



# GSDI REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

for the Global Geospatial Community  
covering



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

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



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## *Announce your news or information!*

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

## *Support and Contributions to this Issue*

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

## *Message from the Editor*

Inscribing data management practices into overseas grants, loans, and contracts is not yet standard operating procedure across aid agencies and multilateral banks, but it is a recent development that international financial institutions are beginning to pursue or could explore further. Inscription of data management practices into grants, loans, and contracts could ensure that grantees or contractors follow pre-set data collection standards, create metadata, establish open access conditions, and archive data to ensure availability after a project has ended. For instance, USAID/Malawi in a recent Request for Applications (RFA) for the Girls' Empowerment through Education and Health Activity (ASPIRE, <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=258039>), inserted two paragraphs on the need for respondents to submit GIS data on their projects. The RFA states on page 13 in between 'communications strategy' and 'place of performance':



*"USAID Malawi is currently rolling out a Mission wide GIS to support informed decision making and increase the use of evidence to affect decisions and resource allocations across the portfolio. This will include elements of data management, standardization and collection using global positioning system hand held receivers (GPS Units) to capture geo-referenced location data of activities, etc. All new awards (where appropriate) are required to collect and provide spatial data, and the use of GIS for spatial data development and reporting should be included.*

*The recipient must provide electronic primary data sets to the USAID/Malawi AOR. All locations where implementation is occurring must be geo-referenced (schools, villages and households, etc). At a minimum, data must be provided in an MS Excel sheet with latitude and longitude locations in decimal degree format and include District and TA/SC location names and other attribute data that will be agreed upon in coordination with the AOR in consultation with the*

recipient. USAID/Malawi prefers the submission of data in the ESRI shape file format with an associated meta data file.”

This USAID requirement is one example of an aid agency that has learned from past projects which unfortunately had a history of ignoring data re-use and under-appreciating the importance of spatial data infrastructure. It remains to be seen whether aid agencies and multilateral banks will make the inscription of data management practices grants, loans, and contracts a routine occurrence. Also, inscription is only part of the process; another challenging aspect is monitoring and enforcing compliance.

**Kate Lance, News Editor**

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## Sub-Saharan Africa Region SDI News

### ***Ghana: Plenary session on ‘SDI: The Road Ahead’ at Ghana Geospatial Forum 2015 3-4 March 2015, Accra, Ghana***



Geospatial Media and Communications is taking another initiative in the region by organising the Ghana Geospatial Forum 2015, the second National Conference and Exhibition, on 3-4 March 2015 in Accra. Abstract submission deadline: **31 October 2014**

The 2015 Ghana Geospatial Forum will delve into several new topics and will feature a celebrated line-up of speakers from around the region. One of the plenary sessions will focus on “Spatial Data Infrastructure: The Road Ahead.”

*Abstract:* We live in an age of information and geographic information is one of the most important components for better and more informed decision making. Many of the country’s objectives including better governance can only be achieved if good, consistent geographic information is easily available. However, the production and use of spatial data can sometimes be an extremely expensive and time consuming affair. However, SDIs or Spatial Data Infrastructures can play a crucial role as they help to save a lot of valuable time and money while at the same time offer access to reliable spatial data. Ghana has taken several initiatives in this direction, starting way back in the 1980s, but none of those initiatives was able to create a successful SDI. The session titled Spatial Data Infrastructure: The Road Ahead will try to explore how Ghana can implement its SDI and the kind of benefits and challenges involved in doing that.

Source: [http://ghgeospatialforum.org/2015/plenary\\_session.html](http://ghgeospatialforum.org/2015/plenary_session.html)

### ***Nigeria: National digital flood model launched***



The Federal Government of Nigeria has launched a national digital flood model. The development of the model was a consequence of the severe flooding in 2012, which caused tremendous economic damages. According to the Minister of Environment, Laurentia Mallam, the National Digital Flood Model was specifically developed for improved monitoring and forecast nationwide, to ensure effective environmental governance and prompt response to impending flood disaster. She said, “The model permits interaction between predicted hydro-meteorological data and earth surface conditions such as land-use and soil type to derive runoff which displays in 3D GIS environment.”

Source: <http://www.tribune.com.ng/news/news-headlines/item/13899-fg-launches-national-digital-flood-model>

### ***São Tomé and Príncipe: Early warning systems protect farmers and fishermen***



In some places, climate change may appear in subtle ways. Not so in São Tomé and Príncipe, where climate change brings severe and dangerous weather conditions. Storm surges, torrential rains, flash floods, and increasing fog and wind have created hazardous conditions for fishermen and farmers alike.

Africa’s second-smallest country, São Tomé and Príncipe lies about 250 km off the western coast of Gabon. Its 187,500 inhabitants rely primarily on agriculture. Heavy rains and landslides have created treacherous conditions for farmers and people living in rural areas along the coast. Increasingly dense fog, strong winds and storms have destroyed fishing vessels, and led to a mortality

rate among fishermen at sea that is three times higher (PDF) than the world average. Part of what makes these conditions so dangerous is the fact that they can come without warning.

An ongoing UNDP project, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and the National Meteorological Institute, and with financing from the Least Developed Countries Fund, aims to help develop more reliable early warning systems to monitor these increasingly severe hydro-meteorological conditions (i.e. water-based weather patterns, such as rainfall, floods and storms). Starting with five pilot sites in the most vulnerable coastal communities, the project will provide training, equipment, and technical assistance to strengthen the country’s early warning capabilities. This includes training staff to repair and maintain equipment, interpret data, and install or overhaul more than 50 monitoring stations.

The goal is to be able to disseminate tailored weather and climate bulletins, including color-coded alerts, advisories for farmers, watches and warnings for floods, drought, and severe weather. For example, community radio stations and radio equipment for fishermen will help them get real-time weather warnings while at sea. In addition, this information can eventually be combined with socioeconomic and environmental data to improve São Tomé’s decision-making processes and increase the resilience of local farming and fishing communities to climate-related shocks. In the coming years, UNDP will work with the government of São Tomé to integrate this weather and climate information into national policies, agricultural land-use planning and disaster preparedness.

See also: Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in São Tomé and Príncipe  
<http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/ldcf-ews-s%C3%A3o-tom%C3%A9-and-pr%C3%ADncipe>

Source: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2014/08/29/sao-tome-and-principe-early-warning-systems-protect-farmers-and-fishermen.html>

### ***Congo: Strengthening national forest monitoring, supporting the implementation of an archiving system***



The UN-REDD Programme held a workshop 30 June to 9 July 2014 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo to support the implementation of an archiving and data processing system for the country’s national forest monitoring system. Experts from the Centre National d’Inventaire et d’Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques (CNIAF) attended the 10-day course that provided theoretical and practical advanced insights on the principles of database management, relational database, database filtering and querying. The course focused on the use of the national forest monitoring systems application for the validation and analysis of the national forest inventory data. The agenda and learning priorities were based on the needs identified by the participants as well as on the skills developed during the first workshop held in March 2014.

FAO’s headquarters-based team provided continuous support to the CNIAF officers throughout the two-month period between the trainings, helping to consolidate and reinforce the newly acquired skills. Before the start of the second workshop a set of preparatory exercises was sent to all participants helping FAO to identify any knowledge gaps.

The training on data management and processing in the Republic of Congo is an ongoing activity that allows participants to learn while working with real datasets. In this way, the trainees build on skills and gain self-confidence in this challenging area of forest monitoring. The CNIAF team is now continuing the work following a data analysis plan that reflects national information needs and priorities. The UN-REDD Programme, through its collaborative agency partner FAO, continues to provide support as required.

The interest in data validation and analysis and the participants' commitment to improving the country's capacity to carry out forest monitoring was reflected in their motivation and engagement throughout the workshop. These national technicians now have increased skills to analyse, report and disseminate national forest inventory data. The FAO team also finalized the installation of the data management system for multi-user data entry and collected several forest management plans, containing local volume allometric equations developed in the country. These equations will be reviewed, checked and entered into the global forest biomass and volume allometric equation database and eventually uploaded on the GlobAllomeTree platform: [www.globallometree.org](http://www.globallometree.org).

Source: UN-REDD Programme Newsletter (September 2014), <http://www.un-redd.org/Newsletter2014September/CongoNFMSArchiving/tabid/794164/Default.aspx>

### **Kenya: Assessing the Development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (KNSDI)**

Author(s): Josephat Okuku, Arnold Bregt, Lucas Grus  
*South African Journal of Geomatics*, Vol 3, No 1, January 2014



**Abstract:** Spatial data plays a vital role in developmental activities, whether natural resource management or socio-economic development. Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) facilitate access, sharing and dissemination of spatial data necessary for complex decision-making processes of the future. Thus, conducting SDI assessment is essential to guide its development, to monitor and improve its quality and to provide evidence of accountability for all stakeholders. Knowledge of the development status of SDI of a country is crucial to increase the accountability and development of spatial data information. In Kenya, there are many organisations both public and private that are involved in spatial data production, use and dissemination to meet needs of the geo-information community. However the developmental status of Kenya National Spatial Data Infrastructure (KNSDI) is unknown. This paper aims at evaluating the development of SDI-initiative in Kenya with an aim of contributing to the enhancement of SDI development to realise its fundamental objectives. Then explore the level to which Kenya is prepared to attain an operational SDI, expose best practices, identify main problems, and review the way forward. Three assessment approaches of multi-view assessment framework were adopted. They are; SDI-Readiness index, Modified state of play and Organisational aspects. Data collection was by interview and questionnaire surveys from 13 KNSDI stakeholders sampled purposely from the following categories; academia, NGOs, public and private sector, civil society, international organisations and government. Document analysis and internet search supplemented data collection. The results indicate that development of KNSDI and implementation in Kenya is ad hoc and fragmented. This paper identified funding sustainability, awareness for SDI and all-inclusiveness communication as major aspects of Kenya NSDI that need to be addressed. The paper suggests that Kenya NSDI secretariat should work towards resolving the identified obstacles by: i). Sustained funding through increased budgetary allocation from the central government and other alternative sources of funding like open source services and cost recovery on geo-information products. ii). Bottom up approach through awareness creation about importance of spatial data for sustainable development.

Keywords: Spatial data infrastructure, Kenya NSDI, development, assessment, multi-view assessment framework, approaches.

Source: <http://www.sajg.org.za/index.php/sajg/article/view/156/91>

### **Uganda: Challenges of Mobile Sensor Web development**



Author: Judith Schoot Uiterkamp

Thesis for the degree of Master of Science, University of Twente, March 26, 2013: Information sharing in the governance of public services: the challenges of Mobile Sensor Web development in Uganda.

**Abstract:** With the introduction of the Internet, Web 2.0, and mobile technologies, there is a growth in citizen generated content and increased possibilities of sharing information. Governments use this information to improve governance of public services. This trend is also visible in developing countries. This thesis focuses on the development of a specific information system in the governance of public services in developing countries: Mobile Sensor Webs. It uses mobile phones to collect data from citizens about public services connected to a geographical position. The system provides feedback to the citizens about the actions of the government. This way socio-technical hybrids are created, aiming to increase information sharing between citizens, government, and intermediaries, which should contribute to increased accuracy of data, transparency, and improved accountability lines. To reflect on the this, two case studies in

Uganda are studied. This is examined by the following research question: Which aspects contribute to the development of a stable Mobile Sensor Web, by identifying the challenges encountered in the development of Mobile Sensor Webs?

Source: [http://essay.utwente.nl/63467/1/Schoot\\_Uiterkamp, Judith - S0117110 - Master Thesis.pdf](http://essay.utwente.nl/63467/1/Schoot_Uiterkamp,_Judith_-_S0117110_-_Master_Thesis.pdf)

### **South Africa: Western Cape Spatial Information Forum, 19 November 2014**

The Western Cape Government: Department of the Premier (DotP) and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) have identified the need for a coordinated spatial information forum in the Western Cape. The Western Cape Spatial Information Forum (WCSIF) focuses on Spatial Information and Spatial Data Infrastructure within the Province. It promotes the sharing of spatial information within the Province and between the three spheres of government through collaboration and cooperation. The next forum meeting will be held on 19 November 2014.



Source: <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/western-cape-spatial-information-forum>

### **South Africa: Creating policy debates through data visualisations and GIS mapping in Gauteng City-Region**



Author(s): Chris Wray, Daniel Kibirige and Guy Trangoš  
GI Forum 2014 Conference, 1-4 July 2014, Salzburg, Austria ([www.gi-forum.org](http://www.gi-forum.org))

**Abstract:** In most government departments in South Africa, detailed GIS analysis and modelling is rare. Given that 80-90% of all public sector data is spatially related, the limited use of spatial analysis to assist government decision-making and influence policy, is a concern. This has been acknowledged by the South African National Planning Commission and a national observatory for spatial data assembly and analysis has been proposed in the country's National Development Plan as one initiative to address this issue. On a city-region level, the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) has, since its establishment in September 2008, recognised that GIS is an integral part of achieving the vision of a more functionally integrated, spatially coherent, globally competitive, economically productive, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive Gauteng City-Region (GCR).

Within the GCRO, GIS is utilised beyond a descriptive mapping or support role, by also leading and defining a number of research projects as an analytic tool. The results of GCRO's research, GIS analysis and modelling from various projects are published and distributed monthly to government officials and the public as a 'map of the month', or quarterly as compact data visualisations known as 'vignettes'. This poster collates a series of maps of the month focusing on spatial change, and illustrates and describes the various data sources and GIS spatial analysis techniques used to create them. Examples of the latest vignettes are also provided. The poster can be accessed at: [http://www.gcro.ac.za/sites/default/files/editor\\_uploads/gi\\_forum\\_poster\\_240614\\_150dpi.jpg](http://www.gcro.ac.za/sites/default/files/editor_uploads/gi_forum_poster_240614_150dpi.jpg) (10Mb)

Source: <http://www.gcro.ac.za/reports-data/gcro-reports/category/all>

### **1<sup>st</sup> MESA African Continental Environmental Bulletin released (August 2014)**

The EU-supported Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programme has released its first Continental Environmental Bulletin. Using the Earth Observation data provided through the MESA program, a team of MESA Thematic Experts produced the bulletin which includes reports on the recent rainfall, vegetation, and marine primary production conditions in Africa, illustrated by colour-coded maps. The MESA Continental Environmental Bulletin will be regularly published to highlight areas where environmental conditions may be affecting food security on land and ocean, based on the environmental indicators produced from Earth Observation data and will indicate how the situation may develop in the months ahead, based on climate forecasts from ACMAD and others. The bulletin is provided in both French and English.



Source: <http://mesa.au.int/mesa/node/133>

### **NGA releases high-resolution elevation data of Africa to public**

High-resolution elevation data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission-Level 2 (SRTM-2), previously only available for the United States, will be made publicly available over the next 12 months, the U.S. White House recently announced at the United Nations Heads of State Climate Summit in New York.

The first elevation dataset to be released will be over of the African continent and is available on the United States Geological Survey's Earth Explorer website (<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, choose the "SRTM 1 Arc-Second Global" data set), with future regions to be released within the coming year.

"I look forward to the broader impact that the release will have on the global scientific and capacity building community," said National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Director Letitia Long. Until now, SRTM data was only publicly available at a lower 90-meter resolution. The newly-released global 30-meter SRTM-2 dataset will be used worldwide to improve environmental monitoring, climate change research including sea-level rise impact assessments, and local decision support, the White House said.

The SRTM mission began in 2000 as a joint venture between NASA and NGA that used a modified radar system onboard Space Shuttle Endeavour to acquire elevation data for over 80 percent of the Earth's land mass. The Department of Defense and intelligence community continues to use this topographic data for multiple applications – from developing navigation tools and supporting military operations, to geological and environmental purposes.

In August, Long authorized the removal of the Limited Distribution, or LIMDIS, caveat from the SRTM-2 dataset, making it available to the public on a phased-release schedule. The 30-meter topographic dataset was then sent to USGS for public distribution.

Source: <https://www1.nga.mil/MediaRoom/LeadingStories/Pages/NGAreleaseshigh-resolutionelevationdatatopublic.aspx>

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## Asia & the Pacific Region SDI News

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### ***Uzbekistan and South Korea strengthen cooperation in the field of geographic information systems***



During the recently held Smart Geospatial Expo-2014 Forum in Tashkent on August 26–28, a Memorandum on mutual Understanding was signed between Goskomzemgeodezkadastr (State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre) and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korea on cooperation in the field of spatial information and land management.

The delegation of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre had visited the Expo at the invitation of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of South Korea. The two countries will exchange experiences, and South Korea will familiarise Uzbekistan with the best practices in the field of geographic information systems and the latest technology in the field.

Source: <http://www.geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?ID=29742> Article;  
[http://www.jahonnews.uz/eng/sections/technologies/uzbekistan\\_and\\_south\\_korea\\_strengthen\\_cooperation\\_in\\_the\\_field\\_of\\_geographic\\_information\\_systems-98712.mgr](http://www.jahonnews.uz/eng/sections/technologies/uzbekistan_and_south_korea_strengthen_cooperation_in_the_field_of_geographic_information_systems-98712.mgr)

### ***Japan: Agriculture information service built on geospatial data infrastructure and crop modeling***



Author(s): Kiyoshi Honda, Amor V. M. Ines Akihiro Yui, Apichon Witayangkurn, Rassarin Chinnachodteeranun, Kumpee Teeravech  
*IWWISS '14 Proceedings of the 2014 International Workshop on Web Intelligence and Smart Sensing*, Pages 1-9, <http://iwwiss.ht.sfc.keio.ac.jp/2014/program/> [not open access]

**Abstract:** An agricultural information service platform, called FieldTouch, is being built and tested on a geospatial data infrastructure and crop modeling framework. More than 100 farmers in Hokkaido, Japan, have been participating on this development and are utilizing the services for optimizing their daily agricultural practices, e.g., planning and targeting areas where to apply fertilizer more to enhance homogeneity of growth and robustness of crops in their fields.

FieldTouch integrates multi-scale sensor data for field monitoring, provides functionality for recording agricultural practices, then supports farmers in decision making e.g., fertilizer management. RapidEye satellite images are being used for monitoring vegetation status updated every two weeks. Field sensor data from 25 nodes record soil moisture and temperature data at different soil depths, and suites of meteorological variables e.g., rainfall, minimum and maximum temperature, solar radiation, wind, etc. every 10 minutes. Data from national weather observation network, AMeDAS, is also a source of daily weather data. We used "cloudSense" sensor backend service that serves meta-data and data to FieldTouch via a standard web service called SOS (Sensor Observation Service), which brought great flexibility and enhanced automation of system's operation.

Using agronomic data from experimental station, the cultivar parameters (genetic coefficients) of a local wheat variety were calibrated for the DSSAT (Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer) crop model using data assimilation. These were built in a web-based DSSAT wheat crop model called Tomorrow's Wheat (TMW) where in a user can explore the effects of timing of sowing at a given climatic condition, soil and crop management. TMW accesses long-term weather data from the on-line observation station up to the most recent archive, parameterize a built-in weather generator, then generate 100 weather scenarios then runs the wheat model at the chosen planting date, then two weeks, and one week before and after that. The yields are presented as distribution of yields at these different planting options. Future developments are going-on to personalize more the system so that the user can input fertilizer scenario, and be able also to apply seasonal climate forecast, and link to the 25 sensor nodes to simulate current plant conditions given a management scenario. In this way, the user can be informed better on how to manage their sources of vulnerabilities in their fields.

See also: Fieldtouch Agricultural Information Platform on OGC Web Services, OGC Asia Forum Summit (2013)  
<http://www.ogc.org.tw/Content/News/20131203Fieldtouch-Agricultural%20Information%20Platformon%20OGC%20Web%20Services.pdf>

Source: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2637094>

### **India: Steps initiated for developing Odisha Spatial Data Base Policy for the State**



Steps have been initiated for developing Odisha Spatial Data Base Policy (OSDBP) for the State, as informed by Chief Secretary, Gokul Chandra Pati. Addressing a Workshop on State Spatial Data Infrastructure, organised jointly by National Spatial Infrastructure (NSDI) and ORSAC, on September 4<sup>th</sup>, Pati asked Odisha Space Application Centre to draft the policy by end of September, 2014. ORSAC was advised to gather inputs from the workshop, experts and user departments for working out the draft policy. The Chief Secretary advised the Science & Technology department to constitute a task force to look in to inter-departmental co-ordination and inter-departmental sharing of data for the purpose.

Pati further said that various government departments have taken a number of IT initiatives and have developed the data base. But these are in silos of the respective departments. Spatial Data Infrastructure for the entire State will be helpful in connecting all line departments. This technology will also facilitate bringing data of different departments under one roof and ensure easy data sharing among departments through web. The availability of accurate and updated geospatial data will play a major role for informed decision making process. The same data can also be published for different users, organizations and applications which will reduce human efforts to collect, store and manage multiple data versions.

The inauguration session of the seminar was also addressed by Secretary, Science & Technology, Surendra Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of NSDI, Partha Sarathi Acharya and Sandeep Tripathy, Chief Executive of ORSAC. Experts from Karnataka, West Bengal, NSRC, SSDI, OSDMA, Ravenshaw University, Odisha Watershed Development Mission, Chilika Development Authority, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project shared their views, as well.

Source: <http://pbdodisha.in/Home/tabid/56/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2191/Steps-initiated-for-developing-OSDBP-for-State-Chief-Secy.aspx>

### **Pakistan: Survey of Pakistan to conduct SDI feasibility study and workshop**

The Survey of Pakistan has been mandated by the Government of Pakistan as lead organisation to establish NSDI in the country. In this context, the Survey of Pakistan has decided to carry out a feasibility study to look at the situation of existing information systems, institutional settings, policies, legal environment, technology, geographic datasets, physical infrastructure, human resources and funding etc as deems suitable for such kind of studies. Consultants interested in helping with a proposal that addresses how much time, cost and any other essentials would be required may contact Asmat Ali, Assistant Director, Survey of Pakistan, [asmatali@yahoo.com](mailto:asmatali@yahoo.com).



The Survey of Pakistan also indicated that it will arrange a seminar on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in collaboration with Norwegian Mapping Authority (SK) in the coming months. The main goal of the seminar is to take onboard all the major stakeholder groups and to have a shared vision for its implementation. Presently the accessibility to spatial and non-spatial information under the custodianship and control of many public sector organisations is a dilemma as plenty of information, such as topography, demography, health, energy, climate, agriculture, biodiversity, water and weather exists in the organisations, but it is not shared with other public and private organisations of Pakistan as there is no framework for the discovery and sharing of such information. The development of Pakistan's National Spatial Data Infrastructure will be a valuable resource for policy makers, planners, resource managers, researchers, and

environmentalists to quickly access credible information for analysis based decisions making rather than human judgment.

Source: <http://lists.gsd.org/pipermail/sdi-asiapacific/2014-September/001177.html>; <http://lists.gsd.org/pipermail/sdi-asiapacific/2014-September/001165.html>

### ***Thailand: Committee guidelines for the development of geospatial infrastructure of the country***



Convened by the National Geospatial and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTD), which is the Secretariat of the National Council for Geographic Information, the National Committee for Geographic Information established guidelines for the development of geospatial infrastructure of the country. A meeting was held on 22 September with approximately 24 people in attendance officials from government agencies and public universities. The objective was to gather information on the master plan to update geospatial information system of the country, the framework for the implementation of the geospatial information center of the country, and to comply with the government's policy on the management of the center.

Source: [http://thaisdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=187:220957&catid=36:latest-news](http://thaisdi.gistda.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=187:220957&catid=36:latest-news)

### ***Vietnam: Facing a water crisis, Can Tho city develops real-time salinity monitoring system***



Flooding is not the only water-related climate change impact facing Can Tho, Vietnam. About two thirds of all homes in the city, most of whom are poor and vulnerable, do not have access to piped and treated water. The water supply in Can Tho has become increasingly saline, due to rising sea levels and the changing flow of the Mekong River, despite being located 65 km from the sea. Most of what people use is surface river water. They draw on this for drinking and cooking in their homes, and also for their farms. Increased salinity impacts both health and livelihoods.

Doan Thanh Tam, who is part of the technical staff at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, believes the automatic, real-time salinity monitoring system that's been implemented has proven to be a good first step in protecting people located in high-risk areas.

Supported by The Rockefeller Foundation through the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) initiative and implemented by the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition, so far seven monitoring stations have been built to provide a reliable, timely source of information on saline levels.

Through these stations, they are able to collect and monitor data on water quality and salinity, and send out warning SMS messages when required, ensuring that farmers know when the water is unsafe to use on crops and that residents know when they should not use it in their homes. With combined planning and efforts from the local government and communities, more viable and resilient solutions for specific climate change problems are being created. Together, these amount to a thorough response to the complex challenges the people of Can Tho are facing. "The system is more effective," concludes Tam, "so much so that other departments—like agriculture and even communications—want to use our data as well." Now that anyone can access the data, it is possible to be responsive in a more holistic sense. "Sending out warnings is just the beginning," he adds. "Now we are beginning to turn our attention to thinking about more permanent and sustainable solutions."

Source: <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/blog/facing-water-crisis-can-tho-city>

### ***The Philippines: Statistics Authority (PSA) launches remote sensing based rice crop monitoring system***



The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), along with the Asian Development Bank, Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, and Japan Global Development Assistance, has launched the RCDTA 8369, a remote-sensing based data collection system on rice. The RCDTA 8369 project stands for Regional Capacity Development Technical Assistance 8369: Innovative Data Collection Methods for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

According to Dr. Lisa S. Bersales, National Statistician, as the lead agency on national statistics, PSA's role is to provide data for policymakers and currently for the agriculture sector. But with the high cost of conducting surveys, PSA sees the need to explore other ways of collecting data. "We consider it timely and necessary that we use appropriate technology in data collection and we are happy that we now have this satellite and remote-sensing based technology introduced through the RCDTA 8369 project. This will improve our data gathering methods on rice



production, minus the high cost of field surveys,” Dr. Bersales said.

“Timely, accurate, useful and responsive data are needed for equitable national development. All of these we do for effective policy making based on accurate information. This project is a good start for PSA as it celebrates its first anniversary,” she added.

Source: [http://www.geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=29745\\_Article](http://www.geospatialworld.net/News/View.aspx?id=29745_Article) & <https://www.da.gov.ph/index.php/2012-03-27-12-04-15/2012-04-17-09-30-59/5480-psa-launches-remote-sensing-based-rice-crop-monitoring-system>

### **Australia: NSW released public transport data to networks to inspire teams of software developers**

The Transport Department of New South Wales (NSW) for the first time released real-time public transport network data on traffic lights, incident data base, traffic volumes and transport networks to inspire teams of software developers and entrepreneurs create innovative ways to help the state’s road users. The Department released the data at the Codeworks 2014 New South Wales Hackathon in Sydney on September 20 and 21. Tony Braxton-Smith, Deputy Director General for the Customer Experience Division at Transport for New South Wales foresees that the Hackathon advances the success of the Codeworks program held in recent years. Since 2012, the event has produced six apps TripView, Triptastic, Arrivo Sydney, TransitTimes, which have enabled users access to 40 million data points per month. Open data is a well-established policy of the New South Wales government with various agencies ever exploring ways to realise some early benefits of that policy.

Source: <http://www.startupsmart.com.au/government-and-regulation/transport-for-nsw-hopes-open-data-policy-will-pave-the-way-for-open-roads.html>

### **Fiji: Specialists trained in geoportal and geospatial data management**



In its efforts to ensure better coordination of information during natural disasters, the Fijian National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Government of Korea, conducted on September 9-11<sup>th</sup> in Nadi a three-day training for officers from around the country. Seventeen Fiji government officials and two offices of the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) attended the programme. The training programme used GIS training manuals, developed by ESCAP, as main training materials. The manuals included information on geoportal and GIS system structures, installation and generation of metadata, administrative services, etc. Other materials such as ENVI GIS software and ArcGIS were used simultaneously during hands-on training and interaction sessions on collecting data, adding layers, analyzing, and operating the portal. This training workshop aimed to improve the knowledge of Fiji government officials with regards to geospatial data use and management for operating the geo portal, monitoring disaster risks, processing techniques on satellite imagery for flood mapping, and assessing the impact of disaster hazards.

See also: Presentation on current situation of Geo-DRM in Fiji, by National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), <http://www.unescap.org/resources/presentation-current-situation-geo-drm-fiji-ndmo>

Source: <http://www.unescap.org/news/whats-ahead-escap-1-15-september-2014>; <http://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Center/Press-Releases/FIJI-TRAINS-SPECIALISTS-IN-GEO-%E2%80%93-PORTAL-AND-GEOSPA.aspx>

### **Federated States of Micronesia: National geospatial clearinghouse to conserve biodiversity**



Author(s): William James Smith Jr., Jerry Mount, David Bennett, Patterson Shed  
Collaborative research methodologies and the construction of a national geospatial clearinghouse to conserve biodiversity. *Applied Geography* 54, October 2014, Pages 198–208 [not an open access journal]

**Abstract:** This manuscript details the pursuit of spatial data and spatial analytical capacity building in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in order to support multi-scale marine and terrestrial biodiversity conservation. This includes: 1) Creating the FSM's first national spatial data clearinghouse; 2) Constructing spatial analysis laboratory infrastructure to support conservation; and, 3) Building capacity for spatial data creation and sharing across the FSM and research partners. This is made possible by adopting ‘community based participatory research’ methodologies and adjusting them to fit small island geographies. This allows for the determination of common agendas, synergies among ongoing projects, and intelligent assessments of infrastructure and the sustainability of technological systems and partnerships in the unique Pacific Small Island environment.

Highlights:

- A National geospatial clearinghouse is created for the FSM's 607 Micronesian islands.
- Collaborative research methods create conservation opportunities across ecoregions.
- Community Based Participatory Methods are studied in multiscale Pacific settings.

- Integration of non-governmental actors covers financial and management gaps.
- Methods are developed for island database creation with conservation applications.

Keywords: Biodiversity; Capacity-building; Geospatial; Micronesia; Pacific; Participatory

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622814001672>

### ***IFRC and SPREP partner to improve climate information and reduce disaster risk for Pacific Islanders***

On 3 September 2014, in Apia, Samoa, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) signed a historic partnership agreement that aims to improve the way in which weather and climate information is delivered, understood and acted on, by communities living with the everyday impacts of climate change. SPREP are collaborating to implement the community based component of the Finnish-Pacific 'FINPAC' project, funded by the Finnish Government and administered by SPREP, which involves the creation of partnerships between National Meteorological Services (NMS) and Red Cross National Societies in 10 Pacific Nations. They will work with local communities and villages to develop early warning systems and improve dialogue between disaster managers, NMSs and end users of weather and climate information.

Source: <http://www.sprep.org/climate-change/ifrc-and-sprep-sign-partnership-to-improve-climate-information-and-reduce-disaster-risk-for-pacific-islanders>

### ***Job vacancy: BIOPAMA Project Officer, SPREP, Apia, Samoa***

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) seeks candidates for a Project Officer position for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme which exists to:



- Establish and operate the Regional Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management in the Pacific as an integrated component of the IUCN BIOPAMA project and of SPREP's existing protected areas
- Support broader BIOPAMA capacity building activities in the region and coordinate the SPREP component of the BIOPAMA programme.

[http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/SPREP\\_BPO\\_Job\\_Description\\_September\\_2014\\_FINAL\\_copy.pdf](http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/SPREP_BPO_Job_Description_September_2014_FINAL_copy.pdf)

Download application form: [http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/BIOPAMA\\_Application\\_Form.doc](http://www.sprep.org/attachments/Employment/BIOPAMA_Application_Form.doc)  
Closing Date: **17 October 2014**.

See also: Launch of BIOPAMA Pacific regional observatory for biodiversity and protected areas management, <https://www.sprep.org/biodiversity-ecosystems-management/launch-of-pacific-regional-observatory-for-biodiversity-and-protected-areas-management>

Source: <http://www.sprep.org/Human-Resources/Job-Vacancy/>

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## **Europe Region SDI News**

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### ***UK: Ordnance Survey to release open data on green spaces***

The Deputy Prime Minister announced that the U.K. government is working with Ordnance Survey (OS) to compile and release data on publicly accessible green space in England and Wales. This data will be made part of OS's OpenData suite, i.e. freely available to the public and commercial or non-commercial software, website and app developers.



The national mapping agency will make its data available free to allow software and applications to be created by developers. This will allow developers to find innovative ways of displaying the information. It will also give them the opportunity to combine the data with other statistics, such as tracing cycle paths through parks, coming up with bespoke nature trails or linking with property information to help people decide where they want to live.

Source: <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/news/2014/deputy-pm-announces-plans-for-new-map-of-accessible-green-space-using-os-data.html>

**France: Journée INSPIRE, 18 Novembre 2014, Paris**



CONSEIL NATIONAL  
DE L'INFORMATION GÉOGRAPHIQUE

Le Conseil national de l'information géographique (CNIG, <http://cnig.gouv.fr>), au travers de sa commission « règles de mise en œuvre », organise une journée d'information et d'échanges le mardi 18 novembre 2014 à Paris. L'objectif de cette journée est d'aider au déploiement de la directive INSPIRE en France. Sept ans après la publication de la directive, à mi-chemin de sa mise en œuvre, le CNIG organise un événement majeur. cette rencontre a pour objectif d'aider au déploiement de la directive en France : bilan, présentation de bonnes pratiques, ateliers et mise en perspective.

*English summary:* The national council of geographic information (CNIG, <http://cnig.gouv.fr>), through its commission "rules of implementation", has organized a day of information and exchange for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 in Paris. The objective of this day is to assist in the deployment of the INSPIRE directive in France.

Source: [http://info.ign.fr/E26092014083932.cfm?WL=6778&WS=206346\\_868990&WA=3115](http://info.ign.fr/E26092014083932.cfm?WL=6778&WS=206346_868990&WA=3115)

**Switzerland: Journée de l'ASIT-VD - La géoinformation pour tous, October 28, 2014, Lausanne**



On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Association for Territorial Information Systems Planning Vaudois (ASIT VD, <http://www.asitvd.ch/>) is organizing on October 28th a day on "Geoinformation for all." The event, which will be held at the SwissTech Convention Center, is open to all. It will be an opportunity to learn about and meet the cast of geoinformation in Romandie and see what is new in the field. The ASIT VD illustrates a form of public-private partnership whose main task is to promote the exchange of spatial data between suppliers and customers. The organization allowed the canton of Vaud to gradually shift from the initial notion of a territorial information system of the Lake Geneva Region (SIT-VD) to that which is now called the Cantonal Spatial Data Infrastructure (CGDI).

Source: <http://20ans.asitvd.ch/>

**Nordic Geographers Meeting 2015, 15-19 June 2015, Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia**



The Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) is an international geography conference held in every second year in one of the Nordic Countries and now, for the first time, in Estonia. The 6th Meeting will be held in Tallinn and Tartu on 15-19 June 2015. The conference has grown into a significant and multi-faceted arena for geographers to meet and discuss their research, as well as for fostering cross-disciplinary connections.

Source: <http://www.tlu.ee/en/NGM2015>

**2nd South-Eastern Europe GEO Workshop on Integrating Earth Observation Data and Services for monitoring the Environment, protecting the citizens and stimulating the regional economic growth 20-21 October 2014, Athens, Greece**

The Greek GEO Office - National Observatory of Athens ([www.noa.gr](http://www.noa.gr)) and the BEYOND project ([www.beyond-eocenter.eu](http://www.beyond-eocenter.eu)) announce the 2nd South-Eastern European GEO Workshop on "Integrating Earth Observation Data and Services for monitoring the Environment, protecting the citizens and stimulating the regional economic growth" focused on North Africa, Middle East and the Balkan Region.

The workshop aims to identify, evaluate and report the existing GEO-GEOSS capacities in the region. It will allow assessing the compatibility and adequacy of the on-going initiatives at the European Union level, such as the European Center of Excellence BEYOND, and other networking initiatives, towards the development of an integrated, space based and in-situ, observational and service capacity, for the benefit of critical societal sectors, local economies, continuity of businesses, and the protection of citizens and ecosystems from natural and human induced disasters.

Participation is primarily open to the following Countries (in alphabetical order):

Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, FYROM, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Turkey, other GEO related projects and to the EO European and international organizations.

Source: <http://ocean.space.noa.gr/BEYONDsite/index.php/2nd-se-geo-workshop-home>

### **Armenia: Paving the way toward an environmental National Spatial Data Infrastructure**



Author(s): A. Saghatelian, H. Astsatryan, L. Bigagli, P. Mazzetti, S. Nativi, P. Lacroix, G. Giuliani, N. Ray

*South-Eastern European Journal of Earth Observation and Geomatics*, Volume: 3, No 3S (2014); GEOBIA 2014 EOPOWER special poster session, Thessaloniki, Greece

**Abstract:** Armenia is a small country geographically located in the South Caucasus region. Once the most industrialized republic of the Soviet Union, the country inherited a dramatic ecological situation from the Soviet era. After the mid-1990s, the economic policy of Armenia shifted towards a strong support for industrial development greatly ignoring ecological interests. As a result, mining-related industries such as dressing and metallurgical plants were permitted to operate without environmental regulations, and geo-exploration and exploitation works in deposits were conducted disregarding nature protection norms. As the key national environmental academic entity, the Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (CENS) has a strong national role in delivering authoritative environmental information and data sets.

Aware of the need for enhanced and more efficient delivery of information and data sharing, CENS engaged in recent years in several international capacity building projects directed to the setting up of an environmental Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI). The goal of this SDI was both to provide enhanced capacities for intra muro maintenance and exchange of data among research groups and to allow various external stakeholders to access more efficiently geospatial data sets and services.

This first step was successful in showing the potential of data sharing for internal institutional organization, to gain visibility towards key stakeholders in the country and the South Caucasus region, and to start engaging in international voluntary partnerships such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). CENS now envisions to scale up its SDI infrastructure to a national SDI (nSDI) in order to support a wider range of geospatial services towards the Armenian environmental community. This paper will discuss several aspects and challenges of the envisioned strategy for an Armenian nSDI. First, we present how the current components of the implemented SDI benefit the scientific and environmental communities in Armenia, with an emphasis on the promising link between high performance computing and geospatial services. Second, we examine how the EGIDA methodology – a GEO capacity building suites of activities developed in the FP7 project of the same name – can be applied to support the process of scaling up the infrastructure to become a nSDI, which has been selected as a pilot study in the FP7 EOPOWER project. Finally, we discuss the potential of future full-scale provision of geospatial services in Armenia and how these could benefit the various stakeholders involved in Armenia and in the South Caucasus region.

Source:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265389582\\_Paving\\_the\\_way\\_toward\\_an\\_environmental\\_National\\_Spatial\\_Data\\_Infrastructure\\_in\\_Armenia](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265389582_Paving_the_way_toward_an_environmental_National_Spatial_Data_Infrastructure_in_Armenia)

### **Serbia: Start of SDI project using PROFID funds**

The project "Harmonization with EU legislation in the field of geospatial data infrastructure by defining the technical specifications for the development of a new National geoport according to the INSPIRE requirements" has been initiated. In the premises of RGA on 23 and 24 September 2014, an introductory visit was held with consultants from IGN France International, which, after evaluation of bids, was selected to implement this project. The aim of the introductory visit was to review and analyze the functionality and performance of the initial geo-portal and the existing technical infrastructure, as well as define the objectives and detailed work plan.



During the project implementation, a round table took place with the participation of all stakeholders to which the consultants presented the draft technical specifications. After considering the suggestions and objections on the draft technical specification, the consultants are required by 15 December 2014 to submit a final version of the technical specifications for the development of a new National geoport according to the INSPIRE requirements.

Technical specification represents the necessary documents for the implementation of the tender documents and selection of contractors to develop software applications for the new National Geoport. It is planned to develop the National Geoport financed from loan funds of the World Bank.

Source: <http://www.geosrbija.rs/template1.aspx?pageID=283>

### **Romania: New modern maps for Romania with Norwegian support**



New geographic data will be produced in the coming two years with the help of the EEA Grants as a result of a project developed and implemented by the Romanian Cadaster Agency in cooperation with the Norwegian Mapping Authority.

Source: [http://www.norvegia.ro/News\\_and\\_events/The-EEA-and-Norway-Grants/New-modern-maps-for-Romania-with-Norwegian-support/](http://www.norvegia.ro/News_and_events/The-EEA-and-Norway-Grants/New-modern-maps-for-Romania-with-Norwegian-support/)

### **Turkey: Initial organizational studies on National Spatial Data Infrastructure at government level**



Author: Guler Yalcin  
*Procedia Technology*, Volume 12, 2014, Pages 572–576

**Abstract:** A Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a coordinated series of agreements on technology standards, institutional arrangements and policies that enable the discovery and use of geospatial information by users for a range of purposes. While SDIs have economic, social and environmental benefits, they require inter-disciplinary organizational, coordinated studies to preserve the ecology and for sustainable development. Turkey is moving towards a spatially enabled society underpinned by a national geo-spatial data infrastructure, called TNSDI (Turkish National Spatial Data Infrastructure). In this article, the initial organizational studies and action plans in Turkey for TNSDI are described.

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212017313007160>

### **INSPIRE Evaluation: Summary of findings for EU Member States (September 17, 2014) Assessing data and services metadata resources through direct observations**

This report summarizes the findings of the INSPIRE Evaluation exercise which was carried out by nine independent experts between December 2013 and March 2014. The exercise took place as part of the activities of the policy programme evaluation project of the European Commission to present a report to the Council and European Parliament by May 15th 2014 on the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. At the time of writing of this report, the results of the 28 Member States were processed and integrated into the report.

The evaluation project conducts: 1) a desktop research 2) a public survey and 3) direct (sample based) observations of INSPIRE spatial data and services accessible through the EU geo-portal, and the data sharing measures/policies already implemented operationally in the Member States. This summary report is describing the results of task 3. It is based on an investigation of whether measures have been effectively implemented in the Member States and whether, for the services that are available, there are procedural obstacles, e.g. related to licencing, pricing, derogations, etc.

The objectives of the INSPIRE evaluation through direct observations are the following:

- 1) To compare, analyze and better understand the differences between the results of the reported spatial data sets and services (INSPIRE M&R of May 2013) and those that can be found in the EU geo-portal.
- 2) To test the metadata records for spatial data sets and services, and to check their compliance with the INSPIRE Implementing Rules and Guidelines.
- 3) To better understand why certain spatial data sets and services relevant for INSPIRE can't be found in the Monitoring & Reporting sheets / EU geo-portal, but can be found in national or other portals within the Member States.

See also: INSPIRE Public Consultation 2014: Report of Findings

[http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE\\_Public\\_Consultation\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE_Public_Consultation_Report_final.pdf)

Source: [http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/INSPIRE\\_Direct\\_Observations\\_2014.pdf](http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/INSPIRE_Direct_Observations_2014.pdf)

### **European Standards Committee for Geographic information (CEN/TC 287) Workshop 15 October 2014, 10.00 – 17.00, Technical University of Delft, Delft, The Netherlands**

This workshop, associated with the meeting of the European Standards Committee for Geographic information, CEN/TC 287, is aimed at delegates to that meeting, and others involved in standards-setting, or cross-national activities including pan-European projects.

The objective is to share “Best Practices” relating to the implementations of geographic Information standards. Invited speakers will describe the solutions they have adopted, the technical pitfalls and triumphs, and highlight the positive

results they have achieved.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to identify requirements for additional standards, and for re-alignments between different existing standards. It aims to reinforce the co-operation among different standardization bodies and to better support the GI community.

Please register your attendance here: <http://gistandards.com/registration/event/meeting/>. It is planned there will also be the opportunity to join the meeting by Webinar.

Source: <http://centc287.eu/>

### **SmartOpenData**

Linked Open Data is becoming a source of unprecedented visibility for environmental data that will enable the generation of new businesses as well as a significant advance for research in the environmental area. Nevertheless, in order for this envisioned strategy to become a reality, it is necessary to advance the publication of existing environmental data, most of which is owned by public bodies.



This EU-funded project is focused on how Linked Open Data can be applied generally to spatial data resource and specifically to public open data portals, GEOSS Data-CORE, GMES, INSPIRE and voluntary data (OpenStreetMap, GEPWIKI, etc.), and how it can impact on the economic and sustainability progress in European Environment research and Biodiversity Protection.

SmartOpenData will define mechanisms for acquiring, adapting and using Open Data provided by existing sources directly involved in the project for biodiversity and environment protection in rural and European protected areas and its National Parks. Through target pilots in these areas, the project will (i) harmonise geospatial metadata (ISO19115/19119 based) with principles of Semantic Web, (ii) provide spatial data fusion introducing principles of Linked Open Data, (iii) improve spatial data visualisation of Geospatial Linked Open Data and (iv) publish the resulting information according to user requirements and Linked Open Data principles to provide new opportunities for SMEs.

The project will reuse existing European Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI), based on INSPIRE, GMES and GEOSS (Free Pan European Data Sets like CLC, Natura 2000, Habitats, Plan4all, Plan4business, EnviroGRIDS, Brisiedie, GEOSS registries, national INSPIRE portals, thematic portals like National Forestry portals together with local and regional data) and will extend it using Linked Open Data. Research and Development Partners will provide extension of current INSPIRE/GMES/GEOS based Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Note upcoming SmartOpenData event: **Citizens' Observatories: Empowering European Society**, 4 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium.

<http://www.smartopendata.eu/event-calendar/citizens-observatories-empowering-european-society>

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

### **Workshop: Horizon 2020 Open Science, Open Data, 29-30 October 2014, Bruges, Belgium**



EUROGEO will hold a free Open Data and Open Science for research workshop based on the EC Horizon 2020 programme on 29-30 October 2014 in Bruges, Belgium. The course is supported by a grant from the FOSTER Project (Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research, <http://www.fosteropenscience.eu/>).

For EUROGEO members there is no fee for the workshop, so participants will only have to fund their own travel, accommodation and any subsistence expenses. For non-members joining the association is easy and full 2014 membership costs 40 euros.

The course will examine the open data and specifically the visualisation, presentation, and dissemination of open research. It is aimed at participants, especially young researchers, who have little or no experience at using or working with geographic information systems – however, those with experience will be able to undertake more advanced activities to further develop their skills and understanding of open data.

Source: <http://www.eurogeo.nl/training/workshop-openscience/>

### ***11th International Symposium on Location Based Services, 26-28 November 2014, Vienna, Austria***



This symposium is addressed to scholars, researchers, digital industry / market operators, and students of different backgrounds (scientific, engineering and humanistic) whose work is either focused on or relevant to location based services (LBS). The symposium will offer a common ground to colleagues from various disciplines and practice where they can meet, interact and exchange knowledge, experience, plans and ideas on how LBS can and could be improved and

on how it will influence both science and society. There will also be a Hands-on workshop on Open GIS and Modern Webmapping on November 24th and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Source: <http://www.lbs2014.org/>

### ***18th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science, 9-12 June 2015, Lisboa, Portugal***

The 18th AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science is scheduled to take place in Lisboa, Portugal under the theme: Geographic information Science as an enabler of smarter cities and communities. The program will offer parallel paper presentation sessions, keynote sessions, poster sessions and pre-conference workshops to share your ideas, explore on-going research, future developments, including state-of-the-art applications, and to network with the professionals from academia, industry, and government who are interested in promoting GI teaching and research activities among GI laboratories at the European level.

Full paper submission: **November 30, 2014**

Pre-conference workshop proposal: **November 13, 2014**

Source: <http://www.agile-online.org/index.php/conference/conference-2015?layout=edit&id=249>

### ***Citizen Science and Smart Cities***

This report summarizes the presentations, discussions, and conclusions of the Citizen Science and Smart Cities Summit organised by the European Commission Joint Research Centre on 5-7 February 2014. In the context of the Summit, the label Citizen Science was used to include both citizen science projects, and others that are about user-generated content, not necessarily addressing a scientific process or issues.

Source: [http://digitalearthlab.eu/Citizen\\_Science\\_and\\_Smart\\_Cities\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](http://digitalearthlab.eu/Citizen_Science_and_Smart_Cities_Full_Report.pdf)

### ***Geospatial Intelligence Vital In Combating ISIS Terror***



New terrorist states continue to emerge using misinformation and popular media for maximum disruption. Quick and secure transformation of information into finished intelligence has become a number 1 priority for the world's geospatial experts and their user communities. Worldwide Business Research conducted a survey to over 1000 global and military agencies to understand their existing concerns with the current geospatial capabilities. This revealed that 85% of these agencies consider Geo Intelligence and GIS technology development as a priority for their organisation.

The onset of cross border and home-grown terrorists is a new challenge and threat which has multiple implications. DGI, Europe's largest conference covering location intelligence, has developed a key agenda which invites senior geospatial experts to present their plans. Find out what measures have been put in place to reduce these threats from world-renowned expert Robert B. Murrett Deputy Director, Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT) Professor of Practice, Public Administration and International Affairs. The Defence Geospatial Conference to be held on 19th – 21st January 2015 in London. Download the full agenda here:

<http://wbresearch.ch/gsdiaagenda>

For GSDI Members, if you are interested in this year's event, we only have 5 tickets available for members of the GSDI Association with a £500 exclusive discount for serving military professionals and a £700 exclusive discount for solution providers which ends **10th October** and I would hate for you to miss out on it. This is the only chance you will have to register at the early bird rate.

**Plus, if you register before 10th of October 2014 you will also benefit from an extra 20% discount for GSDI Association members.** To secure your discounted pass go now to [www.dgieurope.com](http://www.dgieurope.com) and register using discount code ('GSDI20'). Alternatively, email us on [dgi@wbr.co.uk](mailto:dgi@wbr.co.uk) or call us +44 (0) 207 368 9465.

## Latin America & the Caribbean Region SDI News

### Argentina: IX Jornadas de IDERA, 30 y 31 de Octubre de 2014, Buenos Aires



La Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de la República Argentina (IDERA) es una comunidad de información geoespacial que tiene como objetivo propiciar la publicación de datos, productos y servicios, de manera eficiente y oportuna como un aporte fundamental a la democratización del acceso de la información producida por el Estado y diversos actores, y al apoyo en la toma de decisiones en las diferentes actividades de los ámbitos público, privado, académico, no gubernamental y sociedad civil. La participación de todas las jurisdicciones es fundamental para garantizar el carácter nacional y federal de la IDERA.

En estas Jornadas se fomentará el conocimiento y la difusión de las Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales y de los beneficios que la interoperabilidad de la información geoespacial puede aportar a la sociedad, como así también se consolidará aún más IDERA, a través de la reunión de la Asamblea. Envío de resumen, fecha de limite: **17 de octubre**

Fuente: <http://www.idera.gob.ar/portal/node/234>

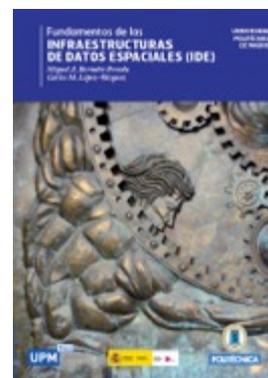
### Chile: Libro disponible sobre Fundamentos de las Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales

El libro Fundamentos de las Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales (IDE) es una obra colectiva y colaborativa, en la que cada autor aporta una parte de conocimiento y experiencia, pero es la suma de lo aportado por todos ellos lo que da al lector interesado en esta materia una perspectiva global de que es, de cómo le puede ayudar y de que puede aportar él a una IDE. Los 39 capítulos del libro plantean y analizan los diversos aspectos que se deben conocer y utilizar, como productores de datos y servicios, para desarrollar e interoperar con las infraestructuras de datos espaciales. Miguel Bernabé Poveda y Carlos López Vázquez, autores de este libro, han decidido disponer de forma gratuita la descarga de este valioso documento. Ver libro en línea:

<http://www.ide.cl/images/Publicaciones/Documentos/Fundamentos-de-las-IDE/index.html>;

Descargar PDF (7.0 MB): [http://www.ide.cl/images/documentos/libro\\_fundamento\\_ide.pdf](http://www.ide.cl/images/documentos/libro_fundamento_ide.pdf)

Fuente: <http://www.ide.cl/noticias/noticias/item/fundamentos-de-las-infraestructuras-de-datos-espaciales.html>



### Brazil: Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Río Negro en los Municipios

Las representantes de las áreas de Catastro, Planeamiento y Desarrollo Urbano de su municipio participaron de las 3° Jornadas de Integración a la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Río Negro (IDERN), realizado el 12 de agosto en Viedma. En noviembre de 2013 el señor Gobernador Alberto Weretilneck formalizó la creación de la IDERN con la firma del Decreto N° 1839 y su rectificatorio N° 1846.



### English summary: Spatial Data Infrastructure of Rio Negro in the municipalities

Representatives of Cadastre, Urban Planning and Development in municipalities participated in the 3rd Days of integration to the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Rio Negro (IDERN), held on August 12 in Viedma. In November of 2013 the lord Governor Alberto Weretilneck formalized the creation of the IDERN with the signing of the Decree N° 1839 and its rectificatorio NO. 1846.

Fuente: <http://www.rionegro.gov.ar/?contID=17512>

### Brazil: Embrapa lanza la cartografía digital de suelos brasileños



El mapa digital de carbono orgánico del suelo de Brasil recientemente lanzado por Embrapa combina el modelado matemático y el conocimiento acumulado en el campo para ayudar en varios programas de conservación de los recursos naturales. Uno de los beneficiarios inmediatos serán el Programa de Agricultura de Bajo Carbono (ABC) del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Abastecimiento que se puede utilizar para la reducción de emisiones de prácticas de tiro de gases de efecto invernadero.

Realizado mediante técnicas tradicionales, una encuesta similar costaría millones de

dólares y años de trabajo. El nuevo sistema tiene la ventaja de utilizar la información ambiental disponible como datos sobre el suelo, alivio, material parental, clima, asociándolos con los métodos matemáticos estadísticos para inferir información sobre los sitios no medidos.

**English summary: Embrapa launches digital cartography of Brazilian soils**

Embrapa recently launched a digital map of organic carbon in the soils of Brazil which combines mathematical modeling and the accumulated knowledge in the field to assist in several natural resource conservation programs. The new system has the advantage of using environmental information available as data on the ground, relief, parent material, climate, by associating them with mathematical methods to infer statistical information on sites that were not measured. If traditional techniques had been used, a similar survey would have cost millions of dollars and involved years of work.

Fuente: <https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/2062813/solo-brasileiro-agora-tem-mapeamento-digital>

**Peru: Segunda Sesión Ordinaria del Comité Coordinador para la Implementación de la IDEP**



El 05 de septiembre del presente se realizó la segunda "Sesión Ordinaria del Comité Coordinador para la Implementación de la Infraestructura de

Datos Espaciales del Perú", donde la ONGEI presentó los avances en la implementación de la IDEP. Se presentó la estrategia de trabajo para la IDEP correspondiente al periodo 2014-2015, la cual fue plasmada en tres niveles:

- A nivel estratégico: Culminar el desarrollo del esqueleto Normativo-Institucional de metadatos y competencias institucionales, elaboración de guías técnicas y buenas prácticas, actividades de gestión del cambio, participación de instituciones e involucramiento de la academia.
- A nivel táctico: Mediante el desarrollo de componentes software reutilizables, que permitan implantar Geoportales, geoservicios, servicios de catálogo, etc. con un mínimo coste de implantación y mantenimiento.
- A nivel operativo: Mediante asistencias técnicas, programas y sesiones de capacitación planificadas o ad-hoc con las entidades que inicien la implementación de su Infraestructura de Datos Espacial.

Dentro de los acuerdos que se tomaron en esta sesión, mencionamos a continuación los más resaltantes dentro del nivel de importancia de todos ellos:

- Aprobar la propuesta de creación del Grupo de Trabajo Apoyo a la implementación de Infraestructuras de Datos Espaciales Regionales, la misma que estará coordinada por ONGEY y MINAM.
- Aprobar la reestructuración de los Grupos de Trabajo del CCIDEP presentada por la ONGEI.
- MINAM Y MINAGRI brindaran el apoyo al ONGEI en la elaboración de la imagen base que será usada para el Catálogo Nacional de Metadatos del GeoIDEP.
- Se organizará un seminario taller sobre experiencias en la implementación de infraestructuras de datos espaciales, el mismo que se desarrollara tentativamente el mes de noviembre. Las entidades participantes del comité se comprometen a apoyar en su organización.

**English summary: 2<sup>nd</sup> Coordination Committee meeting for implementing IDEP**

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the Coordinating Committee for the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (IDEP) was held. The strategy of IDEP work for the period 2014-2015 was presented; it encompasses three levels: strategic, tactical, and operational. During the session, a number of agreements also were made.

Fuente: <http://www.ccidep.gob.pe/ccidep/index.php/noticias/92-segunda-sesion-ordinaria-del-comite-coordinador-para-la-implementacion-de-la-infraestructura-de-datos-espaciales-del-peru>

**Bolivia: Geobolivia participa en el Taller de Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Chuquisaca**



El 5 de septiembre de 2014, GeoBolivia estuvo presente en la Ciudad de Sucre y participó en el taller "Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales de Chuquisaca-GeoBolivia", la misma fue organizada por la Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Madre Tierra del Gobierno Autónomo Departamental de Chuquisaca.

En la misma, se contó con la presencia de representantes de municipios del departamento, representantes de mancomunidades y otras reparticiones de la Gobernación de Chuquisaca (120 personas). Inicialmente la Dirección de Ordenamiento Territorial y Límites de la Gobernación, procedió mostrar todo el trabajo cartográfico plasmado en un atlas a nivel departamental, seguidamente se mostró los objetivos, alcances, el apoyo técnico y la coordinación interinstitucional brindado por parte de GeoBolivia a la Gobernación de Chuquisaca, para la implementación del primer nodo departamental de la Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, finalmente los técnicos responsables de la implementación del nodo departamental, mostraron el prototipo del nodo y explicaron sus

alcances.

La mayoría de los participantes apoyaron este tipo de iniciativas tecnológicas en la Gobernación y felicitaron el apoyo brindado por la Vicepresidencia del Estado a través de GeoBolivia. Esta actividad de socialización realizada por la Gobernación de Chuquisaca, representa los primeros pasos para el proceso de consolidación del primer nodo IDE Departamental, convirtiéndose en un ejemplo a seguir para el resto de la gobernaciones del País.

**English summary: *Geobolivia participates in Workshop on Spatial Data Infrastructure of Chuquisaca***

On 5 September 2014, GeoBolivia was present in the city of Sucre and participated in the workshop "Spatial Data Infrastructure for Chuquisaca-Geo Bolivia." The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of Environment and Mother Earth of the Autonomous Government Departmental of Chuquisaca. It was attended by representatives of municipalities of the department, representatives of associations and other departments of the Interior of Chuquisaca (120 people). This activity of socialization by the Governorate of Chuquisaca represents the first steps in the process of consolidation of the first IDE node departmental, becoming an example to follow for the rest of the governorates of the country.

Fuente: <http://geo.gob.bo/?Geobolivia-en-Taller-de>

**French Guiana: *GUYANE Regional GIS Platform***



Under the "Operational Programme 2007-2013 ERDF" Guyana Region has implemented a draft Regional Platform GIS (<http://www.guyane-sig.fr/>) in partnership with all local authorities and public stakeholders of Guyana. Generate a dynamic partnership around geographic information in Guyana this now operational platform aims for the understanding, analysis, planning and land development: this is a real tool decision that is made available to partners of the platform.

Source: <http://www.cr-guyane.fr/region-guyane-primee-aux-etats-unis-plateforme-sig/>

**South America: *National programs strengthen capacities on forest monitoring and web-based GIS***

The UN-REDD Programme recently conducted training courses in Argentina and Ecuador on the use of web-based geographic information system (WEB-GIS) portals in support of REDD+ readiness for their national forest monitoring systems (NFMS). In March 2012, Argentina requested UN-REDD Programme Targeted Support to build the technical capacity need to develop the first version of their NFMS. FAO provided the supported needed for Argentina to implement the WEB-GIS platform customized to the country's needs. As a result, a first training for users and administrators of the online tool was organized in June 2013.

A recent training took place in Buenos Aires at the end of May 2014. Some 12 experts with experience in using WEB-GIS, were selected from different institutions to attend. The training was designed to enable users to learn and teach others how to customize the existing functionalities in the portal and add new ones. The workshop became a space for useful discussion regarding future work and alternative methodologies, as well as the new features of the tool and the institutional context.

In addition, the UN-REDD Programme National Program in Ecuador also organized a series of technical training activities during 2013 on the WEB-GIS platform for Ecuador's NFMS. The training aimed to increase the capacity of the participants, enabling them to publish spatial data online to the platform. In November 2013, a second training took place at FAO's headquarters in Rome focusing on training technicians of the Sistema Unificado de Información Ambiental (SUIA, <http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/>) to customize the software.

In January 2014, as a result of these trainings and constant communication with the SUIA technicians, the WEB-GIS platform for the SNMB was integrated in the portal of the SUIA. The deployment was done by national technicians with the assistance of FAO, which provided the WEB-GIS platform.

To ensure the sustainability of the portal, a new training was carried out by FAO for technicians from Ecuador's Ministry of the Environment (SUIA and Mapa de Vegetación). The training took place in the offices of SNAP (Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas), Ministry of the environment, Quito, at the beginning of June 2014.

Visit the WEB-GIS portal here. <http://geoportal.ambiente.gob.ec/portal/>

Source: UN-REDD Programme Newsletter (September 2014), <http://www.un-redd.org/Newsletter2014September/LACForestMonitoring/tabid/794165/Default.aspx>

### **Panamá: Coordinadores y secretarios se reúnen para plan la IDE**



Coordinadores y secretarios de la Infraestructura Panameña de Datos Espaciales (IPDE) se reunieron, en la Contraloría de la República, para evaluar los Planes Preliminares de Trabajo 2014-2015 y el Plan Quinquenal 2015-2019. La IPDE busca fomentar normas, estándares y la articulación de los recursos a fin de propiciar una política de Gestión de Datos Espaciales que abarque la producción, uso, acceso y su intercambio y al mismo tiempo garantizar la interoperabilidad entre las distintas instituciones que integraran el Comité Técnico Interinstitucional.

#### **English summary: Coordinators and secretaries meet to plan for Panamanian Spatial Data Infrastructure**

Coordinators and secretaries of the Panamanian Spatial Data Infrastructure (IPDE) met in the Comptroller of the Republic to assess the Preliminary Work Plans 2014-2015 and the five-year Plan 2015-2019. IPDE seeks to promote the policies, standards and the articulation of the resources in order to promote a policy of spatial data management that encompasses the production, use, access and exchange and at the same time ensures interoperability between the different institutions that comprise the Inter-agency Technical Committee.

Fuente: <http://www.ipde.gob.pa/>

### **Nicaragua: USGS y INETER reunirse para discutir la colaboración**



En junio del 2014, una delegación de expertos Científicos del Servicio Geológicos de los Estados Unidos (USGS), sostuvieron un encuentro con funcionarios del Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER), con el objetivo de acceder a la futura colaboración de asistencia técnica permanente, que permita fortalecer la capacidad Institucional. La delegación estuvo representada por los expertos Dr. Jill McCarthy, la Dra. Jean Weaver, Sr Andy Lockheart, Sr. Harley Benz, Tim Callaghan USAID/OFDA y Jordi Icaza de USAID/Nicaragua, quienes mostraron interés en futuros convenios de colaboración.

#### **English summary: INETER and USGS meet to discuss collaboration**

In June 2014, a delegation of scientific experts from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) held a meeting with officials of the Nicaraguan Institute for Territorial Studies (INETER) with the goal of enabling future collaboration of ongoing technical assistance, making it possible to strengthen INETER's institutional capacity.

Fuente: [http://www.ineter.gob.ni/Nota%20Informativa\\_Encuentro%20Equipo%20Servicios%20Geologico%20US.pdf](http://www.ineter.gob.ni/Nota%20Informativa_Encuentro%20Equipo%20Servicios%20Geologico%20US.pdf)

### **México: La Red Nacional de Caminos considerado como la Información de Interés Nacional**



En el marco de la Primera Sesión Extraordinaria 2014, realizada el 5 de septiembre de 2014, los integrantes del Comité Ejecutivo del Subsistema Nacional de Información Geográfica y del Medio Ambiente (CESNIGMA) aprobaron la propuesta para que la Red Nacional de Caminos (RNC) - presentada por el Comité Técnico Especializado de Información Geográfica Básica - sea turnada al Subsistema Nacional de Información Económica para su análisis, aprobación y presentación a la Junta de Gobierno del INEGI para su determinación como Información de Interés Nacional (IIN).

#### **English summary: Proposal approved for National Network of Roads**

In the framework of the 2014 First Extraordinary Session, held on September 5, 2014, the members of the Executive Committee of the subsystem of National Geographic Information and the Environment (CESNIGMA) approved the proposal for the National Network of Roads (RNC) which was presented by the Specialized Technical Committee of Basic Geographical Information and turned to the Subsystem of National Economic Information for its analysis, approval and submission to the Board of Governors of INEGI for its determination as Information of National Interest.

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

### **El Salvador: Sistema de Información Geográfica para instalaciones de salud**

La Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS/OMS), en el marco del Proyecto Hospitales Seguros y Riesgo Urbano en Centroamérica, pone a su disposición una herramienta con la que intenta proveer a los países de una mejora en sus sistemas de información sanitaria: el Sistema de Información Geográfica para instalaciones de salud (HSGEO, <http://hsgeo.salud.gob.sv/>).



Se trata de un sistema muy sencillo, que utiliza bases de datos de salud y población y las enlaza con bases de datos geográficas y de amenazas naturales. Esta conjunción de información genera mapas de riesgos, tablas con indicadores de salud y gráficos que reflejan los resultados de la evaluación de instalaciones de salud a través de la aplicación del Índice de Seguridad Hospitalaria y el Índice de seguridad para establecimientos de mediana y baja complejidad.

HSGEO es un Sistema de Información Geográfica (SIG) de hospitales seguros frente a desastres que permite visualizar, consultar, analizar y manejar información de establecimientos de salud a nivel nacional. El Sistema integra información oficial sobre las diferentes amenazas naturales proporcionadas por el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (MARN), identificando los establecimientos de salud dentro o cerca de esas zonas. Además de la función principal que es informar a todos los posibles usuarios sobre la información general de cada establecimiento de salud (incluyendo a las unidades comunitarias de salud familiar UCSF que son del primer nivel), el sistema permite brindar asistencia para la toma de decisiones e implementar medidas de seguridad con la finalidad de que un determinado establecimiento pueda continuar brindando los servicios después de ocurrido un evento adverso.

Mira también: Configuración e instalación de aplicación geográfica HSGEO

[http://wiki.salud.gob.sv/wiki/Configuraci%C3%B3n\\_e\\_instalaci%C3%B3n\\_de\\_aplicaci%C3%B3n\\_geogr%C3%A1fica\\_HSGEO](http://wiki.salud.gob.sv/wiki/Configuraci%C3%B3n_e_instalaci%C3%B3n_de_aplicaci%C3%B3n_geogr%C3%A1fica_HSGEO)

### ***Caribbean: Monitoring the environment through remote-sensing***

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are experiencing some of the earliest and most severe impacts of climate change. Through a series of case studies illustrated with compelling satellite imagery, a new publication documents environmental changes in estuaries, mangroves, corals, coastlines and forests; as well as different approaches to land use and conservation; urbanization, tourism infrastructure and industrialization and finally disasters from pre-event hazard maps to impacts such as flooding and landslides and finally reconstruction efforts. It is a demonstration of how effective a tool remote sensing can be to assess natural or human induced processes, developed and published within the framework of an environmental management project in collaboration with the University of Ghent (Belgium). The European Space Agency (ESA) and French Space Agency (CNES) donated high-resolution imagery for project participants' use. See *Changing Small Island Developing States: A space perspective on environmental change in the Caribbean* (PDF), <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002294/229420m.pdf>



Source: [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brasilia/about-this-office/single-view/news/monitoring\\_the\\_environment\\_through\\_remote\\_sensing\\_in\\_caribbean\\_sids](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/brasilia/about-this-office/single-view/news/monitoring_the_environment_through_remote_sensing_in_caribbean_sids)

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/maps-and-spatial-data/environmental-response-management-application-erma/caribbean-erma.html>

### ***Seventh Caribbean GIS Conference Update***



URISA has announced the program details for its **Seventh Caribbean GIS Conference**, taking place **October 26-30, 2014** at the Santa Barbara Resort in **Curacao**. The conference, themed "*Spatial Technologies: Fueling Economic Growth and Development*" features important regional conversations, preconference courses and workshops, comprehensive education, and opportunities to connect with experts, peers and private sector sponsors.

#### **Important Regional Conversations:**

*Geospatial Information High Level Meeting*: targeted at key decision makers in the industry particularly, senior personnel of international and regional bodies with responsibility for the management of geospatial data and information, senior government officials, experts on geospatial related issues in academia, members of the donor community, and private sector companies.

*General Session: The Importance of Geospatial Technology in the Caribbean*: will examine the various issues that

organizations are facing in the region as well as what is the overall value proposition that geospatial technology brings to the Caribbean economy. Participants will include senior representatives from national governments, donor agencies, academia, as well as experts from the vendor/consultant community.

*Special Interest Group Roundtables:* Important conversations including Geodetics, Open Source, Women in GIS, and Education.

**Preconference Courses and Workshops:**

- Getting Started with GIS
- Caribbean Decision Support System for a Climate Resilient Marine Managed Areas Network
- Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish (two-day course)
- URISA Certified Workshop: Addressing
- URISA Certified Workshop: GIS Return on Investment
- ArcGIS Online
- UAV Workshop

**Comprehensive Education:** Nearly 50 presenters in sessions covering important topics including...

- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise
- Disaster Mitigation/Modeling
- Harnessing the Power of GIS for Utility, Asset and Infrastructure Management
- Environmental Hazards
- GIS in Disaster Management
- Innovations in GIS
- National GI Policy Development & NSDI
- Public Participation GIS
- Public Safety, GIS for Emergency Response
- Addressing Systems
- Change Detection
- Geosciences & Regional Economic Development
- Enterprise GIS and Mobile Technologies
- Best Practices in Today's Digital Organization
- Spatial Technologies for Water Resource Management
- GIS in Public Health
- K-12 Education
- Using UAVs (Drones) for Aerial Imagery Acquisition

Start reviewing the abundance of education on the schedule here: <http://urisa.caribbean2014.sched.org/>

**Conference History:** Previous URISA Caribbean GIS conferences have taken place in Jamaica (2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008), Trinidad and Tobago (2010) and Jamaica (2012). We are pleased to host the 2014 conference in the Dutch Caribbean.

**Exhibits & Sponsors:** The opportunity to connect with the companies that provide solutions for Caribbean technology needs is a major component of the conference. Several of the conference sponsors are also developing vendor solutions sessions to allow for a deep-dive to learn about their products and services.

**Conference Venue:** The Conference will take place at the Santa Barbara Resort. We have arranged for discounted sleeping room rates at the hotel. URISA Conference attendees may take advantage of \$129 rates for single or double occupancy which includes in-room internet access.

**Registration** - Full conference registration (only \$325) includes the conference proceedings papers, access to keynote speeches, breakout sessions, meetings, two lunches, reception and networking social event.

Learn more about the 2014 URISA Caribbean GIS Conference (<http://www.urisa.org/education-events/caribbean-gis-conference/>) and start making plans to attend today.

Contact: Wendy Nelson, Executive Director – URISA - [wnelson@urisa.org](mailto:wnelson@urisa.org) - [www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org)

## ***Spatial Innovision 2-Day Workshop at URISA Caribbean Conference***



The **Spatial Innovision 2-Day Workshop - *Mobile and Server GIS: Field to Finish*** - will take place on Sunday and Monday, 26-27 October. It is a two-day comprehensive course. For details, see: <http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/event/b2a931f5fd09daaa015a4feeb0b2dd27>

### ***Overview***

This course will entail details on Mobile, Web and Server GIS technology and the integration from field to finish. The skills required to accomplish this task will be taught step by step for participants to take advantage of emerging technology to improve their process flow within their respective organization.

### ***Course Outline***

- Overview of ArcGIS for Server, ArcGIS Online and Collector for ArcGIS
- Creation of Enterprise Geodatabase
- Check out data from ArcGIS for Server
- Data preparation for the mobile environment:
- Geodatabase Design
- Replicating data
- Publishing Feature Services using ArcGIS for Server
- Creation of Web Application using ArcGIS Online
- Data Collection using Collector for ArcGIS (Using GIS Data in the Mobile Environment)
- Check data back into ArcGIS for Server

### ***Special Note:***

Participants will need to bring a laptop computer and smartphone with Android or iOS operating system compatible with Esri Collector for ArcGIS.

- The workshop is presented by Spatial Innovision and participation is limited.
- Fee to attend: \$300
- Workshop begins on Sunday, October 26, 2014 9:00am - 5:00pm

For full details of the UrisaCaribbean Conference, visit this link: <http://urisacaribbean2014.sched.org/>

***Spatial Innovision Ltd are valued members of the GSDI Association.***

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## **North America Region SDI News**

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### ***USA: Digital Coast Bill introduced in the Senate***



In March of 2013, Representatives C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-2) and Don Young (AK) introduced the Digital Coast Act of 2013 (H.R. 1382).

This bill would establish an integration platform for coastal information that would aim to serve coastal economies and emergency management. H.R. 1382 has been followed by the introduction of a parallel bill in the Senate by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, entitled the Digital Coast Act of 2014. The passage of a bill would provide legislative drive for these efforts, and appropriations for fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

Administered by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Digital Coast program (<http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/?redirect=301ocm>) compiles the most up-to-date coastal data sets into an online database that is accessible to the public. Paired with NOAA's online tools and training, coastal communities can use the data sets to make cost-efficient and practical investments for disaster and mitigation planning. Baldwin's bill will officially authorize the Digital Coast Project and launch its next phase in geospatial data collection. Access to better data will allow coastal communities' hazard mitigation plans to incorporate key data points related to shore line erosion, storm water surge threats, and long-term sea level trends.

See: H.R.1382 - Digital Coast Act of 2013, <https://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1382/text> <https://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/hr1382/BILLS-113hr1382ih.pdf>. Also, For further information, <http://blogs.planning.org/policy/2014/09/18/digital-coast-bill-introduced-in-the-senate/>

## USA: Seeking Suggestions to Improve USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) Products and Services

Do you:



- Use the National Hydrography Dataset, the National Elevation Dataset, or the US Topo digital map product?
- Access The National Map Viewer?
- Download GIS data from The National Map (<http://nationalmap.gov/>) or other service that offers geospatial data originally created at USGS NGP?
- Link to The National Map image caches, map caches, contours, shaded relief, hydrography, or other services from The National Map to view in your GIS?

If you answered yes to any of these scenarios, and have suggestions for improvements or additions to any of these product lines or their delivery, NGP is very interested in hearing from you and has arranged a process to receive and review your suggestions. USGS NGP will be accepting this year's suggestions from users in the 'Natural Resources' user community through Friday, **October 31, 2014**. A 'Natural Resources' Technical Committee, made up of GIS professionals and scientists from multiple federal and state agencies, academia and private industry, will evaluate the suggestions and forward the most promising to NGP management for review. Enhancement suggestions that NGP managers select will be integrated into future USGS work plans for investigation, development and implementation.

If you would like to submit a suggestion, please contact the nearest USGS Geospatial Liaison, who can provide background information on USGS products and services, help in the development of the suggestion, and submit it on your behalf.

USGS National Geospatial Program Liaisons:

Alaska - Becci Anderson: [rdanderson@usgs.gov](mailto:rdanderson@usgs.gov)  
Colorado - Carol Giffin : [clgiffin@usgs.gov](mailto:clgiffin@usgs.gov)  
Florida - Lou Driber: [ldriber@usgs.gov](mailto:ldriber@usgs.gov)  
Louisiana - Chris Cretini: [cretinic@usgs.gov](mailto:cretinic@usgs.gov)  
Montana - Lance Clampitt: [lsclampitt@usgs.gov](mailto:lsclampitt@usgs.gov)  
Nebraska - Jim Langtry: [jlangtry@usgs.gov](mailto:jlangtry@usgs.gov)

New Hampshire - Lin Neifert: [lineifert@usgs.gov](mailto:lineifert@usgs.gov)  
Ohio - Charlie Hickman: [chickman@usgs.gov](mailto:chickman@usgs.gov)  
South Dakota - Steve Shivers: [spshivers@usgs.gov](mailto:spshivers@usgs.gov)  
Texas - Claire DeVaughan: [cdevaugh@usgs.gov](mailto:cdevaugh@usgs.gov)  
Utah - Dave Vincent: [dmvincent@usgs.gov](mailto:dmvincent@usgs.gov)  
Virginia - Diane Eldridge: [deldridge@usgs.gov](mailto:deldridge@usgs.gov)

Source: <http://gcpolcc.org/profiles/blogs/seeking-suggestions-to-improve-usgs-national-geospatial-program>

### Information online from 2014 ESIP Summer Meeting

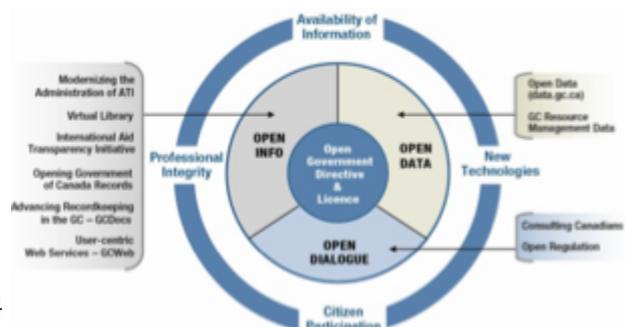


The 2014 Federation of Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) Summer Meeting took place July 8-11 in Frisco, Colorado. The meeting, themed "Linking It Together: Sustainable Software Advancing Science Data and Services," offered a multitude of activities for everyone in attendance. There were 300 people at the meeting, 36 more attended remotely, at least 5 co-located meetings (LTER, DataOne, HDF, OPeNDAP and Software Carpentry), 84 breakout sessions with well over 100 contributors and a jam session. Information on all sessions, including recorded presentations, can be found at <http://commons.esipfed.org/schedule/Summer%20Meeting%202014>. ESIP is a collaboration among many partner organizations, activities are sponsored by NASA and NOAA and managed by the Foundation for Earth Science.

### Canada: Implementation of Canada's Action Plan on Open Government (Year-1) Self-Assessment Report

The Government of Canada remains committed to the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) core principles of greater availability of information, civic participation, professional integrity, and the use of technology for openness and accountability. The first version of Canada's Action Plan on Open Government is a multi-year plan to advance activities along three streams: Open Data, Open Information, and Open Dialogue. The 12 commitments outlined in the plan, many of which have a particular focus on technology solutions, are designed to establish a stable foundation for future open government activities, and are aligned with the four core principles set by the OGP.

This Self-Assessment Report reviews the Government of Canada's progress to date in implementing Year 1 deliverables for each of its commitments and speaks to challenges and lessons learned along the way. While not quite all first-year deliverables in Canada's Action Plan were fully implemented, work continues to advance each of the commitments.



As of October 9, 2014 you will be able to read and comment on Canada's draft Action Plan on Open Government 2.0. It will feature updated deliverables and targets for existing commitments, and set out a few new commitments that will further Canada's open government objectives within the spirit of enhanced transparency and continued fiscal restraint, both of which are key priorities for the Government of Canada.

See: Canada's Action Plan on Open Government 2.0 Consultation, <http://data.gc.ca/eng/consultations/open-government-action-plan-20-consultation>

Source: <http://data.gc.ca/eng/implementation-canadas-action-plan-open-government-year-1-self-assessment-report>

### **G8 Open Data Charter – Canada's Action Plan**

Canada is at the forefront of the growing international open government and open data movements. Canada is an active member of the Open Government Partnership and is working across various international fora to harmonize open data standards and expand the capacity of the open data user community. Domestically, the federal government is implementing a robust open government action plan, championed by the Honourable Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board, and has sought to engage provinces, territories, and municipalities to work collaboratively toward ambitious open data goals for Canada.



In this context, Canada's adoption of the G8 Open Data Charter will continue to strengthen its tradition of openness, its dedication to citizen and community engagement, its commitment to innovation, and the goal of improving the economic and social well-being of all Canadians. The G8 Open Data Charter sets out the following five principles as essential to establishing a foundation for open data in member countries:

- *Open Data by Default*: Foster expectations that government data be published openly while continuing to safeguard privacy;
- *Quality and Quantity*: Release quality, timely, and well-described open data;
- *Useable by All*: Release as much data in as many open formats as possible;
- *Releasing Data for Improved Governance*: Share expertise and be transparent about data collection, standards, and publishing processes; and
- *Releasing Data for Innovation*: Consult with users and empower future generations of innovators.

Source: <http://data.gc.ca/eng/g8-open-data-charter-canadas-action-plan>

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

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### **Saudi Arabia: National Spatial Strategy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**



In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MoEP) is in charge of sectoral planning, while the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MoMRA) is in charge of spatial planning. According to a recent consultancy announcement (now closed) for a National and Regional Spatial Planning Specialist, a National Spatial Strategy (NSS), jointly developed by the MoEP and the MoMRA (lead line ministry), was approved by the Council of Ministers (Decree No 127 dated 28 August 2000). The overall objective of the NSS is to achieve, over the long run, balanced development between regions on one hand and within regions on the other, with emphasis on integrating rural and urban areas.

The NSS has been successful in developing infrastructures and basic services, including education and health- in the lagging regions of KSA, but despite huge public investments, the Kingdom still is struggling to diversify its economy and create jobs, especially for the youth. The recent creation of four Economic Cities (new towns and planned extensions) is expected to attract private investors through fiscal and administrative incentives and to give a strong impetus to the economic competitiveness of the KSA regions. The NSS remains a top priority for the Government: "creating balanced regional development" is one of the five pillars of the 9th National Development Plan (2010-2014). The MoMRA is currently reviewing and updating the NSS to strengthen its coordination, implementation and monitoring frameworks.

The consultancy, implemented through UN-HABITAT, mainly aims at informing the update and revision of the NSS through the documentation of international experiences on National Spatial Frameworks (NSF). The consultancy may also feed in the implementation of the Arab States' Regional Urban Strategy for Sustainable Urbanization, led by the League of Arab States. The main objective is indeed to identify and document sustainable and progressive NSF (strategies, policies, plans...) that have effectively guided urban development at the nationwide scale in developed and

emerging countries. The consultancy will develop a set of at least 5 in-depth case studies and a typology of different patterns of urban spatial development at the nationwide scale (e.g.: balanced growth versus strategic focus on certain regions). The case studies shall provide relevant facts and figures as well as concrete evidence of successful implementation of NSF. There shall be an effort to demonstrate geographical diversity and relevance to KSA in the selection of cases, chosen in consultation with UN-Habitat.

See also: Alshehri, Saad Abdulrahman F. (2011) National spatial data infrastructure collaboration for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. PhD thesis, University of Nottingham, <http://etheses.nottingham.ac.uk/2174/>

Source: <http://unhabitat.org/national-and-regional-spatial-planning-specialisthome-based-subject-to-travel-to-riyadh-if-required-deadline-22-september-2014/>

### ***Oman: SDI for Good Governance, Plenary session at Oman Geospatial Forum 24-25 November 2015, Muscat***



The use and applicability of geospatial technology in Oman has seen rapid uptake over the past few years, and the future seems even more promising and replete with opportunities. The need of the hour is to create a platform which can bring together stakeholders to share ideas and information and thus accelerate this process. Geospatial Media and Communications (formerly known as GIS Development) is dedicated to raising the profile and expanding the horizons of the geospatial industry worldwide. As part of its efforts to bridge the divide between various sections connected to geospatial technology in Oman, Geospatial Media and Communications is pleased to announce that the Oman Geospatial Forum 2014 will be held in Muscat, Oman on 23rd and 24th November, 2014. Abstract submission deadline: **15 October 2014**

Source: [http://www.omangeospatialforum.org/plenary\\_sessions.htm](http://www.omangeospatialforum.org/plenary_sessions.htm)

### ***Oman: PACA to launch National Multi Hazard Early Warning System next year***



The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) will begin operating the National Multi Hazard Early Warning System (NMHEWS) for tsunamis and flash floods by the first quarter of 2015, according to organisers of a conference during which the system will be launched.

The regional conference titled 'Reducing Tsunami Risk in the Western Indian Ocean' will be jointly organised by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and PACA's Directorate General of Meteorology in Muscat on March 22-23, 2015.

Unesco's IOC has been providing technical support for setting up the new system following a 2009 agreement with the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC). [...] The conference will dovetail with a regular session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS) that is scheduled to take place during the same time in Muscat. It will also bring together modellers, geologists, seismologists and other professionals who are studying tsunami sources in the western Indian Ocean, as well as construction and infrastructure planning specialists, and communication and social science experts.

"The expected outcome [of the regional conference] is to improve the understanding of tsunami hazards and warning strategies for shores of the western Indian Ocean," said the organisers in a statement.

Source: <http://www.muscatdaily.com/Archive/Oman/PACA-to-launch-multi-hazard-early-warning-system-next-year-3dk9>

### ***Afghanistan: SINAM prepares proposals on development of address system for the capital***



SINAM renders consulting services to the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies of Afghanistan on development of address system of Kabul. According to the president of SINAM Elchin Aliyev, the service rendered by SINAM, is the first stage of development of the address register for the capital of Afghanistan. The tender will be announced for implementation of the second stage and the company intends to become one of applicants for implementation of the specified project. "The problem of addressing of buildings and inhabited arrays of the capital of Afghanistan is acute enough. Consulting services rendered by the company at present provide development of the correct addressing system of buildings and streets of Kabul according to the best international standards," he said. According to Aliyev, development of the register of addresses and service (similar to GoMap) which can be used by citizens of this country may be considered further. Earlier the minister of Communication and Information Technologies of Afghanistan Amirzai Sangin expressed interest in use of GoMap (product of SINAM) as a platform for development of the local map of Afghanistan.

Electronic map of GoMap.az includes more than 120 thousand useful objects, over 8,4 thousand settlements, address data on 80 cities and settlements, more than 47 thousand roads (including traffic regulations and road signs). Besides it,

it is possible to find 100 thousand photos of the objects on the map.

Today mobile version of GoMap.az is compatible with Android, iOS, Bada and Windows Phone platforms. Electronic map of GoMap.Az were placed on AppStore, PlayMarket and Google Market in 2013.

Source: <http://www.sinam.net/news/106-sinam-prepares-proposals-on-development-of-address-system-for-the-capital-of-afghanistan>

### ***UAE: EIAST announces Remote Sensing Applications Competition 2014***



The Emirates Institution for Advanced Science and Technology (EIAST) has announced the launch of the Remote Sensing Applications Competition 2014 (RSAC 2014). The competition, which is open for all governmental sectors, educational and research institutes in the UAE, will be to conduct scientific research and comprehensive studies in designing and implementing state-of-the-art applications for the use of Earth Observation images acquired by DubaiSat-2. The competition aims at promoting the utilization of the DubaiSat-2 mission data, which is expected to be used for a wide range of disciplines including land use, land cover, topography, geology, terrestrial (vegetation) ecosystem, agriculture and forestry, hydrology and climate. The data, rich in its content and depth, will also cover areas such as oceanography and coastal zones, disaster (forest fires, flooding, landslide, earthquakes, etc.), natural hazards, resource exploration and development of spatial data infrastructure research.

Participants have to fill in the registration form provided in the website and submit a research proposal before **15 October 2014** and are accepted either individually or in a group of maximum of 5 members. All documents and inquiries should be e-mailed to the Remote Sensing Applications Competition email: [RSAC@eiast.ae](mailto:RSAC@eiast.ae).

Source: <http://eiast.ae/en/page/remote-sensing-applications-competition-2014>

### ***Jordan: UNDP launches early warning system on floods in Wadi Musa, Petra***



Under the patronage of His Excellency, Chief Commissioner of Petra Development Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA), Dr. Mohammad Al Nawafleh, the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) launched on August 20th an "Early Warning System for Flash Floods" in Petra and Wadi Mousa.

The launch comes as part of UNDP's support to the PDTRA in the domain of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and represents an attempt to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacities in local development initiatives. The project was funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and cost shared by the Government of Jordan and PDTRA.

The Early Warning System works to inform potential flood threats in Wadi Musa and Petra before happening and therefore aims at minimizing material loss and save lives through the adaptation of responsive evacuations plans.

The installation of the Early Warning System originated through a successful partnership with the Department of Meteorology who provided technical support, their experienced staff were then trained on the system specifications and reading techniques.

Cooperation between PDTRA and the Department of Meteorology will continue to maintain the Early Warning System functionality and expand the area it covers.

Source: <http://www.jo.undp.org/content/jordan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2014/08/21/undp-launches-early-warning-system-on-floods-in-wadi-musa-petra/>

### ***Maroc: Recensement général de la population et de l'habitat***



Concernant l'utilisation des nouvelles technologies lors de cette grande opération nationale, le HCP a eu recours aux «images satellitaires» couvrant l'ensemble du territoire national pour la cartographie et développé une application informatique pour la gestion de la situation des différents participants au RGPH [...] Le HCP a, dans ce cadre, mis à la disposition du grand public un site internet dédié spécialement au Recensement 2014, qui est structuré selon des espaces thématiques et des rubriques spécialisées, dont l'aperçu historique et le cadre juridique et réglementaire du recensement, la présentation du questionnaire, ainsi que des applications web dynamiques à même de générer des tableaux statistiques et des cartes thématiques par le biais d'un système d'information géographique (SIG).

#### ***English summary: General Census of population and habitat***

Concerning the use of new technologies during this great national operation, the HCP has had recourse to acquire satellite images covering the whole of the nation for mapping purposes and has developed a computer application for

the management of the operation conducted by different participants in the RGPH [...] The HCP has, in this framework, a website dedicated specifically to the Census 2014, which is made available to the public at large, and which is structured according to the thematic areas and of specialized topics, including the historical overview and the legal and regulatory framework of the census, the presentation of the questionnaire, as well as dynamic web applications to same to generate statistical tables and thematic maps by means of a geographic information system (GIS).

Source: <http://www.lematin.ma/journal/2014/recensement-general-de-la-population-et-de-l-habitat-de-nouvelles-questions-introduites-dans-les-questionnaires/208288.html>

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## Global SDI News

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### ***UN Data Revolution Advisory Group launches Web site and consultation***

The United Nations Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development has launched a new Web site to solicit community inputs for its two-month effort to provide UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon with concrete recommendations on how to bring about a data revolution in sustainable development. The group held its first meeting September 25–26 in New York City, including a session with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson at the UN Secretariat building September 25 and a “town hall” session at the Microsoft Technology Center in Times Square September 26. The group aims to complete its report by early November. Robert Chen, Director of CIESIN, a longstanding GSDI member, is one of three expert members from U.S.-based institutions and is contributing expertise on geospatial data and technologies, interdisciplinary data integration, and cyberinfrastructure development.

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

### ***Call for abstracts, Standards in Action Workshop, Shenzhen, China, 26 November 2014***



The 39th ISO/TC 211 (<http://www.isotc211.org>) Plenary and WG meetings will be held in Shenzhen, China from 24-28 November 2014, hosted by the Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC) and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG). The gathering will include a Standards in Action workshop on 26 November. This workshop provides an opportunity to present and showcase case studies, implementations and research to wider audience. Abstracts are invited from government, industry and academia for this event. All abstracts must be submitted via email to Victoria Rautenbach, [victoria.rautenbach@up.ac.za](mailto:victoria.rautenbach@up.ac.za). Deadline: **31 October 2014**

Source: [http://www.isotc211.org/Shenzhen/ISO-TC211\\_N3855\\_Invitation\\_workshop\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.isotc211.org/Shenzhen/ISO-TC211_N3855_Invitation_workshop_presentation.pdf)

### ***Call for extended abstracts – Workshop on SDIs, standards, open source and open data for geospatial 21 August 2015, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil***

This pre-conference workshop is being held in conjunction with the 27th Cartographic Conference and is jointly organized by the Commission on Geoinformation Infrastructures and Standards and the Commission on Open Source Geospatial Technologies. The workshop aims to record examples of current SDI practice with an aim to identify benefits and challenges to implementing free and open source software for geospatial, geographic information standards and open (spatial) data in an SDI. SDI researchers and practitioners are invited to submit extended abstracts of 1,000-1,500 words that describe SDI case studies where:

- open source software for geospatial is used in the technical implementation; and/or
- geospatial standards are implemented; and/or
- geographic information is accessible as open data.

The case studies shall include the following:

- Background information about the SDI, including the relevant policies.
- A description of how open source, standards and/or open data are implemented in the SDI.
- An evaluation of the motivators, benefits, barriers and challenges concerning implementation of open source software, standards and/or open data.
- Based on the evaluation, provide recommendations for improvements and/or further work.
- Conclusions.

Extended abstracts have to be written in English. Contributions must be original and previously unpublished. Author guidelines are available at <http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/>. Accepted abstracts will be published in the online workshop proceedings with an ISBN number and will be openly archived on the ICA website under a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows others to freely access, use, and share the work, with an acknowledgment

of the work's authorship and its initial publication in the online workshop proceedings. Authors of a selected number of high quality abstracts may be invited to submit an extended paper to a peer-reviewed journal. Abstract submission deadline: **2 March 2015**.

Source: <http://opensourcegeospatial.icaci.org/2014/09/pre-conference-workshop-on-spatial-data-infrastructures-standards-open-source-and-open-data-for-geospatial-sdi-open-2015/>

### **World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2015: Linking Land Tenure and Use for Shared Prosperity March 23-26, 2015, Washington, DC USA**

The Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty organized by the World Bank Development Economic Research Group (DECGR) is a key global event where representatives from governments, civil society, academia, the development community, and the private sector come together annually to discuss new developments and progress on land policy and implementation. The conference aims to foster dialogue and sharing of best practices on the diversity of reforms, approaches and experiences that are being implemented in land sectors around the world. Last year's conference attracted more than 1,000 participants from 101 countries; 60 percent of participants were from developing countries, about a fourth representing government officials and another fourth from international organizations.

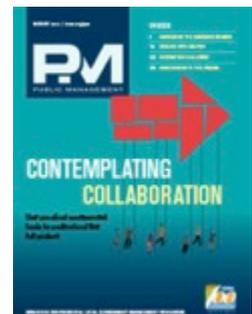
The theme for 2015 is Linking Land Tenure and Use for Shared Prosperity. The topic highlights that while land tenure affects the distribution of assets between men and women, generations, and social groups, patterns of land use will have far-reaching implications for welfare and other socio-economic outcomes at household, community, or landscape level. Although they are by no means a silver bullet, recent innovations in geospatial technologies provide exciting opportunities to document and analyze determinants as well as impacts of land use change that are of great relevance for policy, projects, and research in this area. Authors interested in presenting at the conference are requested to submit an initial 800 to 1,500 word abstract before **October 31, 2014** using the online form. A technical committee will decide on paper acceptance and outcomes will be communicated by December 1st, 2014.

Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2014/08/06/landconference2015>

### **Contemplating Collaboration**

In the August PM cover story, "Contemplating Collaboration," written by David Swindell, director and associate professor, Center for Urban Innovation, Arizona State University, and Cheryl Hilvert, director, Center for Management Strategies, ICMA, Washington, D.C., readers can learn the environment in which collaboration will occur. Among the lists and resources included in the article, understanding these seven environmental factors can help a local government management team determine if collaboration is even possible, much less destined for success:

- Possible public partners. Before considering collaboration, a manager should fully understand the number and capacity of potential public partners in the area and identify which can be legitimate partners in a collaborative service delivery effort.
- Possible private partners. In addition to possible public sector partners, managers should be aware of private sector firms that may be viable partners.
- Possible nonprofit partners. Nonprofit groups are highly capable of partnering in a service delivery collaborative.
- Political environment. Managers should recognize the support or obstacles that exist among elected officials of the community.
- Fiscal/economic health. The community's fiscal condition may be a motivating factor in wanting to pursue collaboration.
- Employee/labor relations. Different communities face different kinds of labor and employee relationships that can create pressure on collaborative discussions.
- Public interest. Some services are naturally more likely to attract the attention of residents than others.



For complete information on these factors, along with characteristics associated with service and project type and forms of collaborative service delivery, read "Contemplating Collaboration" ([http://icma.org/en/press/pm\\_magazine/article/104725](http://icma.org/en/press/pm_magazine/article/104725)) in the August issue of Public Management (PM) magazine of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

Source: [http://icma.org/en/icma/newsroom/highlights/Article/104763/Contemplating\\_Collaboration\\_in\\_2014](http://icma.org/en/icma/newsroom/highlights/Article/104763/Contemplating_Collaboration_in_2014)

### **Collaboration – what's the magic ingredient for working across agencies?**

In Australia, at an Innovation Month 2014 workshop 'Collaboration across agencies – what's the magic ingredient?' over 40 public servants came together to look at the question of how they might ensure better collaboration practices and identify what makes for good collaboration. The workshop was structured in a World Café style to make the most of the experience and knowledge



of participants. Three questions were used and then groups shared back their top ideas:

- What inhibits collaboration?
- What supports collaboration?
- How might we enable consistently better collaboration?

The detailed workshop outcomes are summarised at this Public Sector Innovation Toolkit blog.

Source: <https://innovation.govspace.gov.au/2014/08/11/collaboration-whats-the-magic-ingredient-for-working-across-agencies/>

### ***Geographic Information Observatories for Supporting Science***

Author(s): Benjamin Adams, Mark Gahegan, Prashant Gupta, and Richard Hosking

Submission to Full-Day Workshop on Geographic Information Observatories 2014 at the 8th International Conference on Geographic Information Science (GIScience 2014), Vienna, Austria, September 23-26, 2014.

<http://stko.geog.ucsb.edu/gio2014/>

*Abstract.* In this paper we explore two questions that we feel are important to investigate further if geographic information observatories are to be fruitful research endeavor in GIScience. The first question is simply ‘what is a geographic information observatory (and what is it not)?’ and the second question is ‘what use is a geographic information observatory?’. The construction of large-scale geographic information observatories has the potential to be an exciting development, but it remains unclear what forms they might take. Furthermore, the reasons articulated so far for building these observatories remain largely in the domain of information science and have not been motivated in context to broader scientific problems, such as global climate change. We investigate how geographic information observatories can support science in other fields, focusing on the example of socio-ecological system research. We argue that it is in the application of geographic information observatories toward solving big problems that they can garner community buy-in and demonstrate real impact.

Keywords: geographic information observatory, GIScience, Web Sci-ence, socio-ecological systems

Source: [http://stko.geog.ucsb.edu/gio2014/gio2014\\_submission\\_8.pdf](http://stko.geog.ucsb.edu/gio2014/gio2014_submission_8.pdf)

### ***Troubleshooting Public Data Archiving: Suggestions to Increase Participation***

Author(s): Dominique G. Roche, Robert Lanfear, Sandra A. Binning, Tonya M. Haff, Lisa E. Schwanz, Kristal E. Cain, Hanna Kokko, Michael D. Jennions, Loeske E. B. Kruuk

*PLoS Biol* 12(1)

*Abstract.* An increasing number of publishers and funding agencies require public data archiving (PDA) in open-access databases. PDA has obvious group benefits for the scientific community, but many researchers are reluctant to share their data publicly because of real or perceived individual costs. Improving participation in PDA will require lowering costs and/or increasing benefits for primary data collectors. Small, simple changes can enhance existing measures to ensure that more scientific data are properly archived and made publicly available: (1) facilitate more flexible embargoes on archived data, (2) encourage communication between data generators and re-users, (3) disclose data re-use ethics, and (4) encourage increased recognition of publicly archived data.

Source: <http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pbio.1001779#pbio-1001779-g002>

### ***Open data policies, their implementation and impact: A framework for comparison***

Author(s): Anneke Zuiderwijk, Marijn Janssen

*Government Information Quarterly*, Volume 31, Issue 1, January 2014, Pages 17–29 [not an open access journal]

*Abstract.* In developing open data policies, governments aim to stimulate and guide the publication of government data and to gain advantages from its use. Currently there is a multiplicity of open data policies at various levels of government, whereas very little systematic and structured research has been done on the issues that are covered by open data policies, their intent and actual impact. Furthermore, no suitable framework for comparing open data policies is available, as open data is a recent phenomenon and is thus in an early stage of development. In order to help bring about a better understanding of the common and differentiating elements in the policies and to identify the factors affecting the variation in policies, this paper develops a framework for comparing open data policies. The framework includes the factors of environment and context, policy content, performance indicators and public values. Using this framework, seven Dutch governmental policies at different government levels are compared. The comparison shows both similarities and differences among open data policies, providing opportunities to learn from each other's policies. The findings suggest that current policies are rather inward looking, open data policies can be improved by collaborating with other organizations, focusing on the impact of the policy, stimulating the use of open data and looking at the need

to create a culture in which publicizing data is incorporated in daily working processes. The findings could contribute to the development of new open data policies and the improvement of existing open data policies.

Keywords: Open data policies; Open data framework; Open data; Open government; Comparative research; Policies; Guidelines

Source: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0740624X13001202>

### ***Estimating GIS Return on Investment the Empirical Way***

Author(s): Bruce Joffe, GISP - Principal, GIS Consultants, Inc.  
Paper under review by URISA Journal (Version 1/2014)

**Abstract:** This guideline outlines a standardized method by which an organization can assess the net benefits of implementing, upgrading, and using its GIS resources. The guideline offers a method for calculating the costs of GIS resources including staff, software, data, application programs, training and time spent using the GIS. It concludes with a method for calculating or estimating the financial value of benefits derived from using GIS, based on increased efficiency, cost avoidance, increased revenues, and better decision making. This method is empirical. It is based on the author's experience of planning the implementation of GIS technology for city and county governments over 30 years. It is designed to collect and express the specific experience of GIS users and managers in an organization, using a systematic methodology, so that the conclusions are identified as their own conclusions - rather than the "pet project" of the person who conducts the ROI Study.

Source:

<http://www.urisa.org/clientuploads/directory/Documents/Journal/Under%20Review/Computing%20Costs%20Benefits%20ROI%20of%20GIS%20for%20URISA%20v2%20pdf.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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