

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

February

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Spatial Data Infrastructure-Latin America and the Caribbean (SDI-LAC) is a regional, monthly, and free, electronic newsletter from the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association](#) (GSDI). It focuses on aspects related with Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on GIS, remote sensing, and data management issues, related with SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to raise awareness, provide useful information to strengthen national SDI initiatives, and support synchronization of regional efforts.



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

# GSDI

[GSDI Definition](#)

The [Pan-American Institute of Geography and History](#) (PAIGH), member organization of GSDI, and the [Permanent Committee on Geospatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas](#) (PC-IDEA), promote SDI development in the region. The newsletter is prepared by PAIGH for GSDI.

[Message from the Editor](#)

[Input to this Issue](#)

[Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations](#)

[IGS News, Links, Publications](#)

[National SDI, News, Links, Presentations](#)

[Articles and Publications of the Month](#)

[Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data](#)

[Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Other](#)

[Americas: Conferences, SDI Events \(Year 2012\) \(Year 2013\)](#)



## Message from the Editor

This SDI-LAC issue highlights the following news: The **Global and Regional SDI** section comprises notes on the Digital Earth Vision 2020; Reassignment of Responsibilities within UN-SPIDER; Colombia as UN-SPIDER's newest RSO; Upcoming PC-IDEA Working Meeting; WB Open Climate Data Meeting; FIG Regional Conference 2012 in Uruguay; and INSPIRE Conference 2012; among others. The **IGS section** includes a call for membership. The **National SDI** segment covers activities of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay including local and national SDIs initiatives, and services. **Articles and Publications** of the month comprise remarks on the new MundoGEO magazine highlighting an overview of *SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean*; the NSGIC Geospatial Data Sharing Guidelines; most recent INDE and IDERA Newsletters; and ECLAC and UNU-IAS examinations on Climate Change Impacts on the LAC region. **Geospatial Research and Applications** underline a Brazilian-Colombian contract for satellite monitoring of flood areas; a Coastal Risk Database; and GPS data for Tsunami Warnings. The **Training and Funding Opportunities** section encompasses calls for international and national initiatives, among them relevant academic programs; and the NSF Geography and Spatial Science Grant 2012. Finally, several **Events taking place in the Americas** are listed in the last section.

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

We are pleased to welcome **Javier Nuñez-Villalba**, as correspondent member of SDI-LAC Newsletter for Bolivia; he holds an MSc on Geographic Information Technologies, and is professor and researcher of the Department of Geography Geographical Research Institute (in Spanish IIGEO), San Andres University, in La Paz, Bolivia.

Translation of SDI-LAC Portuguese is possible thanks to undergrad students from UNESP **Matthew de Barros Manhani** and **Esrom A. Rissate Júnior** and the cartographers engineers: **Eduardo Freitas Oliveira**, MSc in GIS, editor of the portal MundoGEO and magazine InfoGNSS and InfoGEO Geomatics; **Silvane Paixão**, MSc in Geodetic Sciences and Geoinformation Technologies, PhD in Land Administration and Land Information Management; **Camila Bassetto Guedes**, advisor of the Operations Department of the Air Space Control (in Spanish DECEA), **Juan Carlos Gironda Mamani**, a consultant in Geotechnology and IT solutions for Geoinformation, **Annette Pic**, MSc in Remote Sensing; **Edilce Figueiredo Burity**, MSc in Computer Systems and Technologist of IBGE/PE Geographic Information and Statistics. Under the general coordination of Silvane Paixão.

Editor, Nancy Aguirre, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), <http://www.ipgh.org>, [cnaguirre@ipgh.org](mailto:cnaguirre@ipgh.org)

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### Input to this Issue

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Manuel Alcazar	Master in Cadastre, Planning and Evaluation, University of Jaén, Spain
Frank Angulo	Academic Coordinator of COVESIG, Venezuela
Darius Bartlett	Department of Geography, University College Cork, Ireland
Anete Berzina	Communications Specialist, European Union Representative Office, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Brussels, Belgium
Santiago Borrero	Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH, Mexico
Manfred F. Buchroithner	President of Organising Committee ICC 2013
María Crespo-Martínez	Project Management, Training Team, DMS Group, Spain
Eduardo Freitas	Correspondent Member of SDI-LAC Newsletter for Brazil
Georg Gartner	ICA President
Pierre Gautreau	Maître of Geographic Conferences, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Laboratory PRODIG UMR, Paris, France
Glenn Hyman	CIAT, Colombia
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Kate Lance	SERVIR, NASA/USRA Coordinator, Huntsville, AL, USA
Javier Nuñez-Villalba	Correspondent Member of SDI-LAC Newsletter for Bolivia; MSc., Professor and Researcher, Department of Geography Institute of Geographical Research (in Spanish IIGEO), University Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia
Luz Angela Rocha	Director <i>Semillero SDI</i> , District University, Bogota, Colombia
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Antoinette WinklerPrins	Spatial Sciences Program Director, Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS), National Science Foundation, USA
Ben Wheeler	Core Science Analytics and Synthesis (CSAS), Core Science Systems (CSS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Reston, VA, USA
Dawn Wright	ESRI Chief Scientist, Redlands, USA
Kenneth Young	Chair and Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of Texas at Austin, USA

[\(Back to top\)](#)

### Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations

#### [ISDE Announced the Digital Earth Vision 2020](#)

Source: <http://www.digitalearth-isde.org/> by way of Santiago Borrero



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DIGITAL EARTH

[ISDE Announced the Digital Earth Vision 2020](#)

The Digital Earth Vision 2020 was finally launched after more than 6 months of discussions from Digital Earth scientists worldwide. On 23rd August, 2011, the new ISDE President Prof. John Richards announced the Digital Earth Vision 2020 in the opening ceremony of the 7th International Symposium on Digital Earth. The new vision pointed out what

## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

### Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Digital Earth might be in the future and will lead new development of the Digital Earth concept, research and applications. ISDE president, professor John Richards explained, "The Digital Earth Vision 2020 will act as the geographical framework on which to build solutions to physical, social and cultural problems, with functionalities of satisfactory metric accuracy, inclusion of underground and underwater data, historical and time predictive models, data archiving, dynamic and interactive, improved access to current and historical data and information, incorporation of inherently non-visual data, metadata on quality, trust and uncertainty, participative in data provision, analysis and debate, includes information on place, culture, identity and networks, development is driven by application demand, and easy and fun to use."

#### Reassignment of Responsibilities within UN-SPIDER

Source: UN-SPIDER December 2011 Updates by way of Santiago Borrero



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations Platform for Space-based  
Information for Disaster Management and  
Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)

At the beginning of December 2011 Mr. Lorant Czárán took over the post of Programme Officer in Vienna, where he will be serving as Region Desk Officer for Africa and also supporting UN-SPIDER Outreach Activities and the Network of Regional Support Offices. In addition, he will support the Office for Outer Space Affairs on the topic of geospatial data, inter-agency system wide coordination, and also supporting the Programme on Space Applications on other activities including Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Juan Carlos Villagran de Leon took over the post of Programme Officer (Head of UN-SPIDER Bonn Office) where he will oversee activities related to Knowledge Management, including the Knowledge Portal and Capacity Building. He will continue to serve as Region Desk Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, he will coordinate activities related to climate change on behalf of the Office for Outer Space Affairs with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other organizations focusing on this topic which are located in Bonn. For an updated list of UN-SPIDER staff check out: <http://www.un-spider.org/story/un-spider-staff>.

#### IGAC from Colombia becomes UN-SPIDER's newest RSO

Source: UN-SPIDER December 2011 Updates by way of Santiago Borrero



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

United Nations Platform for Space-based  
Information for Disaster Management and  
Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)



The Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (in Spanish IGAC) of Colombia and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) recently signed a cooperation agreement making IGAC the newest UN-SPIDER Regional Support Office (RSO). IGAC has been promoting the use of space-based information within Colombia for a variety of purposes and has also been supporting UN-SPIDER in activities conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean. As an RSO, IGAC will continue to provide support in terms of experts towards the provision of technical advisory support to countries within the region and will contribute to capacity building efforts in this region. IGAC will be joining the other ten established RSOs for the 3rd Annual UN-SPIDER Regional Support Offices Meeting which will be held in Vienna on 6-7 February 2012 on the sideline of the forty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).



# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### Geospatial Initiative Shows the way

Source: SciDev.Net Conference Service <http://www.scidev.net/>



GeoSUR, a Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) open access and web-based initiative for geospatial data-sharing, has received a boost at the Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi (12-15 December). The conference "Networks of Networks" working group accepted GeoSUR –one of the first such regional networks in the developing world– as a "case model". "This could help to use the lessons we learned as a starting point to build similar networks in other developing regions," Eric Van Praag, coordinator of GeoSUR, told. "We can help kickstart a network like this in other parts of the world and probably get some funding or support," explained Van Praag. Established in 2007 by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) -a multilateral financial institution that supports sustainable development and comprises 16 LAC countries, Spain and Portugal and 14 private regional banks- the initiative is the first portal to offer access to spatial information for all the countries of the region in

one place. The information is generated by more than 60 participating LAC agencies -from ministries, research centres, Nongovernmental Organisations (NGOs), geographical institutes and private companies- and includes regional base maps; infrastructure, land use, land cover and protected area maps; and aerial imagery. Presenting its five-year report to the Abu Dhabi meeting, the initiative said that 80 per cent of institutions using GeoSUR searched and accessed data, and between 30 and 40 per cent consulted it to support government and institutional decision-making and to download data.

### **IABINFriends Listserv Service Interruption**

Source: Ben Wheeler by way of Santiago Borrero



Welcome to [nbii.gov](http://nbii.gov)

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), which is coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), was terminated on January 15th (for more details please see the NBII termination page, [http://www.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/termination\\_of\\_nbii\\_program/2057](http://www.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt/community/termination_of_nbii_program/2057)). As part of this termination, the current listserv software underlying the IABINFriends list, which provides news and information regarding the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network and related biological informatics efforts in the Americas, as well as several other lists NBII manages, will be discontinued as well. USGS is currently examining alternatives to this listserv software and will ensure that the lists are once again available in the near future. Please feel free to contact Ben Wheeler [bwheeler@usgs.gov](mailto:bwheeler@usgs.gov) with any questions.

### CAF and PAIGH Convene the First Edition of GeoSUR Award

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



The prize is awarded annually to two activities arising from the relationship of institutions involved with the [GeoSUR](#) Program regarding the best application of available data and use of services offered by this program. In the foreground, a data application or service development within the GeoSUR Program that bring innovation to the region will be recognized. A second award will be given to the application or service that stands out for its relevance to the achievement of GeoSUR Program objectives. Institutions or individuals in any country of Latin America and the Caribbean may participate. Application deadline is **June 29, 2012**. GeoSUR will announce the winners in the categories of "Innovation and Relevance" during the installation ceremony of the 5th GeoSUR Program Meeting, as part of the 45 Meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) that will take place on November 2012, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, thus highlighting the initiatives of institutions and active

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

members of GeoSUR. Detailed Information may be found in the [GeoSUR Award Terms](#). For questions or clarification please contact: [PremioGeoSUR@ipgh.org](mailto:PremioGeoSUR@ipgh.org) and/or [SecretariaGeneral@ipgh.org](mailto:SecretariaGeneral@ipgh.org)

### [Pleiades-1 Sub-metre Imagery Satellite Launched](#)

Source: <http://www.gim-international.com/>



On 17th December 2011, the new, very high-resolution French satellite Pleiades-1 was successfully launched from Kourou launch site (French Guiana). This 1-ton spacecraft was put into the morning sun-synchronous orbit at 694km altitude and, after orbital testing, will start delivering colour images of the Earth's surface at a spatial resolution of up to 50cm. This marks a new entrant into the 0.5m market. Currently, the sole suppliers of 0.5m-resolution images on the world market have been the American GeoEye and DigitalGlobe companies. The appearance of a new supplier will promote faster development of the world geodata market. The principal differentiating characteristics of the Pleiades-1 satellite, compared to its modern counterparts, include very high spatial resolution up to 50cm, high geolocation accuracy (up to 4.5m CE90 without GCPs), a wide swath of 20km, automatic generation of ortho-rectified 2nd processing level products within 30 minutes, possibility of multiple programming during a day, five imaging modes,

including mapping of 100km x 100km areas and many other features. A system of two satellites (Pleiades-2 launch is scheduled for 2012) will enable imaging of any area of the Earth within one day and will ensure high efficiency: up to 1 million sq km. In the next two to three years, Astrium company plans to launch three new satellites (Pleiades-2 and SPOT 6/7) that will form a unified system in orbit, ensuring the possibility to take images of any area twice a day at spatial resolutions from 0.5 to 1.5m.

### [Spatial Data Infrastructure for Monitoring Development Outcomes in Uganda](#)

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

This report, part of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for Development (SDI4MDGs) project, draws lessons from international SDI trends to navigate and propose a long-term architecture for a National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Uganda. This study found that most of these SDI related projects are donor funded, therefore, making it important for the government to set up a body that oversees SDI related activities such as monitoring and evaluation of development funds, leadership, legal framework, technology, policy and legislations regarding spatial data in the country. There are some principles and insights relating to SDI to follow as a result of the lessons learnt. There is particular need to remain sensitive to momentum and ensure SDI implementation sustainability through successive, smaller, "quick win" deliverables. As far as possible, leverage and build on the existing efforts, structures, and institutional arrangements. There is need to be sensitive and have a mitigation plan for technological challenges during the early phases of SDI implementation activities. While the longer-term architecture and application areas of an SDI will be generic and cross-disciplinary, focus initially on specific application areas that address well-articulated needs. When concrete application areas are absent, SDI initiatives tend to lose traction. A Mitigation plan for technological challenges during the early phases of SDI implementation activities should also be taken care of with legislation as a powerful SDI enabler. All stakeholders therefore, need to be engaged and encouraged to remain at the NSDI table.



### **FIG Regional Conference 2012 in Uruguay**

Source: FIG e-Newsletter January 2012

The 8th FIG Regional Conference is decided to be held on 26-29 November 2012 at Montevideo in Uruguay. FIG is happy to announce a Regional conference in South America and are looking forward to many participants from the region as well as international participants. President CheeHai Teo and Markku Villikka from FIG Office visited



## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

Asociación de Agrimensores del Uruguay (AAU) November 2011 to start the planning of the conference. More information at: <http://www.fig.net/events/events2012.htm>

### ICC 2013

Source: Georg Gartner, and Manfred F. Buchroithner, by way of Santiago Borrero



The Organizing Committee of the 26th International Cartographic Conference cordially invite you to participate in the ICC 2013 that will take place in Dresden, Germany, from 25th to 30th August 2013. The organizers of ICC 2013 have the great pleasure to provide the current information material about the Conference.

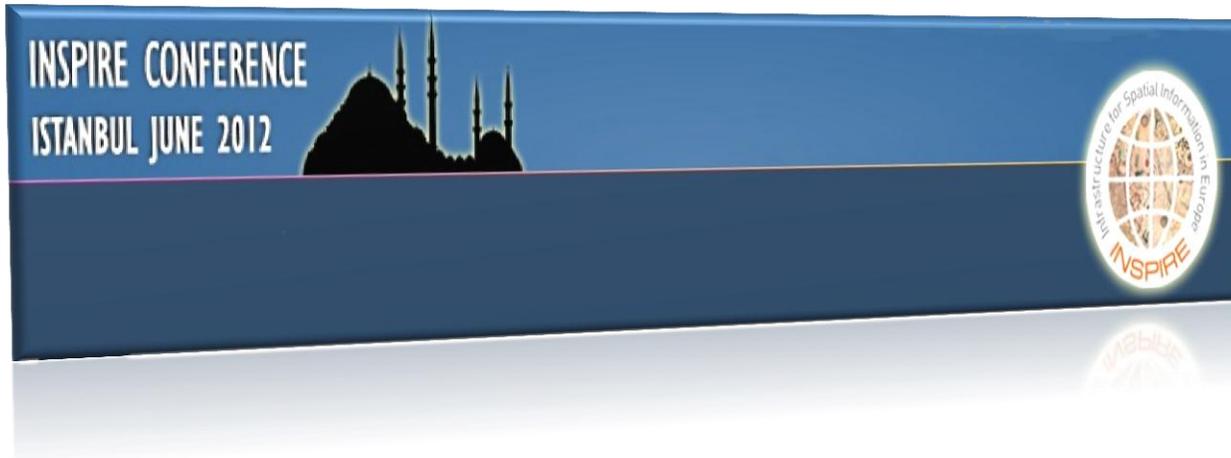
[Download Flyer ICC 2013](#) (PDF 3 MB)

[Download Poster ICC 2013](#) (DIN A3 PDF 7 MB)

This and additional information are available via the ICC 2013 website (<http://www.icc2013.org>), which will be updated continuously.

### [INSPIRE Conference 2012: Call for Papers is Now Open](#)

Source: [http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire\\_2012/index.cfm](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2012/index.cfm)



The INSPIRE Conference 2012 will take place from Saturday 23rd – Wednesday 27th June 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey. The theme of this year's edition is "Sharing environmental information, sharing innovation". With the introduction of the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2, the policy landscape for sharing environmental information has changed drastically. The Commission Communication on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS 2008) and follow-up activities at national and European levels have further helped to cultivate a new vision for a coordinated framework for the implementation and monitoring of environmental policies. The governance, content, and supporting technologies are the three pillars with which this vision can be consolidated and implemented. The aim of this year's INSPIRE Conference is therefore to look at how innovations in these three areas have further shaped the landscape of sharing environmental information. The [call for papers](#) reflects the three pillars: Governance, Content and Technologies.

Detailed information at: [http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire\\_2012/index.cfm#](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2012/index.cfm#)

[\(Back to top\)](#)

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### IGS News, Links, Publications



International  
Geospatial Society



The International Geospatial Society is the individual membership arm of the GSDI Association and seeks individuals for membership that have geospatial, SDI, GIS or related professional or specialist interests. The Society enhances communications globally among individuals that are actively involved in promoting, developing, or advancing spatial data infrastructure and related concepts. Check out the Benefits of Joining ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

[\(Back to top\)](#)

### National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

#### ARGENTINA

##### [Approach to Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Jujuy Provincial Government](#)

Source: IDERA Bulletin no. 6 <http://idet.tucuman.gov.ar/idera/6toBoletinIDERA.pdf>



In the province of Jujuy it has been developed a Spatial Data Infrastructure as part of an Integrated Action (in Spanish AI) collaborative project: "Implementation of a watersheds' study, monitoring and control unit to support management decision-making in the medium to long term in Jujuy, Argentina." It was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (in Spanish AECI) and developed by the Polytechnic University of Madrid and the National University of Jujuy, with participation and support from the provincial government. This AI is intended to empower the Watershed Management Integrated Unit (in Spanish UGICH) as an instrument of provincial administration on watershed management decision making, linking university activity to management. Difficulties encountered are diverse, but common to various analyzed initiatives. A gradual transformation of initial proposals gave rise to building IDE\_UGICH (UGICH-SDI). An institutional project is defined for this SDI, conceived as a strategic tool for corporate management. Recommendations by the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Argentina (in Spanish IDERA) have been followed; and currently, an

interagency working group was formed for the final establishment of the provincial data infrastructure, thereby producing a substantive change in the Jujuy's province geographic information management. [See the Project's Poster.](#)

#### BELIZE

##### [TBSL and ESRI are strong proponents of developing a NSDI in Belize](#)

Source: <http://www.7newsbelize.com/>

Total Business Solutions Ltd. (TBSL) along with ESRI are strong proponents of developing a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, an asset for countries like Belize that would contribute significantly to the country's wider infrastructure. On January took place the 2nd Annual Belize GIS Conference, and Managing Director of TBSL, Loretta Palacio told that changing the mindset of the country's key players remains the greatest challenge yet. "GIS is what nations are using to develop their country, to move forward, to be able to make decisions, because other than that, it's opinions. If

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

we have information, we have industries, economic development, farming, real estate, banking etc. ... But when you put information into a GIS, you start to see trends, patterns, relationships, and it gives to make better decision. You're more strategic." Said Loretta Palacio. "The last year when I came down here, we talked about building a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, bringing in the information together, and start to build a Belizean-owned asset, that we can use to help encourage and develop the nation. One of the things that I am really pleased to announce is that today, TBSL has a national base-map for Belize. That was built with Belizean expertise, people, and knowledge -knowledge that was given, understood, created, and used in the last 12 months. It wasn't people from America, England, South Africa, Australia, or anywhere else. That was local expertise, local knowledge, and local capability. And What I truly believe is that we can give that and do much more." said Simon Thompson - Director Commercial Solutions, ESRI.

### BOLIVIA

#### GeoBolivia SDI Portal

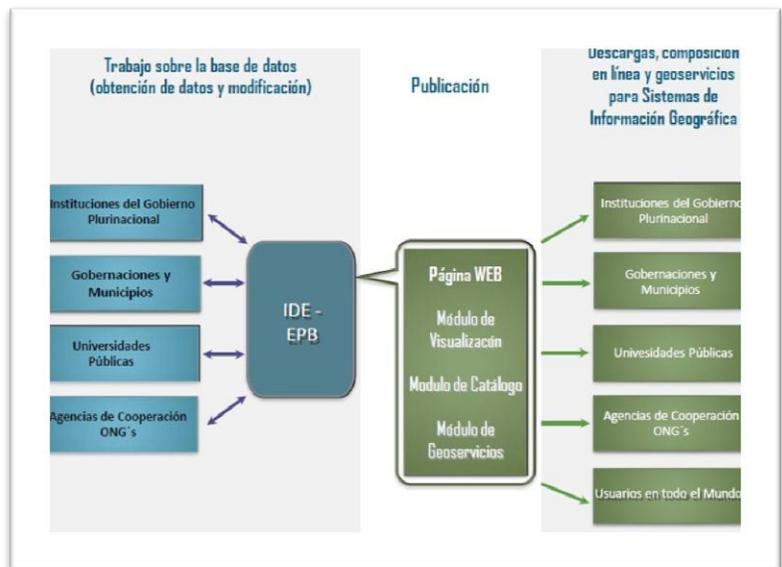
Source: Javier Nuñez-Villalba



of Bolivia, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Full details of the presentation of this project, including a two-hour recording, slides and list of participants may be accessed on the project's webpage: <http://www.geo.gob.bo/?Se-presento-GeoBolivia-a-las>. The meeting's recording includes a discussion on the state of the art of spatial data in Bolivia, which is probably similar to what the Latin American region is currently facing.

**OGC and OSGeo in Bolivia:** On Friday, January 13 GeoBolivia project was pleased to receive members of the OGC and the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). The purpose of their visit was to learn on the progress of the IDE-EPB Spatial Data Infrastructure and how to generate integration and cooperation mechanisms. The OGC, represented by Athina Trakas, and OSGE, Arnulf Christl represented, gave a presentation of one hour and a half to twenty participants from different public institutions that produce geographic information, and explained the objectives and scope of both organizations. Presentations are available on the Geographic Information Technology - GeoBolivia Blog: <http://geobolivia.blogspot.com/2012/01/ogc-y-osgeo-en-bolivia.html>

Presentation of the GeoBolivia Project took place on Tuesday December 13. The project seeks to implement the Plurinational State of Bolivia Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish IDE-EPB <http://www.geo.gob.bo/>). After several attempts, the Plurinational State of Bolivia through the National vice Presidency took over this project and submitted it to various government bodies. This is the most important effort for establishing the Bolivian Spatial Data Infrastructure. The project seeks to implement free software and OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium) standards, as was explained by the Project Coordinator and geographer Raul Fernando Molina. GeoBolivia project began in 2012 with support from the National Government, through Vice-presidency of the Plurinational State



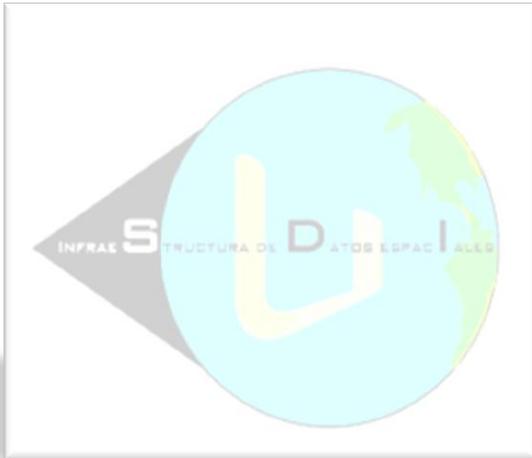
# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### COLOMBIA

#### SDI Nursery - Spatial Data Infrastructure

Source: Luz Angela Rocha



The Universidad Distrital (District University) is affiliated to the district administration of the city of Bogotá, Colombia, which is why it has participated since its inception in the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Capital District (in Spanish IDECA), and from the last three years of the Colombian Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish ICDE). These participations were a decisive factor to the establishment of the research hotbed “Semillero SDI-Spatial Data Infrastructure” in 2007 within the research group NIDE, which was institutionalized in the Scientific Research and Development Center of the University. The research hotbed/nursery consists of a group of students in the Cadastral and Geodetic Engineering program, which has a leader within the students and a teacher as Director. Currently, ten students and two teachers belong to the nursery. The research hotbed has allowed these students to learn SDI concepts and topics; its mission is to build a Hotbed/Nursery to support and advise SDI research activities in terms of consultation, access, acquisition and updating of spatial data, through participation in

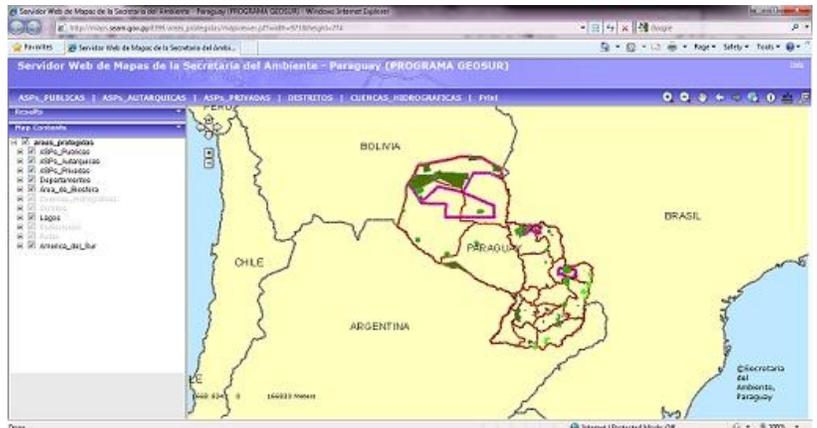
related projects’ working groups including Policies, Standards, Fundamental Data, Metadata, and overall management of geographic information. Its vision is to be the leading academic group at the national and local levels on SDI issues, and for conducting actions that facilitate the production, access, and proper use of geographic information as a contribution to the economic, social and environmental development of the Capital District of Bogota, municipalities, and the country in general. Research lines defined for the SDI nursery include: geographic information management, web mapping, online GIS/geo-services, and GIS standards. SDI research hotbed activities comprise: graduate project development on geographic information standards; metadata production; development of GIS Web applications for teaching geography; and internships on activities that seek strengthening SDI development. All these activities have been reported in national and international events showing the importance of participation of academia in Spatial Data Infrastructures. E-mail contacts: [sdi@udistrital.edu.co](mailto:sdi@udistrital.edu.co) and [sdi-ud@hotmail.com](mailto:sdi-ud@hotmail.com)

### PARAGUAY

#### Paraguay Joins the Latin America and the Caribbean Geospatial Network

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

Paraguay has joined through the Secretary of Environment (in Spanish SEAM) the Latin America and the Caribbean Geospatial Network (in Spanish GeoSur), a virtual space that offers a suite of innovative services and thematic mapping information. As reported in a statement under the Presidency of the Republic, these contents may be viewed through the link “Areas Protegidas” (Protected Areas) located on the SEAM website ([www.seam.gov.py](http://www.seam.gov.py)) or at the GeoSur Programme website ([www.geosur.info](http://www.geosur.info)). This tool allows users to obtain, locate, view and analyze spatial information regarding the protected areas of Paraguay. The aim is to support planning activities for development that require the use of these tools. Available information covers basic mapping of protected areas in the public domain, and biosphere reserves. SEAM technicians pointed out that more information will be added.



# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

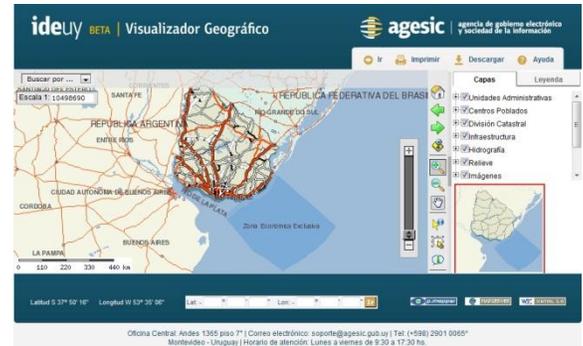
### URUGUAY

#### New to the Display of IDEUy

Source: Sergio Acosta y Lara

New to the display of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Uruguay (IDEUy) (<http://idevisualizador.agesic.gub.uy/>) are:

- Added to display two Land Cover / Land Use (LCCS - Land Cover Classification System) layers: main types and classes. For more details click on the "info" icon for each layer.
- Added to display four layers of the Geological Map of Uruguay at scale of 1:500,000, grouped under "Geologia" (Geology). You may zoom up to the scale of 1:250,000. In the layers' "info" icon is the link to a publication (PDF file) posted on DINAMIGE (National Directorate of Mines and Geology).



[\(Back to top\)](#)

### Articles and Publications of the Month

#### New MundoGEO magazine to browse and download: SDI in Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: MundoGEO

The new MundoGEO magazine, now bimonthly, is the result of the merger of InfoGNSS and InfoGEO magazines. See cover story on an overview of the *Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in Latin America and the Caribbean* by Santiago Borrero, Secretary General of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). This edition also includes a tutorial on Google Map Maker, articles on GIS in the 2014 World Cup, mapping update, spatial analysis, interoperability, geocoding of rural real estate, job market, etc. The editorial content of the new MundoGEO magazine is exactly the same as the MundoGEO print edition. The new journal is available [here](http://mundogeo.com/mundogeo66.php) to both online "browse" and for download in pdf format (if the link does not work, please go to the URL <http://mundogeo.com/mundogeo66.php>).



#### NSGIC Geospatial Data Sharing Guidelines for Best Practices

Source: SDI Magazine, Tuesday, 03 January 2012 20:32

The [NSGIC Data Sharing Work Group](#) published [Guidelines](#) on accessing and sharing geospatial data. The Guidelines include a discussion of the 'Myths' associated with the distribution of geospatial data and they help set the tone for NSGIC's involvement in any future activities related to data sharing. The Work Group plans to assemble a library of reference documents on this site to assist anyone interested in the sharing of geospatial data. The U.S. National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is an organization committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies (GIT). Members of NSGIC include senior state geographic information system (GIS) managers and coordinators. Other members include representatives from federal agencies, local government, the private sector, academia and other professional organizations. [Written by Roger Longhorn]



# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### Experimenting Geoinformation Prices

By Gianluca Miscione, Walter T. de Vries, and Jaap Zevenbergen. Article under Review for the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*, Vol. 7 (2012).

**Abstract:** This paper presents a research which aims at extending our understanding of how prices form along inter-organizational relations in Spatial Data Infrastructures. Our empirical focus is within the Dutch geo-information sector, and our methodological focus is to rely on experiments to test pricing mechanisms. We describe the construction of an experiment which could identify the mechanisms of price setting, in particular the mechanism of anchoring. The requirements of the experiment include the need to associate prices to realistic geo-information commodities. This article therefore focuses on the construction of such an experiment and discusses our early results [The full article may be found at: <http://ijmdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijmdir/issue/current>]

### Increasing the Availability of Spatial data held by public sector bodies: some experiences and guidelines from the OneGeology-Europe project

By Katleen Janssen, Aleksandra Kuczerawy. Article under Review for the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research*, Vol 7 (2012).

**Abstract:** This paper provides an overview of the OneGeology-Europe project's work on the harmonisation of access and licensing policies of the National Geological Surveys in the European Union. After presenting the European legal framework for the availability of public sector spatial data, it sets out some of the main challenges for harmonising data policies and the activities that were undertaken in the OneGeology-project to address these challenges. These activities include the creation of a Code of Practice and model licences. [The full article may be found at: <http://ijmdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijmdir/article/viewFile/260/303>]



### INDE Newsletter No. 3 (4)

Source: CONCAR Executive Secretariat by way of Santiago Borrero

It has been launched the National Spatial Data Infrastructure of Brazil (in Spanish INDE) Newsletter 3. It is a digital-only edition and was prepared by the National Commission of Cartography Executive Secretariat (in Spanish CONCAR) INDE Implementation Committee Working Group on Disclosure and Dissemination. It is available in the news section at CONCAR and INDE websites: [http://www.concar.gov.br/arquivo/150@boletim\\_inde\\_n3\\_internet.pdf](http://www.concar.gov.br/arquivo/150@boletim_inde_n3_internet.pdf)



### IDERA Bulletin No. 6

Source: <http://idet.tucuman.gov.ar/>

The sixth bulletin of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina is available for download at: <http://idet.tucuman.gov.ar/idera/6toBoletinIDERA.pdf>

### Digital Earth 2020: Towards the Vision for the Next Decade

Source: ISDE Newsletter, December 2011 by way of Santiago Borrero

The latest issue of *International Journal of Digital Earth*, Volume 5, Issue 1, is now online. Within this issue is the article, Digital Earth 2020: towards the vision for the next decade, by Max Craglia, Kees de Bie, Davina Jackson, *et al.*

**Abstract:** This position paper is the outcome of a brainstorming workshop organised by the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) in Beijing in March 2011. It argues that the vision of Digital Earth (DE) put forward by Vice-President Al Gore 13 years ago needs to be re-evaluated in the light of the many developments in the fields of information technology, data infrastructures and earth observation that have taken place since. The paper identifies the main policy, scientific and societal drivers for the development of DE and illustrates the multi-faceted nature of a new vision of DE grounding it with a few examples of potential applications. Because no single organisation can on its own develop all the aspects of DE, it is essential to develop a series of collaborations at the global level to turn the vision outlined in this paper into reality. [Exclusive free access: [www.tandfonline.com/r/DE2020](http://www.tandfonline.com/r/DE2020)]



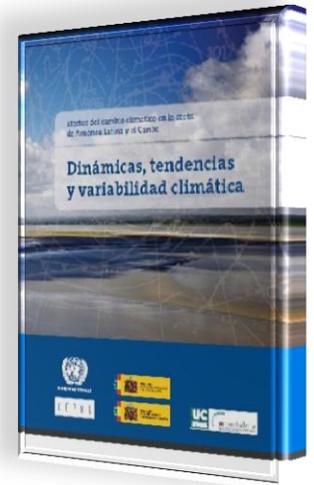
# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### [ECLAC Report Examines Climate Change Impacts on Latin America and Caribbean Coasts](#)

Source: <http://sids-l.iisd.org/>

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has published a report that examines current and future trends in climate variability and their likely impacts on the region's extensive coastline. The report, prepared by the Environmental Hydraulics Institute of the University of Cantabria, Spain, analyzes and provides an atlas of the current physical conditions and changes detected in key coastal variables in 44,851 miles of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) coastline, such as average sea level, surface temperature of the sea, salinity, swells, astronomical tides, air temperature anomalies, wind changes and hurricanes. The report further looks at how these variables might be affected by 2040, 2050 and 2070. The analysis divides results into four basic geographic areas: North America; Central America; South America; and Caribbean islands. Where possible, the report tries to identify sub regional differences in the variables. For example, it notes that the fastest sea level rise (three centimeters per year) is in Northern Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia's Caribbean coast and some Caribbean islands, and the slowest in Ecuador. The report is the first in a series of four, which are planned to be released in 2012 as part of an ECLAC project on climate change and LAC coastal regions financed by the Government of Spain [Publication: [Climate Change Impacts in the Latin American and Caribbean Coastal Regions: Changes, Trends and Climate Variability](#) (in Spanish)]



### [UNU Paper Examines Climate Change Impacts on the Sovereignty of Island States](#)

Source: IISD Reporting Services

The UN University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) has released a paper on the impact of climate change on Atoll Island States, the legal effects of potential re-location of their citizens living in low-lying islands, and issues of sovereignty, which determines the ability of the people of the islands to keep long-term control over their current natural resources. The paper, co-authored by Lilian Yamamoto and Miguel Esteban, discusses six future scenarios for Atoll Island States. From the different scenarios provided, the paper discusses the possibility of having a government-in-exile, which would center on the idea that islands could re-emerge one day in the distant future, where the descendants of the current inhabitants could re-claim these lands. The scientific basis for this is also discussed, highlighting the complex physical and socio-political problems and uncertainty associated to the status of these countries [Publication: [Atoll Island States and Climate Change: Sovereignty Implications](#)].

[\(Back to top\)](#)

## Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

### [Single-source, Global DEM Nearing Completion](#)

Source: *Australasia's magazine for the surveying, mapping and geoinformation industries* by way of Santiago Borrero



The German Earth observation satellite TanDEM-X, together with its twin satellite, TerraSAR-X, have completely mapped the entire land surface of Earth after only a year of service. The data is being used by the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) –which controls both radar satellites– to create the world's first single-source, high-precision, 3D digital elevation model of Earth. The radar system views the ground from two different points in space, achieving “depth perception” in a manner similar to binocular vision in humans. “The generation of accurate elevation data calls for precise coordination of data from and between both satellites,” explains Gerhard Krieger, systems engineer for the TanDEM-X mission. The strips of terrain recorded by the satellites are processed into elevation models measuring 50 by 30 kilometres. Due to the ultra-precise calibration, when this “basic data” is compiled at the end of the process to generate a global 3D map, it is already of very high quality. By mid-2013, TanDEM-X and TerraSAR-X will have imaged the complete land surface area of Earth -roughly 150 million square kilometres- several times. The intention is to create an exceptionally accurate, global and

## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

### Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

homogeneous 3D elevation model that promises to be of equal interest for commercial and scientific purposes. "We want to gain a better understanding of Earth as a system and to employ the data for climate and traffic research, for example," says Irena Hajsek, scientific coordinator for the TanDEM-X mission. "The TanDEM-X capabilities are to be used to address questions of land usage and vegetation, hydrology, geology and glaciology," explained Hajsek. The two Earth observation satellites can also generate information about the height of the snowline or the change in ice masses of the two polar regions, as well as provide geological maps of regions subject to volcanic and/or earthquake activity. The speed of ships or road vehicles can be measured, as can changes in the natural world. The work performed by these two radar satellites is also valuable for agriculture. "Based on the height and structure of a plant it is possible to draw conclusions about its quality and biomass," stated Hajsek.

#### Cosmo-SkyMed satellites monitor flood areas in Colombia

Source: Eduardo Freitas

Telespazio Brasil, a subsidiary of Telespazio (Finmeccanica/Thales), signed two contracts in Colombia for an approximate value of € 400 000, to provide satellite images of the Cosmo-SkyMed to the country's geographic institute. The Geographic Institute "Agustín Codazzi" (IGAC) entrusted Telespazio Brasil the task of satellite monitoring of main flooding risk areas, based on four satellites in the COSMO-SkyMed constellation. In the coming days, Telespazio Brasil satellite guarantees to cover an approximate area of 65 thousand square kilometers. This is the first contract signed by Telespazio Brasil to provide Cosmo-SkyMed images in Colombia - a rapidly growing market in the field of Earth observation.

#### IBGE Releases in Print Index of Geographic Names

Source: <http://www.inde.gov.br/>



The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) releases the first In print (or able to be printed) volume of Index of Geographic Names. The document gives users another way of viewing some of the the Brazilian Bank of Geographical Names information; released on 09.23.2011 and available at the link <http://www.bngb.ibge.gov.br/>. The Index of Geographical Names may be purchased at the IBGE shop. You can also view and download the PDF file link in [ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/documentos/cartografia/indice\\_nomes\\_geograficos.pdf](ftp://geoftp.ibge.gov.br/documentos/cartografia/indice_nomes_geograficos.pdf). The index is a product of the Geographical Names Bank of Brazil (in Portuguese BNGB).

#### Coastal Risk Database

Source: Darius Bartlett

This database arises from the European Union-funded IMCORE project (Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource) that the Coastal and Marine Research Centre (CMRC) at the University College Cork (UCC) was involved in. It contains a number of initiatives that aim to manage coastal risks linked to climate change. IMCORE partners provided the case studies, and the University of Brittany developed the proforma to outline these and this online tool to make them easy to find: <http://coastnet.org.uk/tagazan/>. It all adds up to a very useful resource for anyone working on issues of coastal risk, and stakeholder participation, among others.

#### [GPS data Could Speed up Tsunami Warnings](#)

Source: Nature <http://www.scidev.net/>

Faster tsunami warnings could be issued by using Global Positioning System (GPS) data alongside existing earthquake detection technology, scientists have found. GPS data -provided by a satellite navigation system- could help cut the time lag from 20 minutes to around three minutes, according to results presented at the American Geophysical Union meeting in the United States, 8 December. Seismic instruments -on which current warning systems are based- can take a long time accurately to assess an earthquake's strength, because readings from several

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

locations need to be analysed. However, GPS stations can measure large vertical drops in ground elevation -the factor responsible for tsunami -in real time. This information, when added to preliminary seismic data from the same location, can determine the size -and likely effects- of the earthquake in a matter of minutes. All the technology is already in place in California and Japan, it is just a case of coordinating it, said Yehuda Bock, a researcher at the University of California, United States, who led the team.

### Very Spatial

Source: WALIS January 2012 eNews and <http://veryspatial.com/>

A Very Spatial Podcast is a weekly source for information on Geography and geospatial technologies. Geography touches most things we do everyday, but we rarely even think of it. This podcast seeks to point out how it is filtering into our digital lives and daily lives. Webpage: <http://veryspatial.com/avsp/> and <http://veryspatial.com/>. Contact: [podcast@veryspatial.com](mailto:podcast@veryspatial.com)

[\(Back to top\)](#)

## Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

### MA with Emphasis in Geomatics at the District University of Bogota

Source: Luz Angela Rocha

The District University "Francisco José de Caldas" of Bogota, Colombia, offers from March, 2012, a 'Geomatics Emphasis' on a Master of Information and Communication Science. The master will run for 2 years with a total of 52 credits and awards the title of Master of Science in Information and Communications with Emphasis on Geomatics. It is directed to professions on Earth Sciences, Engineering, and related. For more information please visit:

<http://gemini.udistrital.edu.co/comunidad/dependencias/mcic/>



### International University Master on Multipurpose Cadastre and Valuations

Source: Manuel Alcazar

Is now open the pre-registration period of a new edition of the International University Master on Multipurpose Cadastre and Valuation. It is held virtually from the University of Jaén (Spain), in collaboration with numerous professionals and institutions in Spain and Latin America. You may find detailed information at: [http://coello.ujaen.es/cur\\_catastro/master3.htm](http://coello.ujaen.es/cur_catastro/master3.htm). Contact: [mastercv@ujaen.es](mailto:mastercv@ujaen.es)

### on-line course in Spanish: Draft State Program on Climate Change

Source: Johanna Koolemans-Beynen



The Global Institute for Sustainability is proud to announce the 6th edition of its on-line course, "Technical Elements for a Draft State Program on Climate Change," which will begin on the 5th of March, 2012. This course is completely on-line, and was developed by the Tecnológico de Monterrey and the National Institute for Ecology, in Mexico. This twelve-week course, based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines, is designed to teach state-level public officials the basics of how to construct a state-level Climate Change Program, including how to build and use a state-level carbon inventory, and how to use both meteorological and economic climate change scenarios. Although the course is self-taught, tutors are available to answer questions and to provide feedback on the activities that participants conduct as part of the course. For more information, please contact Johanna Koolemans-Beynen, at [beynen@itesm.mx](mailto:beynen@itesm.mx), or go to the web-page at [www.igs.org.mx/curso\\_peacc](http://www.igs.org.mx/curso_peacc).

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### Combined Short courses of specialization in Geographic Information Quality Assessment -1st Edition (2012)

Source: Joaquín Segura Martín

# Máster

## en Evaluación y Gestión de la Calidad de la Información Geográfica

UNIVERSIDAD DE JAÉN



2011/2012 Evaluación de la Calidad de la I.G. (Título de Experto)

2012/2013 Gestión de la Calidad de la I.G. (Título de Experto)



In line with the specialized training in Geographic Information Quality offered by the University of Jaén, Spain, there is a new initiative especially designed for working professionals responsible for GI production and/or quality control. This offer is based on short, intensive, online learning courses (15 contact hours (two days) and 15 distance-work hours equivalent to 1 ECTS credit), the offer is made up of the following four courses:

- QCIG-01: GI Quality Control Hypothesis Test
- QCIG-02: GI Sampling methods applied to quality control
- QCIG-03: Statistical Methods for positional control points
- QCIG-04: ISO 2859 and ISO 3951 GI Quality Control Methods

More information at: <http://www.cartocalidad.com/es/cursos-cortos.html>. Enrollment date until **one week before the beginning of each course.**

### NSF Geography and Spatial Science (GSS) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) Grant 2012

Source: Antoinette WinklerPrins by way of Kenneth Young



The Geography and Spatial Science (GSS) Program is increasing its maximum DDRI (Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement) award size from US \$12,000 to \$16,000 for total costs. Doctoral students (and their advisors, who will serve as the PIs on DDRI proposals) should carefully construct budgets based on the real research requirements, should consult with their university's sponsored research office to ensure the appropriate indirect costs are included in the budget, should ensure that the requested total does not exceed \$16,000, and should provide full and complete explanation and justification of all proposed expenses. Due Dates: October 15 and **February 15**. For further information please see the GSS DDRI specifications sheet at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/bcs/grs/suppdiss.jsp>. For questions please feel free to contact the

Geography and Spatial Sciences Program Officers: Tom Baerwald, [tbaerwal@nsf.gov](mailto:tbaerwal@nsf.gov); Dave McGinnis, [dmcginni@nsf.gov](mailto:dmcginni@nsf.gov); Antoinette WinklerPrins, [anwinkle@nsf.gov](mailto:anwinkle@nsf.gov)

### DMS GROUP presents its new e-learning platform

Source: Maria Crespo-Martinez

Within the range of training are included topics such as GIS, SDI, data download and web mining. It also comprises learning on how to create a WMS to use and manage the various services offered by a portal; create metadata records and set catalogs; client implementation; how to use GeoNetwork, CatMDEdit, Service Cube, gvSIG, ArcGIS, CSW Client, Global Mapper, GeoServer, MapServer, p.mapper and Quantum GIS, among others; how to catalog in MARC 21, ISBD, ISO 19115; making budgets, measurements and certifications using PRESTO. For more information about courses, and special offers please log on to:



<http://shop.dmsgroup.es>. Registration is now open. Contact: [formación@dmsgroup.es](mailto:formación@dmsgroup.es) or [http://shop.dmsgroup.es/contact\\_us.php](http://shop.dmsgroup.es/contact_us.php). DMS Group is also at [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[\(Back to top\)](#)



## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

### Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter



## Employment Opportunities

### **UNESCO IOC has opened two Consultant Vacancies for the Development of CLME**

Source: UNESCO IOC Regional Office for IOCARIBE

UNESCO IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) has opened two consultant vacancies for the development of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Information Management System (IMS) and a Regional Monitoring Environmental Programme (REMP). Detailed information [here](http://j.mp/whbJyk) (<http://j.mp/whbJyk>). The focus of the GEF intervention will be on assisting the Caribbean countries to improve the management of their shared living marine resources, most of which are considered to be fully or over exploited, through an ecosystem-based approach. For further details on the CLME Project visit [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org). The proposal for the CLME IMS-REMP component can be consulted at: [http://www.clmeproject.org/documents/PP\\_CS/ToRs\\_CLME\\_IMS\\_REMP.pdf](http://www.clmeproject.org/documents/PP_CS/ToRs_CLME_IMS_REMP.pdf). For further information, please contact Dr. Cesar Toro, Head of UNESCO IOC Regional Office for IOCARIBE (IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions), [c.toro@unesco.org](mailto:c.toro@unesco.org) cc: Mrs. Patricia Wills [p.wills-velez@unesco.org](mailto:p.wills-velez@unesco.org)

### **Vacancy Announcement: Mitigation, Data and Analysis (MDA) Programme (Inventories and Data Services Sub-programme)**

Source: <https://unfccc.int/>

Vacancy Announcement No: VA 12/003/MDA

Publication/Transmission Date: 9 January 2012

Deadline for Application: **7 February** 2012

Title and Grade: Programme Officer, P-3

Post Number: FCA-2924-P3-012

Indicative Net Annual Salary: US\$56,091 to US\$62,803 (without dependents); US\$60,091 to US\$67,387 (with dependents); (plus variable post adjustment, currently 45.7 of net salary) plus other UN benefits and pension fund

Duration of Appointment: One and a half years, with possibility of extension

Duty Station: Bonn, Germany

Expected Date for Entry on Duty: As soon as possible

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the focus of the political process to address Climate Change. The Convention secretariat supports the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol by a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties. The Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme supports the intergovernmental negotiations on matters relating to national communications, inventories, assigned amounts and policy instruments.

### **Vacancies with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)**

Source: Kate Lance

CDEMA seeks to reduce the risk and loss associated with natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change to enhance regional sustainable development.



Managing Disasters with Preparedness.

<http://www.cdema.org/>

Community Disaster Planning Specialist - Deadline **February 21**, 2012

<http://www.cdema.org/VacancyNotice-CommunityDisasterPlanningSpecialist.pdf>

Education and Training Specialist - Deadline **February 21**, 2012

<http://www.cdema.org/VacancyNotice-EducationTrainingSpecialist.pdf>

Mitigation and Preparedness Specialist - Deadline **February 21**, 2012

<http://www.cdema.org/VacancyNotice-MitigationPreparednessSpecialist.pdf>

ICT Manager - Deadline **February 21**, 2012

<http://www.cdema.org/VacancyNotice-ICTManager.pdf>



## Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

### Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

#### Position Opening Postdoc in Ocean GIS

Source: Dawn Wright



## SCRIPPS WHALE ACOUSTIC LAB

Whale Acoustics Lab, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, USA. Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position in the area of geographic information systems. Initial appointment is available immediately for one year with the potential for extension. The successful candidate will interface with ongoing research programs that focus on geospatial archiving of detections of marine mammals along with local oceanographic measurements and network interfaces to larger databases of such measurements. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in an appropriate field and a background in temporal-spatial geographic information systems or a related area. Strong programming skills are required, and knowledge of extensible markup language (XML) representations such as the Open Geographic Consortium's Sensor markup language and ISO 19115 are desired. PhD should be received no later than 2009. Curriculum vitae, publication list, short description of research interests, and names and addresses of three references should be sent to: Dr. Marie A. Roch, Marine Physical Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla, CA 92093-0205. Position is to remain open until filled. For further information please contact Marie Roch: tel. (858) 534 7280 or email: [marie.roch@sdsu.edu](mailto:marie.roch@sdsu.edu). The University of California is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. <http://cet.uscd.edu/employment1.html>

[\(Back to top\)](#)



### Other

#### Outcomes of the annual OCTA ministerial conference, 23 Jan 2011, Brussels

Source: Anete Berzina

On 23 January 2012 in Brussels, the leaders of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) concluded their annual Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) Ministerial Conference in preparation for the 10th OCT-EU Forum. The meeting concluded with the leaders agreeing to common positions for talks with the EU Commission and the signing of a Political Declaration. Read the full press release on the outcomes of the Conference and the key points of the Political Declaration at: <http://www.gov.ms/?p=6010>.

#### [A World Organisation for an Equitable Green Economy](#)

Source: <http://www.scidev.net/>

The United Nations will be convening in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next June to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit, held in the same city. The Rio+20 conference will assess progress since 1992 and aim to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development. One of the priorities is recognising that current governance systems to protect the environment have failed to meet expectations -indeed, the health of our environment has taken a turn for the worse over the past decades. World leaders must recognise that taking the modest and incremental approach they took in Rio, 20 years ago is not enough. Only a major overhaul of the governance system will drive the reforms needed to address the challenges of environmental sustainability. The most challenging issue to be discussed is the creation of [the proposed World Environment Organisation \(WEO\)](#) -a new UN body that will anchor global efforts for the environment. Most global organisations that operate today were designed and negotiated by the developed world, while developing countries stood watching on the sidelines. To respond to developing countries' needs, the WEO must have certain priorities. It must be a democratic body with universal membership, where each country has one vote -not weighted voting, as in the case of many financial assistance agencies where donor countries have more votes than recipients. The WEO must also have an implementation arm to respond to needs for technical assistance, capacity building and technology support. [By Zakri Abdul Hamid is science advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia]

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### Green Growth Knowledge Platform Launched in Mexico

Source: IISD Reporting Services



The Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank will work together to create the [Green Growth Knowledge Platform](#) (GGKP), according to a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the Platform's inaugural conference. The Platform is a global network of researchers and development experts that identifies and addresses major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice. More information:

<http://larc.iisd.org/news/green-growth-knowledge-platform-launched-in-mexico/>

[\(Back to top\)](#)

## Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

### AAG Annual Meeting will Feature Sessions on GIScience, Cyberinfrastructure, Social Media

Source: AAGeogram



The 2012 Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting will take place on February 24-28 in New York, USA. One of the featured themes at the AAG Annual Meeting will center on GIScience and cyberinfrastructure research. Topics will include real-time GIS, high-performance distributed computing with large spatial datasets, the geospatial web, and multi-scale spatio-temporal analysis. Also included are sessions that address the integration of GIScience and social media in the democratization of information. See a detailed list of sessions at <http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting>. The 2012 AAG Annual Meeting will offer many unique opportunities for geographers and related scholars to interact around topics of common concern. The pages linked below briefly describe each featured theme, which contain only a few of the many exciting sessions and events planned for the upcoming AAG Annual Meeting:

[GIScience, Cyberinfrastructure, and Social Media Contributions of Physical Geography to Sustainable Development](#)

[Social Justice, Media, and Human Rights](#)

[International Finance and Economics](#)

[Geography and the Humanities](#)

[The United Nations](#)

### ICTD 2012

Source: <http://www.ictd2012.org/>



ATLANTA 2012

International conference on information and communication technologies and development

The Fifth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2012), will be hosted at the Georgia Institute of Technology, March 12-15, 2012, Atlanta, Georgia USA. ICTD is the world's premier conference examining the role of computers and communications in social, economic and political development. The conference will attract over 500 leading scholars and practitioners working at the intersections of information technologies and global development. Attendees will be able to choose from nearly 40 Open Sessions (panels, workshops, and more) and 29 demos presented by practitioners and academic institutions from across the globe. Contact: [info@ictd2012.org](mailto:info@ictd2012.org)

### II Venezuelan Congress of Geographic Information Systems (GIS COVESIG)

Source: Frank Angulo



Announcement and call for papers for the Second Venezuelan Congress of Geographic Information Systems (in Spanish COVESIG 2012) to be held from 23 to 25 October 2012 at the University of the Andes in Merida, Venezuela. COVESIG 2012 could be the main activity of the Venezuelan Society of Geographers and their students in areas of affinity to geographical

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

sciences and engineering. Professionals and specialists from the public and private sectors will attend. It also aims to disseminate and discuss the main research and applications in the area of GIS through presentations and conferences, poster sessions, project exhibition and discussion in several specialty areas. Receiving abstracts until **September 30, 2012**. Official languages: Spanish and Portuguese. Contact: [aseciam@ula.ve](mailto:aseciam@ula.ve)

### [ForestSAT 2012: A Conference Promoting Science-based Applications of Remote Sensing and Other Spatial Data in Forested Systems](#)

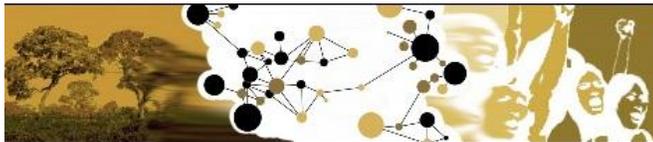
Source: ForestSAT 2012 Steering, Science, and Organizing Committees a través de Santiago Borrero

ForestSAT 2012 will be held on September 11-14, 2012 in Corvallis, Oregon, USA (<http://www.forestsat2012.com/>). The purpose of ForestSAT 2012 is to promote scientifically-based understanding of how spatial analysis technologies can help describe and monitor forested systems. Recognized is an inherent need to integrate data from an array of remote sensing systems, and other spatial information, using a variety of approaches. Numerous uses of spatial data are relevant, from addressing the needs of local forest managers, to informing forest ecosystem models, to establishing monitoring systems in support of international agreements. Delegates to ForestSAT typically represent research organizations, universities, agencies, and the private sector. Please consider submitting an abstract to present a paper or poster. Abstracts due: **April 15, 2012**. Contact: [forestsat2012@oregonstate.edu](mailto:forestsat2012@oregonstate.edu)



### [Seminar on "Sharing Environmental Data in Latin America", Brazil](#)

Source: Pierre Gautreau by way of Glenn Hyman, and Kate Lance



This seminar about open environmental data in Latin America, will take place in August 23-24, 2012 in Porto

Alegre, Brazil. The call for papers can be downloaded in the project website: <http://baquala.hypotheses.org/> or directly ([English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#)). Abstracts are due **March 1, 2012**. All questions should be directed to Pierre Gautreau, the organizer, at: [Pierre.Gautreau@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:Pierre.Gautreau@univ-paris1.fr). WebSite : <http://elgateado.free.fr/>; <http://www.prodig.cnrs.fr/spip.php?article133>

### **It's time to think and talk about infrastructure in Brazil**

Source: Eduardo Freitas

The year 2012 will be promising and challenging for the market related to the infrastructure in Brazil. After all, the industry and retail equipment for large construction projects continue on the rise, according to the Brazilian Association of Technology for Equipment and Maintenance (Sobratema). On the other hand, nature defies the power of big cities, requiring new plans to contain the force of water and earth, as are the recent cases of the state of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro. These are the big current issues of management of the territory, whether urban or rural, that devastate Brazil. Therefore, it is important to discuss and improve techniques about what is being done and what can be done in the areas of engineering and major projects in the country. Based on these issues seminars, forums and courses come about in MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2012 (<http://mundogeoconnect.com>), the most important event of the geotechnology industry in Latin America, that will take place on May 29 thru 31 at the Frei Caneca Convention Center, in Sao Paulo (SP). Several activities will be focused on the topic, discussing how geotechnology can be a powerful tool in the area of infrastructure. On the 29th, the following courses will take place: GIS for Town Halls and Remote Sensing. The second day will be the seminars' turn: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle & Aerial photographs, and GNSS & Topographic Automation; while on the 31st, the E-government conference and the Satellite Images seminar will take place.



[\(Back to top\)](#)

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### YEAR 2012

[Year 2012](#) January [February](#) [March](#) [April](#) [May](#) [June](#) [July](#) [August](#) [September](#) [October](#) [November](#) [December](#)  
[Year 2013](#) January February March [April](#) May June July August September October November December

#### FEBRUARY 2012

2	World wide	<a href="#">World Wetlands Day 2012</a>
6-7	Alexandria, VA, USA	<a href="#">5th Annual Military Radar Summit</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
13-17	Anchorage AK, USA	<a href="#">Annual Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference</a>
16	USA	Free 60-minute webinar: <a href="#">Maximize ROI: Integrate Your iCity Financial Data to iVAULT Web-Based Mapping</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
16-17	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
20-22	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">I Geoinformatics Workshop (UCIENCIA 2012)</a>
22-24	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Federal GIS Conference</a>
24-28	New York NY, USA	<a href="#">Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting</a>
24-28	New York NY, USA	<a href="#">AAG Annual Meeting will Feature Sessions on GIScience, Cyberinfrastructure, Social Media</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
Feb.26- Mar.1	Annapolis MD, USA	<a href="#">National States Geographic Information Council Mid-Year Meeting</a>
Feb. 27- Mar. 1	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="#">XVIII International Sunflower Congress</a>
27-29	Denver CO, USA	<a href="#">Inspire 2012</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
Feb. 28- Mar. 1	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">RIEGL International Airborne and Mobile User Conference</a>
Feb. 28- Mar. 1	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">RIEGL LiDAR 2012</a>
To be defined	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">Radar Course Workshop</a>

#### MARCH 2012

5-9	Honolulu HI, USA	<a href="#">Hawaii Pacific GIS Conference</a>
5-9	Asunción, Paraguay	<a href="#">27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Latin America and the Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
7-8	Redlands CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI California, Hawaii, Nevada Regional User Conference</a>
12-15	San Antonio TX, USA	<a href="#">GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference</a>
12-15	Atlanta GA, USA	<a href="#">Fifth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2012)</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
14-17	Paraná, Argentina	<a href="#">6th Latin American Geographic Colloquium "The New Latin American Regional Settings from a Geographic Perspective"</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:infomesvicoloquio@uader.edu.ar">infomesvicoloquio@uader.edu.ar</a> ; <a href="http://www.technology-conference.com/">http://www.technology-conference.com/</a>
19-23	Sacramento CA, USA	<a href="#">ASPRS 2012 Annual Conference</a>
19-23	Sacramento CA, USA	<a href="#">Imaging and Geospatial Technologies - Into the Future</a>
21-23	Asunción, Paraguay	<a href="#">II National Congress of Agricultural Sciences: Integration, Competitiveness and Sustainable Development</a>
22-23	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="#">Regional Working Days of Current and Potential gvSIG Users</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
22-23	Lima, Peru	<a href="#">19th Geomatics International Congress: GeoExpo 2012</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
24-27	Palm Springs CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Partner Conference</a>
25-28	Arlington VA, USA	<a href="#">15<sup>th</sup> Annual AAAE GIS Conference and Exposition</a>
26	Palm Springs CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Developer Summit</a>
29-30	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		

#### APRIL 2012

2-4	San Francisco CA, USA	<a href="#">Where 2.0</a>
2-4	San Francisco CA, USA	<a href="#">O'Reilly Where: The Art and Business of Location</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
10-12	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">WhereCon 2012</a>
11-13	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">7th Aquarius SAC-D Science Meeting</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
11-13	Sacramento CA, USA	<a href="#">CalGIS: 18th Annual California GIS Conference</a>

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

14-17	Los Angeles CA, USA	<a href="#">2012 American Planning Association National Planning Conference</a>
15-18	Loveland CO, USA	<a href="#">25th Annual GIS-T 2012 Mainframe to Mainstream - 25 Years of Progress</a>
16-18	Loveland CO, USA	<a href="#">GIS-T 2012: GIS for Transportation</a>
16-19	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">Optimizing Customer and Product Support Through Remote and Proactive Service Models</a>
16-20	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">Congress INFO 2012 - 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Information</a>
16-20	Mar del Plata, Argentina	<a href="#">XIX Latin American Congress and XXIII Argentine Congress on Soil Science</a>
17-18	Atlantic City NJ, USA	<a href="#">MapFrame East Coast Regional Seminar</a>
19-20 <b>*NEW*</b>	Ottawa ON, Canada	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
19-21	Bahia Blanca, Argentina	<a href="#">IX National Conference on Physical Geography</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:geografiafisica@uns.edu.ar">geografiafisica@uns.edu.ar</a>
22-25 <b>*NEW*</b>	Vancouver, Canada	<a href="#">9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management- ISCRAM 2012</a>
22-26	Kansas City MO, USA	<a href="#">MAGIC - 2012: Mid-America GIS Symposium</a>
24-25 <b>*NEW*</b>	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">MapFrame West Coast Regional Seminar</a>
25-28	Cordoba, Argentina	<a href="#">XI National and VIII Latin American Congress on Surveying</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:seceventos@agrimcba.org.ar">seceventos@agrimcba.org.ar</a>
26-27 <b>*NEW*</b>	San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Tucuman GIS Working Days</a>
26-27 <b>*NEW*</b>	Tunja, Boyacá, Colombia	<a href="#">First International and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Seminar on Geomatics, Environment and Hydraulics</a>
Apr. 30 – May 2	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Petroleum GIS Conference</a>

### MAY 2012

2-5 <b>*NEW*</b>	Villa Carlos Paz, Córdoba, Argentina	<a href="#">11<sup>th</sup> National and 8<sup>th</sup> Latin American Congress on Surveying</a>
7-9	Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil	<a href="#">GEOBIA 2012: Geographic Object-Based Image Analysis</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:geobia2012@dpi.inpe.br">geobia2012@dpi.inpe.br</a>
7-9	Calgary Alberta, Canada	<a href="#">Conference GeoAlberta 2012</a>
7-11	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">XII International Symposium on Geocritique</a>
8-9 <b>*NEW*</b>	Bloomington IN, USA	<a href="#">2012 Indiana GIS Conference</a>
8-10	New Orleans LA, USA	<a href="#">CTIA Wireless 2012</a>
14-17	Quebec City, Canada	<a href="#">GSDI-13: Spatially Enabling Government, Industry and Citizens</a>
15-17	Ontario, Canada	<a href="#">Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC2012)</a>
17-18 <b>*NEW*</b>	Denver CO, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
22-23	Grantville PA, USA	<a href="#">The 2012 PA GIS Conference</a>
22-23	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">Location Intelligence Conference/Oracle Spatial 2012</a>
May 28-Jun. 1	Mendoza, Argentina	<a href="#">XI Argentine Congress on Meteorology</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:blazquez@cima.fcen.uba.ar">blazquez@cima.fcen.uba.ar</a>
29-31	São Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">MundoGEO#Connect: "Sharing Information for a Better World"</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:connect@mundogeo.com">connect@mundogeo.com</a>
May 30-Jun. 1	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">UCGIS 2012 Spring Symposium</a>

### JUNE 2012

3-6	Salvador Bahía, Brazil	<a href="#">33<sup>rd</sup> Inter-American Congress on Sanitary and Environmental Engineering AIDIS</a>
4-5 <b>*NEW*</b>	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">Andean Geomatics 2012</a>
4-6	Rio de Janeiro RJ, Brazil	<a href="#">UN Conference on Sustainable Development (commonly called Earth Summit 2012) or 'Rio+20'</a>
4-7	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">Hexagon 2012</a>
6-8	Villa de Leyva, Colombia	<a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Latin American and Caribbean Society of Environmental History - SOLCHA</a>
11-15	Savannah GA, USA	<a href="#">URISA Leadership Academy</a>
12-13	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">First Latin-American Congress on Urban Ecology</a> - Challenges and Development Scenarios for Latin American Cities

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

14-15	Chicago IL, USA	<a href="#">Location Intelligence for Enterprise USA</a>
14-15	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">First International Course on Urban Ecology</a>
24-27	Chicago IL, USA	<a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> Urban Street Symposium</a>
25-29	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">Sixth Congress on Cartographic Science</a>

### JULY 2012

1-3	Reston, VA, USA	<a href="#">COM.Geo 2012</a> The 3rd International Conference on Computing for Geospatial Research and Application
7-12	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">The Survey Summit</a>
21-24	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Education User Conference</a>
21-24	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Homeland Security Summit</a>
22-24	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Business Summit</a>
23-27	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI International User Conference 2012</a>
26-27	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		

### AUGUST 2012

6-9	Memphis TN, USA	<a href="#">URISA/NENA Addressing Conference</a>
14-17	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<a href="#">Latin America Geospatial Forum 2012</a>
14-17	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<a href="#">Latin America Geospatial Forum</a> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Latin American Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Information, Technology and Applications.
<b>*NEW*</b>		
16-17	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<a href="#">Conference on Geospatial for Defense and Homeland Security: Geo-Intelligence Latin America</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
23-24	Porto Alegre, Brazil	<a href="#">Seminar "Sharing Environmental Data in Latin America"</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		

### SEPTEMBER 2012

9-11	Albuquerque NM, USA	<a href="#">IMTA (Americas) 2012 Conference and Member Showcase</a>
9-13	Lake Buena Vista FL, USA	<a href="#">National States Geographic Information Council Annual Meeting</a>
11-14	Corvallis OR, USA	<a href="#">ForestSAT 2012: A Conference Promoting Science-based Applications of Remote Sensing and other Spatial Data in Forested Systems</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
13-14	Philadelphia PA, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
17-18	Daytona Beach FL, USA	<a href="#">6<sup>th</sup> Annual CFGIS Workshop</a>
18-21	Alta Gracia, Cordoba, Argentina	<a href="#">Argentinean Congress of Remote Sensing 2012</a>
24-28	Montevideo, Uruguay	<a href="#">XIX ISTRO Conference and 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Uruguayan Society of Soil Science</a> . More: <a href="http://www.congresos-rohr.com/istro2012">http://www.congresos-rohr.com/istro2012</a>
Sep. 30 – Oct. 3	Long Beach CA, USA	<a href="#">Autovation 2012</a>

### OCTOBER 2012

Sep. 30 – Oct. 3	Long Beach CA, USA	<a href="#">Autovation 2012</a>
1	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#">Fall 2012 Meeting: New Positioning Techniques</a>
1-4	Portland OR, USA	<a href="#">URISA's Annual Conference for GIS Professionals</a>
<b>*UPDATED*</b>		
4-5	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">19<sup>th</sup> ESRI Users Latin-American Conference</a>
<b>*UPDATED*</b>		
15-17	Dallas TX, USA	<a href="#">Field Service Interactive</a>
23-25	Mérida, Venezuela	<a href="#">II Venezuelan Congress of Geographic Information Systems GIS (COVESIG)</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		

### NOVEMBER 2012

8-9	Atlanta GA, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
12-16	Montego Bay, Jamaica	<a href="#">URISA's Caribbean GIS Conference</a>
26-29	Montevideo, Uruguay	<a href="#">8th FIG Regional Conference</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		

### DECEMBER 2012

27-29	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">IMTA (Americas) 2012 Strategic Planning Session</a>
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# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### YEAR 2013

[Year 2013](#) January February March [April](#) May June July August September October November December

APRIL 2013		
1-5	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">V Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences - Geosciences 2013</a>

[\(Back to top\)](#)

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