March	Dakar, Senegal	has offered to host the 7th GDIN Conference]. First Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Forum . The objectives of this forum are: to draw lessons on how successful water, sanitation and hygiene programs, sector reforms and development partnerships are leading to the eradication of poverty; and to strengthen regional and national partnership initiatives aimed at attaining the goals of the WSSD.
April 2004		
1-3 April	Kampala, Uganda	Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020 Organized by 2020 Vision Initiative of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC. Contact Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Head, 2020 Vision Initiative, r.pandya-lorch@cgiar.org .
4-8 April	Khartoum, Sudan	United Nations/European Space Agency/Government of Sudan Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Natural Resources Management, Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Management . Organized jointly by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Remote Sensing Authority, National Center for Research - Sudan, co-organized together with the European Space Agency.
20-29 April	New York, NY, USA	The Twenty-second Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/englishUNGEGN.pdf http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/frenchUNGEGN.pdf (français)
29 April – 1 May	Heraklion, Crete, Greece	7th AGILE Conference on GI Science
May 2004		
May/June 2004 (dates to be determined)	Cape Town, South Africa	Third African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference The theme of the conference is proposed to be Evaluation for Effective Development in Africa
10-12 May	Johor, Malaysia	7th Conference on GIS and Developing Countries: GISDECO 2004 , on GIS Capacity Building and Infrastructure. GISDECO Secretariat: Email :b-haris@utm.my. General information on GISDECO or details of past events please see: http://www.itc.nl/gisdeco/ or email Richard Sliuzas, GISDECO Int'l coordinator at GISDECO@itc.nl.
12-14 May	Miami Beach, Florida	Geospatial World 2004 Intergraph Mapping and Geospatial Solutions and the Intergraph GeoSpatial Users Community are organizing the fourth annual GeoSpatial World, themed, "Open. Solutions. Exchange." The program for GeoSpatial World will address open technology and standards, demonstrate proven industry solutions, and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise with users from around the world.
22-27 May	Athens, Greece	FIG 27th Working Week The theme and programme covers all ten FIG Commissions (professional practice; professional education; spatial information and management; hydrography; positioning and measurement; engineering surveys; cadastre and land management; spatial planning and development; valuation and the management of real estate; and construction economics and management).
June 2004		
2-7 June	Orleans, France	20th Colloquium of Africa Geology - First circular / 20eme Colloque de Geologie Afrique - Cirulaire premiere. Symposia topics include: Geodynamics of Africa; Earth Resources and Sustainable Development of Africa; Geohazards, Environmental management, Paleoclimatology and Human



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		Evolution in Africa; and Geoscience Education in Africa. There will also be workshops: 1) The future role of African Geological and Mining Surveys, 2) Earth resources, sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa, 3) Geoscientific Maps of Africa including Tectonic map of Africa (CGMW), and 4) Initiative for integrated research projects in Africa (CNRS-INSU, Univ., IRD, IFREMER, BRGM, etc.).
7-9 June	Gavle, Sweden	Geoinformatics 2004 : Geospatial Information Research: Bridging the Pacific and Atlantic, 12th International Conference on Geomatics.
July 2004		
8-9 July	Rabat, Morocco	Conference on Tele-Health and Satellites Based on the French project RED GEMS (Re-Emergent Diseases Global Environment Monitoring form Space) it will be an in-depth concentration on tele-medicine and tele-epidemiology.
12-16 July	Johannesburg, South Africa	GEOSCIENCE AFRICA 2004 The conference will embrace several parallel symposia catering for different areas of specialization, including economic geology, palaeontology, tectonics, geophysics, sedimentology, geohydrology, geological education and geomorphology, together forming the Geoscientific Forum. University of the Witwatersrand
12-23 July	Istanbul, Turkey	XXth International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Congress -Geo-Imagery: Bridging Continents. Contact: oaltan@srv.ins.itu.edu.tr
August 2004		
9-13 August	San Diego, California, USA	ESRI International User Conference
September 2004		
15-17 September	Agro-Montpellier, France	Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping The Workshop (GW-DSM) aims to discuss and further develop new rapid and economic methods for digitally mapping soil classes and attributes (and their uncertainties) particularly at resolutions of 20 metres to 500 metres. The Workshop should be of interest to all those concerned in the future of soil resource assessment. For expressions of interest, and more details, contact Philippe Lagacherie, lagacherie@ensam.inra.fr .
18-22 September	Geneva, Switzerland	40th Annual Congress of International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISoCaRP). Theme: 'Management of Urban Regions'
19-24 September	Marrakech, Morocco	The World Water Congress , sponsored by the International Water Association (IWA), will bring together all those interested in sustainable water resources management. Topics to be discussed include: operating water and wastewater systems; integrated water resource and river basin management; and water and health.
27-30 September	Maputo, Mozambique	13th International Congress of the Names Society of Southern Africa . Contact: DINAGECA , dinageca@teledata.mz
October 2004		
7-8 October	Baveno, Italy (JRC)	ISO/TC211 19th Plenary
18-21 October	Nairobi, Kenya	5th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference . Jointly hosted by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Ministries of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife and of Lands and Settlement in Kenya, and UNESCO/UNEP Office, Nairobi. The theme of the 5th AARSE Conference is "The Role of Geo-Information Technologies (GIT) in the New Partnership for African



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		Development (NEPAD)". Contact: rcmrd@rcmrd.org or ottichilo@rcmrd.org
20-24 October	Udine, Italy	Agro Environ 2004: Role of Multi-purpose Agriculture in Sustaining Global Environment . The Symposium covers a wide range of topics addressing key environmental and agricultural issues through applying new technologies that aim at sustaining agricultural systems, monitoring environment and conserving natural resources. Participants are invited to submit papers, coherent with the above said objectives and topics, that will be published in the proceedings. E-mail address: agroenv@uniud.it .
21-23 October	Geneva, Switzerland	EnviroInfo 2004 - 18th International Conference on Informatics for Environmental Protection The 2004 symposium will focus on 'sharing': sharing information technologies, sharing data and knowledge. Organized by the CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Deadline for submission of abstracts: Feb. 2004
November 2004		
8-10 November	Berlin, Germany	19th CODATA International Conference (Committee on Data for Science and Technology)

Please mention SDI-Africa in any correspondence you may have on items in this issue.

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