

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa Newsletter

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SDI-Africa Newsletter

November 2005

Vol. 4, No. 11

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

Input to this Issue

Thank you to Ganiy Agbaje, NASRDA (Nigeria); Emma Noongo (Namibia); Bheki Ginindza, Swaziland GeoSpatial Information Systems Organization (Swaziland); Eric Odada, Pan African START Secretariat (Kenya); Tsehaie Woldai, ITC (the Netherlands); Alan Stevens, FGDC (USA); and Sharon Shin, FGDC (USA) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[Nigeria National Geospatial Data Infrastructure \(NGDI\) user requirements survey and data resources](#)

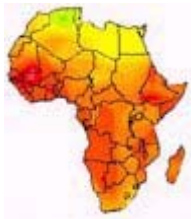
To ensure a sustainable realization of the objectives of the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI) in accordance with the National Geoinformation Policy, a user requirements survey and analysis (URSA) was conducted. The National Space Research Development Agency (NASRDA) awarded the URSA exercise to GML Projects Ltd. The survey was designed to capture information on what resources exist within respondent institutions to support the implementation of NGDI. It also aimed to discover what data is available at various institutions, formats of available data, and the current use of data by data producers, co-producers, users and stakeholder community. It was designed in three parts:

- Part 1: Information Networking and Management Capacity, containing six sections with questions designed to capture institutional details, data issues, staff training, and available facilities.
- Part 2: Specific User Needs, which captures additional institutional details and data requirements;
- Part 3: Assessment of Data and Information Resources, capturing data holdings and format such as digital imageries/photos and other digital and analog data sets.

Recommendations based on the results of the URSA are meant to serve as a guide in system design, system requirements, and budgetary implications to meet end-user needs and realize the broad objectives of the NGDI. A copy of the questionnaire that was used has been made available so that colleagues in other countries can refer to it and possibly adapt it for similar user surveys.

[Sudan Interagency Mapping "SIM" website launched](#)

Sudan Interagency Mapping (SIM) is comprised of GIS professionals working for non-profit Humanitarian, Developmental, or Peacekeeping initiatives. It functions in cooperation with local authorities to promote and facilitate the sharing of standardized geospatial information to enable all members to develop compatible and reliable products to assist in their operations. See also [January 2005 SIM workshop report](#).



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[GIS: Enhancing development through geographic information \(Rwanda\)](#) (recent article in Rwanda's The New Times newspaper). "It is projected that in the very near future, Rwanda will be a modernized society. The pace towards this development therefore requires that the necessary infrastructure be laid out to accommodate the fast pace of development, especially considering that the biggest part of Rwanda, especially the city of Kigali and other urban centers have unplanned infrastructure and everything has to be re-done. The answer to this equation lies in the [Center for Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing \(CGIS\)](#). Founded in 1999 through a deal struck between the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI), the organization has been evolving through time to develop applications derived from geographic information for use in different sectors for the country's development, putting emphasis on the conservation of natural resources."

Namibian GIS User Conference, Polytechnic of Namibia, Windhoek, 14 October 2005

This year, the Polytechnic of Namibia celebrated its 10th anniversary under the theme "A decade of Academic Achievement". One of the events planned in conjunction with the anniversary was the 1st Namibian National GIS User Conference. The theme of the conference was "GIS Training and Application for Sustainability". This GIS user conference brought together the still growing GIS user community and vendors of GIS, and providers of GIS services in Namibia and beyond. This event promoted the importance of GIS education and training in the quest to achieve effective resource management for sustainable economic growth. The organizers anticipated that the conference would also mark the rekindling of the NAMGIS GIS User group through interactive exchange of ideas among the GIS user communities.

[Digital Geoscience Atlas for Senegal](#)

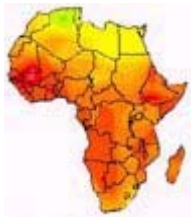
The Kansas State University (KSU) and the University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD) are proposing a multi-year project advancing higher education with an emphasis on geospatial technology (including remote sensing and geographic information systems). Their partnership efforts involve the development of a Digital Geoscience Atlas for Senegal. The development of the Atlas and parallel advanced technical training and are meant to provide numerous benefits to the faculty and students at both UCAD and KSU. The Digital Geoscience Atlas will not be a specific final product. Rather, it is an "umbrella" theme that builds Senegalese/UCAD capacity through technology transfer and advanced training. More specifically, the Digital Geoscience Atlas is a dynamic collaboration among UCAD and KSU scientists to advance the research and teaching of the faculty and students at UCAD in geospatial technology capabilities (global positioning systems, remote sensing, digital cartography, geographic information systems, scientific visualization, and environmental modeling) for applications in earth resource development, natural resource monitoring, and environmental management across Senegal. Contact: Mary Hubbard, mhub@ksu.edu, John Harrington, jharrin@ksu.edu.

[Call for Participation in the Unification of African Reference Frames](#), the AFREF Project 2005-2010

The [AFREF project](#) has been designed to unify many national co-ordinate reference frames of Africa into a single reference frame based on the internationally accepted International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS) and its realization, the International Terrestrial Reference Frame. In broad terms, it is planned that a network of Continuously Operating GPS Reference Stations (CORS) will be established such that any user will be within 500km of any one station and have free access to the data generated by that station. The network will create a zero order or fiducial reference frame based on ITRF from which local campaigns may be conducted to densify the network. The densification will be either at the national or regional level to create denser networks of CORS or short campaigns to create networks of permanently marked reference points from which further project-based campaigns shall be conducted. The project will also include the unification and development of a continent wide vertical reference frame based on a single datum, using internationally accepted practices of geoid estimation.

[SigAfrique: Réseau africaine d'information géologique pour le développement](#)

Le projet de réseau SigAfrique, d'une durée de 3 ans (mars 2003 à mars 2006), est financé par le Ministère français des Affaires Etrangères (MAE), coordonné par le maître d'œuvre CIFEG (Centre International pour la Formation et les Echanges en Géosciences) et mis en œuvre techniquement par l'opérateur principal BRGM, qui assurera notamment l'intégration dans le réseau des travaux géoscientifiques et cartographiques financés parallèlement par le Ministère de la Recherche et de la Technologie. Il est à noter que le



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financement du projet par le MAE couvre la formation des partenaires africains du projet par le BRGM, le CIFEG et d'autres intervenants (GDTA, universités...), ainsi que la mise à niveau de leur équipement informatique. L'objectif est de mettre en place un réseau de partenariat pour la valorisation et la diffusion de l'information sur le sol et le sous-sol du continent africain afin de :

- 1° reconstruire à l'échelle régionale le patrimoine de données géoscientifiques et d'économie minière;
- 2° organiser sa sauvegarde, sa gestion et son accessibilité aux différents acteurs du développement;
- 3° créer un langage commun à l'Afrique dans le domaine des sciences de la terre;
- 4° contribuer à la promotion des ressources minérales, hydrogéologiques et au développement économique en attirant les investisseurs;
- 5° renforcer les compétences, mettre en commun les connaissances et les expériences dans le cadre d'un dialogue "nord-sud" et surtout "sud-sud";
- 6° fournir des outils d'aide à la décision pour servir les politiques concernées par les sciences de la terre.

[SigAfrique: African network of geological information for sustainable development](#)

The SIGAfrique Network Project, planned for 3 years (March 2003 to March 2006), is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), co-ordinated by the CIFEG (International Centre for Training and Exchanges in Geosciences) and technically operated by BRGM, which will also transfer to the SIGAfrique Network the geoscientific studies and the cartographic syntheses funded in parallel by the French Ministry of Research and Technology. It should be noted that the MAE funding of the project includes training of the African partners by BRGM, CIFEG and others (GDTA, University...), as well as updating of their computer equipment. The objective is to construct a strong geoscientific partnership in Africa in order to :

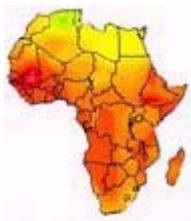
- 1° reconstitute regional geoscientific and mineral resources databases;
- 2° organise data preservation, management and accessibility;
- 3° develop a common African language in the field of Earth Sciences;
- 4° help to promote mineral and water resources in attracting potential contributors to economic development;
- 5° improve local skills, and share knowledge and experience between Africa and Europe as well as between African countries;
- 6° propose decision tools to support regional policies related to Earth Sciences.

[Addressing the challenges associated with census mapping in Africa \(presentation\)](#)

The role of maps in a census is to provide the cartographic basis for enumeration and the platform for spatial census data products such as census atlases. This paper focuses mainly on mapping solutions for enumeration. The paper assesses the traditional methods of census mapping in African countries and aims to provide modern alternatives to the traditional methods that are realistic and achievable given the unique circumstances of the African continent. The paper is therefore of a practical rather than an academic nature. The author strives to provide hands-on and practical solutions based on experience gained in several countries over the last decade. The paper could therefore be of potential use to readers that are responsible for the planning and implementation of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. "Statistical agencies have an important decision to take: they can either take the step now and become part of the international trend or they will probably have to wait another ten years to catch up with the rest of the world." See other papers/presentations from the [14th Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians](#), held in Cape Town, South Africa, 5-9 September 2005. The conference theme was "Millennium+5: Managing Statistics for more Equitable Societies".

[African Copyright Forum Project](#)

Africa's copyright landscape remains fragmented in terms of legislation and practice, a situation attributable to a number of factors including, but not limited to: presence of different colonial administrations in different jurisdictions and differing needs and priorities of African countries and societies. A group of stakeholders in libraries and information centres in Africa are proposing to establish a continent-wide Forum, primarily, to bring together organizations, institutions and individuals committed to pushing forward a more equitable copyright landscape sensitive to Africa's developmental challenges, educational needs and free flow of information. The Forum will create a mechanism for seeking redress to copyright related problems by engaging individual governments, regional entities like SADC and AU, and other civil society entities. The Forum will be as inclusive as possible bringing together library stakeholders with differing interests in copyright like eIFL.IP. The eIFL.IP project was recently established by eIFL.Net, a Rome-based non-governmental organization involved in promoting copyright awareness and advocating for friendly copyright



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laws in developing countries. The African Copyright Forum has organized an International Conference on Copyright and Access to Information which will be held November 28-30, 2005, in Kampala, Uganda.

[Local-Level Integrated Information Systems to Support the Millennium Development Goals - Briefing](#)

Note The Local-level Integrated Information System (LIIS) seeks to address the development information and knowledge access needs at the community level. It will be developed and implemented as part of the Capacity 2015 Africa programme, within the framework of the Information and Learning Network in Africa (ILN-Africa). The initiative provides a framework for the systematic collection, facilitating access to, and sharing of information and knowledge in support of processes towards the attainment of the MDGs at the local-level.

[African countries to form regional network on global environmental change](#)

The first Planning Workshop for an African Network of Earth System Science (AFRICANESS) took place 22-24 September 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya. The aim of the AFRICANESS is to provide a regional platform for the study of global environmental change (GEC) -- the combination of changes that are occurring throughout the world and which are having an impact at the global scale. The Network will also enable African scientists to speak with a unified voice on issues of serious concern in the region such as desertification and dwindling water resources. By coordinating their efforts they more easily will be able to set collective research agendas and share data. According to Professor Eric Odada of the Pan African START Secretariat, "Spatial data infrastructure development is certainly one of the issues at the heart of the initiative. It is however somewhat premature for us to tell exactly what role(s) are envisioned for spatial data infrastructure development. The meeting in Nairobi basically endorsed the AFRICANESS initiative, but the rolling out of its functions have been tasked to a sub-committee. A detailed presentation will be made at a second meeting for endorsement of structures and functions in about a year's time."

[TerrAfrica – regional sustainable land management \(SLM\) - alliance to combat land degradation](#)

TerrAfrica is a partnership between sub-Saharan African countries, donor countries and agencies, civil society and the research community with the collective goal of scaling up harmonized support of effective and efficient country-driven sustainable land management approaches (SLM). TerrAfrica was [officially launched on October 24, 2005](#) during the high level segment of [COP 7](#) and at the NEPAD's CAADP retreat in Pretoria. The [Strategic Investment Program \(SIP\)](#) for SLM in sub-Saharan Africa is moving forward. It is conceived as a twelve-year phased program supported by the GEF. The SIP will allow beneficiaries to access GEF resources on a programmatic basis, and will be led and coordinated by the World Bank in alliance with AfDB, FAO, IFAD, NEPAD, UNDP, and UNEP. The program's design phase is expected to start in October, 2005. The full program is slated to be operational in 2007.

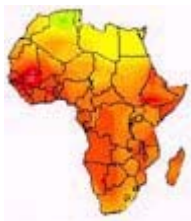
[AfricaGIS 2005 Program](#)

The full program of AfricaGIS 2005 (excluding workshops, etc.) is available on the [conference website](#). The Conference Programme can be viewed to get a taste of some of the events and topics that will be covered.

[6th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment \(AARSE\) Conference](#), 28 October – 2

November 2006, Cairo, Egypt. Theme: Earth Observation & Geoinformation Sciences in Support of Africa's Development. One of AARSE's primary objectives is to increase the awareness of African governments and their institutions, the private sector and the society at large, about the empowering and enhancing benefits of developing, applying and utilizing responsibly, the products and services of Geoinformation Technology. The 6th AARSE Conference in Cairo will provide a forum to assess the current level of development, application and utilization of this revolutionary development technology. The selected themes will cover current relevant technology and methodology areas. It is expected that submitted papers will cover reviews of the state-of-the-art, basic and fundamental concepts, assessment of current experiences, future trends of technologies, performance evaluation, technology transform, information infrastructures, technology applications in different fields, infrastructure and organizational issues, policies and regulations. Submitted works may cover local, national, regional and international, multiple scales, and multidisciplinary works are of high importance. The conference themes are broadly divided into the following:

- Theme 1: Earth Observation Systems for Marine, Oceanography and Water Resources Management
- Theme 2: Earth Resources Data Integration and Modelling



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- Theme 3: Earth Observation (EO) in Geo-Government (land resources, urban planning, population and census, location-based activities, etc.)
 - Theme 4: Remote Sensing and Spatial Data Infrastructure
 - Theme 5: Security Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS
 - Theme 6: Data Fusion and Integration in Tropical Areas
 - Theme 7: Early warning Systems and Hazard management
 - Theme 8: Micro-Satellites: Case Studies and Experiences
 - Theme 9: Impacts of Tran-boundary Issues on Sustainable Development
 - Theme 10: Open Source EO Data and Software
 - Theme 11: Capacity Building and Human Resources Development in EO.
- Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2006. Contact: aarse2006@narss.sci.eg.

[Presentations from U.K. metadata workshop: 'Activating metadata: the role of metadata in effective spatial data exploitation'](#), 6-7 July 2005. The aim of this [workshop](#) was to discuss and formulate ideas about how metadata can be expanded and be made more dynamic in order to make it relevant to data users. There is a strong rationale for a shift in emphasis in metadata provision from one that is driven by producers to one that is able to accommodate the diversity found in applications and uses of that data. The 2 key workshop outcomes focuses on a) how to make metadata relevant to users; and b) how to allow users to provide additional metadata.

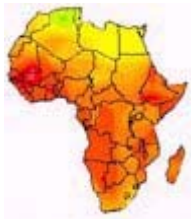
[Server Architecture Models for the National Spatial Data Infrastructures \(NSDI\)](#)

This report (Open Geospatial Consortium, April 2005) is as an initial analysis of the current (late 2004) disparate server architectures of the (U.S.) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the Geospatial One Stop (GOS) Portal. In order to yield the maximum value from current and future investments in GOS, it is necessary to understand and transition toward a sound and cost effective data provider server architecture model. To that end, it is also necessary to ensure the robustness, accuracy/currency (up-to-date-ness), and availability of national spatial data assets as well as access to those assets. This document attempts to address the relevant issues associated with different implementation architectures as communities move forward with development or enhancement of their systems architecture in support of local needs and broader NSDI objectives. This document applies to the operational interests of government, industry and academia to improve and simplify the management, discovery, access, sharing and application of geospatial information and services. Specifically, the report addresses issues associated with the management of geospatial data via either centralized, distributed, or a combination of implementation architectures . The report draws from successful implementations of SDI's in the community, representing different producers and users of the data, and their respective needs regarding availability and accuracy – or fitness for use – of the data.

[Presentations from Australia/New Zealand Spatial Information Council \(ANZLIC\) workshop – Geospatial Standards: the critical ones for operationalizing spatial data infrastructures](#), June 2005.
[Current standards, specifications, and practices of relevance to SDI development](#) [PPT; 1.3Mb]

[The Dissemination Of Government Geographic Data In Canada - Guide To Best Practices](#) (February 2005) [[summary- English](#); [summary – French](#)]

Recognizing the need for streamlined distribution models for the dissemination and licensing of government geographic data, the GeoConnections Policy Node has supported several initiatives aimed at advancing discussions on an integrated framework for the dissemination and licensing of government geographic data. The development of The Dissemination of Government Geographic Data in Canada: Guide to Best Practices (the “Guide to Best Practices”) is one such initiative. The Guide to Best Practices sets out an integrated framework for the three types of government geographic data dissemination and licensing models most commonly used in Canada - the unrestricted use model, the end-user model and the distributor model. For each of these, the Guide to Best Practices provides a rationale for appropriate use, explains how each model builds on common structures, demonstrates their inter-relationships and provides clear guidelines to assist licensing practitioners in selecting the most appropriate model and appurtenant licence agreement. Recommended approaches to fundamental concepts such as intellectual property, liability, duration and termination are discussed in detail for the benefit of practitioners, and are guided by data dissemination policy directives currently in force across federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada.



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[Register an event for 2005 GIS Day](#) and [find a 2005 GIS Day event near you](#)

[GIS Day](#) is a grassroots event that formalizes the practice of GIS users and vendors of opening their doors to schools, businesses, and the general public to showcase real-world applications of this important technology. In 2004, hundreds of organizations hosted GIS Day events in 73 countries around the world. You can read about some of them on the [Success Stories](#) page.

[Call for abstracts for the 5th FIG Regional Conference for Africa - Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance](#), 8-11 March 2006, Accra, Ghana. The conference will be held in English and French. It is being organized by International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the Ghana Institution of Surveyors and is co-sponsored by UN FAO, UN-Habitat, UN ECA, RECTAS, and ISM. The abstract deadline is 10 November 2005. Further information is available from FIG, fig@fig.net or from the Ghana Institution of Surveyors, stephen@ghana.com or surveyor@africaonline.com.gh. Deadline for 'early bird/lower registration fees' is 15 December 2005.

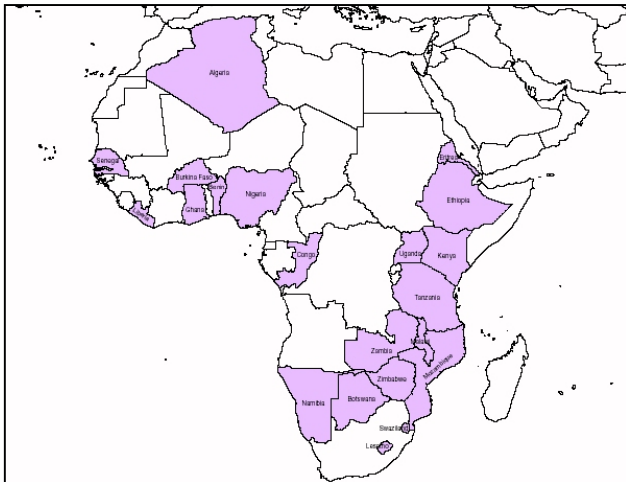
[9th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure \(GSDI-9\)](#), Santiago, Chile, November 3-11, 2006. The theme of GSDI-9 is "Spatial Information: Tool for Reducing Poverty." This year, the call for papers seeks materials for both the conference and a refereed book. High-quality submissions will be accepted for presentation at the conference and will be published in book form as a refereed conference document tentatively titled Research and Theory in Advancing Spatial Data Infrastructure Concepts. The deadline for submission of full articles to be peer reviewed is March 15, 2006. If you are not interested in the referee process, the deadline for submission of abstracts is May 2, 2006.

[Workshop on e-Governance, Knowledge Management and e-Learning](#), Budapest, Hungary 27-29 April 2006. Limited grants will be available for participants who come from developing countries. Deadline for abstracts: 5 December 2005.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

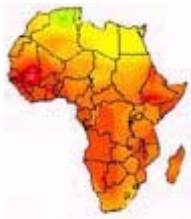
[GSDI/Global Map Grant – twenty-nine African countries still eligible for the grant / Le don de GSDI/Global Map encore disponible aux vingt-neuf instituts géographique national](#)

This graphic shows (in purple) the African countries that have been awarded a GSDI/Global Map Grant – 22 in all. These grants are designed by ESRI to support framework data development by African national mapping agencies. The Grants consist of software (ArcGIS) and a credit for training. If your country is not colored, then your national mapping agency still is welcome to apply. ESRI is accepting applications from the following countries: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia. Due to U.S. trade restrictions, Libya and Sudan are not eligible. See GSDI/Global Map Grant website for further information, as well as the [online application](#).



[ArcGIS Explorer - an Open Google Earth?](#) (blog/commentary by Ed Parsons)

ArcGIS Explorer will be a free 15Mb download from the ESRI website and will connect to a dedicated ArcWeb server farm at ESRI providing an experience similar to Google Earth. Of particular note is the ability of ArcGIS Explorer to use other data services including OGC WMS and WFS servers and any ArcIMS server that one may already use. ArcGIS can also display local data, File GDB's, shape files, most image formats and even KML files from one's own PC hard drive. The message continues: "The interface is quite radical for ESRI and has a task driven interface similar to Google Earth, with simple search tools as the primary user interface. ESRI has developed an interactive navigation tool which floats as a separate window, and



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according to my ESRI friend, has been developed based on the rich experience of games designers who really know how 3D navigation works. The open nature of ArcExplorer in data terms is complemented by an API which will allow developers to customize and extend ArcGIS Explorers capabilities. This could be a really hot product for ESRI, and its timing might well allow it to benefit from the building anti Google sentiment - it also might just turn out to be the ArcView 3.x replacement everybody is still looking for.”

Do you need assistance with developing metadata?

The May 2004 SDI-Africa newsletter (Vol. 3, No. 5) included this item, and the newsletter is mentioning it again, since it is likely to be a welcome opportunity for some. Cheryl Solomon, a Metadata Specialist with the USGS Biological Resources Division, offered to help organizations with metadata development. She can create metadata for you using the Federal Geographic Data Committee format. You can then host your metadata locally (in your institution's/country's clearinghouse), or if need be, she can host the metadata in the [National Biological Information Infrastructure \(NBII\) database](#) as well as into the [NASA Global Change Master Directory](#). Cheryl reads English, French, Spanish, Russian, and a little Portuguese. Contact: solomon@gcmd.gsfc.nasa.gov.

Soil and terrain (SOTER) database for Central Africa

SOTER Central Africa - with co-funding from FAO, ISRIC is compiling a standardized soil and terrain (SOTER) database for the central part of the African continent. It will cover the Great Lakes Area, comprising the Democratic Republic Congo (scale 1:2 M), and Rwanda and Burundi (scale 1:1 M). Compilation of this Central African database will advance the program to provide digital soil and terrain data for the whole of Africa (see SOTERSAF). The work will consist of: (1) creation of a new 3-D topographic framework at 90 m resolution based on SRTM data; identification and characterization of landform units, (2) combination of the topographic framework with soil parent material information from geological maps to create the terrain units, and (3) generalization of the soil maps, selection of reference profiles, and description of the SOTER units following the harmonized language and codes laid down in the SOTER guidelines. The project is carried out in collaboration with: the Department of Geology and Soil Science Soil Science Laboratory, Universiteit Gent; Department BIOT of the Hogeschool Gent; the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren; and data holders in the DR Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. [October 2005 to July 2006] Contact: soil.isric@wur.nl.

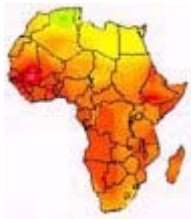
ISRIC African and Asian Soil Maps on-line

In a joint project with the EU Institute of Environment and Sustainability (IES) in Italy, the digitalization of [African](#) and [Asian](#) Soil Maps under the EuDASM (European Digital Archive of Soil Maps) program has been completed and put on-line. A DVD with the maps was released during the 7th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification at Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2005. Contact: soil.isric@wur.nl.

Maps on Sudan available on-line

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs responded to the growing demand for maps and geographical data by UN partner agencies, regional organizations, international and local NGOs, as well as local and regional authorities in the Sudan. The decision was taken by the federal department to finance the production of a series of maps for the Sudan. The maps for the Nuba Mountains were released as a support to the JMC mission established in accordance with the Ceasefire Agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Nuba and the Government of the Republic of Sudan, signed on January 19, 2002, at Bürgenstock (NW), Switzerland. Soon after, the mapping project was expanded to cover Blue Nile, Abyei, Darfur and, after the signing of Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005, Southern Sudan. This Sudan map download site was established as an immediate step to provide basic mapping facilities to all interested parties. In a near future, the possibilities of providing an 'Internet Map Server for Sudan' for individual mapping at any scale and ESRI standard file formats will be evaluated. Please take note that international and administrative boundaries, transliteration and settlement locations are not authoritative and should not be considered as such. [Source: Sudan Interagency Mapping Group list]

[The Map Library](#) is a project of "The Map Maker Trust", a UK registered charity. The Trust is founded on the belief that the lack of good, simple maps is a serious obstacle to development in all kinds of fields, from health care to urban management, from de-mining to environmental protection. The library's purpose is two fold: to make public domain mapping data more readily available for developing countries, and to provide free, easy to use software to facilitate map making by non-experts. The Map Library delivers data and



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software both on the internet and by post on CD for those with poor or no internet access. This web site is under construction. More data and more features will become available in the coming months. At the moment, data of Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe are available.

Geospatial Research, Applications, Reference Material

[GIS application in urban planning and urban management: utilising GIS in Kigali \(Rwanda\) urban planning and city management](#)

As Kigali becomes larger, more complicated, more sophisticated and subject to un-predictable changes, it requires a pragmatic approach in the city management. It is against this background that interests have been geared up at developing an innovative urban plan and an appropriate technique for providing easy access to accurate, fast and reliable urban information, which will be used in the preparation of city development plan.

[Improving access to public health care services: a case study on Dar es Salaam, Tanzania](#), Ahmed, S.J., 2005. ITC Thesis. The study is conducted on Dar es Salaam, the largest city of Tanzania where uncontrolled urban agglomeration results in growing social and spatial inequalities in health status and lower accessibility to health care services, especially to the public health care services (PHC), upon which the poorer segment of the society is found mostly dependent. Besides, a health care system can be called effective and successful once it can be able to minimize variations in health care need and maximize proximity. But variation in health care needs is rarely measured in developing countries perspective. And appropriate spatial accessibility measures are seldom in use for effective health care services planning in developing city context under the current off-the-self GIS environment. Therefore, this research is designed with an aim to initially explore variations in health care needs and to find out spatial differences in accessibility to Public Health Care (PHC) services and then based upon the exploration, to generate some scenarios for improving the PHC services in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

[Carte de pauvreté du Maroc](#)

Les cartes numériques de la pauvreté sont le résultat d'une étude, qui se réfère à l'approche méthodologique "Poverty mapping", pour reconstituer les indicateurs du niveau de vie, de la pauvreté, de l'inégalité et de la vulnérabilité à l'échelle régionale, provinciale et communale à partir des données du recensement général de la population et de l'habitat en 1994 et de l'enquête nationale sur le niveau de vie des ménages en 1998/99.

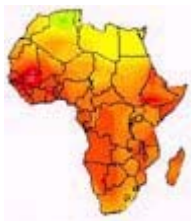
[Presentations from the Eastern Africa Cadastral Seminar Series](#), 7 October 2005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
The seminar, which is part of a traveling "East Africa Cadastral Seminar Series," was co-organized by ESRI of Redlands, California; Swedesurvey, the international arm of the Swedish National Land Survey; International Land Systems of Virginia; and Oakar Services of Nairobi. The Ethiopian seminar was coordinated by ECA and Information Systems Services. It was attended by about 60 participants from various government and non-government agencies involved in land administration.

[Kenya turns to digital mapping to fight crime](#)

The Kenya government has embarked on a multi-million shilling project to create detailed digital maps of all the major urban centres in the country, showing street locations and landmarks. The project, to be completed in the next three years, is expected to boost the government's efforts in improving security by helping the police respond to crime and distress calls faster. [Source: allafrica.com, The East African (Nairobi). October 5, 2005]

[Egyptian Antiquities Information System \(EAIS\)/ Third Phase](#)

The [EAIS project](#) first phase started in 2000 and second phase in 2002, to be completed by September 2005. The main objective of the EAIS project is to develop a GIS system to protect the Egyptian cultural heritage and it has four results which all aim to the stabilization and institutionalization of the system. In order to achieve the third phase objectives, it is necessary, that the EAIS Center is officially turned from a project into a permanent department of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA). It also requires that the system population is concentrated to essentials and will reach a credible degree of country coverage and the necessary methods for continuous system population and data dissemination are developed and tested. The



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strategy is to continue the EAIS project by providing institutional and technical assistance for the SCA to upgrade and improve the EAIS to its full potential as well to mass populate the system to a credible level.

Training Opportunities

[Introduction to ArcGIS 1 and Bringing your data into ArcGIS](#), Mbabane, Swaziland, 5–9 December 2005
In recognition of the need for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) skills, Swaziland GeoSpatial Information Systems Organization ([SwaGIS](#)) in conjunction with [GIMS](#) and the [University of Swaziland \(Department of Geography\)](#) invite you to attend an ESRI certified training course on the fundamentals of ArcGIS. Contact: bheki@swade.co.sz.

[Training on Remote Sensing for Forestry](#), Center for Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing (CGIS/NUR), Butare, Rwanda. A 4-day training session will be organized focusing mainly on the use of remote sensing applied to forestry. The training will be conducted in conjunction with the [Rwandan Forest Mapping Project](#) with MINITERE and ISAR. Interested people can apply to participate in sending an email to florent.lasry@cgisnur.org.

[FAO/UNEP Land Cover Classification System \(LCCS\) Distance Learning Tool](#)

The Distance Learning Tool is designed to meet the requirements of unskilled users. A set of interactive lessons are available and freely downloadable. The set of lessons provide a methodological insight into the LCCS classification system, its rules, its advantages and limitations compared to other classification systems. The lessons are equipped with exercises and solutions to guide the user. They provide the user with a full understanding of this innovative methodology. The lessons, used together with the LCCS software and manual, are an important tool to assist the user in the learning objective. One must first register online to access the distance learning tool.

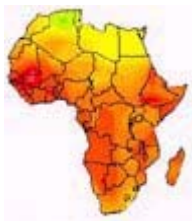
Version 2 of the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS) manual and CD-ROM is now available

For a free copy, register your contact details at the following link: http://dwms.fao.org/lccs/index_en.asp. For queries and suggestions, contact the GLCN Secretariat at glcn@fao.org.

International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) courses starting in 2006. ITC offers certificate, undergraduate diploma, postgraduate diploma, master degree, and MSc. degree courses in the fields of: [Geoinformatics](#), [Geo-information Management](#), [Urban Management](#), [Natural Resources Management](#), [Water Resources and Environmental Management](#), and [Applied Earth Sciences](#). Overviews of [certificate courses](#) (3 weeks-9 months), [joint education courses](#) (Bolivia, China, Ghana, India, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania), and [distance education courses](#) are available online. For additional information or a brochure of the courses starting in 2006, contact: ITC, Bureau Marketing and Project Services, P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands, T: +31 (0)53 4874 487, F: +31 (0)53 4874 238, education@itc.nl. Deadline for NFP fellowship applications: 31 January 2006.

Are you reading the SDI-Africa newsletter without having subscribed to the GSDI News List? GSDI would be grateful if you would [sign up](#) to the List with your institutional affiliation and country. There is no charge for signing up. And this way, GSDI can better identify its African and global network. Thank you.

[Geo-information Science and Earth Observation for Environmental Modelling and Management \(GEM\)](#), starting in September 2006. This Masters Course is supported by the prestigious EU Erasmus Mundus programme. EU-funded scholarships are offered to exceptional (non-EU) students, as well as access for full fee-paying students (from the EU and the rest of the world). It is run sequentially by: the University of Southampton (United Kingdom); Lund University (Sweden); the University of Warsaw (Poland); and the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation ITC (the Netherlands). It combines the best elements from these institutes into one course. World-renowned faculty from the four Universities, as well as visiting scholars, teach this course. Applications are invited from motivated and high quality students. The deadline for applications for the course starting in 2006 is 1 January 2006.



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[Decision Support Systems and Crop Modeling](#), Casablanca, Morocco, September 4-8, 2006

The purpose of this [IFDC](#) training workshop is to understand how farmers can apply and benefit from information and decision support systems in agriculture and environmental sciences. The program will demonstrate how an IFAD-funded project in Morocco has developed and used such decision support tools to help farmers, agricultural enterprises, and policymakers. The workshop will include the fundamentals of data handling, analysis, and operation of the crop models and GIS using standard data sets and/or participant data. The program will make extensive use of “hands-on” practical sessions on personal computers that demonstrate the application of the decision support tools in agribusiness, environmental monitoring, and sustainable production. A session will be devoted to improving the accessibility of the tools and their outputs to the farmers, agribusiness dealers, and policymakers. Interested persons may make e-mail inquiries by contacting hrd@ifdc.org or hrdu@ifdc.org.

[Upcoming ESRI Live Training Seminars](#)

For those who want GIS training on a focused topic presented live by an ESRI technical expert, ESRI offers free Live Training Seminars - no purchase is necessary. Upcoming seminars are:

- November 10 - Understanding Spatial Statistics
- December 1 - Making Professional Map Layouts

If you miss a live training seminar, ESRI typically records it, so you can download and view it at a later time, at your convenience. See list of recorded [Training Seminars and Workshops](#), plus these additional pieces:

- Printable slides of the presentation
- Questions and answers from the live training seminar
- A software exercise with accompanying data
- An optional exam to assess understanding
- A certificate for successfully completing the exam

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

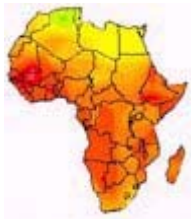
[European Young Investigators Awards \(EURYI\): Third Call for Proposals](#)

The European Heads of Research Councils (EUROHORCS), wishing to contribute to the building of the European Research Area, have joined in collaboration with the European Science Foundation (ESF) in creating the [European Young Investigator \(EURYI\) Awards](#). The aim of EURYI Awards, launched for the first time in 2003, is to encourage and enable outstanding young researchers from all over the world to work in Europe to benefit the development of European science and to build up the next generation of leading European researchers. The scheme especially encourages foreign researchers to come to Europe and European researchers who have been working outside of Europe to return. EURYI Awards promote scientific excellence, with wide international recognition, by supporting these distinguished researchers to develop and pursue an independent research career, including the development of a research group where appropriate, aimed at opening up new lines of research including novel methodologies. Deadline: 30 November 2005.

[International coral conservation grants program](#)

An opportunity for funding of international coral reef projects is now available through NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program. Eligible countries are defined as follows: The Wider Caribbean includes the 37 States and territories that border the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the areas of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent thereto, and Brazil and Bermuda, but excluding areas under U.S. jurisdiction. The South Pacific Region includes South Pacific Regional Environment Program's 19 Pacific island countries and territories, including the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, but excluding U.S. territories and four developed country members. Southeast Asia Region includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. East Africa includes Comoros, France (La Reunion), Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania and South Africa. Applications for funding are due to NOAA/NOS International Program Office on November 15, 2005 by 11:59 p.m (EST).

[American Association of University Women \(AAUW\) Educational Foundation Fellowships and Grants 2005-06](#) International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate study at accredited institutions are supported. Application postmark deadline: December 1, 2005.



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[Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy \(CASLE\) Lecture Prize](#)

This competition is open to those involved in surveying, land economy, planning, architecture, construction and related aspects. Entrants must be no more than 35 years of age at the time of submission. The value of the prize is equivalent to £250, and is sponsored by The Aubrey Barker Fund which was set up in 1972 in memory of the first CASLE president elect who played a leading role in the establishment of the Association. The winner will be invited to present the paper at a forthcoming [CASLE](#) seminar (see Conferences). Deadline: November 30, 2005. Contact: sspedding@rics.org.uk.

[Aubrey Barker Fund](#)

This fund was created to support education, training, research and projects related to the disciplines of land surveying, quantity surveying and land. Contact: enquiries@abfund.net.

[Grants for Developing Country Researchers Studying Poverty Issues \(français\)](#)

Awarded by the [Poverty and Economic Policy \(PEP\) Research Network](#). Grants amount: \$20,000. Deadline: November 30, 2005.

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[Community-Based Monitoring Systems \(CBMS\) Network Research Grants](#)

Awarded by the [Poverty and Economic Policy \(PEP\) Research Network](#) to proponent institutions from developing countries in Asia and Africa, except for countries where CBMS is currently being implemented i.e. Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, for the development and institutionalization of a community-based monitoring system in their own countries. Each grant amounting to a maximum of US\$ 50,000 is intended to cover the design and the pilot of the CBMS in the respective countries. Aside from the financial support, grantees are given opportunities to participate in the annual CBMS and PEP network training workshops and conferences and are also given access to the CBMS network database as well as technical support from the network's pool of technical advisors. Institutions who intend to avail of the grant should submit a research proposal to the CBMS Network Coordinating Team for initial screening. CBMS network proposals are categorized into two: (1) development and pilot-test of a CBMS, and (2) expansion and institutionalization of a CBMS. No deadline given. [This call for research proposals concerns only the CBMS network]

[Visiting \(Non-U.S.\) Fulbright Scholar Program](#)

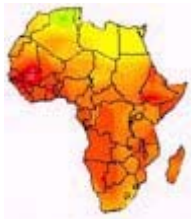
Each year some 800 faculty and professionals from around the world receive Fulbright Scholar grants for advanced research and university lecturing in the United States. Individual grants are available to scholars from over 130 countries. Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements apply for grants through the Fulbright commission/foundation or public affairs section of the U.S. embassy in their home countries. Individual Fulbright grants are available for scholars from selected countries to conduct research, lecture or pursue combined lecturing and research in the United States. Under the Visiting Fulbright Scholar Program, scholars apply in their home country for Fulbright awards. To determine if your home country participates in the program, please contact your country's Fulbright commission or the public affairs section of the U.S. embassy.

[African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions \(ANSTI\) Conference Grants for academic staff of ANSTI member institutions](#)

Academic staff of [ANSTI member institutions](#) can benefit from conference grants (a maximum amount of award being \$2,500) to attend international meetings where they will present papers. There is no deadline for submission of applications. Each application is acted upon as soon as it is received subject only to the availability of funds at the time.

ASPRS - KODAK International Educational Literature Award

Each year, ASPRS, through a generous grant from KODAK, presents the KODAK International Educational Literature Award (KIELA). This award is made to a university or educational institution outside the USA for the purpose of improving the quantity and quality of the literature in its library that deals with the mapping



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sciences (i.e., photogrammetry, remote sensing, GIS, and related disciplines). It is supported by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. The Award consists of the following:

- \$350 worth of books, manuals, or other literature published by ASPRS;
- a five-year free subscription to Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing;
- Proceedings of the annual conference and fall technical meeting for a five-year period;
- one free registration to the conference where the award is to be presented for a member of
- the institution to whom the award is given. The total value of this award is over \$1,500.

Also included are select publications from ESRI Press, John Wiley and Sons, and the Annual Proceedings from the Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA), and the Association of American Geographers (AAG). The materials are to be placed in the libraries of the institutions receiving the award. Any institution that receives the award is ineligible to [apply](#) for the award again for a period of five years. Contact: jwinch@asprs.org. Deadline: December 1, 2005.

Employment Opportunities

[National Urban Planner](#), Hargeisa, Somaliland

The National Urban Planner will be part of the UN-HABITAT team implementing the Urban Development Programme. The Programme recognises the growing importance of the urban sector, both demographically and economically, in the Somali national context and aims at promoting an increasingly democratic, inclusive and accountable system of governance as well as more efficient and socially effective management practices for the country's cities and towns. In a fast changing political scenario, the programme, while assisting both Central and Regional administrations in establishing the main legal and institutional instruments of governance, will target primarily local authorities and communities with a range of activities designed a) to reduce the serious deficits in serviced land, sanitation and basic infrastructure, b) to promote viable municipal financial and fiscal management systems c) to promote community involvement, accountability, transparency and equitable urban growth. Deadline: November 10, 2005.

[Environmental Officer](#) (P-3), Abeche, Chad

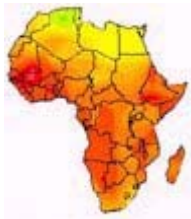
The [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) seeks an Environmental Officer (P-3). Duties: handle the UNHCR environmental, agricultural and livestock related activities in accordance with UNHCR policies priorities; coordinate all matters related to environmental activities amongst different sectors within UNHCR, and between UNHCR, the local authorities, and implementing partners; harmonize and coordinate the work of those agencies dealing environmental projects; assess environmental condition in refugee-hosting areas, and assess how and to what extent those conditions are affected by the presence of refugees; identify ways and means of reducing or arresting the impact of refugee on the environment; and formulate specific projects in the field of energy conservation, awareness raising, agro forestry, forestry, forest management, erosion control, soil erosion, water conservation and sustainable agriculture. Must be fluent in English and French. Deadline: 11 November 2005. Contact: hqpe14@unhcr.ch. Reference Vacancy Post No: 878018.

[Scientist - Remote Sensing LUCC Modelling](#), Würzburg, Germany

The position is with the University of Würzburg / German Aerospace Center (DLR-DFD) and is part of the [GLOWA-Volta project](#). The work will be carried out as subprojects: L 1: Mapping of present land use based on satellite imagery; L 4: Vegetation characterization and modelling; L 6: Modelling Land Use Change in the Volta Basin of Ghana. The candidate is expected to have an environmental science/physical geography background, remote sensing and GIS experience as well as modelling experience and programming skills to work as part of interdisciplinary team of scientists on the design, application and development of land use change simulation models (Multi-Agent Systems/Cellular Automata). The position includes responsibilities in project management (sub-project leader) and frequent travels in Germany to project partners and to Africa (Ghana, Burkina Faso). The candidate should have a PhD in environmental sciences or related fields. No deadline given (position was posted October 13, 2005).

[GEF Regional Technical Adviser for Biodiversity & International Waters for Southern & Eastern Africa](#), Pretoria, South Africa

The Regional Technical Adviser is primarily responsible for the full range of UNDP-GEF Biodiversity and International Waters activities throughout the Southern and Eastern Africa region. The role of the Regional Technical Adviser is to provide technical, policy and other support service to the UNDP Country Offices,



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Executing Agencies, GEF focal points and other government representatives, project teams, and potential and actual project proponents, to identify, develop, implement and monitor GEF projects in the region. Deadline: 2 November 2005.

Pact Africa Director, Nairobi, Kenya

Pact is a networked global organization that builds the capacity of local leaders and organizations to meet pressing social needs in dozens of countries around the world. Pact's work is firmly rooted in the belief that local communities must be the driving force in ending poverty and injustice. Through multi-dimensional approaches, Pact enhances the capacity of individuals, organizations, networks and communities to deliver services and increase learning in six key areas: democracy, governance and civil society strengthening; HIV/AIDS; improving livelihoods; peace building; community-based natural resource management; and equity and empowerment. The Pact Africa Director will be a part of Pact's senior management team, report to the President and CEO, and be responsible for critical aspects to the development of Pact's Africa portfolio and the management of the Regional Support Network (ResNet). Deadline: 4 November 2005.

Programme Manager – Land Policy (P-4), Rome, Italy

On behalf of the International Land Coalition, IFAD ([International Fund for Agricultural Development](#)) wishes to recruit a Programme Manager at grade P4 level on an international competitive basis. The International Land Coalition is a global alliance of intergovernmental, governmental and civil-society organizations that works together with the rural poor to increase their secure access to natural resources, especially land, and enable them to participate directly in policy and decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods at local, national, regional and international levels. The organization is hosted at the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development in Rome, and maintains its separate identity as required by the Coalition Council of the Land Coalition. Under the supervision of the Manager, International Land Coalition, the incumbent will provide technical expertise and leadership to the design and implementation of the Strategic Framework. Additionally, (s)he will be responsible to manage the country and sub-regional programmes in either the region of Asia or Africa. Deadline: November 30, 2005. [Source: PPGIS List]

Assistant Professor - Urban Transport, Enschede, The Netherlands

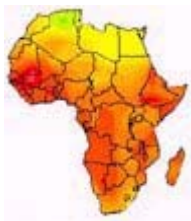
The post contributes to the capacity of the Urban Infrastructure knowledge field within the Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management (PGM) Department at [ITC](#). Applications should arrive no later than 19 November 2005.

Earth Institute Fellow, Palisades, New York, USA

Columbia University Earth Institute Fellows Program in Sustainable Development (granted for 24 months). Columbia University seeks candidates interested in enhancing their disciplinary research (in one of the core disciplines represented within the [Earth Institute](#), i.e., any of the earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences, or health sciences), while at the same time acquiring the cross-disciplinary expertise and breadth needed to address critical issues related to sustainable development and reducing environmental degradation, poverty, hunger, and disease. Contact Hilary Cisneros Dewhurst, Manager, Fellows Program, hd6@columbia.edu. Applications submitted by December 1 will be considered for fellowships starting in the summer or fall of the following year.

Assistant Professor of Geography (Tenure-track position in GIScience), Madison, Wisconsin, USA

The [Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), invites applications for a tenure-track position in GIScience. Duties include developing a strong program of research and publication, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and actively contributing to our graduate programs in Cartography and GIS (including the GIS certificate). Preference will be given to broadly trained applicants. Nine-month, academic year position starting August 28, 2006. To apply for this position, send a letter describing research and teaching interests, a CV, and no more than three examples of publications. Also, arrange to have three letters of reference submitted by the application deadline. Applications arriving after the deadline cannot be guaranteed consideration. Contact: Prof. A-Xing Zhu, Recruitment Committee Chair, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 160 Science Hall, 550 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706-1491. Tel: 1-608-262-2138, Email: azhu@wisc.edu. Deadline: November 25, 2005.



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Tropical Resources Scientist, New Haven, CT, USA

A tenured faculty position is available for a tropical resources scientist at the [Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies \(FES\)](#). Candidates will have a Ph.D., strong grounding in natural resource sciences with an active, applied research program in the tropics and active engagement in the policy process. Candidates especially sought with an interest in research issues at the interface between natural and social sciences, human-impacted ecosystems, or the role of humans in managing tropical forest resources. Applicants should send their c.v., statements of research and teaching interests, a list of three references, and three representative publications to David Skelly, Chair, Tropical Resources Scientist Search, david.skelly@yale.edu. Deadline: November 30, 2005.

Urban Environment Faculty Position, New Haven, CT, USA

[Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies \(FES\)](#) seeks to fill a junior-level faculty position focused on the urban environment. Candidates should take an integrated view of the natural and human aspects of urban systems and have an interdisciplinary approach and a capacity to address both natural and social science aspects of the urban environment. Research topics of interest include but are not limited to: urban land use and land cover; urban environmental modeling, transportation and environment linkages; and alteration of urban ecological conditions by development, including waste management, air or water pollution, and habitat fragmentation and destruction. The successful candidate will have an earned doctorate and an active research program that complements those of existing faculty in FES. She or he will demonstrate capacity for excellence in teaching, and will be expected to advise Master's and Doctoral students. FES prefers a candidate with formal training in one or more relevant disciplines such as ecological sciences (e.g., ecology, hydrology, chemistry, geoscience), geography, political science, urban planning, or allied fields. Applicants should send a c.v., a statement of research and teaching interests, two reprints or other professional publications, and a list of three references to Eleanor Migliore, Urban Environment Search, Eleanor.Migliore@yale.edu. Deadline: November 18, 2005.

Other

[African ministers approve science and technology plan](#)

Participants at the Second African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology have approved a five-year "Consolidated Plan of Action" for promoting science and technology across Africa. The conference, which was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 27-30 September 2005, drew ministerial delegations from over 30 African countries, together with representatives from Western governments. It was organized by the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to consolidate the two organizations' science and technology programmes. Donor governments pledged to support African efforts to increase scientific capacity using priorities identified by the African countries, and to promote the idea that supporting science and technology is an essential part of helping Africa achieve sustainable economic growth and alleviate poverty. For their part, the Plan of Action calls on African countries to increase their spending on research and development to one percent of their gross domestic product. [Source: IISD Linkages Update, 28 October 2005]

[New ECA web-magazine tracks MDG progress in Africa \(version française\)](#)

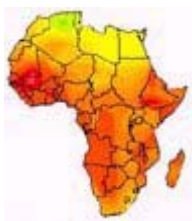
ECA has launched an interactive web magazine to track developments and offer analysis on Africa's capacity to meet the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

[Africa: whatever you thought, think again](#), National Geographic (online), September 2005

A special issue focusing on African reports, in-depth reports, photographs, interactive maps, and Africa Archive of selected articles from previous issues of this popular magazine.

[Africa: the impact of mobile phones](#)

The strong demand for mobile telephony in poor countries is illustrated by booming subscriber growth. Africa has been the fastest-growing mobile market in the world during the past five years. Subscriber growth in several sub-Saharan African countries exceeded 150% last year, and there are now eight mobile phones for every 100 people in Africa, up from three in 2001. World Bank figures show that people in developing countries spend a larger proportion of their income on telecommunications than those in the rich world.

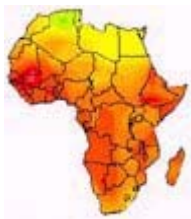


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Conferences, Events

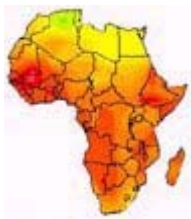
Items newly added to this listing of events since the last SDI-Africa issue are marked *** NEW ***

Date	Location	Event
November 2005		
30 October – 4 November	Pretoria, South Africa	AFRICAGIS '05 Theme: Beyond Talk: Geo-information working for Africa. Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15 April 2005 .
31 October – 4 November	Nairobi, Kenya	11th World Lake Conference / 11ème Conférence mondiale des Lacs . Theme: Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experiences and African Issues. Deadline for abstracts: April 15, 2005 . Contact: info@ilekenya.go.ke
2-4 November * NEW *	Accra, Ghana	Workshop on Harmonization of ICT policies and regulatory frameworks in ECOWAS . The main objective of the workshop is to discuss and set a framework for the development of a harmonized ICT policy and strategy in the ECOWAS sub region. The strategy will include the promotion of ICT usage for regional economic integration, enhancement of connectivity and access to ICT services among and within the member States and development of applications and content for the sub-region, while encouraging public-private partnerships. Contact: Mohammed Timoulali, mtimoulali@uneca.org .
7-8 November * NEW *	Nairobi, Kenya	Conference of the African Science Academy Development Initiative: Improving public policy to achieve the millennium development goals in Africa Contact: Ijeoma Emenanjo, iemenanjo@nas.edu
9-11 November	Johannesburg, South Africa	Government Technology Africa 2005 - a forum where ideas are sourced, the latest technology is demonstrated and partnerships are formed to further the provision of better government services to the people.
9-11 November	Bilbao, Spain	II World Summit of Cities and Local Authorities on the Information Society Theme: Local Authorities building an Information Society for all
14-16 November	Tunis, Tunisia	IRFD World Forum on Information Society . Organized by the the International Research Foundation for Development. One of the Session Themes is Geographical Information System and Sustainable Information Society. Abstract deadline: March 31, 2005 . Contact: wfis2005@irfd.org .
14-16 November	Rabat, Morocco	UN/ESA Workshop on Spatial Information and Sustainable Development. Workshop international en Télédétection et SIG . Date limite d'envoi des résumés: 15 septembre 2005 . Contact: Prof. EMRAN Anas, emran@israbat.ac.ma , or Dr. TRACHE Abdelhak trache@emi.ac.ma .
14-16 November	Dakar, Senegal	Rural Development and the Role of Biomass - International workshop as part of the Development and Climate Project . Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 2005 . Contact: marcel.kok@mnp.nl and rutu.dave@mnp.nl .
15-17 November	Accra, Ghana	1st African Regional Conference of Vice Chancellors, Provosts, and Deans of Science, Engineering, and Technology . Theme: The state of science and technology training institutions in Africa and their role in socio-economic development. Contact: African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions, info@ansticonference.org .
16-18 November	Tunis, Tunisia	World Summit on the Information Society – 2 nd phase
20-23 November	Abu-Dhabi & Al-Ain, UAE	UN/ESA/NASA Workshop on the International Heliophysical Year (IHY 2007) Deadline for applications: 1 September 2005 .



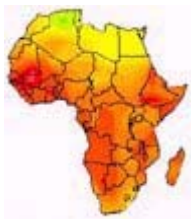
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22-24 November * NEW *	Khartoum, Sudan	Regional workshop on scientific research and national research plans of action for combating desertification Contact: Mukhtar Ahmed Mustafa, UNESCO Chair of Desertification, mukhtarmustafa@hotmail.com .
23-25 November	Abuja, Nigeria	African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development. Organized by NASRDA and UN COPOUS. Contact: Dr. Joseph Akinyede, jakinyede@yahoo.com .
24-25 November	Ankara, Turkey	ISPRS WGII/2 Workshop on 'Spatial/spatio-temporal data mining and learning' . Deadline for extended abstracts: <u>19 August 2005</u> . Contact: wwwsdm05@metu.edu.tr .
25-26 November	Rabat, Morocco	4th National Congress, Ordre National des Ingénierus Géomètres Topographes Theme: For a land administration policy serving development. Deadline for abstracts: <u>20 August 2005</u> . Contact: onigt@yahoo.fr
27 November – 2 December	Yaounde, Cameroon	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) Deadline for abstract submission: <u>May 15, 2005</u> ; proposals for tutorials due: <u>June 15, 2005</u> . Contact: sitis@u-bourgogne.fr .
28-29 November	Pretoria, South Africa	International Conference on the Changing Politics of Land in Africa Domestic Policies, Crisis Management, and Regional Norms Deadline for papers: <u>April 30, 2005</u> .
28-30 November * NEW *	Kampala, Uganda	African Copyright Forum Conference Contact: library@imul.com
December 2005		
1-2 December	Bangkok, Thailand	1st International Symposium on Health GIS Contact: healthgis@gmail.com .
1-3 December	Arusha, Tanzania	Fifth TAWIRI Annual Scientific Conference (5thTASC) . Theme: "People and Wildlife: Promoting Conservation while Balancing Needs." Deadline for abstracts: <u>September 30, 2005</u> . Contact: tawiri at habari.co.tz.
5-9 December	Makerere, Uganda	7th African Crop Science Society Conference . Deadline for abstracts: <u>31 August 2005</u> .
5-9 December	San Francisco, CA, USA	"Transforming Geoscience Access through Standards Implementation" session of the 2005 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting . Deadline: <u>September 8, 2005</u> .
6-8 December	Sharm El- Sheikh, Egypt	Middle East and Africa Conference for ESRI Users Deadline for abstracts: <u>1 June 2005</u> . Contact: meuc2005@qs4it.com . The first 2 days before the conference, (4-5 December 2005) are designed to benefit GIS managers. You are welcome to register for pre-conference seminars: Cadastral and land registry, Dec. 4th, Cost: \$250; Planning and Managing GIS, Dec. 5th, Cost: \$100; Web Services, Dec. 5th, Cost: \$100.
6-8 December * NEW *	Cairo, Egypt	1st International Conference on Water Resources in the 21st Century Contact: WR21C-2005@ewra.com .
6-10 December	Maputo, Mozambique	11th General Assembly of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) - "Rethinking African Development: Beyond Impasse, Towards Alternatives"
8-10 December	Hong Kong SAR, China	2005 International Symposium on GPS/GNSS Contact: lswuchen@polyu.edu.hk .
15-16 December	Lausanne, Switzerland	5th International Workshop on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS)



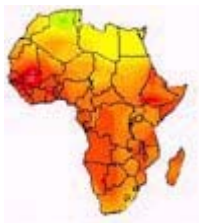
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16-21 December	Cairo, Egypt	13th International Conference of the Geological Society of Africa on Geology and Development . Local lead organisation, the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS). Contact: Dr Mahmoud Abdeen, GSAf Vice-President (North Africa), m_m_abdeen@hotmail.com
January 2006		
4-7 January 2006	Cairo, Egypt	Environmental Change in Lakes, Lagoons & Wetlands of the Southern Mediterranean Region (ECOLLAW): 1st International Conference / Conférence sur le changement environnemental dans les lacs, lagons et zones humides de la région sud-méditerranéenne . Deadline for abstracts: <u>1 July 2005</u> .
February 2006		
13-16 February 2006	Cairo, Egypt	GAW8 - 8th International Conference On The Geology Of The Arab World . Deadline for abstracts: <u>September 30, 2005</u> .
14-16 February	Ankara, Turkey	ISPRS WG I/5 & I/6 Workshop on Topographic Mapping from Space Contact: leloglu@bilten.metu.edu.tr
22-24 February 2006	Hannover, Germany	ISPRS Workshop on Multiple Representation and Interoperability of Spatial Data . Submission of full paper due: <u>15 November 2005</u> .
March 2006		
5-10 March 2006	Stellenbosch, South Africa	International Precision Forestry Symposium Deadline for abstracts: <u>September 30, 2005</u> . Contact: packer@sun.ac.za .
7-11 March 2006	Chicago, Illinois, USA	Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers Deadline for papers: <u>13 October 2005</u> .
9-12 March 2006	Accra, Ghana	5th FIG Regional Conference for Africa Theme: "Promoting Land Administration and Good Governance". This conference is co-sponsored by UN FAO, UN-Habitat, UN ECA, RECTAS, ISM, etc. This conference will also be the first FIG regional conference in West Africa. Deadline for abstracts: <u>10 November 2005</u> .
14-17 March 2006	Bagamoyo, Tanzania	CASTLE Conference – Promoting Sustainable Land Management in Africa . The Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy and UN-Habitat are jointly organizing this event. It is co-hosted by the Institution of Surveyors of Tanzania and the Tanzanian Institution of Valuers and Estate Agents, with the facilitation of the National Council of Professional Surveyors. Deadline for abstracts: <u>October 15, 2005</u> .
16-22 March 2006	Mexico City, Mexico	4th World Water Forum The main theme of the Forum will be "Local actions for a global challenge". Guiding principles, main objectives, framework themes and topic sessions available for comments in the concept paper .
20-23 March 2006	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE	6th International Conference on the Geology of the Middle East Abstract deadline: <u>September 1, 2005</u> .
22-24 March 2006	Cape Town, South Africa	Planning Africa Conference 2006 Deadline for abstracts: <u>September 30, 2005</u> .
26-29 March 2006 * NEW *	Dubai, UAE	Map Middle East 2006 . Contact: gjs@dm.gov.ae .
27-29 March 2006 * NEW *	Bonn, Germany	3rd International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III) A First Announcement and Official Call for Project Proposals have been issued. Contact: ewc3@un.org ; info@dkkv.org .
27-29 March 2006	Columbus, Ohio, USA	GIS for Transportation Symposium 2006 . Deadline for abstracts: <u>21 October 2005</u> .
April 2006		
23-26 April 2006	Tampa, Florida, USA	GITA's 29th Annual Conference . Theme: No Barriers: Connected. Responsive. Prepared. Deadline for abstracts: <u>May 24, 2005</u> . Contact: info@gita.org



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27-29 April 2006 * NEW *	Budapest, Hungary	Workshop on e-Governance, Knowledge Management and e-Learning Limited grants will be available for participants who come from developing countries. Deadline for abstracts: <u>5 December 2005</u> .
May 2006		
3-5 May 2006 * NEW *	Pretoria, South Africa	Information Society Technologies Africa (IST-Africa) 2006 Conference and Exhibition The conference will bring together delegates from commercial, government & research organisations across Africa and from Europe. Deadline for paper and workshop submissions: <u>30 November 2005</u> .
7-12 May 2006	New Orleans, LA, USA	Intergraph 2006 Conference
8-11 May 2006	Enschede, the Netherlands	ISPRS Commission VII Mid-term Symposium Remote sensing: from pixels to processes. Deadline for abstracts: <u>October 30, 2005</u> . Contact: isprsc7@itc.nl .
14-19 May 2006 * NEW *	Marrakech, Morocco	14th Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organisation (ISCO) Theme: Water Management and Soil Conservation in Semi-Arid Environments. Deadline for abstracts: <u>September 15, 2005</u> .
15-17 May 2006	Aalborg, Denmark	UDMS 2006 – 25th Urban Data Management Symposium Abstract submission deadline: <u>September 30, 2005</u> . Contact: e.fendel@otb.tudelft.nl .
21-26 May 2006 * NEW *	Nairobi, Kenya	1st International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) Africa Chapter Conference . Theme: Managing Agricultural Information for Sustainable Food Security and Improved Livelihoods in Africa. Deadline for abstracts and proposals for posters, workshops, seminars and meetings: <u>15 November 2005</u> .
23-25 May 2006	Marrakech, Morocco	Integrated Water Resources Management and Challenges of Sustainable Development / Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eaux et Défis du Développement Durable (GIRE3D) Contact: Dr. Nour-Eddine Laftouhi, gire3d@ucam.ac.ma ; noureddine.laftouhi@ucam.ac.ma .
25-26 May 2006	Orlando, Florida, USA	ISO/TC 211 22nd Plenary http://www.isotc211.org/
June 2006		
27-28 June 2006 * NEW *	Nairobi, Kenya	Pastoralism and Poverty Reduction in East Africa: A Policy Research Conference Paper proposals due <u>11 November 2005</u> .
July 2006		
9-12 July 2006 * NEW *	Burlington, VT, USA	3rd Biennial Meeting of the International Environmental Modelling and Software Society Workshop on open geospatial tools and methods in environmental modeling and management Abstracts (300 words) due: <u>30 November 2005</u> .
9-15 July 2006	Philadelphia, PA, USA	IUSS 18th World Congress of Soil Science
13-17 July 2006	Wollongong and Sydney, Australia	COAST - GIS 06 - 7th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management . GIS for the coastal zone: Spatial Data, Modelling and Management; Extending the Spatial Data Infrastructure. Deadline for abstracts: <u>31 December 2005</u> .
31 July – 4 August 2006	Denver, Colorado, USA	IEEE/IGARSS 2006 Contact: ieeegrss@adelphia.net .
August 2006		
7-11 August 2006	San Diego, CA, USA	ESRI International User Conference 2006
September 2006		



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12-15 September 2006	Lausanne, Switzerland	Foss4g 2006 The conference will focus on various free and open source technologies and their implementations around the world. It will also host the user meeting conferences for Open Source projects like GRASS, MAPSERVER and other EOGeo projects.
October 2006		
October 2006	Beijing, China	20th CODATA (Committee on Data for Science and Technology) Conference Contact: codata@dial.oleane.com .
2-4 October 2006 * NEW *	Birmingham, U.K.	World Conference on Accelerating Excellence in the Built Environment - WCAEBE International . Theme: Research, Policy, and Practice. Deadline for abstracts: 30 November 2005.
8-13 October 2006	Munich, Germany	FIG Working Week 2005 and XXVIII General Assembly . Deadline for abstracts: 15 March 2006. Contact: congress.director@fig2006.de . Dealine for 2006 FIG Congress Prize : July 15, 2006.
28 October – 2 November 2006 * NEW *	Cairo, Egypt	6th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference . Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2006. Contact: aarse2006@narss.sci.eg .
November 2006		
3-11 November 2006	Santiago, Chile	9th International Conference on Global Spatial Data Infrastructure organized by the GSDI Association & Instituto Geográfico Militar . Contact: gsdi9@igm.cl
9-12 November 2006	Beijing, China	Open Science Conference Call for papers: February - May 2006
14-15 November 2006	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	ISO/TC 211 23rd Plenary http://www.isotc211.org/
December 2006		
2007		
15-20 July 2007	Cambridge, UK	Cambridge Conference 2007

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