

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

SDI-Africa Newsletter

May 2004

Vol. 3, No. 5

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://fgdc3.er.usgs.gov/Registration/>
To unsubscribe, or change your email address, contact: lancekt@aya.yale.edu.

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.

I 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: <http://www.gsdi.org/pubs2.html#SDINEWS>

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

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Carmelle Cote, ESRI (USA); Walter Odede (Kenya); Reuben Mavima, SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit (Zimbabwe); Wilson Munyaradzi, WorldWide Fund for Nature, Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (SARPO) (Zimbabwe); Aster Gebremariam, UN-Water/Africa Secretariat, Sustainable Development Division, UNECA (Ethiopia); and Remetey-Fülöpp, Department of Lands and Mapping, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Hungary) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

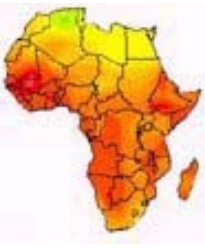
[5th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment \(AARSE\) Conference](#), 18-22 October 2004

Call for Abstracts extended to 31 May 2004 (from 1 May 2004) Anyone interested in making a paper presentation should send an abstract or synopsis (no more than 50 –100 words in electronic format to the AARSE Conference Secretariat. Specifically, researchers, including M.Sc. and PhD students from Africa, are encouraged to consider presenting papers from their theses at this conference. See [guidelines for authors](#). The main goal of this conference is to promote the use of geo-information and ICT technologies in sustainable development and management of Africa and its environment. The conference will put strong emphasis on the applications of various remotely sensed data (e.g., optical, microwave, hyperspectral; high to low resolution data) in resources assessment, management and monitoring. It will also explore the challenges and options for bridging the information technology gap that currently exists on the continent.

[Summary of SADC SDI news from RRSU](#)

SADC Regional Remote Sensing Unit (RRSU) sent out a request to collaborating partners in the SADC region for updates, and several responded (not all, unfortunately, but some). There are a lot of SDI activities to look forward to in the coming weeks:

- Botswana is organizing a GIS Coordination Seminar for 27 May 2004, and their Metadata Service is now online (though with a limited amount of records) – see [Botswana's NSDI website](#) for more details.



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

- Zimbabwe has scheduled an SDI Outreach workshop for 4 June 2004, and the Standards Association of Zimbabwe has formally constituted a technical committee working on digital mapping standards for Zimbabwe.
- Three metadata/clearinghouse workshops are scheduled for Lesotho, Swaziland, and Tanzania in June.
- Namibia has scheduled an NSDI meeting for 17 May 2004.
- And South Africa is planning an SDI conference tentatively for September 2004

[Summary of work being done by WWF-SARPO's GIS/Remote Sensing Unit](#), which includes the generation of metadata for the Miombo Ecoregion Conservation Programme. Experts delineated twenty-six areas of biological significance (ABS) based on a convergence of five taxon groups, which included birds, mammals, invertebrates, herpetofauna, and plants. Maps showing areas rich in any of the above taxa were produced and data about the data was also compiled.

[Cerimónia de Lançamento do Programa de Digitalização do Cadastro Nacional de Terras](#) (Discurso da Primeira-Ministra, Dra. Luísa Dias Diogo), Maputo, Mozambique, 23 de Abril de 2004

Ceremony of the Launch of the Program for the Digitization of the National Lands Registry/Cadastre (in Portuguese), Maputo, Mozambique, 23 de Abril de 2004

[Land Information Management System Infrastructure \(example of an opportunity for a changing world in Africa\)](#), presented by José Elias Mucombo, National (General) Director of Dinageca – Republic of Mozambique

The Government Programme 2000-2004 defined 'Land' as one of the indispensable resources for production of agro-cattle breeding, for forestry and faunal exploitation, for the conservation and maintenance of the biodiversity, of ecological equity and for the construction of economical, social and habitation infra-structures. In addition, the Programme states that the country's land management policy must guarantee the use of land rights to all singular and collective entities, nationals and foreign, those have economical and social initiatives for the benefit of the Mozambican People. The National Directorate of Geography and Cadastre (Dinageca), as the main institution responsible for the establishment, maintenance and updating of the national land cadastre in Mozambique, has lead the Government of Mozambique to strengthen the institution's ability to deliver its cross-sectorial mandate on administration and management of the country's most important and precious natural resources. Thus, the current mandate for Dinageca is to design and build a modern, efficient, cross-sectorial and transparent Land Information Management System for:

- Internal land administration and land management responsibilities within the national directorate and its provincial offices by cross-checking and validating all land rights registration applications;
- Inter- and intra-governmental land and other natural resources administration and management through cross-checking and validating all concessions (land, forestry and wildlife, water resources, mineral resources, etc.);
- Inter- and intra-governmental natural resources planning and management activities;
- Provision of a consistent database of land and other natural resources utilization for all users.

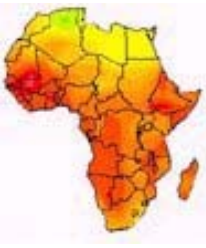
Results from the [United Nations/European Space Agency/Government of Sudan Regional Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Natural Resources Management, Environmental Monitoring and Disaster Management](#), Khartoum, Sudan, 4 – 8 April 2004

[Online Presentations and Papers](#) [take a moment to review the presentations].

[EU will invest euro 21 million in developing Africa's internet infrastructure](#) (Public Technology.net)

April 26, 2004-As part of its ongoing commitment to fighting poverty and promoting economic development in Africa, the European Commission has approved programmes amounting to over € 230 million which include action to help bridge the digital divide in several African countries. A regional ICT programme in Eastern and Southern Africa will widen access to the internet, increase connection speeds, and support national authorities in developing information technology policies. Funds will be devoted to:

- providing high-speed internet connectivity to key regional stakeholders;
- establishing regional internet portals, information clearing houses and database-driven websites for use by both businesses and policy-makers;
- funding ICT training for employees in small- and medium-sized enterprises; and
- developing ICT policy guidelines through working groups co-ordinated at a regional level.



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[DEPHA April 2004 newsletter - Data Exchange Platform for the Horn of Africa](#)

A lot of geo-referenced files have been already produced by UN Agencies, although accessibility and common standards remain a major problem whenever users try to produce high quality outputs. As a first attempt to harmonize formats in order to promote data exchange and use, [GEO DEPOT](#) has compiled an initial data set that covers the countries of the Horn of Africa. In order to provide the same sets of data for all the countries of the Horn of Africa they posted DCW derived data sets originated at a scale of 1:1,000,000. We hope to be able to improve them as soon as possible. Files can be downloaded directly from this site. Larger files that have not been posted can be requested from the GEO DEPOT secretariat. All the files are in geographic projection, wgs84 datum. Vector files are in ArcView shape file format, while raster files are geo-tif. Metadata are available for each layer.

-- News from Europe (towards inter-regional SDI cross-fertilization/knowledge exchange)

The [CELKCenter \(Center European Land Knowledge Center\)](#) recently held a conference "[Data Conversion of Geographical Cadastre Information in Central and Eastern Europe](#)" on April 16-17, 2004. All the presentations are available online and worth reviewing for insights and lessons. The CelkCenter's goal is to serve the Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries as an information, research, and knowledge management center on land market economics, land management, property rights and relevant policy issues. The CelkCenter welcomes the exchange of views and experiences with every part of the World. The Center is significantly supported not only by a World Bank grant, but also by the FAO, and the Hungarian Government. The establishment of the CelkCenter as a legal institution is underway.

Note also: [Recommended publication] [Cadastral Geographic Information Systems in Europe: a comprehensive outlook by country](#) -- recently released EUROGI [[European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information](#)] Cadastral GIS Survey in the European Union containing information about the situation related to the subject in 20 European countries from the different national GI Association perspectives. For more SDI information from Europe, see the [April 2004 EUROGI newsletter](#)

[Spatial Data Infrastructure Course - materials online](#)

The overall aim of this course is to acquaint those taking the course with spatial data infrastructures. This course deals with the main concepts of SDI - its components and its purposes. In addition to this, several SDI-aspects are studied and analyzed, such as: spatial datasets, data acquisition, SDI-technology, SDI-policy, SDI-use, standardization and judicial issues.

[The Earth Observation Summit II](#) was held on Sunday, April 25th, 2004 at Hotel Okura in Tokyo, Japan. 43 countries from G8, Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, etc and the European Commission participated in the Summit. Prime Minister KOIZUMI stressed the importance of cooperation among all nations and international organizations to achieve sustainable development, the necessity of Earth observation to cope with global issues, the significance of this epoch-making Summit and the expectations of building the foundations for the Earth observation system of systems that benefits our future. The [Framework for a 10-Year Implementation Plan](#) and the [Communique of the Earth Observation Summit II](#) were adopted.

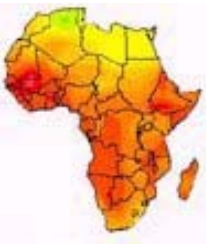
[Ad Hoc Group on Earth Observations](#)

Gaps in understanding the earth's complex natural systems limit our knowledge of how to address many concerns, such as drought, disease outbreaks, agricultural production, and energy challenges, among others. At a Summit in mid-2003, 33 nations and the European Commission adopted a Declaration that affirms political commitment to move toward the development of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained earth observation system or systems. To further this goal, the Summit participants launched the intergovernmental ad-hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to develop a ten-year Implementation Plan. The group, co-chaired by the United States, the European Commission, Japan, and South Africa, began by organizing five subgroups, as well as a Secretariat to support its activities. GEO hopes to integrate existing networks that monitor land, sea, and sky, as well as to identify remaining observational gaps. A framework for the Implementation Plan was presented in Tokyo in Spring 2004, and the full plan will be presented at a GEO ministerial Summit in late 2004. For more information, contact the GEO Secretariat Office, geosec@noaa.gov, and visit the website. Also, see reports from [GEO sub-groups](#):

[User Requirements and Outreach](#)

[Architecture](#)

[Data Utilization](#)



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

Hydro Data Model: [Hydro Data Model Chapter](#) March 12, 2004

With the ArcGIS platform, ESRI's vision is to build many industry-specific data models. Their basic goals are to simplify the process of implementing projects, and to promote and support standards that exist in our user communities. Academic and industry leaders collaborate with ESRI to create and design data model templates that can be used with one GIS platform. The result is a set of data model structures that can be implemented for each of the industries and scientific disciplines that ESRI serves. Read about the goals and process in the [Introduction to ArcGIS Data Models](#), and visit the [Data Model tips and tricks](#) page designed as a resource for common methods and best practices. Visit the [ESRI data model discussion forum](#) to share your ideas, thoughts, and questions with other users.

The [Millennium Institute's Threshold 21 \(T21\) Integrated Computer Development Model](#) is a quantitative tool for integrated, comprehensive development and policy planning. The model is transparent, collaborative, interconnected, valid, and customizable. Its purpose is to support the larger process of planning by facilitating information collection and organization and analysis of development strategies. It can provide insight into the potential impact of development policies and strategies relative to desired goals and objectives. Several "run only" models are currently available for [download](#). These programs and instructions are provided for demonstration purposes only. The "run only" models can be used by anyone for experimenting with scenarios for different national investment options. The "research" versions of the models are available only with a license, and offer the user greatly extended options for modifying and expanding the model. For more information on building a model for a country, region, or institution, contact the [Millennium Institute](#), also check the [frequently asked questions](#) page. See also: [Prediction Tool Puts Development in Hands of Locals](#)

[Geographic Information Systems](#), First Edition, 1991 (converted to html in 2001)

You can download the entire text c/o John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[The development of an innovative computer based "Integrated Water Resources Management System \(IWRMS\) in semiarid catchments \(Italy, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe\) for water resources analyses and prognostic scenario planning" \(1997-2000\)](#)

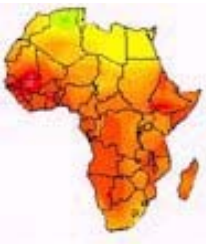
The project had the following general objectives and techniques:

- Classifying and investigating landuse, degraded areas and settlements by means of remote sensing techniques, aerial photograph interpretation (API) and linkage with GIS.
- Simulating hydrological and erosion dynamics using the deterministic, physically based ACRU-model enhanced by OMS with a graphical user interface (GUI) and validating results via remote sensing.
- Developing a GIS-based management decision support system to identify competing stakeholder's water demands and to address water allocation conflicts with respect to socio-economic aspects.

[Results of IWMRS work tasks](#)

[A Spatial Decision Support System for Radar-meteorology Data in South Africa](#)

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) operates a radar station network, providing data continuity back to 1994, which is unique for southern Africa. The Geographical Resources Analysis Support System (GRASS) GIS was introduced to the SAWS "Meteorological Systems and Technology" (METSYS) radar research center in 1999 where it is still used for meteorologic research. The predominantly convective nature of precipitation in southern Africa creates a public demand for severe weather information systems for convective cells. Such a system was set up in GRASS GIS, using rule-based expert systems to classify convective clouds. It isolates storm cells from stacks of reflectivity fields and derives information about their development stages. This data is both archived and also used to send out customised messages to target groups in specific areas of interest. Further, nationwide HTML-maps can be created, serving as an interactive front-end for a web-based weather information system. This service can also be made accessible from remote locations by broadcasting it as a datastream from satellite through the Worldspace digital radio system.



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[A hierarchical method for soil erosion assessment and spatial risk modelling : a case study of Kiambu District in Kenya](#) (Wageningen University [dissertation](#))

Though a lot has been done and achieved in erosion research and control in Kenya, most of the erosion research methods have in the past put emphasis more on quantifying soil loss or measuring soil erosion, rather than pinpointing to areas that are likely to suffer soil erosion. In most cases the erosion processes have been assumed to occur in a uniform manner at all levels of the landscape hierarchy, and hence the results of one level observation can be factored to cover other levels for which data was not collected. This has resulted in many people extrapolating site-specific point data to cover wider geographic regions, assuming uniformity of the erosion process over the region. Another interesting aspect of soil erosion is that though most attention is normally put on the negative effects of soil erosion, soil erosion has also some beneficial effects. For example, the deposition of eroded soil material to lower areas has sometimes improved the quality of the soil receiving the sediment, thereby improving agricultural productivity of the depositional areas. There have however been suggestions that the problem of soil erosion has been exaggerated and not proven to actually diminish crop yields against the background of improved crop productivity improvement techniques. All these schisms makes it necessary to engage in soil erosion research, either to disprove the sceptics or to provide other means of assessing and viewing the problem of soil erosion.

The general objective of the thesis was to develop and present a method, which can be used to assess the risk of water erosion for different levels of the landscape system hierarchy using spatial methods. The broad aim was to define relevant levels that form the basis for predicting and managing soil erosion and controlling its risk.

[Application of GIS in Ecotourism Developemnt Decisions: Evidence from the Pearl of Africa](#)

This study demonstrates the uses of geographical information system (GIS) and multi-criterion decision-making framework (MCDM) in solving a spatial multiobjective problem of ranking and prioritizing Uganda's national parks for ecotourism development.

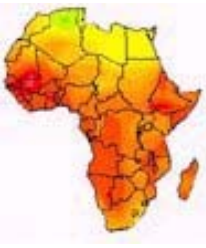
Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[Research Grants Program](#) of the [Center for Tropical Forest Science \(CTFS\) of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute](#). This grants program is intended to provide opportunities for senior researchers and graduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students to utilize existing [Forest Dynamics Plots](#) and to conduct research with scientists associated with these plots. The majority of the CTFS Research Grants will be in the \$3,000-\$15,000 range. Deadline for the CTFS Research Grants Program is [August 31, 2004](#).

[Third World Academy of Sciences \(TWAS\) Research Units in Least Developed Countries](#)

The overall purpose of the research units is to build and sustain over a long period units of scientific excellence in a number of least developed countries (LDCs) and to achieve a critical mass of highly qualified and innovative scientists who will be able to better address real-life problems facing the countries. A research unit selected will receive a grant of up to US\$30,000 for the first year. The grant can be renewed twice, subject to receiving favourable evaluation by experts of the activities carried out with the grant during the year. Contact: Mrs M.T. Mahdavi, mahdavi@twas.org. Closing Date: [31 May 2004](#).

Has your country already applied a proposal to the [Poverty Reduction Strategy Trust Fund \(PRSTF\)](#)? (see [list of countries](#) who have). If your country has not yet submitted a proposal, and if your country is eligible to borrow from IDA, this may be an opportunity for you (for the use of geospatial technologies to improve/support poverty reduction strategies). In 2001, this multi-donor trust fund was set up to support capacity building in low income countries that are undertaking poverty reduction strategies. The PRSTF allows for each country to apply for up to US\$500,000 over a two year period. The Trust Fund is created to assist countries in preparing and implementing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), which apply Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) principles in low- income countries. The Trust Fund will support and strengthen the capacity of Governments and non governmental organizations (NGO) involved in the PRSP process to (1) facilitate the process of PRSP preparation, for example through stakeholder consultations, measurement and analysis of poverty, improved public expenditure management; and costing of programs; (2) develop and institutionalize participatory processes with local NGOs and communities; and (3) implement poverty reduction strategies and PRSP programs, for example through improved monitoring and



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

evaluation of policies and programs. It will do so by financing local and external consultants, training of local staff, and secondments to institutions with expertise in poverty reduction; missions between PRSP countries; and preparation and translation of related documents.

[JNCASR-COSTED Fellowship Programme](#)

This fellowship programme is jointly instituted by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) and the Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED) to foster free mobility and exchange of scientists from developing countries and to promote South-South co-operation. The fellowship covers short-term (up to 3 months) research, training or participatory research work in physical, chemical and biological sciences in reputed scientific institutions in India including the JNCASR. The programme is open to scientists, teachers and research scholars in the developing countries in Asian, African, Arab and Latin American regions. Applicant must be a scientist, teacher or a research scholar affiliated to a scientific or academic institution in a developing country in Asia (other than India), Africa, Latin America and Arab region. [Application forms](#) may be obtained online and from COSTED Central Secretariat, 24 Gandhi Mandapam Road, Chennai 600 025, India Tel:91-44-4430228/4419466, Fax:91-44-4914543, Email: costed@vsnl.com. The deadlines for receipt of applications are 30 June and 31 December each year.

[Engineering Information Foundation Grants](#)

Grant activity supports developmental projects, instructional projects, and training programs in engineering education and research that fit our fields of interest. These currently include the availability and use of published information, women in engineering, and information access in developing countries. You may want to review the recent grants to give you a better idea of the kinds of projects that interest the Foundation. They may infrequently sponsor proposals that do not fit strictly within our guidelines. Suggested amounts for grants are between \$5,000 and \$50,000. You are encouraged to attract a matching grant from another source, if necessary. In 2003 and 2004, grants are expected to be more in the \$5,000-\$25,000 range due to the tough economic climate. The Directors generally meet in April, August, and November of every year. To allow time for review, deadlines for submissions are: February 28, June 30, September 30.

[2004 Competition Announcement - " 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:

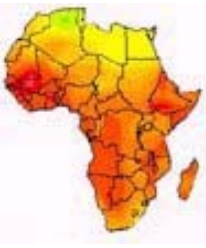
- 1) integrates different streams of science to assess fundamental questions in the ecological, political, and social foundations for sustainable social-ecological systems, and
- 2) employs unique advantages of electronic publishing and facilities of the WEB to help communicate complex ideas simply. Deadline for submissions: 30 June 2004.

Training Opportunities

[UN-Water/Africa Metadata and Clearing House Training Workshop for Central Africa](#), Yaounde, Cameroun, 15-17 June 2004. In the Context of the Netherlands funded project, ECA has established the African Water Resources Information System/Clearing House. The purpose is to create "a one-stop shop" for information on Africa's water resources in which all stakeholders can contribute to or download from (<http://www.uneca.org/awich>). The first phase of setting up a website is almost complete and the second phase has started. During this second phase the following activities are envisaged:

- Set up Sub-Regional nodes for the Information system.
- Build capacity within the Sub-Regions, based on existing water networks and organizations, to utilize and contribute to the Information system on a routine but regular basis.
- Disseminate information of the Clearing House.
- Conduct Training Workshops.

The first of these workshops is tentatively planned for 15-17 June 2004, in Yaoude, Cameroun, for Central African countries. The next will be in Accra, Ghana for West African countries in August. Sponsored openings for the Central



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

African workshop are still available for organizations responsible for water and geoinformation rrmation development and dissemination, in Cameroun, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe. If your institution is from one of these countries, and you or a colleague are interested in participating in this training workshop, send a completed [application form](#) for each nominee by 12 May 2004 to Aster Gebremariam, agebremariam@uneca.org, FAX: (+251 510350). There will be a selection process and UN-Water/Africa will sponsor 2 selected participants from each of these countries -- one GeoInfo professional and one Water professional. The sponsorship covers economy class air fare, accommodation, and DSA (daily subsistence allowance). Co-sponsorship is still open to other interested entities. Therefore, interested experts are encouraged to contact organizations like UNEP, UNESCO, IGAD and IW-LEARN to see if co-sponsorship of the training is a possibility.

[Land Administration and Geographical Information \(Six Week Course offered by Swedesurvey\)](#), September 6 September - 15 October 2004, Gavle, Sweden. The main purpose of the course is to give professionals in developing countries knowledge of the benefits of implementing or improving a cadastral or land information system and practical experience of available technology. It focuses on modern technical and administrative methods for developing such systems for multipurpose use. It will be conducted in English and is designed primarily for upper and middle management staff involved in planning and implementing cadastral systems. The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs including board and lodging. The Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs. International travel cost to and from Sweden is not to be covered by Sida. The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport as well as costs for personal expenses in Sweden. Closing date for [applications](#) is 24 May, 2004. Note: Swedesurvey's other 2-week seminar 'Strategic Planning and Management of Land Administration and Geographical Information Organisations' is pending during 2004 since Sida, the financier, is making an evaluation of the seminar. Swedesurvey hopes to offer this seminar in 2005. For any question regarding Swedesurvey's Training Programmes, contact: Mr Kjell Vikman, Course Manager, Tel +46 26 63 37 65, kjell.vikman@swedesurvey.se, Ms Gerd Lindroos, Course Administrator, Tel +46 26 63 38 66, gerd.lindroos@swedesurvey.se.

Swedesurvey is also offering the following courses. However the deadline for applications has already passed. **This is only to let you know that this training is taking place. Perhaps you can find out if someone from your country is participating and arrange to learn from that person when s/he returns. [Unfortunately, I did not learn of this training with sufficient advance to include in the newsletter].

[Strategic Planning and Management of Land Administration and Geographical Information Organisation](#),

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10-14 May 2004. The overall objective of the workshop is to further contribute to a sustainable and sound economic development in developing countries. To achieve this, two of the prerequisites are improved Land Administration and establish-ment of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, NSDI. The seminar is a follow-up activity to improve the development of current training programmes as well as to continue to support the development of Land Administration and NSDI in the participating countries.

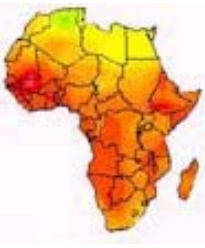
[Land Administration and Geographical Information](#), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10-14 May 2004

Employment Opportunities

[Chief of Branch](#), D-1, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA), United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya. The incumbent reports to the Director, DEWA. Requirements: at least 15 years experience in environmental assessment and reporting, planning or resource management; proven experience of progressive responsibility for integrated environmental assessment at international level, including capacity building and partnership development for integrated environmental assessment in the last five years. Deadline: May 30, 2004.

[Associate Research Scientist / Senior Staff Associate](#), New York, NY

Center for International Earth Science Information Network ([CIESIN](#)) Columbia University is seeking an individual with proven scientific and project management abilities to lead a major poverty mapping project. Responsibilities will include production of a global poverty map utilizing subnational spatial data; preparation of a compendium of high-resolution poverty maps; and analysis of the relationship between the spatial distribution of poverty and biophysical features such as soil fertility, water availability, and transportation access. The work will be carried out in close



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

collaboration with the United Nations Millennium Project and the World Bank. Interaction with other partners will also be essential. The position requires proven experience integrating socioeconomic and biophysical spatial data; demonstrated oral and written communication skills; experience with major statistical analysis software (for example STATA, SPSS, SAS, S-Plus); experience with ArcGIS or equivalent spatial analysis software; and experience in the conception, design, implementation, analysis and reporting of complex research projects. To apply, submit by electronic format: a letter of application including position reference number 670 04 003, a C.V. that includes email address; a statement of research interest (1 page) and career objectives (up to 3 pages); and contact information for three references to: personnel@admin.ldeo.columbia.edu with position number 670 04 003 also in the subject line. Screening will begin in mid-May.

Chef d'équipe - Coordinateur National SIRSA, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Pour le projet SIRSA – Système d'information rurale et de sécurité alimentaire, TRANSTEC est à la recherche d'un(e): Chef d'équipe - Coordinateur National SIRSA (24 mois). L'objectif du projet est la mise en place d'un système d'information dans les 8 régions agro écologiques (GTDR) des provinces de Fianarantsoa et de Tuléar, ayant pour mission de rassembler, d'élargir et d'intégrer les différentes sources de données socio-économiques existantes, tout en améliorant leur qualité, en vue d'une part, d'augmenter l'accessibilité et la transparence de l'information, et d'autre part, de renforcer les capacités d'analyse ex-ante et d'évaluation d'impact, en appui aux autorités locales, régionales et nationales, ainsi que les instances consultatives pour le pilotage des opérations de développement rural et de sécurité alimentaire. Le Chef d'équipe sera un économiste, sociologue, agro-économiste ou agronome senior (minimum 10 ans d'expérience post-universitaire):

- spécialisé dans un ou plusieurs des domaines lié au développement et gestion des systèmes d'information en matière de développement rural, production agricole, sécurité alimentaire ou développement régional.
- ayant une solide expérience dans la mise au point méthodologique et dans la mise en œuvre des enquêtes périodiques pour l'analyse et suivi de l'évolution des revenus des ménages dans différentes classes sociales, des systèmes d'alerte précoce, et/ou des systèmes d'information sur le marché.
- ayant une expérience en matière de planification régionale avec connaissance de l'application des systèmes d'information géographique (SIG);
- ayant une solide expérience dans le domaine de renforcement des capacités et de transferts de technologies, ainsi que la communication écrite.
- ayant une expérience confirmée de plusieurs années dans la gestion et direction des projets, de préférence dans le domaine de développement rural ou de renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire ;
- bonne connaissance de français, langue de travail à Madagascar ;
- nationalité d'un des pays membres de l'UE.

Si vous êtes intéressé, veuillez enregistrer votre CV sur [TRANSTEC's website](#), avec la référence SIRSA dans le champ 'commentaires' et puis envoyez une lettre de motivation à Mme Ibolya Koszta, ikoszta@transtec.be. Last Date: May 20, 2004.

Policy Research Associate, Kampala, Uganda

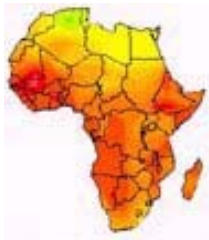
East and Southern Africa Centre on International ICT Policy (ESA CIP)

The Centre is seeking a Policy Research Associate who will contribute research, analysis and writing on ICT policy within an African context. The Associate will work closely with members of the African Bridge Consortium in establishing the research base of the organisation and disseminating findings. Required: African national; minimum 2-3 years' experience in a research environment involving substantial analytical work; excellent written and oral English; strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate with a wide range of people and work equally well as part of a team and independently; self-sufficiency in word-processing, IT, and basic office organisational matters. The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 April 2004.

Executive Director, Kampala, Uganda

East and Southern Africa Centre on International ICT Policy (ESA CIP)

The Centre is seeking an Executive Director who will assume responsibility for the setting up and management of the Centre from the African Bridge Consortium. The Executive Director will establish and maintain a range of stakeholder relationships and high-level credibility for the Centre as an exciting and key focal point for international ICT policy. Responsibility will also be held for reporting to the appropriate bodies and ensuring the longer-term sustainability of



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

the Centre. Required: Internationally recognised expert in ICT policy with experience in development policy and the use of ICT for development; minimum of 5 years relevant work experience across Africa in a multicultural environment; African national; excellent oral and written English; minimum 2 year track record in establishing, managing and developing collaborative working relationships with funding and development agencies, the private sector and Centre staff; strong administrative and financial skills demonstrated in a senior strategic role. The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 April 2004.

Other

The [International Journal of Water Resources Development \(IJWRD\) is seeking submissions](#) for a special issue on water and disasters. Contributions are encouraged in case histories, theoretical investigations, policy perspectives, institutional or risk analyses, or other discussions of hydrological disasters. The peer-reviewed issue will be released in June 2005. The deadline for submission of papers is 1 June 2004. Contact: Chennat Gopalakrishnan, University of Hawaii, 1910 East-West Rd., Sherman Lab 118, Honolulu, HI 96822; tel: 1-808-956-7497; chennat@hawaii.edu.

The East and Southern Africa Centre on International ICT Policy

The ESA CIP is an initiative of the [Catalysing Access to Information and Communications Technologies in Africa \(CATIA\)](#) programme. It is a new Centre dedicated to increasing the capacity of East and Southern African stakeholders to participate in international information and communications technology (ICT) policy-making and is being launched in Kampala, Uganda in April 2004.

[Africa's new class of power players](#) [Source: The Christian Science Monitor , September 30, 2003 edition]

Every year Africa's best and brightest leave their cities and villages for Harvard or McGill University or the London School of Economics. Some are children of privilege. Some are hand-picked by private foundations or donor nations, casting their nets for the next generation of African leaders. Others are sent by parents who have sacrificed for years to send their offspring abroad. Far from home, they sit through ethics classes, study theories of democracy, pore over law books, use state-of-the-art medical equipment, and talk about coming home and making a difference. Yet on the planet's poorest and most war-torn continent, there remains a leadership deficit. Why?

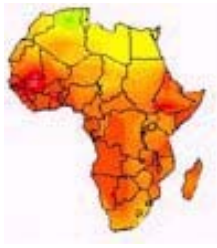
The Monitor spoke with more than a dozen of Africa's promising young leaders who studied in the West - from the head of Botswana's revolutionary AIDS program to the founder of Africa's biggest Internet company to a possible future president of Kenya - about their choice to return home. We asked them about giving up a life of comfort for a life of contribution, what obstacles they face, and what they are doing to break the continent's cycle of dysfunction.

[United Nations Development Programme's \(UNDP\) Public-Private Partnerships for the Urban Environment \(PPPUE\)](#) supports the development of partnerships at the local level. It helps governments and private sector organizations craft the approaches that best fit their local needs, based on the lessons learned in partnership arrangements around the world. PPPUE's international network, flexible design, and constant feedback mechanism contribute to the success of public-private partnerships. PPPUE works with all potential stakeholders, including investors, providers, regulators, users, and experts in small and medium-sized cities to meet the challenge of providing basic urban environmental services.

Conferences, Events

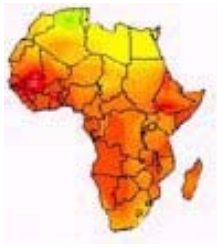
	Location	Event
May 2004		
3 May	Cairo, Egypt	Egyptian ESRI User's Conference
3-8 May	Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria	Annual Conference of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. The theme is "Expanding the spheres of Surveying and Geo-informatics for National Development" with the following sub-themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geo-information capacity utilization in the Niger Delta - Professional networking for effective planning and national development

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



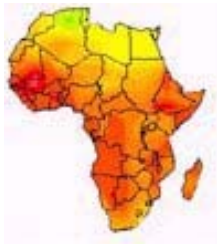
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skill acquisition for efficient geo-information management - Spatial data infrastructure for National development - Survey and geo-referencing in satellite mapping for national resources development - Adjusting national geodetic framework for satellite mapping
4-7 May	Nairobi, Kenya	<p><u>Smart City 2020 Nairobi Conference: Creating a Blueprint for the Sustainable African City</u> is a 4-day event, focusing on strategies for transforming African cities to become livable, safe, prosperous and sustainable through a comprehensive process of discussion among stakeholders, practitioners, development organizations, and theoretical researchers/academics around 12 major issues; 1. Education 2.. Environment and Aesthetics 3. Good Governance & Accountability 4. Health 5. Housing 6, Information and Communication Technology 7. Poverty Eradication 8. Safety 9. Tourism, culture and heritage. 10. Transportation 11. Waste Management 12. Water. You can now register online</p>
10-12 May	Johor, Malaysia	<p><u>7th Conference on GIS and Developing Countries: GISDECO 2004</u>, 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.</p>
10-12 May	Alexandria, Egypt	<p>DIVERSITAS workshop - to define a science agenda and launch a series of international activities on the theme of agriculture and biodiversity. <u>DIVERTAS</u> is an international global change programme dedicated to promoting biodiversity science, established under the auspices of UNESCO and ICSU (International Council for Science). Contact: Anne Larigauderie, secretariat@bibalex.org</p>
12-14 May	Miami Beach, Florida, USA	<p><u>Geospatial World 2004</u> 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.</p>
19 - 21 May * NEW *	Gaborone, Botswana	<p><u>1st Southern African Network for Training and Research on the Environment (SANTREN) Conference and Exhibition: "Challenges In Environmental Protection And Sustainable Use Of Natural Resources"</u></p>
22-27 May	Athens, Greece	<p><u>FIG 27th Working Week</u> 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).</p>
24-28 May	Cape Town, South Africa	<p><u>9th International Meeting on Statistical Climatology</u> The purpose of the meeting is to bring together climatologists and statisticians to exchange concepts and approaches to analysis of problems. The IMSC provides a forum for climatologists to present statistical problems in climatology (including meteorology and related fields) and consider the methods currently used to deal with these problems. Contact: Bruce Hewitson, imsc@egs.uct.ac.za</p>
25-28 May	Ohrid FY Repub. Macedonia	<p><u>IAHS Conference on Water Observation & Information System for Decision Support (BALWOIS)</u></p>



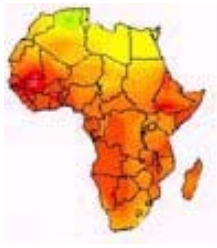
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

June 2004		
2-4 June	Innsbruck, Austria	International seminar on e-Land Administration , organised by FIG Commission 7 ('Cadastre and Land Management') in co-operation with the Austrian Society of Surveying and Geoinformation and BEV, Austria, e-land administration makes impressive progress in many countries and it is time to shape the future for the implementation of new structures and techniques and to learn from each other experiences so far. The seminar dedicates time to e-government, that might be seen as the context in which e-land administration develops. Experiences from various countries and exploring the opportunities of public private co-operation will be highlighted as well.
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 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.
9-11 June * NEW *	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	The 4th Regional Session of the Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF) for Africa Contact: Dr. Laurent Ntahuga, IUCN/EARO Regional Coordinator, Biodiversity & Species, at: Ins@iucnearo.org
July 2004		
8-9 July * NEW *	Rabat, Morocco	Conference on Tele-Health and Satellites Based on the French project RED GEMS (Re-Emergent Diseases Global Environment Monitoring from Space) it will be an in-depth concentration on tele-medicine and tele-epidemiology. First announcement
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
28-30 July	Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe	Conference on Water and Waste Management for Developing Countries – WAMDEC 2004
August 2004		
9-13 August	San Diego, California, USA	ESRI International User Conference
30 August – 3 September	Mauritius	2004 International Small Island Developing States Network Meeting (BPoA +10) . Contact: mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
September 2004		
1-4 September	Kampala, Uganda	Integrated Agricultural Research for Development--Achievements, Lessons Learnt, and Best Practice For more information, contact: NARO Conference Organizing Committee at naroconf@narosaari.org or at dgnaro@infocom.co.ug .
4-9 September	Mauritius	6th Annual African Computing & Telecommunications Summit (ACT



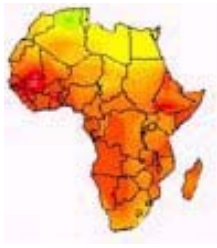
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

* NEW *		2004) The theme of the Summit will be “Developing Partnerships to Mainstream Africa’s ICT Industry.” The ACT Summit has been held in the UK, South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria in previous years. Over 2,000 African ICT professionals, managers, resellers, innovators and policy-makers have benefited from the Summit’s intensive knowledge-sharing platform. Contact: sean@aitecafrica.com
13-17 September * NEW *	Barcelona, Spain	<u>UN-HABITAT’s World Urban Forum</u>
15-17 September	Agro-Montpellier, France	<u>Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping</u> 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	<u>40th Annual Congress of International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISoCaRP)</u> . Theme: 'Management of Urban Regions'
19-24 September	Marrakech, Morocco	The <u>World Water Congress</u> , 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.
26-29 September	Cairo, Egypt	<u>The European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL)</u> is organising its 3rd Workshop on Remote Sensing for Developing Countries . The main topics will include : Adapted Mapping Methods, Monitoring Salinisation, Desertification and Erosion and DEM Generation from Remote Sensing Data.
27-30 September	Maputo, Mozambique	<u>13th International Congress of the Names Society of Southern Africa</u> . Contact: DINAGECA, dinageca@teledata.mz
30 September – 4 October * NEW *	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	AITEC Tanzania: The Tanzania Computing & Telecommunications Exhibition including, a SADC Training Workshop on Open Source Platforms for eGovernment. Contact: AITEC Tanzania Tel: +255 22 2136354, Fax: +255 22-2138340
October 2004		
1-4 October	Nairobi, Kenya	<u>Inter-regional Conference on Strategies for Enhancing Rural-urban Linkages Approach to Development and Promotion of Local Economic Development</u> Contact: contact: Ananda.Weliwita@unhabitat.org
6-7 October	Paris, France	<u>SIG 2004, Conférence Francophone ESRI</u>
7-8 October	Baveno, Italy (JRC)	<u>ISO/TC211 19th Plenary</u>
13-15 October	Cape Town, South Africa	<u>African Development and Poverty Reduction: The Macro-Micro Linkage</u> Contact: dpruconf@commerce.uct.ac.za or bontong@commerce.uct.ac.za Organized by the Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU) at the University of Cape Town, Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS), South Africa, and Cornell University (USA).
18-22 October * NEW * (revised date)	Nairobi, Kenya	<u>5th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference</u> . 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 <u>AARSE Conference</u> is "The Role of Geo-Information Technologies (GIT) in the New Partnership for African



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

		Development (NEPAD)". Contact: rcmrd@rcmrd.org or ottichilo@rcmrd.org . Fees: US \$100 (before May 31, 2004), US \$125 (from June 1-September 30, 2004), US \$150 (Walk-in at the conference), and US \$75 (AARSE fully paid members). Hotel rates . Excursions/Tours .
18–22 October	Munich, Germany	United Nations International Workshop on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management . Contact: David.Stevens@unvienna.org
20-23 October	University of Maryland, Adelphi, Maryland, USA	GIScience 2004 will bring together scientists from academia, industry, and government to analyze progress and to explore new research directions. The conference program aims to attract leading GIScience researchers from all fields to reflect the interdisciplinary breadth of GIScience, including cognitive science, computer science, engineering, geography, information science, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, social science, and statistics.
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 .
27-29 October	Chioggia, Venica, Italy	24th Urban Data Management Symposium The Urban Data Management Society, has organised international symposia at various locations in Europe in order to promote the development of information systems in local government since 1971. An important aim of UDMS has been to provide a forum for people to discuss new approaches, to consider new technologies and to share practical experiences in the field of urban data management. The focus has been on urban applications but regional and rural issues have always been well represented and have grown recently in importance.
21-23 October	Geneva, Switzerland	EnvirolInfo 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.
November 2004		
November/December 2004 (dates to be determined) * NEW *	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. Contact: info@afrea.org
3-5 November * NEW *	Johannesburg, South Africa	Emergency Services World Africa 2004 - 1st Annual Conference
8-10 November	Berlin, Germany	19th CODATA International Conference (Committee on Data for Science and Technology)
8-10 November	Pretoria, South Africa	TIGER 2004 . This effort is aimed at providing the use of Earth observation data from ESA's Envisat satellite and other ESA missions to assist in managing water resources, primarily in Africa. Co-hosted by the South African Department for Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Contact: josef.aschbacher@esa.int
8-11 November	Cape Town, South Africa	IAPSO International Workshop on Forecasting and Data Assimilation in the Benguela Current and Comparable Systems
17-18 November * NEW *	Toulouse, France	Forum ISSAT 2004 - Training for Space-Related Applications Call for papers
December 2004		
7-9 December	United Arab Emirates	Seventh ESRI Middle East & Africa User Conference



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

2005		
23-25 February 2005	Bonn, Germany	<u>International Conference on Integrated Assessment and Management of Water Resources: A North-South Analysis</u> The main objective of the conference is to analyze the challenges that are encountered in the integrated assessment and management of water resources in large river basins. By bringing together scientists and managers from North and South, it is expected that the present international research efforts concerning water related issues can be translated into practical methods and coherent approaches. The following themes will be addressed explicitly: data, stakeholders, scaling, integration, and policy. Contact Nick van de Giesen, nick@uni-bonn.de
16-21 April 2005	Cairo, Egypt	<u>FIG Working Week, XXVIII FIG General Assembly, 8th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference, ISCGM Global Map Meeting</u>
9-16 July 2005	La Coruña, España	<u>XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference</u> . <u>Call for abstracts</u> . Abstracts due 1 November 2004. A limited number of <u>travel awards</u> will be made to young cartographers who are nationals from developing countries.
19 - 23 July * NEW *	Elmina, Ghana	<u>1st Regional Biannual Conference of Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE)</u> Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges (Paysages Changeants de l'Afrique: Une Approche Commune aux Défis Divers). Abstract should be submitted electronically or via mail (English and/or French) by <u>September 30, 2004</u> . Contact: hbulley@calmit.unl.edu ; http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/index.html ; <u>Africa-iale mailing list</u>
24-29 July 2005	San Diego, CA, USA	ESRI International User Conference
29 August – 2 September 2005	Sandton, Joburg, South Africa	<u>AFRICAGIS '05</u>
16-18 November * NEW *	Tunis, Tunisia	<u>World Summit on the Information – 2nd phase</u>
2006		
9-15 July 2006	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA	<u>IUSS 18th World Congress of Soil Science</u>

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

Copyright © 2004. All rights reserved.

To subscribe to SDI-Africa, please do so online at:
<http://fgdc3.er.usgs.gov/Registration/>

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