

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

SDI-Africa Newsletter

December 2004

Vol. 3, No. 12

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

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

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

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

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

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

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Claire Kremen, Princeton University Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (USA); Robert Zomer, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka); Aasmund Andersen, Development Assistance Coordination Office (DACO), UNDP (Sierra Leone); and Robert Zomer, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

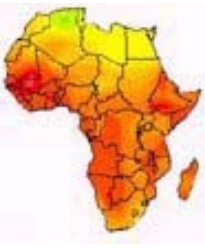
Sierra Leone Information System (SLIS) Update

A one-week introduction course into GIS was held by DACO / Sierra Leone Information System (SLIS) for Sierra Leone government staff that is responsible for spatially related data at their resorts. Officers from Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Statistics Sierra Leone have been trained in:

- Vector data creation from digital raster data sources
- Vector data creation from GPS based data collection
- Accuracy checking techniques for raster vector and attribute data
- Digital map generation
- Digital map layout

The purpose of the training was to start building capacity at the government institutions. Enabling key personnel to create their own spatially related data, training them in data storage, data handling, rough data analysis and the generation of map products supports national development planning efforts and is in parallel contributing to the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure for Sierra Leone. The idea and need for this GIS training was addressed in the Cadastre/NSDI Working Group, which has been established by the [Development Assistance Coordination Office \(DACO\)](#). The training was conducted by the UNDP supported Sierra Leone Information System (SLIS), which is now part of DACO. The training was also supported by UNAMSIL, who provided training facilities. It is foreseen to set up a helpdesk service for the participants to give the capacity building at national ministries a long term and sustainable approach. The GIS training manual will soon be made available on the DACO web site.

The first basic version of the Sierra Leone Spatial Data Infrastructure is foreseen to be released in early 2005. This core dataset will enable all partners to use advanced GIS tools for analysis and planning.



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Nakuru \(Kenya\) Local Urban Observatory – Analysis of Field Survey on Urban Development Priorities and Needs for Information on Urban Development Issues](#), conducted in Nakuru from February 11-15, 2003

The Nakuru LUO project proposes to build up on and take advantage of spatial information capture and processing technologies in order to develop a sound knowledge infrastructure for a sustainable Local Urban Observatory. This initiative will promote the development of participatory negotiation and decision-making processes in Nakuru, and propose a model for improved urban governance. It will build the capacity of the municipal staff and a team of community resource persons, in establishing a set of physical and socio-economic spatial urban indicators and in undertaking practical mapping of the neighborhoods. The trained team will embark on a comprehensive development of an urban monitoring system consisting of the NakInfo software and a spatial database. The results will assist in the setting up of the municipal observatory - the Local Urban Observatory - and will also assist in the updating of the observatory and possible replications in other municipalities. Contact: a-ehrensperger@wananchi.com
See also [Potentials of IT and Spatial Analysis in Syndrome Mitigation](#)

[Participatory GIS in Kenya](#)

ERMIS AFRICA has been undertaking PGIS in Kenya as an approach to devolving GIS and Open source Technologies to rural and urban civil societies and community members. Their interest ranges from conservation, education, advocacy and networking. They have a range of policy research projects, conservation projects, educational projects, and a local urban observatory systems. See website for more details. [Source: PPgis.net]

[Agricultural Geo-referenced Information System \(AGRIS\) – South Africa](#)

Timely availability of reliable geo-referenced land, climate, plant nutrients, production and water information, integrated with infrastructural- and socio-economic factors, are essential for stakeholders, policy makers and land users to exercise the best choices among options in using these resources to achieve sustainable levels of food production and development in an increasingly complex environment. The need for and access to spatial information in South Africa for use in decision making and development planning is a topical issue and inevitably leads to discussions on uncoordinated effort, a lack of funding and expertise and the unavailability of good quality, standardised data. Between the National Department of Agriculture, Provincial Departments of Agriculture, the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and other spatial information providers there is a wealth of information. The need to make this information accessible led to the development of the Agricultural Geo-referenced Information system (AGIS). The vision of AGIS is simple: "Making South Africa's Agricultural information available on the Internet". See:

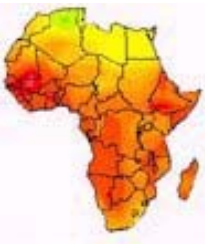
- Natural Resources Atlas
- Demography Atlas
- Foot and Mouth Disease Atlas
- Agricultural Infrastructure Atlas

[GNOSIS - Generalized natural sciences online spatial information system](#) (Central Africa)

The project's general objective is to bring together scientific data sources from the various disciplines into an integrated GIS management system. Firstly, meteorological data from the Royal Meteorological Institute, data relating to the zoological collections and research of the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences and the Museum for Central Africa and data about the geology of Belgium and Central Africa are brought together and tested in a pilot application. This is practically elaborated via the development of a web GIS portal that should ensure user-friendly access to the data. While - for most zoological collections, at least - searching for data on the appearance and distribution of a species or group can only be done via the name, the project will offer the possibility of performing searches by locality or region, to be defined via a provided map. Contact: Jan Govaere, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (KBIN-IRSNB), jan.govaere@naturalsciences.be

[First meeting of the ICA Working Group on Mapping Africa for Africa](#)

This meeting took place in Nairobi on 18 October 2004. Mapping Africa for Africa (MAFA) is a new initiative that is expected to accelerate the pace of geo-information activities in Africa, as well as being a catalyst for promulgating the importance of geo-spatial information for decision support in Africa's development. MAFA is expected to spearhead a plan of action to provide the fundamental geo-spatial information/maps for sustainable development in support of various projects under NEPAD. [Mapping Africa for Africa Initiative](#); [Mapping Africa for Africa Powerpoint presentation](#); [ICA Role in Mapping Africa for Africa](#).



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

The [Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results](#) was held in Marrakech, Morocco from 4–5 February 2004. The Roundtable issued a [joint memorandum](#) and a draft list of core principles and action plan for managing for development results. The action plan identifies seven areas for global action, one of which is the need for improved statistical systems. The authors note that although “the statistical community has been working to improve national and international statistical systems... much more needs to be done if better data for evidence-based planning and global monitoring are to be available for the 2005 and 2010 [comprehensive] reviews of the MDGs and the 2015 target year.” Jointly signed by the DAC chairman and the heads of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank, the memorandum affirms that a “global effort is needed to support countries in generating reliable and timely data to assess progress toward the Millennium Development Goals and other country goals, and to strengthen international reporting mechanisms.” The memorandum closes with a call to bilateral and multilateral development agencies and developing countries to embrace the core principles and action plan. The clear recognition at the Marrakech Roundtable that relevant, timely statistics are essential for measuring results follows similar support from other major international events such as the March 2002 [International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey](#).

[Déclaration de Yaoundé sur le développement statistique en Afrique](#)

Les Directeurs généraux des instituts nationaux des statistiques (INS) de 51 pays africains, après avoir participé à la réunion du Conseil de gestion du programme de comparaison internationale pour l'Afrique (PCI-Afrique) le 26 avril 2004 à Yaoundé, et ayant délibéré sur la demande pressante et de plus en plus importante de données fiables, pertinentes, régulières et à jour, nécessaires à la formulation, à la gestion et au suivi des politiques, au cours de la réunion des Directeurs généraux des INS africains, du 26 au 30 avril 2004.

[TIGER Workshop puts focus on space for African water management](#)

The TIGER Initiative offering to make European Space Agency satellite data available for monitoring African water resources sparked an enthusiastic take-up by researchers across the continent and beyond it. Some 95 proposals have been received, 65 of which were accepted for discussion during the [TIGER Workshop](#) in Pretoria, South Africa, November 8-10, 2004.

[New CGIAR-CSI Consortium for Spatial Information website](#)

The CGIAR-CSI Consortium for Spatial Information is pleased to announce the launching of its new website. It provides overview information and the latest updates on the CGIAR-CSI and its activities. It has a new look and substantially more information. Now included on the site:

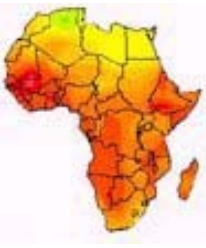
- CGIAR GeoSpatial Tools online
- Links to GeoSpatial Activities at the various CGIAR Centers
- Description of GeoSpatial Activities for all CGIAR Centers
- Intellectual Property Rights Resource Center (for GeoSpatial Data)
- MetaData Resource Center
- Reports and results from recent workshops - GASSIA, PovertyMap, Global Spatial Data Users Workshop
- Vacancy and opportunity Listings...

In addition, CSI has launched the CGIAR-CSI 90m SRTM Digital Elevation Database, also available on this site (see details in 'Data Sources' section below). CSI is continuously updating the website with new information and more data available for download. They appreciate any feedback or comments: csi@cgiar.org

[Call for Papers - Twenty-Fifth Annual ESRI International User Conference](#)

Deadline for abstracts for user paper presentations for the 2005 ESRI International User Conference is [December 3, 2004](#). Abstracts should be not more than 150 words. Users who present their papers at the conference can have them published on the Web and in the conference proceedings on CD-ROM.

[Call for Papers - AFRICAGIS '05](#), 29 August – September 2, 2005, Johannesburg, South Africa. Theme: Beyond Talk: Geo-information working for Africa. This conference aims to take people beyond talking about what can be done with geo-information, to sharing information and experiences about what is being done on the continent and to



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

showcase examples of where geo-information has made an impact on people's lives, particularly through local development and partnerships. Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 December 2004.

[First Announcement - United Nations/Algeria/European Space Agency International on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters](#) The attendance will be limited to 80 participants. The working languages of the seminar will be French, English and Arabic. Further information can be obtained from Ms. Raechelle Newman, raechelle.newman@unvienna.org.

[Séminaire International Nations Unies/ Algérie/Agence Spatiale Européenne sur l'utilisation de la technologie spatiale pour la gestion des catastrophes: Prévention et gestion des catastrophes naturelles](#), Algiers, Algeria, 22 – 26 May 2005. L'audience sera limitée à 80 participants. Les langues de travail du séminaire seront le Français, l'Anglais et l'Arabe. Pour toutes informations complémentaires, la personne à contacter est Mme Raechelle Newman, raechelle.newman@unvienna.org.

'Early bird registration' for the **[8th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure](#)** ends 31 January 2005. Any questions can be directed to email: fig@fig.net.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

[The Oscars of Web Mapping - 2004!](#) - Results of Directions Magazine's online mapping contest.

Africa Population Database for 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000

A new version of the [African Population Database](#) is now available for download. The database has been updated to incorporate new censuses released since the mid 1990s. A new layer is available for 2000 and the estimates for 1960, 1970, 1980 and 1990 have been adjusted to the new censuses and new UN population estimates. View metadata and download the data from UNEP's datalist page.

Digital Elevation Data for the Entire Globe Now Available on the CGIAR-CSI GeoPortal

The CGIAR-CSI is now able to provide "Hole-filled seamless SRTM 90m Digital Elevation Data" for almost the entire globe for download (Australia is not processed yet, but should be ready in the next couple of months). The SRTM DEM's have a resolution of 90m, and are provided in 5 deg x 5 deg tiles for easy download and use. These are available in both ArcInfo ASCII and GeoTiff format to facilitate ease of use. Data can be downloaded using a browser or directly from the ftp site. To go directly to the SRTM Database, click here: SRTM DEM Database (<http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org>) or visit the CGIAR-CSI Web Site: <http://csi.cgiar.org>

[IWMI RS/GIS Data Storehouse Pathway \(DSP\) \(Gateway to over 1 terabyte of data on River Basins, Nations, Regions, and the World\)](#)

If you have not visited IWMIDSP, it is time to visit it (and register for it). From the last β -release to current release version 1.0 release, there have been [significant advances](#) that include addressing intellectual property rights, addition of numerous new datasets (e.g., multi-scale primary data used in Global mapping of irrigated areas, sub-continental MODIS time series), Global ground truth dynamic project data, participation of our regional offices (e.g., Uzbekistan Aral Sea Data, Ghana data), and addition of several new river basins, Nations, and regions.

[Map Centre of the Humanitarian Information Center – Darfur](#)

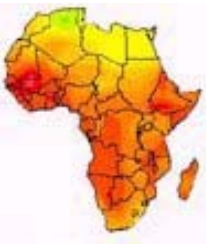
Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[Presentations from 5th AARSE Conference are available online.](#)

The [AARSE Conference](#), "Geoinformation Sciences in Support of Africa's Development" was organized by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for development (RCMRD) in Nairobi, October 18-21, 2004

[Proceedings online from 2004 ESRI User Conference](#)

<http://gis.esri.com/library/userconf/proc04/docs/pap1231.pdf>



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Geographic information systems as a tool for control program management for schistosomiasis in Egypt](#)

During a 4-year study a geographic information system (GIS) risk model was constructed for predicting the relative risk of schistosomiasis in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, Egypt. For the first time in Egypt, the Kafr El-Sheikh GIS schistosoma prediction model can support Ministry of Health efforts to make more accurate control program decisions based on environmental predilection sites of endemic *Schistosomiasis mansoni*.

[New tools for conservation - surveying biodiversity by satellite](#)

New Global Coral Reef Library Now Online - [Remote sensing of coral reefs](#)

In a NASA-sponsored partnership between remote sensing scientists, international agencies and NGOs, new efforts are being made to (1) develop baseline global reef maps that can be a foundation for future more detailed investigations, (2) assemble the key baseline remote sensing data that is needed for researchers to study coral reef environments, and (3) partner with international organizations to use remote sensing data for applied science problems and improve the management of coral reefs. At present, two different online products allow access to the data: a) [Landsat Coral Reef Data Archive](#) displays data that is tiled, zoomable, and downloadable via FTP; b) an index with browse images of all the Landsat 7 data assembled by region. A total of 1490 Landsat 7 scenes were acquired with all but 55 available for public distribution. The archive is considered complete (with at least one good scene per target path-row).

[The TAITA project - development of land use change detection methodology in East African highlands applying geographic information systems](#)

The council of development studies of the Academy of Finland has funded a project entitled “Development of land use change detection methodology in East African highland applying geographic information systems”. The 3-year project started in January 2003 and it is coordinated by professor Petri Pellikka. The project will focus on land use change studies in the Taita Hills, SE-Kenya applying remote sensing data and geographic information systems. The data to be used are SPOT satellite remote sensing data, black and white aerial photography and multispectral airborne digital camera data. The specific topics of the project are land use change, land degradation and soil erosion, biodiversity and landscape fragmentation, urban growth and sacred forest remnants. The objective is to develop a land use change detection methodology.

In [Kenya](#) - the data will be used for generating high-resolution (1 m) image mosaic and an elevation model for land use, biodiversity, land degradation and soil erosion studies. The data were acquired over Taita Hills, SE-Kenya in March 2003. The mosaic and digital elevation model will be constructed from hundreds of digital image frames ([DSC_0955.jpg](#)).

Training Opportunities

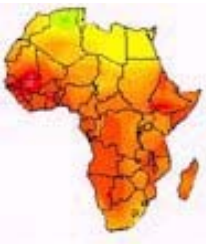
[ESRI Live, free, training seminars](#)

Live Training Seminars are the newest way to learn on Campus. An ESRI technical expert delivers a live presentation to your desktop. You can also access [free recordings of our live training seminars](#), viewable at your convenience.

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

[2005 Norman E. Borlaug International Science and Technology Fellows Program for West Africa](#)

The objectives of the fellowship program are to provide entry-level West African scientists with an opportunity to work one-on-one with US experts in fields of agricultural, forestry and natural resources research at a U.S. university; enable these scientists to apply the knowledge gained from this experience in their own research programs and to further their country's agricultural, forestry and natural resources development; and promote increased collaboration and networking between West African and U.S. scientists in the fields of agriculture, forestry and the sustainable management of natural resources. Applicants must be West African citizens in the early stages of their professional careers; have a good working knowledge of the English language; have a minimum M.Sc. degree with 3 years practical experience at a research institution; and currently be employed at a West African research institution and intend to continue working in their country for a minimum of two years following their return from the United States. The application deadline is [February 1, 2005](#).



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

[Scholarship available to participate in the Natural Areas Association's 8th International Workshop](#)

Scholarship available for a conservation professional from outside North America to participate in the Natural Areas Association's 8th International Workshop to the Western Cape Region of South Africa, March 5-16, 2005. The Natural Areas Association scholarship will cover land-based costs (including food, lodging, ground travel, guiding and park entrance fees, but excluding tips, alcoholic beverages and unanticipated fees). Scholarship candidates must work in the protection of natural areas (private or public parks and reserves, or other conservation areas) as managers, researchers, educators, administrators or students; speak and read English comfortably, and be able to finance their international airline ticket and obtain a visa or other necessary documents for travel to the South Africa. Deadline for applications: December 17, 2004.

[Ebbe Nielsen Prize for Innovation in Combining Biosystematics and Biodiversity Informatics Research](#)

The prize honors the memory of Ebbe Nielsen and is awarded annually to a promising researcher who is combining biosystematics and biological diversity informatics research that supports the objectives of GBIF in an exciting and novel way. Nominating packages are due at the GBIF Secretariat no later than 15 December of any calendar year. The Prize consists of US\$35,000, and is intended to allow the recipient(s), who may reside in any country, to engage in biosystematics/biodiversity informatics research outside his/her/their country of residence for a period of 3-6 months. However, the use of the funds will be at the discretion of the recipient(s).

[Call for Participants - Knowledge Sharing for Development: Africa Regional Program](#)

African researchers and knowledge managers are invited to apply for participation in the Knowledge Sharing for Development Workshop to be held in Cairo, Egypt, February 27-28, 2005. The workshop aims at enhancing the knowledge sharing and research dissemination capacity of research institutes and networks in Africa. Deadline for submissions: December 21, 2004.

[The BiD Challenge](#)

The BiD Challenge is an international business plan competition, supporting innovative business ideas that combine profit with the improvement of living standards in developing countries. If you are a developing country or Dutch citizen and have an innovative business idea that reduces poverty, then join the BiD Challenge! A total of 10 prizes are to be won. The prize money is intended to assist the execution of the winning plans, and to make your great idea become reality. Participants are invited to submit short business ideas via the BID Challenge website. The deadline of this first round is January 31, 2005. [Source: Digital Dividend Digest vol. 55 November 22, 2004]

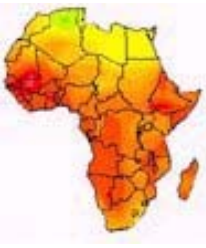
COL - PROTEIN invites proposals for ICT & education initiatives that address rural poverty

This is the third offering of the [COL-PROTEIN \(Poverty Reduction Outcomes Through Education Innovations and Networks\) Programme](#), where COL identifies and supports innovative uses of appropriate information and communication technologies (ICTs) and open, distance and technology-mediated learning methodologies to address challenges confronting the rural poor relating food security, environmental protection, rural development, nutritional education and micro-enterprise. COL invites proposals for initiatives that need expertise and limited financial support for their success in helping to alleviate rural poverty. For more information visit their website or email: info@col.org. The deadline has been extended to 15 January 2005.

[UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi \(Japan\) Co-Sponsored Research Fellowships Programme](#) [Programme de bourses de Recherche UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi \(Japon\)](#)

Young post-graduate researchers (with advanced degrees- M.A., M.Sc. or equivalent) working in the environmental sciences in developing countries can submit an application for a UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship worth a maximum of US7,500. Applicants must be under 40 years of age. They should contact their country's National Commission for UNESCO to make known their interest in applying for one of the 20 fellowships on offer. Each country is entitled to propose two candidates for the fellowship programme, which is financed by Japan through funds-in-trust dedicated to the development of human resources. Deadline for applications: 14 January 2005. [Fellowship application form](#).

[Commonwealth Academic Fellowships](#)



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

CSFP Commonwealth Fellowships are open to Commonwealth citizens, permanently resident in a Commonwealth country other than the UK, holding or returning to a teaching appointment in a university in the developing Commonwealth. Candidates should hold a doctorate (or other postgraduate qualifications accepted as sufficient for the career he/she is following). Candidates must have completed their doctorate no less than five years from the date of taking up the Fellowship. Candidates should have at least two years experience as a staff member of university or similar institution in their home country. Candidates must be aged 50 or under at time of taking up a Fellowship. [Download the full prospectus here](#). The Fellowship is tenable at approved institutions of higher learning for a 6 month period. Approximately 80 such awards are made per year. Nominations must be received in London by 31 December of the year preceding tenure. Nominations for Fellowships can only be accepted from universities/agencies which have been invited to make such nominations by the Commissioners. View the lists of those invited to nominate for [2005 entry](#). Please note that in no circumstances can applications be accepted directly from individuals.

Employment Opportunities

[Temporary GIS Officer \(P-3\)](#), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Under the general guidance of the Chief of the Development Information Services Division of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Geographic Information Systems Officer is responsible for conducting specific studies relating to national addressing systems, servicing an expert group meeting on spatial database support for implementing them in the African context, and preparing draft document as a guide for Africa practitioners and administrators. Specifically the incumbent will:

- Conduct research and prepare a document on spatial database support for implementing and maintaining a national addressing system;
- Service an ad hoc expert group meeting on “Geographic Data as a National Asset: focus on national addressing systems”;
- Present the document to the ad hoc expert group meeting and revise the document according to input from the experts;
- Prepare a draft of an implementation workbook based on the document for African practitioners.

Application Deadline: December 7, 2004.

Spatial Data Infrastructure Administrator, Gauteng, South Africa

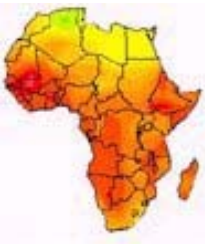
The Drake International group, a specialist recruitment consultancy based in Sandton, Johannesburg is seeking a suitably qualified Spatial Data Infrastructure Administrator to perform the following: enterprise spatial database administration (ArcSDE), web map server/service administration (ArcIMS, MapServer), desktop software license administration, metadatabase administration, development and implementation of interoperability standards; assist with the design, development and implementation of generic and domain specific data models and applications; manage geomatics infrastructure budget; support all spatial technology users. Applications must have a BSc degree (minimum) with two of the following majors: GIS/Geomatics/remote sensing, computer/information science, geography, applied maths. Honours degree highly advantageous. Also required, at least two years of experience in Database Administration, Spatial Database Administration, System architecture, spatial data modelling, database design, web map service admin and development exp. It would be an advantage. ESRI Oracle / MS SQL Server, and Open Source Spatial Software. The salary offered is R150 to R170.000 per annum. Contact: Erica, Drake International Associate, erica@drake.co.za.

Postdoctoral Associate/Research Staff - Conservation planning in Madagascar, Princeton, NJ, USA

Princeton University Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology has open a unique two-year post-doctoral position joining university/NGO team to:

1. design a networked biodiversity database for Madagascar,
2. develop new tools for conservation planning,
3. model species distributions and design reserve networks to improve regional/national protected area networks,
4. build local capacity in conservation planning.

Position is based at Princeton, NJ, USA with travel to Madagascar. Must have experience in (1) GIS, modeling of species distributions and/or reserve design algorithms; (2) working in 3rd World country (> 1 yr); (3) training or capacity-building. Additional desirable qualities: French; programming; database management. Salary level



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

commensurate with experience. See [further information](#). Submit cover letter, resume and 3 letters of recommendation before January 7, 2004; applications will be reviewed as received. Send application to Marilyn McMullen, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544-1003 USA or by email to marilynm@princeton.edu. Princeton University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. For information about applying to Princeton, link to <http://web.princeton.edu/sites/dof/ApplicantsInfo.htm>.

[Consultancy, Terms of Reference to for the Zambezi Basin Wetlands Information Management System \(ZWIMS\)](#) The ZWIMS is a GIS database management system designed to enable capture, storage, retrieval, analysis and display of resource management information. The system will enable manipulation of spatial information and spatial data analysis (e.g. such as information contained in maps) planning, management (e.g. reports and documentation) and decision-making. [IUCN Regional Office for Southern Africa](#) seeks a consultant to identify ways in which the current system can be re-engineered so as to deliver maximum value to end users, as well as make it possible for continuous updating by practitioners such as IUCN. The contract will be for a maximum of 15 days, with delivery of the final report due within 2 months of the signature of contract. CV's should be sent to James Makunike, jamesm@iucnrosa.org.zw. No deadline given.

[Demographer](#) (P-4), Nairobi, Kenya ([en français](#))

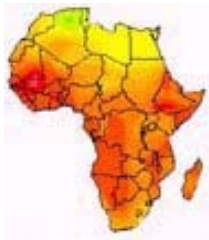
This post is located in the Global Urban Observatory (GUO), Monitoring Systems Branch (MSB), Monitoring and Research Division (MRD) of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). Under supervision of the Chief, Global Urban Observatory, the Human Settlements Officer (HSO), Demographer will plan and implement Monitoring Systems Branch (MSB) work programme on quantitative analysis, providing both technical and managerial supervision of Monitoring the Urban Inequities Programme. The Demographer will coordinate data collection and analysis on human settlements conditions and trends, including indicators, for assessing progress towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda, as well as of the United Nations Millennium Development targets on slums. He/She will provide technical advisory activities for national capacity building through missions, consultations and training workshops for implementing the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme. He/she will also provide technical support to other Branches and Divisions on surveys and data analysis. He/she will also represent the agency at international and regional meetings and inter-agency activities. Deadline for applications: 24 December 2004.

[Environmental Affairs Officer](#), P-3, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia ([en français](#))

Under the overall supervision of the Director of the Sustainable Development Division (SDD), the Environmental Affairs Officer will: Participate in the research and analytical work undertaken in SDD, particularly in the field of the environment; Analyze and monitor the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in member States; Assist the Committee on Sustainable Development in the formulation and implementation of regional and sub-regional policies and programmes on sustainable development; Disseminate advocacy models and other tools and information on national and regional environment and development activities; Assist in the strengthening of regional networks of institutions, experts and general information on the environment; Draft and review documents on environment related matters in the context of sustainable development; and Liaise with other UN bodies, specialized agencies, relevant national agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs); conducting internal and external training activities; and undertaking other work as requested. Deadline: 28 December 2004.

[Governance and Population Affairs Officer \(P-4\)](#), Yaounde, Cameroon

The incumbent will have responsibilities to: Participate in the formulation and implementation of policies related to: (i) organization and management of mandated programmes of governance; (ii) public administration and development management; (iii) databases on demographic indicators; (iv) population and development indicators; Participate in the identification of new or emerging issues in governance; public administration and development management issues of potential concern to Member States and/or the Central Africa Sub-region, particularly those of a regional or global nature and design and in the development of programmes to address them; Prepare population estimates and projections; Commission and manage governance, public administration and development management and population studies analysis ; Design and carry out technical studies on population trends, population policies and their relations to social and economic factors in specific topical areas such as fertility; family planning; internal and



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

international migration; urbanization; health and mortality; population structure and composition; population ageing; population, environment and development. Deadline for applications: 18 December 2004. Vacancy Announcement No.: 04-PBA-ECA-404912-R-YAOUNDE (G)

Environmental Health Technical Advisor, Bujumbura, Burundi

Requirements: Master's Degree in Hydraulic or Civil Engineering; Minimum 3 years of experience in managing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion programs for international NGO field operations (experience in Africa preferred); Proven ability to supervise field staff in a cross-cultural setting; Commitment to national staff development essential; Excellent team spirit and diplomacy; Excellent organizational and interpersonal skills; Excellent computer skills (including GIS, Autocad and Branch); Ability to work well in unstable security environments; Excellent English skills (written and spoken); MUST speak, read and write French. Recruiter: Christian Bowman, christianb@theIRC.org. No deadline given.

Task Manager, International Waters (L-4), Nairobi, Kenya

UNEP is seeking a Task Manager to provide oversight to a portfolio of international waters projects, in Africa, the Mediterranean and other regions, financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and other donors. The projects are focused i) on the development of transboundary diagnostic analyses and strategic action programmes (SAP) for shared fresh and marine water bodies, and ii) subsequent implementation of SAP priority actions. Deadline for applications: 22 December 2004. Applicants are requested to send a detailed CV including date of birth, nationality, and language capabilities to email: gefinfo@unep.org.

Other

Google Scholar enables one to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

Just as with Google Web Search, Google Scholar orders one's search results by how relevant they are to one's query, so the most useful references should appear at the top of the page. This relevance ranking takes into account the full text of each article as well as the article's author, the publication in which the article appeared and how often it has been cited in scholarly literature. Google Scholar also automatically analyzes and extracts citations and presents them as separate results, even if the documents they refer to are not online. This means your search results may include citations of older works and seminal articles that appear only in books or other offline publications. [Source: PPGis.net]

Leveraging New Technologies and Open Access Models: Options for Improving Access in Developing Countries This study will explore: (i) opportunities for leveraging new technologies to increase access and functionality of existing ICT infrastructure; (ii) the design and implementation of open access models for ICT infrastructure; and (iii) the potential role of public financing in expanding ICT infrastructure roll-out in Sub-Saharan Africa.

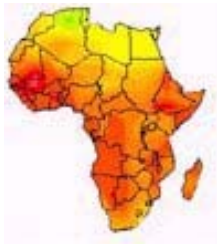
Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) program

The Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition program is an interagency initiative to improve monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance interventions. Specifically, the program will pilot an approach to routinely collect, analyze and disseminate information on the nutrition and mortality experience of populations served by humanitarian interventions. The program will also provide implementing agencies and the broader humanitarian community with a wider range of tools to support humanitarian program assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

Conferences, Events

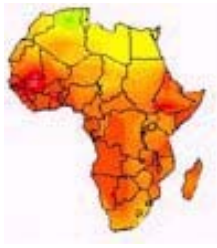
Items newly added to this listing of events since the last SDI-Africa issue are marked * **NEW** *

Date	Location	Event
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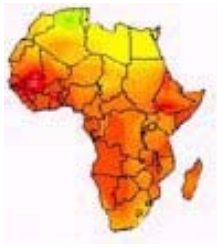
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

December 2004		
1-4 December	Cape Town, South Africa	Third African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference The theme of the conference is proposed to be Evaluation for Effective Development in Africa. Contact: info@afrea.org
2-3 December	George, South Africa	UNIGIS 2004 - 'GIS Strategies for Africa' . Organized by UNIGIS
4-6 December	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	PERSGA Second Regional Forum 'Sea to Sea' Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden , Contact: persga@persga.org
6-9 December	Cairo, Egypt	Energy For Sustainable Development: Technology Advances & Environmental Issues Organised by: Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport and National Renewable Energy Laboratory
7-9 December	United Arab Emirates	Seventh ESRI Middle East & Africa User Conference
9-10 December	Bamberg, Germany	Workshop on standardization in the cadastral domain organized jointly by COST Action G9 and FIG Commission 7
11-12 December	Khartoum, Sudan	GEOSUD 2004 workshop on "The Geographic Information System (GIS) between theories and practice in the Sudan." Participants invited are researchers, practitioners and affiliated organizations in GIS related disciplines.
January 2005		
10-14 January 2005	Port Louis, Mauritius	International Meeting for the 10-year Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPoA +10). Contact: mauritius2004@sidsnet.org
14 January 2005	Athens, Greece	ePSINet Policy Conference on re-use of Public Sector Information in Europe The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for policy makers, public content providers, re-users and international experts to discuss the prospects for adding value through commercial exploitation of public sector information.
18-21 January 2005 * NEW *	Brussels, Belgium	6th Meeting of the Group on Earth Observations and the 3rd Meeting of the Earth Observation Summit
24-28 January 2005	Paris, France	International Conference on Biodiversity Sponsored by UNESCO, this conference is organized by the French Ministry of Research and New Technologies. Contact: biodiv2005paris@recherche.gouv.fr
February 2005		
9-11 February 2005	Toro, Bauchi State, Nigeria	1st International Workshop on Geodesy and Geodynamics and Commissioning of the Centre for Geodesy and Geodynamics Office Complex Directions ; Call for Papers
21-23 February 2005	Paris, France	New Space Services for Maritime Users: The Impact of Satellite Technology on Maritime Legislation
23-25 February 2005	Bonn, Germany	International Conference on Integrated Assessment and Management of Water Resources: A North-South Analysis The main objective of the conference is to analyze the challenges that are encountered in the integrated assessment and management of water resources in large river basins. By bringing together scientists and managers from North and South, it is expected that the present international research efforts concerning water related issues can be translated into practical methods and coherent approaches. The following themes will be addressed explicitly: data, stakeholders, scaling, integration, and policy. Contact: Nick van de Giesen,



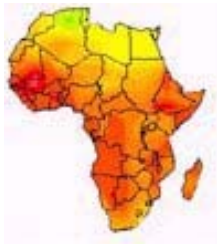
Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

		nick@uni-bonn.de
26 February – 1 March * NEW *	Cairo, Egypt	1st International Conference Exhibition on Geo-Resources in the Middle East and North Africa The three main themes being considered are Oil and Gas Resources, Water Resources, and Mineral Resources
March 2005		
2-4 March 2005	Johannesburg, South Africa	First Annual Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) "ICTs and Civil Society" Conference The conference will focus on ICT challenges facing the Civil Society Organization (CSO) sector, highlighting and promoting practical benefits, opportunities and lessons learned to date. It will provide an opportunity to both CSOs that are ICT-enabled, as well as those organizations which are considering introducing ICT solutions to their work, to discuss critical issues of common concern and learn from one another's experiences. This conference is aimed at leadership staff and technical employees in CSOs, and individuals who work with these organizations, including donor agencies, the private sector and the government. Contact Refilwe Rakhibane at SANGONeT: mtintern@sangonet.org.za
6-9 March 2005	Denver, CO, USA	Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA)'s 2005 Annual Conference and Exhibition . This prestigious event will present an exciting technical program, including one-and-a-half days of in-depth seminars followed by two-and-a-half days of educational sessions. This year's conference theme, Crossing Boundaries, is designed to address the boundless opportunities that geospatial information technology presents to organizations.
7-9 March 2005	Morogoro, Tanzania	East African Integrated River Basin Management Conference - to bring together river basin professionals and researchers to critically discuss the tools of IWRM applied at the basin level.
14-16 March 2005 * NEW *	Phoenix, Arizona, USA	Joint Conferences on Urban Remote Sensing – 3rd International Symposium on Remote Sensing and Data Fusion over Urban Areas (URBAN 2005) and 5th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Urban Areas (URS 2005)
21-23 March 2005	Delft, the Netherlands	First Symposium on Geo-Information for Disaster Management http://www.gdmc.nl/qj4dm
28-31 March 2005	Minato-ku, Tokyo region, Japan	4th International Symposium on Digital Earth
April 2005		
3-7 April 2005	Yaounde, Cameroon	"Building Civil Society Through Community Development" Conference Organized by International Association for Community Development (IACD); Government of Cameroon. The conference will be highly relevant to all those concerned with the role that community development can play in building or rebuilding the structures and processes of civil society. Contact: Jean Marie Minkoulou, minjm@camnet.cm
16-21 April 2005	Cairo, Egypt	FIG Working Week & 8th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure
17 & 21 April 2005	Cairo, Egypt	12th International Steering Committee for Global Mapping Meeting
May 2005		
16-18 May 2005	Los Angeles, CA, USA	GeoSpatial World 2005
22-26 May 2005 * NEW *	Alger, Algeria	Séminaire International Nations Unies/Algérie/Agence Spatiale Européenne sur l'utilisation de la technologie spatiale pour la gestion des catastrophes : Prévention et gestion des catastrophes naturelles /



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

		United Nations - Algeria - European Space Agency Seminar on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters Contact: Mme Raechelle Newman, Bureau des Affaires Spatiales des Nations Unies (BAS): raechelle.newman@unvienna.org .
24-27 May 2005	Sesimbra, Portugal	ISESS 2005 (International Symposium on Environmental Software Systems) ISESS 2005 is the latest in a series of conferences and workshops that, since 1995, have provided a forum for presenting and discussing effective information processing techniques for environmental prediction and monitoring.
30 May – 2 June 2005 * NEW *	Estoril, Portugal	GIS Planet 2005 Contact: planet@gisplanet.org Deadline for 1st round of submissions has been extended until December 9, 2004.
June 2005		
20-24 June 2005	St. Petersburg, Russia	31st International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment "Global Monitoring for Sustainability and Security"
July 2005		
3-6 July 2005	Southampton, UK	Cambridge Conference: The Exchange – to be held at Ordnance Survey's head office in Southampton, UK. With a greater emphasis on networking and round-table discussions, CC:The Exchange is designed to strengthen relationships between national mapping organization senior representatives and to complement the 2007 Cambridge Conference. Contact: nmonetwork@ordnancesurvey.co.uk
9-16 July 2005	La Coruña, España	XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference . Call for abstracts . Abstracts due 1 November 2004 . A limited number of travel awards will be made to young cartographers who are nationals from developing countries.
18-23 July 2005	Tours, France	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population - XXV International Population Conference
19-23 July 2005	Elmina, Ghana	1st Regional Biannual Conference of Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE) Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges (Paysages Changeants de l'Afrique: Une Approche Commune aux Défis Divers). Contact: hbulley@calmit.unl.edu ; http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/cd/ ; http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/index.html ; Africa-iale mailing list
24-29 July 2005	San Diego, CA, USA	ESRI International User Conference
August 2005		
29 August – 2 September 2005	Sandton, Joburg, South Africa	AFRICAGIS '05 7th bi-annual Africa GIS Conference. Theme: Beyond Talk: Geo-information working for Africa. This conference aims to take people beyond talking about what can be done with geo-information, to sharing information and experiences about what is being done on the continent and to showcase examples of where geo-information has made an impact on people's lives, particularly through local development and partnerships. Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 December 2004 .
September 2005		
6-8 September 2005	Bologna, Italy	River Basin Management 2005 River Basin Management 2005 is the third conference in the series which marks the growing international interest in the planning, design and management of river basin systems -- including all aspects of hydrology, ecology, environmental management, flood plains and wetlands.
7-9 September 2005	Brno, Czech Republic	EnviroInfo 2005 - Informatics for Environmental Protection - Networking Environmental Information Deadline for abstracts: February 1, 2005 .



Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

* NEW *		
12-14 September 2005	Bologna, Italy	2nd International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development (Sustainable Planning 2005) The papers presented at Sustainable Planning 2005 will be published in volume 83 of <i>WIT Transactions on Ecology & the Environment</i>
25-27 September 2005	Magdeburg, Germany	Second International ICSC Symposium on Information Technologies in Environmental Engineering (ITEE'2005) The deadline for submission of papers is: <u>February 28, 2005</u> .
October 2005		
9-13 October 2005	Bonn, Germany	6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community
25-29 October 2005	Kusadasi, Turkey	MEDCOAST 2005 – 7th International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment Deadline for abstracts: <u>January 31, 2005</u> .
* NEW *		
November 2005		
16-18 November 2005	Tunis, Tunisia	World Summit on the Information Society – 2 nd phase
December 2005		
16-21 December 2005	Cairo, Egypt	13th International Conference of the Geological Society of Africa on Geology and Development . Local lead organisation, the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS). Contact: Dr Mahmoud Abdeen, GSAF Vice-President (North Africa), m_m_abdeen@hotmail.com
2006		
9-15 July 2006	Philadelphia, PA, USA	IUSS 18th World Congress of Soil Science
13-17 July 2006	Wollongong and Sydney, Australia	COAST - GIS 06 - 7th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management . GIS for the coastal zone: Spatial Data, Modelling and Management; Extending the Spatial Data Infrastructure. Collaboration between the International Cartographic Association's Commission on Marine Cartography and the International Geographical Union's Commission on Coastal Systems
9-13 October 2006	Santiago, Chile	9th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure organized by GSDI Association & Instituto Geográfico Militar Contact: gdi9@igm.cl
* NEW *		

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