

# Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

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SDI-Africa Newsletter

March 2005

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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.

**PLEASE share this newsletter with 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](mailto:lancekt@aya.yale.edu)

## Input to this Issue

Thank you to Moise Ballo, Centre d'Information Géographique du Mali (CIGMa) (Mali); Jane Bemigisha, ITC (the Netherlands/Uganda); Florent Lasry, Centre for GIS and RS of the National University of Rwanda (CGIS-NUR) (Rwanda); Reuben Mavima, University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe); Rafic Khouri, Ordre des Geometres Experts (France); Seth Wiafe, LLUSPH Health Geoinformatics Unit and Programs (USA); Steve Drury, Open University (UK); Ned Horning, American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (USA); Sharon Shin, U.S. FGDC (USA); Henry Bulley, CALMIT (Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies), University of Nebraska – Lincoln (USA); and Giacomo Rambali, CTA (the Netherlands) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

## SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

### SDI implementation in Mali

After several years of slow progress, SDI in Mali is getting a big boost in 2005. Although the National Committee for Geographic Information, for which IGM has the Secretariat, and an Inter-ministerial Council for Geographic Information were created (on paper) several years ago (documented in a past issue of SDI-Africa), these bodies have been inactive. In 2004, WFP Mali, in collaboration with the IGM, set up a Unit within the IGM called the Malian Geographic Information Centre (CIGMa using the French name) (see [CIGMa Presentation](#) – in French). This Centre, which has subsequently established partnerships with a number of national structures, has been created with the explicit goal of facilitating the harmonization and normalisation of data management. In addition, the Centre gives to WFP and other Partners technical assistance in the areas of data base management and cartography.

After a long process of sensibilisation, advocacy and technical preparation by CIGMa, the National Committee for Geographic Information had its first meeting on January 13, 2005, in which all invited parties actively participated (see [Minutes of the Meeting](#) – in French). This meeting enabled the launch the Committee and its 4 constitted Thematic Working Groups.

That meeting was followed by a technical workshop on February 10, 2005 (see [Minutes of the workshop](#) – in French), in which the 4 Thematic Working Groups elaborated their Workplans, chronogram and budget for 2005 (see attached files for each Workplan and budget). At this stage each Working Group has identified concrete needs in expertise,



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training, equipment and functioning. In order to support this process and maximize its chances of success, CIGMa is further establishing linkages in international agencies that may provide forms of support. Expertise is needed in the areas of policy elaboration, metadata standards, and p-codes. It will also be necessary to equip the structures involved with the required softwares and to give necessary training to enable users to adapt their different systems.

**[Le Centre d'Information Géographique du Mali \(CIGMa\)](#)** est une activité commune du Gouvernement du Mali et du système des Nations Unies. Son objectif principal est d'améliorer l'harmonisation dans la collecte, la gestion et le partage des données et informations afin de favoriser la réalisation d'analyses transversales pour une meilleure compréhension des phénomènes, prise de décision et planification des interventions de développement et humanitaires. C'est ainsi que des conventions de partenariat formel ont été signées avec l'Institut Géographique du Mali (IGM), la Direction Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Informatique (DNSI), la Direction Nationale des Collectivités Territoriales (DNCT). Des accords ont également été établis avec les Cellules de Statistiques et de Planification (CPS) des Ministères de l'Education Nationale, de la Santé, du développement rural. D'autres CPS ont exprimé le désir d'être associées au programme. Au nombre des partenaires privilégiés du programme comptent également le projet Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP), l'Observatoire du Marché Agricole (OMA), la Cellule de Veille, la Direction Nationale de la Protection Civile, le Comité National des Réfugiés, l'Action Contre la Faim. CIGMa a les objectifs suivants:

- Renforcer le Système de Gestion de l'Information (SGI) au Mali en promouvant l'utilisation de normes communes dans la collecte, l'analyse, la représentation et l'échange des données;
- Renforcer la coordination de la planification de l'assistance, à la fois pour le développement et pour les urgences;
- Appuyer les processus de planification à travers le ciblage géographique et de suivi - évaluation du Gouvernement du Mali et de ses par la réalisation d'analyses spatiales et la production de cartes
- Appuyer les partenaires dans la mise en œuvre des principes et techniques de gestion des données

**[Compte rendu de l'Atelier Technique du Comite National d'Information Geographique du Mali](#)**, 10 Février 2005

L'an 2005, le 10 Février, s'est tenue dans les locaux de l'Institut Géographique du Mali, le premier Atelier Technique de démarrage des activités du Comité National d'Information Géographique (CNIG). Ont pris part à cet atelier, les représentants ou points focaux des structures membres du CNIG. Le CNIG a quatre groupes constitués. Il s'agit de:

- Groupe 1: « Geoinformation - Données cartographiques de base »;
- Groupe 2: « Harmonisation des codes géographiques »;
- Groupe 3: « Définition des Métadonnées »;
- Groupe 4: Politique d'Information Géographique ».

Au atelier, les travaux se sont déroulés au sein des quatre groupes de travail, chaque groupe ayant un Président, un rapporteur et un facilitateur. Les résultats des travaux de groupe ont été présentés à la séance plénière par les rapporteurs des groupes de travail. Ces résultats résumés sont annexés sous forme de tableau au présent compte rendu: [Groupe 1](#), [Groupe 2](#), [Groupe 3](#), [Groupe 4](#).

**[Compte rendu de Reunion N° 1](#)**, 13 Janvier 2005

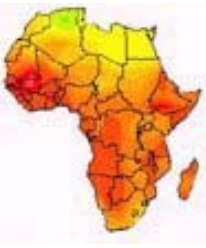
## **[Developing access to spatial information through the Web in Rwanda](#)**

The Centre for GIS and RS of the National University of Rwanda (CGIS-NUR) has been developing a [Webmapping System](#) to publish maps and data on the web. Based on the [ESRI](#) ArcIMS platform, it allows users to visualize, create and query their own thematic maps, and thus extract relevant information to help them in their decision process. For the time being, the themes and layers available are related to tourism, demography, infrastructures, and agriculture (particularly for the coffee sector), and more themes will be added soon. You can browse these interactive maps [here](#).

In providing spatial content to the information available through the web in Rwanda, and in particular through the [National Web Portal](#), the CGIS-NUR, is now serving as a powerful tool for geoinformation data use and sharing. This system, the first based on this technology in Rwanda and in the sub-region, was developed by the CGIS-NUR in collaboration with the Rwanda Development Gateway Group (RDGG) project, funded by the Government of Rwanda, and aims at using ICT for development in the context of the Rwanda 2020 vision. Contact: [coco.rulinda@cgisnur.org](mailto:coco.rulinda@cgisnur.org)

## **[Minutes of the 2nd Annual Zimbabwe National SDI Workshop](#)**

The Minutes of the 2nd Annual Zimbabwe National SDI Workshop, which was held 26 November 2004 in Harare, give an 'inside' look at Zimbabwe SDI development. Key institutional, administrative, and technical issues are discussed. The Workshop included representatives from government, academia, UN, and the private sector: Department of



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Surveyor General, Harare City Council, Geological Survey Department, University of Zimbabwe, Scientific and Industrial Research & Development Centre (SIRDC), Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Africom (Pvt) Ltd., Standards Association of Zimbabwe, ERSI (Environmental Remote Sensing Institute), Department of Natural Resources (Ministry of Environment), Midlands State University (MSU), S. Zhou & L. Kaseke Land Surveyors, City of Harare, United Nations Human Support Team (UNHST), DeBeers, Geospatial Solutions Zimbabwe. The most recent Zimbabwe SDI committee meeting took place 28 February 2005.

## **Arab League to set up Arab Center for Earthquakes and Natural Disasters (ACEND) in Algeria**

The [League of Arab States](#) plans to set up a research centre to study the risk of earthquakes and other natural disasters. The League, which includes 22 countries spanning the Arab World, says the Arab Center for Earthquakes and Natural Disasters (ACEND) will aim to promote earthquake research and awareness, reduce economic impacts of disasters, and save lives. ACEND will be located in Algeria, the Arab country most vulnerable to earthquakes. The US\$2 million centre is expected to open by the end of 2005. The centre will gather new information about earthquakes in Arab countries and beyond and share the information with national and international agencies, scientists and the general public. [Source: SciDev 4 February 2005]

## **Namibian Central Bureau of Statistics aims to introduce web-GIS**

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) within the National Planning Commission (NPC) intends to introduce an Internet web-based Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to all the 13 regions as part of the 3rd National Statistical Plan (NSP-3). The objective of this plan is to enable the country's 13 regions to implement their developmental projects effectively, according to those involved. The CBS has embarked upon information needs assessment meetings in all the regions so that it can identify the needs of its stake-holders. Otilie Mwazi, a chief statistician at CBS's Survey, Cartography and Geographical Information Systems Department, said the GIS is one of the best tools for regional development. It will improve the national statistical system at the regional level in order to provide the country's thirteen regions with relevant tools and information for regional planning and development. The system offers developmental planners or other users a vast store of knowledge on any specific location in a country that will help in areas such as establishing the feasibility of building a clinic or a school in an informal settlement area, providing data on how many people reside in that particular area, for example. The GIS would be put at one central point in each region, where all stake-holders could have access to it. [Source: New Era (Windhoek), February 4, 2005, [allafrica.com](#)]

## **Cape Town launches GIS Project for electronic storage and retrieval of road and storm water plans**

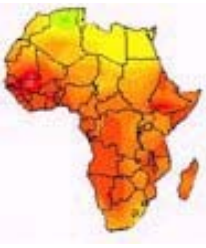
The [City of Cape Town](#) says it is the first South African megacity to initiate a geographical information systems (GIS) project for the electronic storage and retrieval of its road and storm water plans. The pilot project, which involved scanning, storing and indexing 5 000 plans, was successfully completed last year. The second phase of the project is now under way and involves getting 20 000 additional historical plans online before financial year-end in June, and introducing a process to capture and store all new plans online. The city hopes to complete scanning and storage of all 85 000 plans in three years. The plans are scanned into a .pdf format and the geographical location of the plans is captured as a polygon in ArcView. The database and geographically located files are then integrated with the department's infrastructure management system, which is accessed on the desktop and customer-access counters via the city's intranet.

- SDI news from France

## **Technologie GPS: D'ici fin 2005, les Géomètres-Experts auront maillé l'ensemble du territoire français d'un réseau permanent**

### **Establishment of a national network of GPS permanent station in France**

Although this initiative deals with a French matter -- it describes a nation-wide project implemented by a large number of (private) surveyors, i.e. the establishment of a national network of GPS permanent stations, all over France -- it is a useful illustration of what surveyors can collectively achieve. [This project will be presented at the FIG Working Week and 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure in Cairo]. Contact: Rafic Khouri, [Ordre des Geometres Experts](#) (France)



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## [New remote sensing website of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation \(CBC\)](#)

The American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC) has published a new website to promote the use of remotely sensed imagery. The CBC's Remote Sensing Resources website focuses on the practical aspects of accessing, visualizing, and processing satellite imagery. The site is designed with beginners in mind, but also has features that are of interest to more experienced users. It is a work in progress and it is the CBC's intent to craft it to meet the needs of a broad community interested in using satellite imagery. Your feedback about existing content and suggestions for future content would be appreciated. Over time the site will grow as they add sections on species distribution modeling, GIS, conservation-focused software tools, and others.

## [Creation of an Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development for Africa](#)

Brussels, 16 February 2005: [European Commission's Directorate General, Joint Research Centre \(DG JRC\)](#) announced the creation of an Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development for Africa. In close cooperation with the Directorates General for External Relations, Development and the EuropAid and Co-operation Office, the European Commission's Directorate General, Joint Research Centre (DG JRC) is contributing to European Union initiatives in Africa by developing a dedicated Environmental Information System based on satellite and computer mapping technologies. This will provide information on food needs, help the European Commission Humanitarian Office provide aid in the aftermath of natural disasters and other emergencies, and help long-term development through sustainable management of natural resources.

The European Commission and European Space Agency have launched an initiative to establish, by 2008, a European capacity for global monitoring for environment and security (GMES) to support the Union's political goals regarding sustainable development and global governance. GMES will facilitate and foster the operational provision of quality data, information and knowledge, and DG JRC will help extend the application of the GMES initiative to Africa. [Source: CODATA\_International list]

[PUMA \('Meteorological Transition in Africa'\), 2001-2005](#) is providing a network of 53 countries and five regional centres in Africa with equipment, training and application support, with the goal of enabling access to critical environmental data. Participating countries expect to benefit from:

- New receiving stations, comprising equipment and software allowing continuous direct reception of new meteorological and environmental satellite data streams;
- Software for deriving usable products such as weather forecasts, real-time forest fire tracking and sea surface temperature measurement;
- Training of more than 350 African specialists in the use and maintenance of the new receiving stations and in maximising data exploitation;
- Support for the development of useful products and coordinated and co-operative working practices.

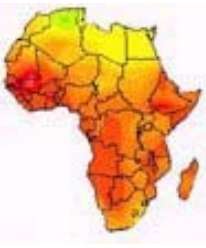
[Presentation by Cheick Oumar Gologo of the Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\) at the Earth Observation Partnership Conference in Brussels in October 2004](#)

Next step – from PUMA to [African Monitoring of Environment and Sustainable Development \(AMESD\)](#)

The main objective of AMESD is to help African countries to improve natural resource management by providing them with appropriate environmental information, using state-of-the-art earth observation and information technologies, and by helping them to better define their needs and identify potential beneficiaries. AMESD will entail a number of regional and continental thematic projects. Priorities are currently being identified under the AMESD Feasibility Study, and a request for funding is expected by the Commission in early 2005.

## [Earth Observation Summit endorses 10-year implementation plan establishing global system of systems](#)

Governments have endorsed a 10-year implementation plan for the development of a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The Third Earth Observation Summit, which took place on 16 February in Brussels, brought together ministers and representatives of almost 60 governments to discuss and promote the development of a comprehensive system of systems for gathering and distributing data and information on the Earth's systems, including its weather, climate, oceans, atmosphere, water, land, geodynamics, natural resources, ecosystems, and natural and human-induced hazards. The Summit, which was preceded by the 6th [Group on Earth Observations \(GEO\)](#) Meeting held from 14-15 February, is the third in a series that began in Washington, DC in July 2003. The second Summit held in Tokyo in April 2004 adopted the framework for the implementation plan.



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The Brussels earth Observation Summit adopted three key outcomes: a GEOSS 10-year implementation plan, a resolution, and a communiqué that expresses support for tsunami and multi-hazard warning systems within the context of the GEOSS. The implementation plan outlines the purpose, scope, approaches, operational modalities and governance of GEOSS and the GEO. The resolution endorses the 10-year implementation plan as the basis for its further development and for establishing a GEOSS, and establishes the intergovernmental GEO to ensure implementation of the plan. Participants also agreed to meet before the end of 2007 to assess progress and provide further guidance on implementation, and resolved to conduct a mid-term GEO assessment by 2010.

## [Online Virtual Conference of the World Forum on Information Society](#)

To integrate and share the concerns and ideas of all the stakeholders involved, the International Research Foundation for Development (IRFD) is launching a Virtual Conference as a pre-cursor to the World Forum in Tunis in November. This will make possible the participation of those who are unable to attend the face-to-face conference in Tunis as well as facilitate the sharing of ideas by allowing participants to present their papers prior to the main event. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to be involved in these discussions. This virtual dialogue will be carried into the IRFD World Forum on Information Society in November 2005, which will enhance the face-to-face conference and contribute to achieving its goals. One of the Session Themes is Geographical Information System and Sustainable Information Society. The online forum will begin on March 31, 2005. Abstracts should be sent before March 31, 2005. Registration deadline is April 30, 2005.

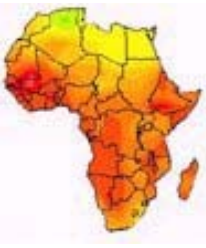
Final extension of the abstract submission deadline for ELMINA 2005 - [1st Regional Biannual Conference of the Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology \(Africa-IALE\)](#) is March 21, 2005. Some have raised questions about possible funding. Note that only who have submitted abstracts to the Elmina 2005 may be considered for any travel assistance. The Elmina 2005 conference website has been updated with new information, online abstract submission and online registration. Please take some time to visit the updated conference webpage at (<http://snr.unl.edu/africa>). [Conference Brochure \(pdf\)](#) now available. See listing of conference [Courses and Workshops](#).

[Special session on 'Women and Environment Information Management'](#) will be a key feature of the [1st Regional Biannual Conference of the Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology \(Africa-IALE\)](#), 19-23 July 2005, Elmina, Ghana. The special session will be focused on women participation in natural resources information management in Africa.

### **Other ELMINA 2005 special sessions include:**

- Ecological Forecasting
- Ecosystem-Based Approach to Coastal Resource Management
- Water Sensitive Development Planning
- Land Use Change Modeling in Africa
- Early Warning Systems for Drought Preparedness and Drought Management in African Countries
- Symposium on Ecological Monitoring Programs in Africa
- Training Workshop: GIS approach to Environmental Impact Assessment
- Advances in remote sensing applications to environmental management
- Multicriteria analyses for environmental management

[ArcGIS West Africa User Conference & Local Government GIS Day](#), 30 March – 1 April 2005, Accra, Ghana. [Sambus Company Ltd.](#) is organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> ArcGIS West Africa Local User Conference & Local Government GIS Day. This two-part conference will be held in Accra, Ghana at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel. The date for the local user conference will be 30-31 March and the Local Government GIS Day will be held 1 April 2005. The theme for the conference is: "GIS: an effective tool for governance". GIS experts from ESRI's offices in Redlands, California will give presentations on the latest developments in GIS. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet the experts and other users to share and exchange valuable ideas. Exhibitions and Poster Presentations will be held as well – so do take advantage and submit your work to be included in the Conference. There is limited space for exhibitions, and there is a small fee, so contact Sambus as soon as possible. The registration fee for West Africa User Conference is \$100 per participant and \$30 for the Local Government Conference. If more than 2 persons attend from one



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institution, a discount will be offered. Registration includes sessions, lunch and conference materials but excludes accommodation and transportation. Closing date for [registration](#) and exhibitions is 4 March 2005.

**[The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on GSDI and FIG Working Week 2005 will take place in a matter of weeks – see draft program and workshops](#)**, Cairo, Egypt, April 16-21, 2005. Registration with normal registration fees closes 4 March 2005. So it's best to register now on the [conference web site](#) or directly at the [registration page](#). Pre-conference workshops on Saturday and Sunday prior the conference include:

- Standards Workshop – Standards into Action
- Virtual Academy and the Surveying/Geoinformatics Community
- History of Surveying
- Mobile Mapping Technology
- e-Government for e-Citizens
- ESRI Seminar - GIS: The Business of National Mapping
- An Intergraph vision, technology and implementation seminar

Attendance to these workshops is free to those delegates who register for the whole week (pre-registration is however compulsory). During the week also several roundtable discussions will be organised on different topics.

**CODI IV - Information as an Economic Resource**, 25-28 April 2005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The [Committee on Development Information \(CODI\)](#) is one of the different subsidiary bodies of the [Economic Commission for Africa](#) established in 1997 by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning. The Development Information Services Division (DISD) of the ECA is responsible for this CODI sessions, which gather information and communication technologies experts, statisticians, librarians, and geo-information experts who are government officials of the member States of the Commission. The CODI meetings are also open to non-government delegations.

**La Quatrième Réunion de CODI se tiendra à Addis Abeba, Ethiopie du 25 au 28 avril 2005** au Centre de Conférence des Nations Unies. Le thème de la Conférence Cette année sera: L'Information en tant que Ressource Economique.

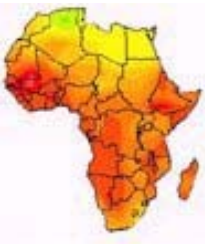
**[PGIS 2005 - Mapping for Change: International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication](#)** ([1<sup>st</sup> announcement – English](#)) ([1<sup>st</sup> announce – Français](#)), 7-10 September, Nairobi, Kenya

The focus of the event is on sharing experiences and defining good practices for making geographic information technologies and systems (GIT&S) available to less-favoured groups in society. The event will enhance the capacities of under represented groups in managing and communicating spatial information in the contexts of:

- asserting ancestral land and resource rights and entitlements;
  - supporting collaborative planning and management of lands and natural resources;
  - promoting equity in terms of ethnicity, culture, gender, environmental justice, hazard mitigation, etc;
  - managing and ameliorating conflicts amongst and between local community groups, between communities and higher-level authorities or economic forces;
  - supporting cultural heritage preservation and identity building among indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Participatory GIS (PGIS) has resulted from a merging of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) methods with applications of GIT&S. The PGIS approach adopts a combination of geo-spatial information management tools ranging from sketch maps, Participatory 3D Models (P3DM), aerial photographs, satellite imagery, Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to compose and represent peoples' spatial knowledge. The methodology incorporates forms of virtual or physical, 2 or 3 dimensional maps which are used as interactive vehicles for spatial learning, discussion, information exchange, analysis, advocacy and decision making.

**[An International Workshop - Strategies for Permanent Access to Scientific Information in Southern Africa: Focus on Health and Environmental Information for Sustainable Development](#)**, 6-9 September 2005, hosted by the National Research Foundation in Pretoria, South Africa to:

- Review and discuss the current status of practices for sharing of and permanent access to scientific information resources related to sustainable development, primarily health and biomedical data, earth and environmental science data, and related scientific, technical, and medical (STM) literature in the southern African region.



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- Identify and discuss the scientific, legal and policy, institutional and economic, and management and technical factors relevant to permanent access to digital scientific information resources discussed in task 1, including an examination of different possible models and their potential benefits and shortcomings in the SADC region, and drawing on examples of other digital permanent access practices in related areas. Identify and invite organizations and individuals that are already implementing successful approaches and analyze their methods and challenges.
- Identify follow-up activities that can be taken toward improving permanent access for each major type of digital scientific information resources discussed in task 1, taking into consideration the results of the discussions under tasks 1 and 2.
- Provide a networking opportunity for workshop participants across discipline, institutional, and national boundaries.

### **AFRICAGIS 2005 change of date and venue – new dates: 30 October to 4 November 2005**

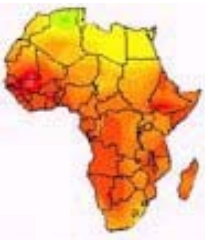
[AFRICAGIS 2005 Conference](#) will be moved to the CSIR Convention Centre in Pretoria and will be held during the week of 30 October to 4 November 2005. The conference organizers have the support of at least three national Government departments and have had good discussions with the Tshwane metropolitan regarding their endorsement and Mayoral support for the conference. The conference organizers apologize for any inconvenience caused by the change, but they believe they can now move on to ensure that this edition of AFRICAGIS is a huge success. The conference website will be updated with new details of the conference. The deadline for submission of abstract now will be extended to mid April and the cost of early registration will be \$275. General inquiries, [info@africagis2005.org.za](mailto:info@africagis2005.org.za).

### **FIG Regional Conference to be held in Accra, Ghana, March 9-12, 2006**

The FIG Council decided in Jakarta last October that the 5th FIG Regional Conference will be organised in Accra, Ghana in March 2006. It will be the first FIG Regional Conference to be held in Western Africa and the first FIG event in the region since the PC-meeting was held in Abuja in 1973. The Director, FIG office visited Ghana February 10-16, 2005 to plan the conference and its programme. The visit was linked to the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS), February 11-17, 2005, and the Forum on Land Administration Project (LAP). The 36th Annual General Meeting attracted almost 300 participants from the 950 members of GhIS. The theme of the AGM was "Land information systems – an effective tool for land administration in Ghana". [Mr Charles K. Sagoe, President of the GhIS gave an interesting overview in this topic in Ghana as the presidential speech.](#) GhIS also launched its web site at the conference. To learn more about the host of the next year's FIG Regional Conference, please click in to [www.ghanasurveyors.org](http://www.ghanasurveyors.org)  
[Initiative of GhIS to create FIG Commission networks in Ghana](#)

### **Séminaire international ONU/Algérie/ESA sur l'utilisation des techniques spatiales pour la gestion des catastrophes: prévention et gestion des catastrophes naturelles**, 22-26 mai 2005, Alger, Algérie

Le Bureau des affaires spatiales de l'ONU et l'Agence spatiale algérienne, représentant le Gouvernement algérien, organisent le séminaire susmentionné. Le microsatellite algérien ALSAT-1, qui a été intégré après son lancement à la constellation de surveillance des catastrophes DMC (Disaster Monitoring Constellation), crée pour la région de nouvelles possibilités. Le séminaire international a pour objectif de mieux faire connaître aux utilisateurs nationaux et régionaux les possibilités qu'offrent les techniques spatiales pour la prévention et la gestion des catastrophes naturelles et de contribuer à l'intégration de solutions fondées sur ces techniques dans les activités de prévention et de gestion des catastrophes dans la région. Le séminaire est prévu pour un total de 80 décideurs et experts techniques provenant d'institutions internationales, régionales, nationales ou locales, d'organisations privées, d'établissements universitaires, d'organismes de développement multilatéraux ou bilatéraux, d'organisations non gouvernementales et d'organisations internationales. Des experts et des spécialistes d'agences spatiales et d'organismes de gestion des catastrophes y seront invités de manière à permettre un échange de données d'expérience et un renforcement des partenariats qui contribueront à une utilisation accrue des techniques spatiales pour la gestion des catastrophes dans la région. Dans les limites des ressources financières disponibles, un nombre restreint de participants pourront bénéficier d'une aide financière pour assister au séminaire. Cette aide couvrira les frais de voyage (billet aller-retour au tarif le plus économique entre l'aéroport international de départ dans le pays d'origine et Alger) et/ou les frais d'hébergement et de repas pour la durée du séminaire. Le formulaire de candidature rempli doit être envoyé avant le 19 mars 2005.



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## [United Nations/Algeria/European Space Agency International Seminar on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters](#), 22-26 May 2005, Algiers, Algeria

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) and the Algerian Space Agency, on behalf of the Government of Algeria, are organising the above seminar. Algeria's ALSAT-1, which was launched as part of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC). The objective of this International Seminar is to increase the awareness of national and regional users of the potential of space technology for preventing and managing natural disasters, contributing to the incorporation of space-based technology solutions in disaster reduction and management activities in region. The seminar is being planned for a total of 80 decision-makers and technical experts drawn from the following groups: international, regional, national and local institutions, private organizations, academic institutions, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development agencies, nongovernmental organizations and international organizations. Experts and professionals from both space-related and disaster management institutions will be invited, providing an opportunity to exchange experiences and strengthen partnerships that will contribute to the increased use of space technology-based solutions in disaster management activities in the region. Within the limited financial resources available, a number of selected participants will be offered financial support to attend the seminar. This financial support will defray the cost of travel (a round trip ticket – most economic fare – between the airport of international departure in their home country and Algiers) and/or the room and board expenses during the duration of the seminar. Deadline for submission of applications: 19 March 2005.

### GIS Tools, Software, Data

#### **Update on international metadata implementation standard ISO 19139**

In December 2004, the Editing Committee (EC) for ISO 19139, Geographic information - - Metadata - XML schema implementation, met in Vienna, Virginia (USA) to adjudicate comments on the Preliminary Draft Technical Specification (PDTs) received between June 30, 2004 and September 30, 2004. During adjudication, the EC added sections and clauses to improve descriptions and information. An editor was hired to prepare the Draft Technical Specification (DTS) based on comment resolutions in preparation by EC members. Two highlights resulted from the EC's work:

- XML for ISO 19139 has changed since the PDTs was released for comment.
- Entity and attributes are not being accommodated in ISO/DTS 19139.

Concern has been expressed that the EC might lack the authority to add content to ISO 19139. In December, the EC arrived at the same conclusion. The EC's plan is to submit a new work item proposal (NWIP) to ISO TC 211. The proposal will contain a solution for Entity and Attributes derived from compromise and consensus between the parties participating in last fall's public comment period. ISO TC 211 will then determine how to proceed with the NWIP.

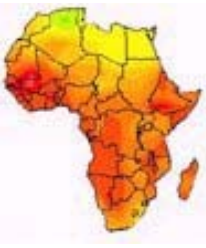
ISO/DTS 19139 will be submitted in March 2005 for inclusion on the agenda for the ISO TC 211 20th plenary meeting, which is scheduled for June 2005.

#### **[The free GIS of the Generalitat Valenciana \(gvSIG\) released its source code](#)**

The gvSIG project released version 0.3 executables and also has released the application source code under a GNU/GPL free software licence, which one can find it at the projects' official homepage. For those who are not familiar with the project, gvSIG is a tool for handling geographical information. It has a friendly interface, is capable to access several (raster and vector) formats. It will integrate in a single view both local and remote data through WMS or WFS. (WMS now working). GvSIG Is aimed to final users of geographical information, professionals or public administration anywhere in the world (at present it has a Spanish, Valencian, English, French and Italian interface). [Source: EGIP List]

#### **[El SIG libre de la Generalitat Valenciana \(gvSIG\) libera su código](#)**

gvSIG hace pública su versión 0.3 en la que ya se puede hablar de software GPL al poner a disposición del público el código fuente de la aplicación bajo la licencia de software libre GNU/GPL. Para los que no la conocen y, tal y como se describe en la web, gvSIG es una herramienta orientada al manejo de información geográfica. Se caracteriza por una interfaz amigable, siendo capaz de acceder a los formatos más usuales de forma ágil tanto ráster como vectoriales. Integrará en una vista datos tanto locales como remotos a través de un origen WMS o WFS. Está orientada a usuarios finales de información de naturaleza geográfica, sean profesionales o de administraciones públicas (ayuntamientos, diputaciones, consejerías o ministerios) de cualquier parte del mundo (actualmente dispone de interfaz en castellano, valenciano, inglés, francés e italiano), siendo, además, gratuita. [Fuente: EGIP List]



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**CatMDEdit** is a metadata editor tool (available in Spanish and English) that facilitates the documentation of resources, with special focus on the description of geographic information resources. The tool conforms with the "[ISO19115. Geographic Information - Metadata](#)" standard. Two interfaces are provided for the edition of metadata records:

- A detailed interface following the ISO19115 comprehensive profile.
- A reduced interface following the "Núcleo Español de Metadatos" (NEM). NEM, a subset of ISO19115, is a recommendation under development which has been defined by the [Spanish National Geographical High Board \("Consejo Superior Geográfico"\)](#). This subset includes all the elements defined for the ISO19115 Core metadata profile ("Core metadata for geographic datasets").

[CatMDEdit is an OpenSource project hosted at SourceForge.net](#). Contact: F.Javier Zarazaga-Soria, Dpt. of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, University of Zaragoza [javy@unizar.es](mailto:javy@unizar.es).

**[Open Geospatial Consortium \(OGC\) News – February 2005](#)** - Collaboratively Weaving the Fabric of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standard. [Subscribe to OGC news](#).

## **SRTM database moved to new server to improve download speed**

[CGIAR Consortium for Spatial Information \(CSI\) website](#) has moved the SRTM Database (and the CGIAR-CSI website) to a new server, based at CGNET in Palo Alto, California. This should greatly improve the performance and file download speed of the SRTM Database -- for those who have had difficulty in downloading the SRTM data.

## **Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material**

**[Presentations and Recommendations from the 6ème Forum des Usagers d'EUMETSAT en Afrique/6th EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa](#)**, 27 September – 1 October 2004, Brazzaville, Congo. [Forum report in English](#), [Forum report in French](#). The Forum had over 140 participants representing 55 countries of which 48 were African. There were representatives from the following African Intergovernmental Regional Associations: South African Development Community (SADC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and CEMAC, together with representatives from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Union (EU).

## **[The application of GIS in the lands sector of a developing country: challenges facing land administrators in Ghana](#)** [*International Journal of Geographical Information Science* 19(3): 343 – 362 (March 2005). Abstract (only).

The Government of Ghana is about to take steps under its Land Administration Project to initiate the adoption of geographical information systems (GIS) in the administration of land. This paper identifies some of the challenges for Ghana's leading lands agency, the Lands Commission Secretariat, and highlights problems such as the paucity of reliable data sets and lack of standards. One of the major planning issues in Accra is that of building encroachments, for which no digital information is currently available. The paper reports on a pilot study to record encroachments on public land and demonstrates the type of inconsistencies that are apparent between the planning and cadastral data sets that do exist. The paper emphasizes that appropriate applications of GIS in Ghana's land sector are those that consider the political, social and institutional contexts within which GIS is to be operationalized.

## **[The Forests of the Congo Basin: a preliminary assessment](#)** (2005)

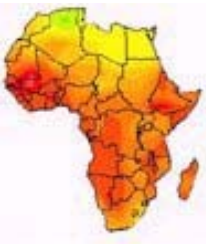
### **[Les forêts du bassin du Congo: évaluation préliminaire](#)** (2005)

[Central African Regional Program for the Environment \(CARPE\)](#)

**Workshop on remote sensing and evaluation of groundwater in arid to semi-arid regions (Eritrea)**, University of Asmara, GIS lab, 7-19 February 2005 (Sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross)

The workshop was held for professionals of the Eritrean Water Resources Department, Department of Mines, the University of Asmara and the ICRC WatHab programme in Eritrea, and was attended by 20 persons. Its focus was:

1. The practical use of ASTER data in distinguishing potential aquifers from aquitards, using mineral information conveyed by several simple 3-band ASTER colour composites;



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2. Delineation of fracture systems in basement rocks, which are potential sources of groundwater and means of lateral transfer, structural controls of potentially water-bearing sedimentary basins and igneous dykes (sometimes forming natural subsurface dams) using ASTER stereo anaglyphs;
3. Evaluation of sites for well location, surface water harvesting and aquifer recharge;
4. Identification of rock types, whose mineralogy sometimes leads to natural contamination of groundwater with various toxic elements.

The course covered the wide range of geological, topographic and climatic conditions found in Eritrea in its first week, followed by practical case studies of a number of areas that are currently experiencing water supply problems, during the second week. The desktop studies were supplemented by two field excursions, in which a variety of aquifers and structural settings were studied, using anaglyph hard copies. Contact: Dr Steve Drury (Open University, UK), [s.a.drury@open.ac.uk](mailto:s.a.drury@open.ac.uk).

## [Change Detection of the North Sinai Coast by Using Remote Sensing and GIS](#)

The coastal zone has become the major site for extensive economic activities where many of the coastal developing countries depend essentially on the scarce coastal resources for economic growth. The main goal of this study is to assess the coastal hazards that may have occurred due to shoreline changes (erosion or / and deposition). This will lead to determination of the hazard magnitude of the unstable coastal area, which will reduce the environmental risk for developmental and natural resources of North Sinai coastal area. The present study provides the end users and decision-makers with the necessary information on long term shoreline behaviors of the study areas. This approach could be applicable to other coastal areas of Egypt.

## [From wealth to health: modelling the distribution of income per capita at the sub-national level using night-time light imagery](#) *International Journal of Health Geographics* 4:5 (10 February 2005)

Sub-national figures providing information about the wealth of the population are useful in defining the spatial distribution of both economic activity and poverty within any given country. Furthermore, since several health indicators such as life expectancy are highly correlated with household welfare, sub-national figures allow for the estimation of the distribution of these health indicators within countries when direct measurement is difficult. We have developed methods that utilize spatially distributed information, including night-time light imagery and population, to model the distribution of income per capita, as a proxy for wealth, at the country and sub-national level to support the estimation of the distribution of correlated health indicators.

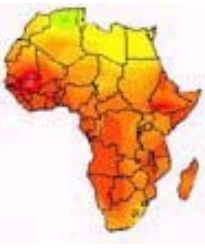
## [Open Source GIS Software: myths and realities](#)

The authors consider the following questions: (1) What are the conditions of open-source software development? (2) Who builds geoinformation open-source software products? (3) Is there a need for innovative open-source software applications in geoinformation applications? (4) How can developing countries obtain geoinformation open-source software to meet their national needs? From: [Open Access and the Public Domain in Digital Data and Information for Science](#) (2004), Washington, DC, The National Academies Press.

## Training Opportunities

[LLUSPH offers Health Geoinformatics Summer Institute](#) ([brochure](#)), June 20 – September 2, 2005, Loma Linda, CA, USA. Loma Linda University School of Public Health (LLUSPH) invites you to apply for Health Geoinformatics Summer Institute from June 20 - September 2, 2005. The [10-week program](#) is divided into two sessions of five weeks per session. Students receive instruction in the entire graduate certificate program curriculum in health geoinformatics. Participants may choose to take all courses or as many courses as desired (up to 12 units). Among other activities, the institute features field trips to the 2005 ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, CA and the ESRI campus in Redlands, CA. Students who successfully complete the Certificate in health geoinformatics (CHG) during the summer institute will also receive a free copy of ArcView software with some extensions (Courtesy of ESRI). Apply soon as space is limited - up to 15 seats are available. For more information, contact: Seth Wiafe, MPH, LLUSPH Health Geoinformatics Unit and Programs, [swiafe@sph.llu.edu](mailto:swiafe@sph.llu.edu).

## [2005 ESRI International User Conference Student Assistantship Program](#)



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If you are a graduate student or fourth-year undergraduate student at a four year university in the United States, you may apply for the student assistantship program. International students who are studying in the states are welcome to apply. ESRI will select up to 60 students to take part in the program, which includes assisting ESRI staff with the work of monitoring sessions, registration, setup/teardown, and overall logistics. ESRI also sets aside time for the students to attend sessions, exhibits, meetings, and events. Students receive a full registration package for the conference, hotel accommodations, and a small stipend for meals. Students will need to pay for their own travel and personal expenses. If you are interested, submit a letter describing your academic interest in GIS, your experience with ESRI software, a resumé, and why you wish to be considered. You will need to supply two letters of reference. One letter should be from a professor. Be sure to include a telephone number, mailing address, and e-mail address where you can be contacted through September 2005. Submissions should arrive at ESRI no later than April 22, 2005.

## **New ESRI Training Program Serves Instructor-Led Courses on the Internet**

ESRI Educational Services introduces the [ESRI Virtual Classroom](#), a new program that provides real-time instructor-led training over the Internet, giving participants a high-quality training experience without the need to travel. [Advanced Techniques for Labels and Annotation](#), the first course in the program, will be offered March 8-10, 2005. ESRI Virtual Classroom courses combine personal delivery by an experienced ESRI instructor with the accessibility and convenience of learning over the Web. A course includes three hours of training each day for three consecutive days; class time is divided among lectures, software demonstrations, and hands-on exercises. Participants enjoy an interactive, classroom-like environment complete with the ability to ask questions and receive answers in real time as well as communicate with classmates. Because the training is delivered in half-day portions, participants can continue to work while they learn. As with traditional ESRI instructor-led courses, Virtual Classroom courses include access to the latest ESRI software. Downloadable lecture slides, exercises, and all required data are also included. A broadband Internet connection is required. [Search current schedule for Virtual Classroom courses](#).

## **ESRI Live Training Seminar Delves into ArcIMS Capabilities**

Introduction to ArcIMS, the new, free, live, training seminar from [ESRI Virtual Campus](#), provides an overview of ArcIMS components and acquaints participants with easy-to-use ArcIMS tools for Internet map authoring, Web site design, and site administration. The seminar is designed for ArcGIS users as well as novice and expert Web developers. There will be three presentations on March 3, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m. Pacific time. A broadband Internet connection and an ESRI Virtual Campus membership are required to view the seminar. Becoming a Virtual Campus member is free and only takes a few minutes.

## **Intergraph Virtual GIS Notebook**

The goal of the Virtual GIS Notebook project (VGISN) is to create an educational primer to introduce the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This work will eventually tie into an online version of this project that will give students the ability to study GIS locally in the classroom or remotely through Web-based distance learning. This project is a collaboration between Philip Young, the director of the Advanced Geospatial Laboratory at Northern Illinois University, a number of students who work within this lab, and Intergraph. Click [here](#) to enter the VGISN table of contents. Please note this is open only to members of the Intergraph GeoSpatial Users Community (IGUC). If you are currently not a member and would like to sign up, then click [here](#).

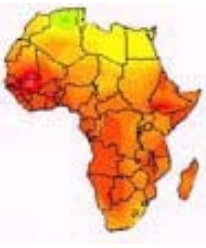
## **Training schedule at Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development**

Remote Sensing and Environmental Management Programme (RSEMP), Erick Khamala, Ag. Senior Remote Sensing Officer, [ekhamala@rcmrd.org](mailto:ekhamala@rcmrd.org); Sammy Nganga, GIS Training Coordinator, [sammyn@rcmrd.org](mailto:sammyn@rcmrd.org). Resource Mapping Programme Contact: M.W. Chodota, Senior Surveyor, [chodota@rcmrd.org](mailto:chodota@rcmrd.org)

## **The Vespucci Initiative for the Advancement of Geographic Information Science announces the 3rd Annual Summer School on Geographic Information Science**

- Urban and Urgent Risk Management:U2RM - Week 1 (4-8 July 2005), near Fiesole (Florence), Italy
- Spatial Data Infrastructures and the Spatial GRID - Week 2 (11-15 July 2005), near Fiesole (Florence), Italy

The Summer School is aimed at researchers from the university, commercial, and government sectors. It provides an inspiring and productive opportunity for peer-to-peer interaction with leading international experts in the field.



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Attendees will be selected based on merit, and according to space limitations. If you are interested in attending, please apply before 15 March 2005 to the address [2005summer@vespucci.org](mailto:2005summer@vespucci.org).

## **CBBIA-IAIA Bursaries**

[The International Association for Impact Assessment \(IAIA\)](#) is currently running a program of work on 'Capacity Building for Biodiversity and Impact Assessment' with funding from the Dutch Government. Under this program a limited number of bursaries are available for students and early career professionals with an interest in environmental impact assessment and biodiversity to attend IAIA's annual conference in Boston, USA from 31 May to 3 June 2005. Opportunities to attend training on biodiversity and impact assessment and on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will also be available from 27 to 30 May 2005 in association with the conference. Applications should be received by the CBBIA-IAIA Program Administrator not later than March 4, 2005.

## **Bourses CBBIA-IAIA**

[L'Association internationale pour l'évaluation d'impacts \(IAIA\)](#) conduit présentement un programme de travail sur le «Renforcement des capacités en évaluation d'impacts et biodiversité » avec un financement du gouvernement néerlandais. Dans le cadre de ce programme, un nombre limité de bourses est disponible pour soutenir la participation des étudiants et professionnels en début de carrière, intéressés par l'évaluation d'impact sur l'environnement et la biodiversité, à la conférence annuelle de l'IAIA à Boston, aux États-Unis du 31 mai au 3 juin 2005. Il existe aussi des opportunités de participer à des formations en évaluation d'impacts et biodiversité ainsi qu'en évaluation environnementale stratégique du 27 mai au 30 mai 2005 en association avec la conférence. Date de limite: 4 mars, 2005.

## **Basics of Geographic Information Systems** [Course No. P000303], 7-10 June 2005, Pretoria, South Africa

Continuing Education at University of Pretoria offers Southern Africa's developing economy a wide range of service offerings. This course, offered by the Department of Geography, Geo-informatics and Meteorology Department, teaches the basic principles of geographic information systems (GIS). It focuses on both the theoretical background and a practical hands-on component, which illustrates the theoretical concepts in practice. After completion of the course delegates have the theoretical and practical foundation to design a new GIS project, acquire data from various sources, build an integrated GIS database, analyse the data and communicate the results. Cost: R 1600.

## **The World Bank 2005 Summer Internship Program**

The World Bank is accepting applications for the 2005 Summer Internship Program through 31 March 2005. The Internship Program is open to students who are nationals of the Bank's member countries. The goal is to offer successful candidates an opportunity to improve their skills, as well as offer the experience of working in an international environment. To be eligible, candidates must possess an undergraduate degree and already be enrolled in a full-time graduate study program (pursuing a master's degree or PhD), with plans to return to school in a full-time capacity. This program typically seeks candidates in the fields of Economics, Finance, Human Development, Social Sciences, agriculture, Environment and Private-Sector Development, as well as related fields. Fluency in English is required. Prior relevant work experience computing skills are helpful, as is knowledge of languages such as French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese or Chinese. The Bank pays an hourly salary and most positions are located in Washington for a minimum of four weeks in duration.

## **Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support**

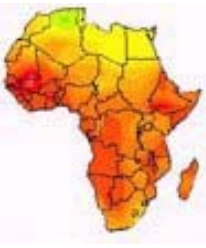
### **West African Research Center Travel Grants for West African Scholars and Graduate Students**

The West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal is offering travel bursaries of up to \$2500 to scholars and graduate students of West African nationality. U.S. citizens are not eligible for this competition. Travel funds may be used to:

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

Application Deadline: March 15, 2005 for travel to take place between July 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005.

### **2005 Call for Applications for Pre-Project Funding**



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The Darwin Initiative is offering one-off funding for travel costs to a host country to enable UK institutions to make contact and collaboratively develop a full Darwin project application in consultation with host country partners. The purpose is to ensure that more UK organisations with expertise in biodiversity (or related fields) have the chance to apply for Darwin project funding, by enabling less well-resourced organisations to develop project applications. The closing date for applications is 18 March 2005.

## [2<sup>nd</sup> Development Gateway Award](#)

The deadline for submissions for the Second Development Gateway Award (formerly called the Petersberg Prize) has been extended until March 15, 2005. The Award recognizing outstanding achievement in the use of information technology for development will be presented at the Development Gateway Forum to be held June 17-18, 2005 in Beijing.

## [2005 Intergraph Awards Competitions Now Accepting Entries](#)

Participate in the 2005 Intergraph awards programs and earn professional recognition, acknowledgment of your achievement, and distinctive awards, including cash prizes. Winners will be announced and awards will be presented during a special awards ceremony at GeoSpatial World 2005.

- Geospatial Achievement Awards – Recognizes organizations that have developed innovative, technologically advanced mapping and geospatial solutions based on Intergraph technology to better serve their communities or constituencies. Deadline to enter is March 15, 2005.
- Awards for Cartographic Excellence – Recognizes and rewards individual professional excellence in design, technique, aesthetics, innovation, communication, and presentation of plotted and printed maps and Internet presentations using Intergraph technology. Deadline to enter is March 31, 2005.

See link for guidelines, entry forms, and more information about each of these awards programs.

## [INSA-JRD Tata Fellowship](#)

The Fellowship provides an opportunity for young scientists, teachers and researchers from the developing countries all over the world to undertake research studies in India. It covers short-term, participatory research studies in all major disciplines of science and technology including engineering and medical sciences at the Indian Centres of Excellence selected by the scientists. The Fellowship awardees are provided considerable freedom in availing the opportunity and formulating the contents of their research work in India. The awardees may either choose any institute or seek the assistance of the Indian National Science Academy. The Academy may arrange the placements accordingly for the awardees and also a research collaborator/ supervisor at the host institute in India. About 20 Fellowships are likely to be provided annually. The deadlines for receipt of the applications are 31 March and 30 September. The Fellowship covers to and fro airfare, board and lodging at the affiliated institution/, and an adequate allowance in Indian currency to cover incidental expenses. The minimum period of award will be 3 months, not exceeding six months.

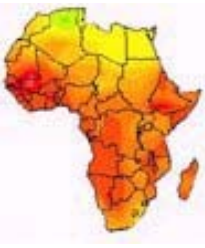
## [Tech Museum Awards](#)

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2005 Tech Awards. The deadline to submit nominations is April 4, 2005. The Tech Museum Awards is a unique and prestigious program that honors and awards innovators from around the world who use technology to benefit humanity. A \$50,000 cash prize will be awarded to winning nominations in 5 awards categories: Education, Equality, Economic Development, Environment, and Health. Nominations can be submitted online through a simple, two-page questionnaire. Once a nomination is received and validated, nominees are contacted and invited to submit an application. The deadline for nominations is April 5, 2004.

## [Alcan Prize for Sustainability](#)

The Alcan Prize for Sustainability is a US\$1 million Prize to be awarded each year to a not-for-profit, civil society and non-governmental organization, based anywhere in the world, for their contributions to economic, environmental and / or social sustainability. The Prize recognizes past performance and helps winning organizations continue to contribute to and impact on sustainability through their ongoing activities. Call for entries. Deadline 31 March 2005.

## [MAB Young Scientists Awards](#)



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Encourages young scientists to conduct interdisciplinary research on ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity, in line with the MAB Programme's focus on sustainable people and biosphere interactions. Awards for young researchers who want to carry-out interdisciplinary research in line with the MAB Programme Priority will be given to interdisciplinary projects carried-out in biosphere reserves on the theme of ecosystems and water. 10 awards per year are made for US \$5,000 per award (maximum). Applications must be received by UNESCO no later than 30 April 2005 to be eligible. Applicants may not be older than 40 years of age.

## [Joint Japan World Bank Graduate Scholarship Programme](#)

Participants from World Bank member countries can apply for a fellowship from the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Programme (JJ/WBGSP). The deadline for applications for the Master Programmes that start in October is March 31, 2005. Contact: JJ/WBGSP Secretariat at the World Bank Headquarters, JJ/WBGSP, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA Tel: (202) 4771234 or (202) 4776414, Fax: (202) 6760962.

## [The e7 Sustainable Energy Development Masters Scholarship Program](#)

The e7 is a group of leading electricity companies from the G7 nations. It is offering awards of up to \$20,000 US per year for students pursuing Masters Degrees for a two-year period. These awards are available to students who are citizens of developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition (see list of countries on [web site](#)), who are interested in continuing their studies and contributing to the body of knowledge in Sustainable Energy Development. Applications for the Masters programme must be submitted by April 1, 2005.

## [Gates Cambridge Scholarships](#)

The scholarship aims to create a network of future leaders from around the world who will bring new vision and commitment to improving the life circumstances of citizens in their respective countries. The scholarships are available for graduate study or for study for a second Bachelor's Degree as an Affiliated Student at the University of Cambridge. Applicants from every country of the world except the United Kingdom are eligible to apply. Applications for admission as a PhD student, or to one of the post-graduate courses are handled by the Board of Graduate Studies whose procedures and time-tables are clearly outlined in the [Graduate Studies Prospectus](#). Submit your application and the supporting documents as soon as possible and at the latest two weeks before the course closing dates as given in the [course details](#). For Earth Sciences and Geography and for Development Studies, the deadline is 31 March 2005.

## [Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarships Programme](#)

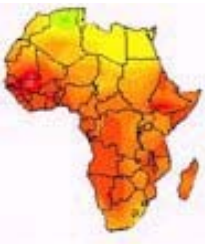
The Aga Khan Foundation provides a limited number of scholarships each year for graduate studies to students from developing countries who have no other means of financing their studies. Preference is given to applicants wishing to pursue a master's degree although PhD applicants will also be considered. The scholarships are awarded on a 50% grant; 50% loan basis. The Foundation accepts applications from countries where it has branches, affiliates or other AKDN agencies - at present, these are Afganistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, Mozambique, Syria, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. Applicants must be academically outstanding, in genuine financial need and have thoughtful and coherent educational and career plans. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2005.

## [SANPAD: Call for Research](#)

South Africa-Netherlands Research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD) is a collaborative research programme that has been financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1997. SANPAD is calling for research proposals from South African researchers/academics for the value of R414 000 for a period of 2 or 3 years. SANPAD funds high-quality, collaborative research conducted by South African researchers in partnership with Dutch researchers relating to the following themes:

- New approaches to Economic Development
- Social Development and Quality of Life
- Natural Resources and their Governance
- Democracy, Government and Civil Society
- Culture Identity and Civil society
- Poverty Reduction

Project leaders must be South African academics/researchers with demonstrated research expertise and be in employment at a South African Higher Education Institution. Details of the grant application process and grant application forms are available on SANPAD. For more information contact the SANPAD office on tel 031 277 1780 or



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mail [Projects@sanpad.org.za](mailto:Projects@sanpad.org.za). Deadline: 14 March 2005. The Netherlands Research Partners' travel and subsistence allowance is financed by the SANPAD Netherlands Office. For more information contact [sanpad@niza.nl](mailto:sanpad@niza.nl).

## [NASA Earth System Science Fellowship Program](#)

The Fellowships are for persons pursuing Master of Science (M.Sc.) or Doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in Earth System Science and related disciplines. The purpose of NASA's Earth System Science (ESS) Fellowship Program is to ensure continued training of interdisciplinary scientists to support the study of the Earth as a system. NASA places particular emphasis on the applicant's ability and interest in pursuing academic training and research using observations and measurements from NASA's Earth orbiting satellites, and in developing inter- or cross-disciplinary research about the Earth system that is not currently emphasized in the research and development portfolio of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. The NASA Fellowship Program is open to all students enrolled full-time at accredited US institutions; however, U.S. citizens and permanent residents will be given preference when two or more proposals are of equal scientific merit. A student receiving support under the Earth System Science Fellowship program does not thereby incur any formal obligation to the Government of the United States. Application Deadline: 15 March 2005.

## [Marine Research Grant \(MARG\) Programmes](#)

[MARG I Application form in English](#), [MARG II Application form in English](#), [MARG III Application form in English](#), [MARG Attachment form in English](#)

Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) promotes marine research through the awarding of research funds under the Marine Science for Management (MASMA) and the Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programmes. MARG Programme seeks to enhance capacity to conduct research and increase our understanding on various aspects of marine sciences and offer opportunities for the presentation of results of the research work in different regional and international fora. The MARG programme covers all subject areas of marine science and technology. However, preference is given to research in those areas that are designated as being high priority within the development plans of the Western Indian Ocean member states. Three types of grants are awarded:

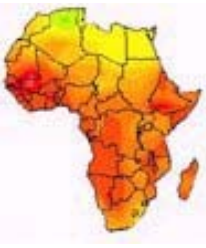
- MARG-1: Awarded to individual scientists to carry out well-defined research activities in their countries/institutions. The initial duration (term) of MARG-I is 1 year, renewable for a maximum of one term. The maximum amount offered for MARG-I is US \$ 6,000.
- MARG-II: Grants awarded to individual scientists for the purpose of sharing or gaining technical experience as well as data processing and manuscript write-up within the WIO region and where necessary outside the region. The duration of MARG-II is three months. The maximum offered for MARG-II is US\$ 6,000.
- MARG-III: Travel support to individual scientists to attend scientific meetings and conferences, giving them opportunities to present their work and learn from others. The maximum offered is US\$ 3,000.

Applications for MARG support should be made on forms obtainable from WIOMSA Secretariat or could be downloaded from the WIOMSA website, <http://www.wiomsa.org>. The forms are available in three languages: English, French and Portuguese and they contain all the necessary information. Deadline for submission of MARG I is 30 April of every year, while MARG II and III can be submitted any time. [Source: <http://www.odinafrica.net>]

## [ISA Junior Sociologists Prize](#)

The International Sociological Association (ISA) has announced the 4<sup>th</sup> worldwide competition for junior scholars engaged in social research. Junior Scholars are those under 35 years of age on May 1st, 2005. Participants should hold a Master's degree (or an equivalent graduate diploma) in sociology or in a related discipline. Entries should be postmarked April 1, 2005 at the latest or reach the Milton Keynes (the UK) Secretariat before May 1, 2005.

[Five College African Scholars program \[Appel aux Candidatures\]](#) is dedicated to strengthening partnerships among scholars in Africa and the United States, supporting research, and enriching the study of Africa. Six to seven fellowships are being awarded annually between 2003 and 2007 to those individuals who best meet the eligibility and selection criteria. Women and men throughout Africa, particularly those who have not had recent access to such opportunities, are encouraged to apply. During four-month residencies, fellows will have the opportunity and resources to complete their research and writing projects in an academic community without the obligations of normal professional duties. Each fellow will be hosted by a faculty member at one of the Five College institutions who shares that fellow's scholarly interests. Fellows will participate in an interdisciplinary seminar, conducted in English, with



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fellow residents and African studies faculty from the five colleges. Although teaching is not required, scholars may be invited as guest speakers in various classes. The program intends to sustain connections among scholars following their return to Africa. The next deadline for the Five College African Scholars Program is May 1, 2005 for Projects on any topic in Humanities & Social Sciences for the terms January-May 2006 and August-December 2006. Contact: [asp@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:asp@fivecolleges.edu).

## Employment Opportunities

### [Poverty Monitoring Programme Specialist](#), Zanzibar, Tanzania

[UNDP Tanzania](#) is seeking to recruit a Poverty Monitoring Programme Specialist to work in the Poverty Monitoring and Pro-poor Policy Development Unit. The successful candidate will be a member of the Internal Poverty Task Group, which coordinates poverty monitoring work within UNDP. Qualifications and experience: masters degree in Economics/Social Sciences or its equivalent plus at least 5 years experience working in developing countries; strong knowledge and experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies. Deadline: March 7, 2005. Contact: [hr.tz@undp.org](mailto:hr.tz@undp.org).

### [Geographic Information Systems Officer \(P-3\)](#), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

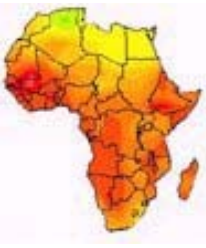
Under the general guidance of the Chief of the Development Information Services Division, the Geographic Information Systems Officer is responsible for collection, treatment of information and charting of geoinformation activities in Africa: compilation work for maps and charts from indicators and other statistical data sets; assessment of geoinformation activities, capabilities and infrastructure on the continent and providing expert advice to member States on geoinformation issues; providing guidance to UN experts for preparation of maps and schemes they may need; conducting specific studies relating to geoinformation in Africa; performing other related technical and administrative duties as required by the Secretariat. Specifically the incumbent will: provide expert advice to United Nations experts in the design of maps for their reports and other publications; compile maps and charts from sketches, notes or statistical data suitable for publication; draw up working specifications for both analog and digital drawings for the guidance of technical geoinformation staff; maintain ECA's clearinghouse nodes and map servers; maintain hardware, software, peripherals and other mapping and geoinformation equipment in ECA; provide expert advice, when required, to relevant institutions of the member States on geoinformation issues; assist in the development of skills of ECA staff on the use of geoinformation tools and techniques; collect reports on geoinformation and related activities from African countries, as well as from other governments and mapping agencies abroad; compile and analyze information on the implementation of spatial data infrastructure and related mapping resources in Africa and maintain indexes on the status of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in Africa; assess, on a regular basis, national and regional geoinformation activities, capabilities and infrastructure on the continent, keeping an up-to-date data base on such issues; prepare documents reporting on SDI and geoinformation developments; attend and contribute professionally to seminars, workshops, meetings and conferences related to geoinformation issues; performs other related administrative and technical duties as required. Deadline: 12 April 2005. Vacancy Announcement Number: 05-IST-ECA-405237-R-ADDIS ABABA

### [Natural Sciences Programme Specialist](#), UNESCO Office in Harare, Zimbabwe

Responsible for activities related to the natural sciences in the Southern African Development Community Countries (SADC); coordinate the implementation of the UNESCO regional project on "Sustainable Management and Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Region of Southern Africa" (SIMDAS). PhD or equivalent in one of the Environmental Sciences and sustainable development (e.g. Integrated rural development; Agro-economy and Sociology; Socio-ecology, etc.); substantial professional working experience, preferably considerable field experience in international organisations; solid academic experience at postdoctoral level would be an asset; at least seven years' relevant working experience, including experience in developing countries, in particular, and in arid or semi-arid regions; good IT skills; and excellent knowledge of English or French and good knowledge of the other language. [To apply](#). Deadline: March 20, 2005.

### [Call for proposals to establish mirror sites for GBIF data portal](#)

[Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#) Secretariat has issued a call for proposals to establish mirror sites for its data portal, and to introduce a distributed operation of some of its services, such as indexing the contents of the



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data providers. The purpose of these activities is to achieve higher availability through redundancy, higher efficiency through parallel operation, and close contacts to data providers through regionally and thematically available support personnel. Partial funding for these activities is available for at least two mirror and support sites. More sites can be established, if the applicants contribute their own resources towards these activities, and GBIF also welcomes proposals that would be 100% funded by the applicant. This call is open for GBIF Participant Nodes and current data providers. Proposals should be received by 7 March 2005 13:00 GMT+1 at [gbif@gbif.org](mailto:gbif@gbif.org). Questions can be sent to Hannu Saarenmaa, Deputy Director for Informatics, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, GBIF Secretariat, [hsaarenmaa@gbif.org](mailto:hsaarenmaa@gbif.org).

## **Cropping Systems Agronomist**, Cotonou, Benin

The Africa Rice Center (WARDA) seeks a Cropping Systems Agronomist, who should have a PhD in agronomy/breeding, to provide leadership in the development of crop management strategies for different resource input gradients, develop research-support tools for matching new improved germplasm to farmer cropping practices, and to provide expertise to national programs in resource and crop management strategies in specific ecologies. He/she will lead the development of modern management systems related to crop management technologies to be developed in partnership with staff from WARDA and NARES as well as stakeholders. This will include joint planning sessions to coordinate the efforts of partners in the management of genetic resources, developing a user-friendly information system and incorporating existing databases on integrated crop management technologies, and conducting research and development activities related to crop management technologies in line with annual project workplans. The post requires involvement in all aspects of research project design, its implementation and the assessment of training activities. Deadline: 15 March 2005.

The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) of the Earth Institute at Columbia University has several openings:

**Associate Research Scientist - Climate Impacts Research**, Palisades, New York, USA

**Research Scientist/Associate Research Scientist, Program Leader for Climate and Society Publications Series, Palisades**, New York, USA

**Staff Associate - Institutions and Policy Research**, Palisades, New York, USA

## Other

### **A library in your letterbox: the GDN/BLDS document delivery service**

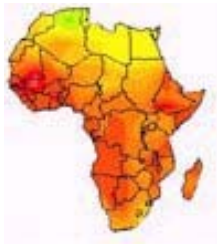
Accessing relevant development knowledge is a key challenge for many researchers in developing and transition countries. The Global Development Network (GDN) and the British Library of Development Studies (BLDS) have teamed up to address this issue with a new Document Delivery Service. The service provides research institutes in the South with access to Europe's largest research collection on economic and social change in developing countries. Aimed at knowledge professionals within research institutes, it allows them to search the BLDS online catalogue and request a photocopy of any article or document chapter to be mailed to them at no cost. This service is provided only to research institutes in developing and transition countries and can be accessed by GDN Organization Contacts. A GDN Organization Contact is the named contact for an organization which holds a profile on GDN. Due to copyright restrictions it can be provided only to those individuals who have a responsibility for meeting the information needs of others at their institute, e.g. librarians or administrators and is not available to individual researchers.

### **Software Freedom Law Center**

Newly established Software Freedom Law Center has a mission to provide pro-bono legal services globally to eligible non-profit open source software projects and developers. Initial funding support from Open Source Development Labs.

### **African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Fellowship**

The [African Academy of Sciences \(AAS\)](http://aas.africaonline.co.ke) is looking to nominate new members into its Fellowship. Nomination for membership is done through peer review by sub-committees in various scientific fields. Application includes a completed [Fellowship application form](#), an updated CV; and five sets of reprints of best publications. Contact: [aas@africaonline.co.ke](mailto:aas@africaonline.co.ke). Deadline: 31 March 2005.



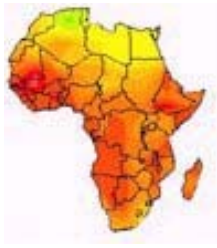
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**Call for Papers - Conference (Re)exploring the Links Between Environment and Development in Africa**, 14-15 April, 2005, Trondheim, Norway. The Conference invites presentations dealing with various aspects of Africa's environmental problems at present or in the past. Papers which in some ways deal with this process of reinterpretation and/or focus on the links between science, moral claims and development in the debate on Africa's environmental problems are particularly welcomed. Potential contributors should submit abstracts (max 100 words) including name, affiliation and e-mail address by March 15, 2005.

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

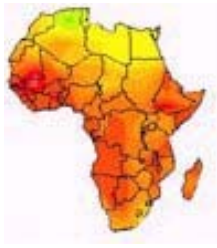
## Conferences, Events

Date	Location	Event
<b>March 2005</b>		
2-4 March	Johannesburg, South Africa	<b><u>First Annual Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) "ICTs and Civil Society" Conference</u></b> 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: <a href="mailto:mtintern@sangonet.org.za">mtintern@sangonet.org.za</a>
2-4 March	Windhoek, Namibia	<b><u>Infotech2005 Conference</u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:valiant@iway.na">valiant@iway.na</a>
6-9 March	Denver, CO, USA	<b><u>Geospatial Information &amp; Technology Association (GITA)'s 2005 Annual Conference and Exhibition</u></b> . 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.
6-17 March	Alexandria, Egypt	<b><u>Workshop on Climate Variability over Africa</u></b> Contact: Azhraf Zakey, <a href="mailto:zakey@chem.qu.se">zakey@chem.qu.se</a> .
7-9 March	Morogoro, Tanzania	<b><u>East African Integrated River Basin Management Conference</u></b> - to bring together river basin professionals and researchers to critically discuss the tools of IWRM applied at the basin level. <a href="http://www.iwmi.org.za/RIPARWIN_archive/latest.htm">http://www.iwmi.org.za/RIPARWIN_archive/latest.htm</a>
8-9 March	Nairobi, Kenya	<b>The Second Annual Kenya National ICT Convention</b>
14-16 March	Phoenix, Arizona, USA	<b><u>Joint Conferences on Urban Remote Sensing – 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Remote Sensing and Data Fusion over Urban Areas (URBAN 2005) and 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Urban Areas (URS 2005)</u></b>
15-17 March <b>*NEW*</b>	Johannesburg, South Africa	<b><u>Sustainable Development Conference</u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:titus@bembani.com">titus@bembani.com</a> .
21-23 March	Delft, the Netherlands	<b><u>First Symposium on Geo-Information for Disaster Management</u></b> <a href="http://www.gdmc.nl/gi4dm">http://www.gdmc.nl/gi4dm</a>
21-23 March	Marrakech, Morocco	<b><u>2nd International Forum on Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Advancing Implementation on Water and Energy</u></b> Contact: <a href="mailto:forum@minenv.gov.ma">forum@minenv.gov.ma</a>



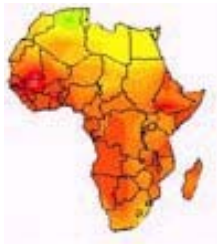
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27-31 March <b>* NEW *</b>	Sousse, Tunisia	<a href="#">Conférence Internationale: Sciences Electroniques, Technologies de l'Information et des Télécommunications</a>
28-31 March	Minato-ku, Tokyo region, Japan	<a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Digital Earth</a>
<b>April 2005</b>		
3-7 April	Yaounde, Cameroon	<a href="#">"Building Civil Society Through Community Development" Conference</a> 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, <a href="mailto:minjm@camnet.cm">minjm@camnet.cm</a>
4-6 April	Frascati, Italy	<b>OGC Technical and Planning Committee Meetings</b> - <a href="http://www.opengeospatial.org/events/?page=events">http://www.opengeospatial.org/events/?page=events</a>
13-14 April	Tunis, Tunisia	<b>Séminaire Maghrébin sur l'Analyse de l'Information Statistique pour le Développement</b> (see <a href="http://www.paris21.org/pages/events/all-events/list/">http://www.paris21.org/pages/events/all-events/list/</a> )
13-15 April	Mbabane, Swaziland	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Southern African Internet Forum (SAIF 2)</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:sean@aitecafrica.com">sean@aitecafrica.com</a>
14-16 April	Durban, South Africa	<a href="#">International Conference on HIV/AIDS, Food and Nutrition Security</a> To stimulate more effective, large-scale action that addresses the links between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition insecurity. Contact: Stuart Gillespie, <a href="mailto:s.gillespie@cgiar.org">IFPRI s.gillespie@cgiar.org</a>
16-21 April	Cairo, Egypt	<a href="#">FIG Working Week &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure</a>
17 & 21 April	Cairo, Egypt	<a href="#">12<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee for Global Mapping Meeting</a>
23-28 April	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	<b>CODI IV - "Information as an Economic Resource"</b> Sub themes include e-Commerce, Open Source Software, Poverty Reduction, Intellectual Property Rights, Statistics and NEPAD, Systems of National Accounting, Knowledge Sharing, Information Access and Information Dissemination.
26-28 April	San Francisco, CA, USA	<a href="#">GeoSpatial World 2005</a>
28-29 April	Zanzibar, Tanzania	<b>AfRES 6th International Conference</b> - Real Estate and Globalisation in Africa. Conference of the African Grouping of Real Estate Societies. Contact: Organizing Committee <a href="mailto:tivea@uclas.ac.tz">tivea@uclas.ac.tz</a> ; Deadline for papers: <u>11 January 2005</u> .
<b>May 2005</b>		
10-11 May	Maputo, Mozambique	<a href="#">3rd International Workshop on Open Access 2005</a> The goal of the workshop is to disseminate and discuss the concept of Open Communication and Open Networks, i.e. networks with modular network segments with open standardised interfaces allowing different actors to build networks together based on local economical opportunities.
22-26 May	Alger, Algeria	<a href="#">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 / United Nations - Algeria - European Space Agency Seminar on the Use of Space Technology for Disaster Management: Prevention and Management of Natural Disasters</a> Contact: Mme Raechelle Newman, Bureau des Affaires Spatiales des Nations Unies (BAS): <a href="mailto:raechelle.newman@unvienna.org">raechelle.newman@unvienna.org</a> .



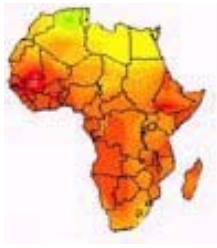
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24-27 May	Sesimbra, Portugal	<a href="#">ISESS 2005 (International Symposium on Environmental Software Systems)</a> ISESS 2005 is the latest in a series of conferences and workshops that, since 1995, have provided a forum for presenting and discussing effective information processing techniques for environmental prediction and monitoring.
30 May – 2 June	Estoril, Portugal	<a href="#">GIS Planet 2005</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:planet@gisplanet.org">planet@gisplanet.org</a>
<b>June 2005</b>		
6-8 June	Porto, Portugal	<a href="#">25th EARSeL Symposium - Global Developments in Environmental Earth Observation from Space</a> Followed by workshops on <a href="#">Remote Sensing of the Coastal Zone</a> and <a href="#">3D Remote Sensing</a>
6-10 June	Stockholm, Sweden	<a href="#">ISO/TC 211 20th Plenary</a> Contact: Jörgen Wyke, Swedish Standards Institute, <a href="mailto:jorgen.wyke@sis.se">jorgen.wyke@sis.se</a>
16-18 June	Zaragoza, Spain	<a href="#">5th International Workshop on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications to Forest Fire Management: Fire Effects Assessment</a>
20-24 June	Angers, France	<a href="#">Colloque - Evaluation Environnementale et Developpement d'une Agriculture Durable</a>
20-24 June	St. Petersburg, Russia	<a href="#">31st International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment</a> "Global Monitoring for Sustainability and Security"
<b>July 2005</b>		
3-6 July	Southampton, UK	<a href="#">Cambridge Conference: The Exchange</a> – 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: <a href="mailto:nmonetwork@ordnancesurvey.co.uk">nmonetwork@ordnancesurvey.co.uk</a>
6-8 July	Mauritius	<a href="#">AITEC Indian Ocean</a> - Mobilising ICTs for Development and Competitiveness in Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion & Seychelles
9-16 July	La Coruña, España	<a href="#">XXII ICA International Cartographic Conference</a> . <a href="#">Call for abstracts</a> . Abstracts due 1 November 2004. A limited number of <a href="#">travel awards</a> will be made to young cartographers who are nationals from developing countries.
18-22 July <b>* NEW *</b>	Vancouver, Canada	<a href="#">GML Days 2005</a> - will be the fourth annual conference on the OGC Geography Mark-up Language (GML) and Web Services for GIS. Abstracts due: April 30, 2005.
18-23 July	Tours, France	<a href="#">International Union for the Scientific Study of Population - XXV International Population Conference</a>
19-23 July	Elmina, Ghana	<a href="#">1st Regional Biannual Conference of Africa Chapter of International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE)</a> Changing Landscapes of Africa: A Common Approach to Diverse Challenges (Paysages Changeants de l'Afrique: Une Approche Commune aux Défis Divers). Contact: <a href="mailto:hbulley@calmit.unl.edu">hbulley@calmit.unl.edu</a> ; <a href="http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/cd/">http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/cd/</a> ; <a href="http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/index.html">http://calmit.unl.edu/africa-iale/index.html</a> ; <a href="#">Africa-iale mailing list</a>
24-29 July	San Diego, CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI International User Conference</a>
31 July – 2 August <b>* NEW *</b>	Cleveland, Ohio, USA	<a href="#">4th Annual Public Participation GIS (PPGIS) Conference</a> . Deadline for abstracts: March 11, 2005.
<b>August 2005</b>		
22-26 August	Copenhagen, Denmark	<a href="#">2nd International Workshop on Geographic Information Management (GIM '05)</a> in conjunction with DEXA 2005 and EGOV 2005. Submission of full papers: March 04, 2005.



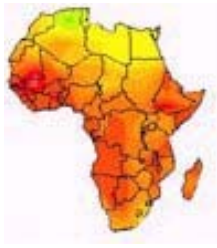
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24-26 August	Cape Town, South Africa	<a href="#">2nd Annual Conference of the Community Informatics Research Network</a> Deadline for abstracts and panel proposals: <u>1 February 2005</u> .
29 August – 3 September <b>* NEW *</b>	Grand Baie, Mauritius	<b>4th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium</b> - Advances in Marine Science in Western Indian Ocean Region: Contribution of Research in Improving Human Welfare and Poverty Alleviation Contact: <a href="mailto:secretary@wiomsa.org">secretary@wiomsa.org</a>
<b>September 2005</b>		
6-8 September	Bologna, Italy	<a href="#">River Basin Management 2005</a> - 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.
6-8 September <b>* NEW *</b>	Pretoria, South Africa	<a href="#">International Workshop on Strategies for Permanent Access to Scientific Information in Southern Africa: Focus on Health and Environmental Information for Sustainable Development</a>
6-9 September	Johannesburg, South Africa	<a href="#">ACT 2005 – Seventh Annual African Computing &amp; Telecommunications Summit</a> Presentation proposals deadline: <u>30 June 2005</u> .
7-9 September	Brno, Czech Republic	<a href="#">EnviroInfo 2005 - Informatics for Environmental Protection - Networking Environmental Information</a> Deadline for abstracts: <u>February 1, 2005</u> .
7-9 September	Trier, Germany	<a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geoinformation Processing in Assessment and Monitoring of Land Degradation and Desertification</a>
7-10 September	Nairobi, Kenya	<a href="#">Mapping for Change: International Conference on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication</a> Contact: Giacomo Rambaldi, <a href="mailto:grambaldi@iapad.org">grambaldi@iapad.org</a> .
12-14 September	Bologna, Italy	<a href="#">2nd International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development (Sustainable Planning 2005)</a> The papers presented at Sustainable Planning 2005 will be published in volume 83 of <i>WIT Transactions on Ecology &amp; the Environment</i>
13-15 September	Tanta, Egypt	<a href="#">Water, Health and Environment 2005</a> Contact: Dr Bakenaz A. Zeydan, Conference General Secretary, Head of Water Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Tanta University, <a href="mailto:bakenaz@dec1.tanta.edu.eg">bakenaz@dec1.tanta.edu.eg</a>
15-16 September	Montreal, Canada	<b>ISO/TC 211 21st Plenary</b> <a href="http://www.isotc211.org/">http://www.isotc211.org/</a>
16-17 September <b>* NEW *</b>	Cambridge, U.K.	<a href="#">GEOMED 2005</a> is the fifth international, interdisciplinary conference on geomedical systems. GEOMED brings together statisticians, geographers, epidemiologists, computer scientists, and public health professionals to discuss methods of spatial analysis, as well as present and debate the results of such analyses. Deadline for abstracts: <u>15 May 2005</u> .
25-27 September	Magdeburg, Germany	<a href="#">Second International ICSC Symposium on Information Technologies in Environmental Engineering (ITEE'2005)</a> The deadline for submission of papers is: <u>February 28, 2005</u> .
<b>October 2005</b>		
8-12 October	Kansas City, Missouri, USA	<a href="#">Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)'s 43rd Annual Conference</a> Abstract deadline extended to: <u>February 11, 2005</u>
9-13 October	Bonn, Germany	<a href="#">6th Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community</a>
23-27 October	Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA	<a href="#">Pecora 16 - "Global Priorities in Land Remote Sensing"</a> Deadline for abstracts: <u>February 15, 2005</u> .
25-29 October	Kusadasi, Turkey	<a href="#">MEDCOAST 2005 – 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Mediterranean Coastal Environment</a> Deadline for abstracts: <u>January 31, 2005</u> .



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<b>30 October – 4 November</b> <b>* NEW *</b> <b>(change in venue and date)</b>	Pretoria, South Africa	<a href="#">AFRICAGIS '05</a> 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: <u>15 April 2005</u> .
<b>November 2005</b>		
<b>14-16 November</b>	Tunis, Tunisia	<a href="#">IRFD World Forum on Information Society</a> . Organized by the the International Research Foundation for Development. One of the Session Themes is Geographical Information System and Sustainable Information Society. Abstract deadline: <u>March 31, 2005</u> . Contact: <a href="mailto:wfis2005@irfd.org">wfis2005@irfd.org</a> .
<b>16-18 November</b>	Tunis, Tunisia	<a href="#">World Summit on the Information Society</a> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase
<b>27 November – 2 December</b> <b>* NEW *</b>	Yaounde, Cameroon	<a href="#">Colloque Africain Systemes d'Information et Traitement de l'Image et du Signal (SITIS) / International Conference on Signal-Image Technology and Internet-Based Systems (SITIS'05)</a> Deadline for abstract submission: <u>May 15, 2005</u> ; proposals for tutorials due: <u>June 15, 2005</u> . Contact: <a href="mailto:sitis@u-bourgogne.fr">sitis@u-bourgogne.fr</a> .
<b>28-29 November</b> <b>* NEW *</b>	Pretoria, South Africa	<a href="#">International Conference on the Changing Politics of Land in Africa Domestic Policies, Crisis Management, and Regional Norms</a> Deadline for papers: <u>April 30, 2005</u> .
<b>December 2005</b>		
<b>16-21 December</b>	Cairo, Egypt	<a href="#">13th International Conference of the Geological Society of Africa on Geology and Development</a> . Local lead organisation, the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS). Contact: Dr Mahmoud Abdeen, GSAf Vice-President (North Africa), <a href="mailto:m_m_abdeen@hotmail.com">m_m_abdeen@hotmail.com</a>
<b>2006</b>		
<b>9-12 March 2006</b> <b>* NEW *</b>	Accra, Ghana	<b>5th FIG Regional Conference for Africa</b> The proposed theme is " <i>Modern Technologies in Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance</i> ".
<b>16-22 March 2006</b>	Mexico	<a href="#">4th World Water Forum</a> The main theme of the Forum will be "Local actions for a global challenge". A series of regional meetings will be held throughout the preparatory phase in order to identify good practices and learn lessons from shared experiences, as well as to support and encourage local commitments. Guiding principles, main objectives, framework themes and topic sessions available for comments in the <a href="#">concept paper</a> .
<b>25-26 May 2006</b>	Orlando, Florida, USA	<b>ISO/TC 211 22nd Plenary</b> <a href="http://www.isotc211.org/">http://www.isotc211.org/</a>
<b>9-15 July 2006</b>	Philadelphia, PA, USA	<a href="#">IUSS 18th World Congress of Soil Science</a>
<b>13-17 July 2006</b>	Wollongong and Sydney, Australia	<a href="#">COAST - GIS 06 - 7th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management</a> . 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
<b>31 July – 4 August 2006</b>	Denver, Colorado, USA	<a href="#">IEEE/IGARSS 2006</a>
<b>9-13 October 2006</b>	Santiago, Chile	<b>9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure</b> organized by the <a href="#">GSDI Association</a> & <a href="#">Instituto Geográfico Militar</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:gdsdi9@igm.cl">gdsdi9@igm.cl</a>



# Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

October 2006	Cairo, Egypt	6 <sup>th</sup> African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference. Contact: <a href="mailto:aarse@rcmrd.org">aarse@rcmrd.org</a> .
October 2006	Beijing, China	20 <sup>th</sup> CODATA ( <a href="#">Committee on Data for Science and Technology</a> ) Conference Contact: <a href="mailto:codata@dial.oleane.com">codata@dial.oleane.com</a> .
14-15 November 2006	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	ISO/TC 211 23rd Plenary <a href="http://www.isotc211.org/">http://www.isotc211.org/</a>

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