



SDI-Africa Newsletter

The Spatial Data Infrastructure - Africa (SDI-Africa) is a free, electronic newsletter for people interested in Geographic Information System (GIS), remote sensing and data management in Africa. Published monthly since May 2002, it raises awareness and provide useful information to strengthen SDI efforts and support synchronization of regional activities.

The Newsletter is prepared for the [GSDI Association](#) by the [Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development \(RCMRD\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya.



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The [Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development \(RCMRD\)](#) implements projects on behalf of its member States and development partners. The centre builds capacity in surveying and mapping, remote sensing, geographic information systems, and natural resources assessment and management. It has been active in SDI in



Africa through contributions to the [African Geodetic Reference Frame \(AFREF\)](#) and [SERVIR-Africa](#), a regional visualization and monitoring system initiative. Other regional groups promoting SDI development in Africa are [ECA/CODIST-Geo](#), [RCMRD/SERVIR](#), [RECTAS](#), [AARSE](#), [HEIS-AFRICA](#)H, [SDI-EA](#) and [MadMappers](#)



Announce your news or information

Feel free to submit to us any news or information related to GIS, remote sensing, and spatial data infrastructure that you would like to highlight. Please send us websites, workshop/conference summary, events, research article or practical GIS/remote sensing application and implementation materials in your area, profession, organization or country. Kindly send them by the 25th of each month to the Editor, Gordon Ojwang' - gojwang@rcmrd.org or sdiafrica@rcmrd.org. We would be happy to include your news in the newsletter.

This would be interesting to a colleague

PLEASE share this newsletter with anyone who may find the information useful and suggest they subscribe themselves. You can visit the [GSDI](#) website: Newsletter back issues - <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.php>. You can join the GSDI Association at <http://www.gsdi.org/joinGSDI>.



Enjoy Reading - the SDI-Africa team

Support and Contributions to this Issue

Thank you to the [Global Spatial Data Infrastructure \(GSDI\)](#) Association; Hussein Farah, RCMRD (Kenya); Kate Lance, GSDI listserv moderator (USA), Sean Johnson, Land Administration Authority (Lesotho) and Aude Areste Lamendour, IGN France International (France) for their contributions to this issue of the newsletter. We also acknowledge the various websites and links referred as source of information.

SDI News, Links, Papers, Presentations

[GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 - November 4-8, 2013](#)

[EIS-Africa](#), the [GSDI Association](#), the [International Geospatial Society](#), and the [United Nations Economic Commission for Africa \(UNECA\)](#) are pleased to announce a close partnership in offering the joint AfricaGIS 2013 Conference and the GSDI 14 World Conference. This combined conference will take place at the UNECA Conference Center in Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia from November 4-8, 2013.

AfricaGIS is the largest regularly occurring GIS conference in Africa with participants from the entirety of the continent. The GSDI World Conference has built a reputation for excellence in content and moves across the globe to offer geospatial specialists in all parts of the world opportunities to better exchange ideas and learn from global peers in building spatial data infrastructure.

The theme of the conference is "Spatially Enablement in Support of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction." Please consult the [conference](#) website as the Call for Papers and program details become available.



Africa: Cropland expansion increases biodiversity loss



An increase in the amount of land being used for crops is one of the main reasons for the continuing loss of biodiversity and threatens to undermine attempts to meet international environmental goals, according to a new report backed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The report, entitled *Crop Expansion and Conservation Priorities in Tropical Countries*, details how land, which is often rich in biodiversity, is being converted or set aside for crops like rice and maize in some 128 tropical countries. The study warns that such trends, if continued, could derail progress towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets - a set of 20, time-bound measurable targets aimed at halting global biodiversity loss by the

middle of the century.

Researchers from UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative analyzed data on crop distribution and expansion, assessed changes in area of main crops, and mapped overlaps between conservation priorities and cultivation potential. They found that cropland in tropical countries expanded by around 48,000 km² per year from 1999-2008. Rice was the single crop grown over the largest area, especially in tropical forest habitats. Countries which added the greatest area of new cropland were Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Brazil. Soybeans and maize are the crops which expanded most in absolute area. Other crops with large increases included rice, sorghum, oil palm, beans, sugar cane, cow peas, wheat and cassava.

The report highlights the urgent need for more effective sustainability standards and policies to address production and consumption of tropical commodities, including robust land-use planning, the establishment of new protected areas, projects to support forests (such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD+) in places agriculture has not yet reached, and the reduction or elimination of incentives for land-demanding bio-energy feed stocks.

The report has been published in the run-up to the first plenary meeting of the newly-created Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in Bonn, Germany from 21 to 26 January 2013. IPBES, which was established in April 2012, creates a mechanism recognized by both scientific and policy communities to synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide.

Regional conference on “Implementation of Land Information Systems (LIS): sharing experiences, innovations and good practices”, Kampala, Uganda



A regional conference on the theme: “Modernization of land administration and management systems was held in Kampala, Uganda (January 17 and 18). The conference organized by IGN France International, the leader of the international consortium engaged in the Design, Supply, Installation, Implementation of the Lands Information System and Securing of Land Records (DeSiILISoR) project in Uganda was attended by more than 180 participants from over ten African countries (Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Togo, Ivory Coast, Chad, Libya, France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands). The official opening of

the conference was attended by the Vice-President of the Republic of Uganda Edward Sekandi; the Minister of the Land, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD) Daudi Migereko, three Ministers of State (secretaries of state), the Ambassador of France, and World Bank representatives.

Highlighted was the World Bank investment on more than 60 land projects over the past 20 years to a total value of US\$2.7 billion, and its direct objectives of interventions: improving tenure security over communal land, improving tenure security over individual land, increasing access and tenure for the poor and vulnerable, increasing efficiency and transparency in land administration services, developing capacity in land administration, resolving land disputes and managing expropriations, increasing scope and effectiveness of land use planning, improving public land management, developing post-conflict land administration and strengthening valuation functions and land tax policies.

The consortium charged with the implementation of the DeSiILISoR project brought together 10 companies involving 30 international experts to digitalize 16,000 cadastral maps and 500,000 land titles. The conference provided an opportunity for the people involved in the project to share experiences and various components of the project including the establishment of a National Land Information Centre (NLIC), the design and implementation of a land information system (LIS) in Uganda, the conversion of land records, data



integration, training and capacity building, and the implementation of a public information and awareness communication.

A presentation of regional issues was made by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) and country specific presentations by land specialists from Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi. Discussions also focused on technical issues related to the choice of the solutions adopted, the methodologies to be implemented and the technical equipment installed, the use of aerial photography or satellite imagery in cadaster projects, and the link between land projects and National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) among other. More details on the regional conference will be available at: www.lis-uganda.go.ug and at www.ignfi.com. For further information, contact: Aude Areste Lamendour at alamendour@ignfi.fr.

Gabon implements GIS for food security issues



Gabon spends 250 billion FCFA (almost USD500 million) annually to import food products. The objective of the Gabonese authorities is to achieve food self-sufficiency and to help the local farmers develop new crops. The creation of the Gabonese Agency for food security (AGASA) will contribute to achieving this emergency plan for food security that aims to reduce by 5% each year the imports of some products such as cassava, rice, meat, plantain bananas and vegetables.

The implementation of the Geographic Information System will contribute to managing the various information coming from the main organisations active in the field of food security (imports, exports, yields, health controls,

food movement in the country) and to eventually achieving a national cartography of the organisations involved in this issue.

The project is divided into 6 main components: • Needs analysis, collection and data modeling; • Implementation of the GIS platform (equipments, definition of the methodologies and completion of the cartography); • Capacity building and training sessions. GIS is a component of the NGP (National Geomatic Plan) initiative that is currently deployed in Gabon. An NGP is a strategic framework that the country uses as a management tool based on geographic information. Deployed at a national level, an NGP provides administrations with services to promote decision-making and contribute to the development of synergies between the different sectorial ministries. It allows for the planning of future investments, the stimulation of active projects and the assessment of the impact of the different public policies that are implemented.

Revolutionising Nigeria's ICT Sector in 2013



Although Nigeria has recorded tremendous growth in the telecommunications market over the last decade and counting, harnessing the nation's communications industry has become imperative for its further growth. While celebrating the breakthrough of the industry, plans should be put in place towards ensuring that the sector gravitates to another level from what is currently obtainable.

Having emerged as one of the fastest-growing telecoms market in the world with the largest number of connected and active mobile lines in sub-Saharan Africa, which is placed at over 100 million by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), some challenges have continued to

mar the sector, and almost making rubbish of its gains. The Federal Ministry of Communications Technology, in a recent statement, identified the increase in rural telephone penetration, development of incubation centre, new right of way guidelines, and launch of student PC ownership scheme among others as its achievement in the ICT industry in 2012.

The ministry, which was created by President Goodluck Jonathan some 14 months ago to fast-track the development of the information and communications technology (ICT) in the country, however failed to identify its shortcomings. Stakeholders in the ICT sector have however, continued to call for drastic resolution in tackling various impediments which conspicuously hindered the further growth of the sector. According to them, optimising and complementing existing policies to enable subscribers get value for their money as well as growing the emerging market to place Nigeria as a foremost leader in global technology market remain some of the common challenges faced by the sector in 2012. Telecoms Sector and Service Quality Though a lot of promises were made by the government and regulators in the industry to pursue network stability, coupled with the fine on GSM mobile operators and the ban of promos and lotteries, no doubt, Nigeria is still stuck on the ladder in terms of general development in ICT.



Updating of Mali's general map at a scale of 1:200 000



Last October, a European Union tender was awarded for the upgrading of Mali's general map at a scale of 1:200 000 and for accompanying the IGM (Geographic institute of Mali) in its modernization process. Expected to last 44 months, the project started on October, 15th and the missions on the field began in November 2012. The project is divided in 6 main components: Acquisition, delivery and installation of material; Images acquisition and processing; Production of the national databases; Completion of the 136 topographic maps at a scale of 1:200 000 covering the whole country; Development of related digital products and services; Upgrading of the IGM

including capacity building for the IGM's agents.

A similar project that will end up in February 2014 is currently in progress with the IGB, the National mapping institute of Burkina Faso. The contribution of these mapping projects demonstrates how crucial they are for the beneficiaries. For instance, right after the completion of the mapping project in Senegal, the country has continued its efforts by completing an urban cartographic database of the 7 largest towns. Geographic information remains an essential factor of economic development.

LAA and UN FAO sign agreement on software for better land administration



The Lesotho Land Administration Authority (LAA) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) signed an agreement in Lesotho on November 21, 2012 to collaborate on the use and development of Open Source software for sustainable land administration. The Land Administration Authority (LAA) was represented by the Director General and Chief Executive Mr. Sean Johnson and UN FAO by Mr. Attaher Maiga. The agreement sees the UN FAO assisting the LAA with obtaining and developing software that will help improve the issuing of new land leases, transfers and mortgages of

leases, and the identification of land in the cadastre. The software will help the LAA to better manage its records and to further improve service delivery.

The software, known as Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA) is designed by UN FAO specifically for land administration agencies. It is free and open to further development but there is a cost for customizing the basic software to comply with Lesotho laws and procedures. The software combines a database to hold information about all lease applications and transactions with images of registered leases and lease files and links these to digital maps showing the size and location of all land holdings. The benefits for LAA and its customers include quick retrieval and processing of information.

The Lesotho Land Administration Authority joins three other countries (Ghana, Nepal and Samoa) that are currently developing and using SOLA. More countries are expected to join the UN FAO initiative and collaborate on the development of the software for sustainable best practice in land administration. For further information, contact Mr. Sean Johnson at dg@laa.org.ls.

Kenya begins construction of 'Silicon' city - Konza ICT Technopolis



The much awaited historic Konza Technology City, which is equated to the famous Silicon Valley in the USA, is now a reality after the official launch by Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki on 23 January. The new city to build at a cost of \$14.5bn (£9.1bn) is intended to be an IT business hub and dubbed "Africa's Silicon Savannah". Konza city is to be built in four phases over a span of 20 years with phase one to be completed by 2017 at a cost of Sh209 billion.

It will take 20 years to build Once completed, the KSh850 billion project being driven by the Ministry of Information and Communications is expected to attract sufficient investments to create more than 20,000 IT jobs by 2015, and more than 200,000 jobs by 2030.

The 5,000-acre (2,011-hectare) Konza Technology City site was a ranch about 60km (37 miles) to the south-east of the capital, Nairobi on the way to the coastal port city of Mombasa, at the border of Makueni and Machakos counties. It opens gates for the developers and investors to start construction at the new city, which is expected to brand the country as a global destination of choice for technology innovations.

The components of the city include a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) park, science park, mega malls, convention centre, data schools, world class hotels, international schools, world class hospitals, championship golf course, financial district, high speed mass transport system, residential housing among



other high class developments. "I have directed that mushrooming of unplanned developments must stop and controlled development should only be allowed in Konza City, as well as in the adjacent areas and along Mombasa road. Konza city cannot stand alone but should start and go with excellence and standards," said President Kibaki during the ground breaking ceremony.

The multi-billion-shilling ICT Park is hinged on a private-public partnership financing model where the government has offered land and will facilitate building infrastructure such as electricity, water and sewerage system, roads, energy and high speed rail in order to make the city more attractive, productive and habitable. The private sector on the other hand is expected to raise funds for developing the actual city. "Convention Centre Park will be the first, so that people can be able to even have meetings when they come here. This may be on a about 200 acre piece of land," said Todd Sigaty, Event Director at Shop Architects, a New York based firm which has done the Konza City design.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Communications Bitange Ndemo assured the residents of full benefits of the city amid fears that the new classic development would largely benefit foreigners and sideline locals. "We have created enabling environment to invest in the project and we have also developed legal institution framework," Ndemo said. The city will be managed by Konza City Development Authority. Also read: [Konza technopolis launch set to boost Kenya profile](#); [Poghisio appoints Konza City board members](#).

[Development of SDI for coastal management in Amirante Islands, Seychelles](#)

Authors: Sarah M. Hamylton, Justin Prosper

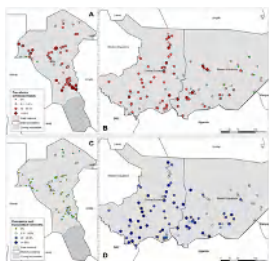
Abstract: Spatial data infrastructures play a key role in coastal management decision making in the Seychelles. This paper describes four components of a web-based spatial data infrastructure that were developed to facilitate coastal management of the Amirante Islands in the Seychelles. The four components include: (i) the institutional arrangement for using spatial data effectively to address local management challenges, (ii) the production of island habitat maps from remotely sensed data, (iii) the tasks undertaken for promoting access to and use of this spatial data, and (iv) an example of how this data is used for a specific coastal management application in the Seychelles. By outlining these four components, the value of this spatial data infrastructure framework for tropical coastal management in the Seychelles is demonstrated.

Highlights:

- A spatial data infrastructure for coastal management in the Seychelles is presented.
- Institutional arrangements for using geospatial data in coastal management are described.
- The production of island habitat maps from remotely sensed data is detailed.
- Tasks undertaken for promoting access to and use of geospatial data in the Seychelles are outlined.
- An example of geospatial data used for coastal management in the Seychelles is provided.

International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation [subscription-based journal; not open access]. Volume 19, October 2012, Pages 24-30.

[Rapid disease mapping could guide treatment in South Sudan](#)



Rapid mapping to quickly determine precise distribution and prevalence of major neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis can help guide evidence-based interventions, a study reveals. The study, conducted in South Sudan and published in PloS One on 20 December 2012, used surveys to map the prevalence of certain NTDs and determine where treatment is needed the most.

"Rapid mapping is very important to help gather information for interventions into NTDs and for national policymaking," says Simon Brooker, one of the report authors and a Wellcome Trust senior research fellow at the Kenya Medical Research Institute. "South Sudan has the highest number of total infections of NTDs in Africa," Brooker tells SciDev.Net, adding that the distribution and prevalence of major neglected tropical diseases varies considerably across the three states

In the study, three states of South Sudan were surveyed from May to September 2010 to identify areas where levels of schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis or soil-transmitted helminthiasis were high enough to make their populations eligible for mass preventive drug treatment programmes targeting these diseases. The study involved taking more than 12,000 urine and stool samples from children from 193 sites to test for schistosome and soil-transmitted helminth infection, and nearly 4,000 blood samples from adults from 50 sites to test for lymphatic filariasis.

The survey mapped the areas where some 1.4 million people should be treated against schistosomiasis, where 1.3 million people require annual treatment to treat lymphatic filariasis and where 1.2 million need



regular treatment against soil-transmitted helminths. The survey provides further evidence that rapid mapping to target preventive drug treatment is important for public health due to this marked spatial variation of disease and the resulting need for evidence-based targeting of treatments, he says.

Charles Chunge, director of the Centre for Tropical and Travel Medicine in Nairobi, Kenya, tells SciDev.Net that rapid mapping followed by interventions to control such diseases is therefore vital not just for South Sudan, but also for the whole of Africa. The researchers conclude that "the challenge now remains to complete NTD mapping in the remaining states in the country, and to regularly provide treatment to eligible populations". This article has been produced by SciDev.Net's Sub-Saharan Africa desk. [Link to full paper](#)
References - PLoS ONEdoi:10.1371/journal.pone.0052789 (2012).

[Namibia is developing integrated land use plan for Kavango](#)



The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is developing an Integrated Regional Land-Use Plan (IRLUP) for the Kavango Region. The N\$4 million tender to develop the IRLUP was awarded to a group of companies that include Stubenrauch Planning Consultants, AHT, Geocarta and the Southern Africa Institute for Environmental Assessment (SAIEA).

Land-use planning is important to ensure sustainability, to select and to adopt environmentally friendly and best land-use plan options to increase economic growth and mitigate land-use conflicts. During colonial times, indigenous communities were removed from the most productive land and banished to marginal and tribal homelands. These confinements are now increasingly becoming too small to support the inhabitants residing there. "We observe that the population growth, which is coupled with inappropriate management of the natural resources mainly in our communal areas has led to the degradation of land and the consequent increase of poverty in these areas," the lands ministry's permanent secretary, Lidwina Shapwa, said at the inception workshop of the Kavango IRLUP.

The Karas IRLUP has already been finalised, while one for the Hardap Region has been submitted to the ministry only recently. The cost of the two southern plans amounted to N\$7.3 million. Shapwa said work in the Kavango Region would be more complex, compared to the southern plans due to its vastness, agro-ecological diversity, its wider communal lands, as well as its cultural and ethnic diversity.

The Kavango Region is characterised by uneven distribution of population and access to the rest of the region is also a challenge, especially given the limited road infrastructure. The Kavango IRLUP will be completed over the next fourteen months. Shapwa said it is government's plan to develop IRLUPs for all 13 regions, which will eventually be consolidated to form a National Land-Use Plan. Prior to the Karas and Hardap IRLUPs, Namibia had carried out four IRLUP projects for the Kunene and Caprivi regions, the four north-central regions, as well as the Otjozondjupa and Omaheke regions combined, dating back as far as 1999. However, only the two land-use plans for the Kunene and Caprivi regions were approved.

All four plans have shortcomings, which include the absence of appropriate stakeholder involvement and consideration of inter-sectoral integration during the planning phases. Moreover, no digital maps or data were produced to enable a constant update and monitoring of plans and their implementation. With the development of the current IRLUPs it is envisaged that development programmes will become more holistic and comprehensive, so that all factors that are significant to natural resources development and environmental conservation are addressed and included.

[Launch workshop of the global soil partnership in Western and Central Africa: Towards an African soil partnership](#)

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was launched in September 2011 to raise awareness among decision makers on the vital role of soil resources for achieving food security, adapting to and mitigating climate change and guaranteeing the provision of other environmental services. The Terms of Reference of the GSP were approved in December 2012. The Partnership aims to improve governance of the planet's limited soil resources in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils for a food secure world, as well as support other essential ecosystem services.

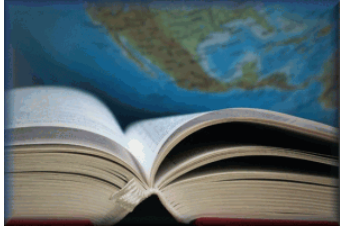
The five pillars of action of the GSP include the promotion of sustainable management of soil resources; the encouragement of investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soils; the promotion of targeted soil research and development focused on identified gaps and priorities; the enhancement of the quantity and quality of soil data and information; and lastly, the harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for sustainable soil management, with national validation accounting for the differences of production systems and ecosystems. At the core of the GSP is the establishment of



Regional Soil Partnerships to contextualize the needs and priorities of soil actions to be implemented in each region.

This workshop (website: <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/events/detail/en/c/167864/>) will launch the West and Central African consultation among national soil institutions and regional partners. Dates: 4-6 February 2013, Accra, Ghana.

Free Geographic Information System (GIS) books



There are some free online source materials that can be a valuable contribution, especially if your book budget is nonexistent. Most of these free GIS books are available in downloadable PDF format and can be read from a computer or on an eBook reader. A few are only available online. A good starting place for finding GIS books is the [National Academies Press](http://www.nationalacademiespress.org/) site which offers over 4,000 titles in PDF format for free. For example, a search for the term "GIS" returns over 1,100 results.

- The classic book, "[Map Projections: A Working Manual](#)", has scanned by the USGS and made available for free online in both PDF and DjVu formats. The volume was originally published in 1987 and was written by John P. Snyder. The book provides an overview of the "appearance, usage, and history is given together with both forward and inverse equations for each [map] projection."
- Tomislav Hengl, a senior researcher at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, offers a free book entitled "[A Practical Guide to Geostatistical Mapping](#)". The volume can be downloaded for free from Lulu.com, or, if you want a printed copy, ordered at a cost of a little over \$18. The volume introduces the basic principles of geostatistical mapping and regression-kriging, introduces tools such as R+gstat/geoR, SAGA GIS and Google Earth which are used to prepare the data, run analysis and make final layouts.
- The third edition of "[Geospatial Analysis – A comprehensive guide](#)" is available for reading online and "covers the full spectrum of analytical techniques that are provided within modern Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related software products". The book was written by Michael de Smith and Paul Longley of University College London, and Michael Goodchild from UC Santa Barbara. PDF versions of the book are available for purchase from the site.
- Esri offers free eBooks as part of its "[Best Practices](#)" series. The booklets over examples of the use of GIS in different industries and subjects in GIS. Select topics include GeoDesign, Essays in Geography and GIS, GIS for Oceans, and Managing GIS.
- The Rutgers Center on Public Security offers a free PDF version of "[GIS for Public Safety: An Annotated Guide to ArcGIS Tools and Procedures](#)". From the site: "This book, GIS for Public Safety, focuses on ESRI's ArcGIS functionality (the most popular GIS software, worldwide) and presents many of the tools and techniques that are commonly used by public safety researchers, analysts, and practitioners." The book can also be printed to order for \$32 each.

Further GIS books: [GIS Books](#), [Publications Category](#) - News about GIS books, magazines, and online geospatial resources.

Practical SDI implementation materials from within and outside of Africa

Oil exploration: Uganda government released the Bunyoro map



The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has released a draft map showing details of the population and properties of people who settled on the land earmarked for the construction of an oil refinery in Buseruka Sub-county in Hoima district. The draft maps were on display for a week from August 29, 2012 at Hoima district headquarters in Kasingo Busiisi Division in Hoima town, Buseruka sub county offices, and in each of the 13 villages earmarked for the project. The 13 villages were Kyapaloni, Nyamasoga, Bukona A, Bukona B, Kayeera, Nyahaira, Kitegegwa, Kigaaga B, Katooke, Kitemba, Kabaale A, Kabaale B and Nyakasinini.

The draft map confirmed that 8,000, people were to be evicted after compensation from the proposed land. Hangi told New Vision that the draft copy was released on the ministry's orders to capture complaints of the affected people before the final one is released. "We want to get people's complaints if there is any like spelling errors, and under or over valuation of properties on their lands to correct and include them in the final copy that will be released end this month to curb complaints during implementation," Hangi argued. "We



are also moving village-to-village to receive peoples' complaints this is all aimed at having a transparent process with full involvement of the project affected families,"

The Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) which was launched on May 17, by Peter Lokeris, state minister for mineral development at Kabaale Catholic Church, and ended late July was conducted by M/S Strategic Friends International limited. The socio economic survey conducted aimed at establishing land ownership, properties and loss of economic activities and livelihoods through compensation or resettlement from the refinery land of the local people.

The demarcation of boundaries for the said land was completed with the size and configuration of the proposed land maintained at 29,000 hectares or 29 square kilometers. The demarcation was carried out by experts from the department of surveying and mapping in the ministry of lands at Entebbe. The refinery whose construction was said to begin late last year will come with attendant infrastructures like a modern airport, petrochemical industries, waste management plants and houses for the refinery workers.

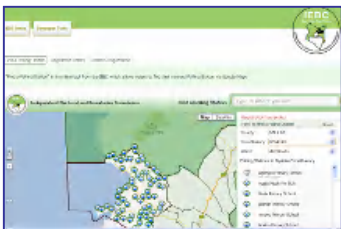
Implementation of a land information system - Uganda project summary (2010-13)



Generated by delays in the registration of titles, costs and faltering registration procedures for official documents, land insecurity is an obstacle to the economic and social development of countries. In Uganda, a World Bank study showed that the average delay for the registration of titles was 270 days. It is within this context that the Ugandan government has started to modernize its procedures. IGN France International is the leader of the consortium created for the completion of the DeSILISoR (Design, Supply, Installation, Implementation of the Lands Information System and Securing of Land Records) project in Uganda, whose goal is to secure property titles through the development of a land information system and the

establishment of a national land information centre. The project involves the development of a unique land information system for the 6 departmental offices of the districts of Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Jinja, Masaka and Mbarara. The DeSILISoR project involving 16,000 cadastral maps and 500,000 titles conversion, once completed over 6 pilot districts, should be launched on a national level after 2013.

Google launches portal to monitor Kenya elections



Google launched the [Kenya Elections Hub](#), a portal where voters, journalists and campaigns can easily track news, trends and information related to the elections. With so many constitutional changes including new boundaries, new elective seats, and a new voter registration, it is more important than ever to help keep Kenyans informed about the elective process.

The Internet is playing increasingly an important role in transforming the way that citizens participate and engage in the elections across Africa, as seen last year in Senegal and Ghana. Now it's Kenya's turn, and expectations are high

both for a peaceful transition and a deepening of democracy under the new constitution. Voters are already turning to the internet for information: according to Google Zeitgeist, the IEBC (Independent Boundaries and Electoral Commission) was the top trending search in Kenya in 2012, and all the major candidates have a strong presence across the various social media outlets.

Google has launched several initiatives to provide Kenyans with accessible and useful information during the upcoming elections, and to help voters have a voice. Google has provided the IEBC with open source technology that is powering their online voter tools, including registration confirmation online and via SMS, mapping the polling stations, and a developer API. Ory Okolloh, Google Policy and Government Relations Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa said: "We're empowering voters so that they are not simply watching from afar, but participating in, engaging with and shaping the political process in a democratic way, through platforms like YouTube, Google Maps and Google+". In addition to helping drive citizen engagement, Google has trained local journalists, civil society and political parties on digital tools for elections, and partnered with local media organizations to support the use of Google+ Hangouts for interviews with candidates. For more information: <http://www.google.co.ke/elections>.

GIS Tools, Software, Data

REDD countries database

The Global Canopy Programme has announced the launching of 5 country profiles for Nepal, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Tanzania on the REDD desk. The REDD Countries Database is a



centralised and collaborative database of the diverse and rapidly evolving range of REDD activities in tropical forest owning nations. Organised and aggregated by country, it summarises key information across a range of areas including policies, plans, legal frameworks, statistics, activities and financing across 18 countries.

The database is already the single largest online library of REDD activities globally and works with a global network of developed and developing country partners engaged in tropical forest conservation. Please send comments to contact@theredddesk.org.

Free GIS Stuff

All of the costs involved to learn GIS, purchase hardware and software, and obtain data can be a bit disarming. Listed here are some completely free GIS related resources.

- [Free GIS Posts](#) - Visit the Free GIS category on GIS Lounge for some of the most recent posts about free geospatial resources.
- [Free GIS Books](#) - Guide to online options for free GIS, cartography, and remote sensing related books.
- [Free Applications](#) - Listing of free software applications. Choose from public domain software applications to light versions of some of the more popular commercial packages.
- [Free Data](#) - Most of the resources listed here are available at no cost. Find free data from all over the world and from a variety of formats
- [Free Data Viewers](#) - Free data viewers for a variety of GIS formats. These viewers allow you to display geographic data as well as perform some basic GIS functions.
- [Free GeoTools Blog](#) - If you are looking to learn about cheap or free tools to help you with your spatial work, this blog is a good source for tips. Run by Leszek Pawlowicz, this blog has resources for shapefile utilities, working with Google maps and tips for your GPS unit.
- [FreeGIS](#) - Web site dedicated to highlighting GIS software, tools and data that is available for free. For a nominal fee, you can also order their FreeGIS CD containing Free GIS software and data.
- [Free Map Servers](#) - Want to launch maps over the internet but can't afford commercial software? Check here for links to free map servers.
- [Fun with GIS](#) - All work and no play makes for a very boring GISer. Take a break from your hectic day of mapping and spatial analysis with these fun links. Send a postcard, take a quiz or learn some trivia.
- [Open Source GIS](#) - Open Source GIS programs are applications of which you can access the source code. Listed here are available open source GIS based applications you can download written for a variety of platforms and in various languages
- [Free Esri Training](#) - Esri provides select courses on its Esri Training site for free, enabling registered users the ability to pick up introductory courses covering a range of Esri software and general geographic concepts.
- Google Map Creator - this [freeware application](#) takes shapefiles and generates a working thematic map using [Google Maps](#). Only a limited knowledge of HTML and Javascript is needed to use Google Map Creator.

Training Opportunities

Have you signed up to receive [SDI-Africa Newsletter](#) notices? It only takes a minute, and then the GSDI Association can notify you when a new issue of the SDI-Africa newsletter is available, plus alert you to particular GSDI announcements (like a call for GSDI grants, or a call for papers for a GSDI conference). The GSDI Association also hosts an [SDI-Africa E-mail Discussion List](#) with intermittent news and announcements of opportunities (this discussion list is separate from the SDI-Africa Newsletter list).

- The [SDI-Africa E-mail Discussion List](#) is open and available to anyone to read on the web. To submit messages or to receive submitted comments or notices by e-mail, one first must register.
- To see the collection of prior postings to the list, visit the [SDI-Africa E-mail Discussion List Archives](#).
- To post a message to the list, send an email to sdi-africa@lists.gsdi.org.

Call for Applications - GEM Course 2013

Growing population densities are putting increasing pressure on scarce land resources. Adequate solutions to environmental problems such as deforestation, overgrazing, and the depletion and contamination of land and water resources depend on integrated insights and improved management. Planners, managers, policy makers and researchers need to understand the complexity of the factors involved and be able to work together with professionals from a variety of disciplines. Geo - information technology and, in particular,



remote sensing, plays a central role in the search for clear analyses and viable policies. Skills in this field will therefore continue to be much in demand in industry, government and NGOs.

Five renowned European institutes offer you a unique Erasmus Mundus joint European Master of Science (MSc) Course in Geo - information Science and Earth Observation for Environmental Modelling and Management (GEM).

The course has duration of 22 months and will be taught by world class faculty in five countries: Iceland, UK, Sweden, Poland and The Netherlands. While studying in at least two of the five universities, as well as studying in a multi - cultural environment, students will gain valuable insight into the academic, social and cultural diversity of northern and central Europe. Graduates gain a multiple MSc degree from the consortium universities.

For the academic year starting in September 2013, we are pleased to announce that there will be EU Erasmus mundus scholarships available for both non-EU and EU students. In addition, for exceptional EU candidates, we will have a limited number of scholarships available that pay full-fees.

Deadline for EM scholarships: 31 December 2012.

Deadline for Self-funded non-EU candidates: 1 July 2013.

Deadline for Self-funded EU candidates: 1 August 2013.

Apply now online: <http://www.gem-msc.org/application/Registration/>. More information can be obtained from www.gem-msc.org or send an email to info@gem-msc.org.

2013 GIS short courses through continued education at University of Pretoria

- Certificate Course in Introductory Geographic Information Systems - February - June 2013, Web-based with workshops in Pretoria (proprietary and open source) and Cape Town (open source only)
- Certificate Course in Advanced Geographic Information Systems
February - October 2013
Web-based learning with workshops in Pretoria
- GIS Professional Practice
February - June 2013
Distance learning with workshops in Pretoria
- Introduction to Geoinformation Standards
15 - 16 July 2013 in Pretoria
- Spatial databases with PostGIS
25 - 29 March 2013 in Pretoria
- Introduction to Quantum GIS (on request)
- Remote Sensing (on request)
- The Basics of GIS (on request)

See www.up.ac.za/cgis/ / <http://web.up.ac.za/default.asp?ipkCategoryID=16147&subid=16147&ipklookid=11>

ESRI Technical Certification

ESRI has set the industry standard for GIS technology and is now establishing benchmark standards for individuals who use Esri software with the recently launched Esri Technical Certification Program. The ESRI Technical Certification Program recognizes qualified individuals who are proficient in best practices for using Esri software and are awarded in different areas of expertise at both an Associate and Professional level. The program is open to ESRI users worldwide and consists of 13 certifications recognizing expertise in desktop, developer, or enterprise use of ArcGIS. Users achieve certification by successfully completing computer-based examinations, which are offered in more than 5,000 testing locations in 165 countries. Users are able to test for five certifications. Establishing an industry recognized benchmark of expertise in using ESRI software will:

- Improve success with GIS by creating a community of professionals proficient in using ESRI software.
- Help organizations maximize their investment in ESRI products by employing a workforce certified in using best practices.
- Create professional development opportunities.
- Provide an opportunity for individuals, partners, consultants, and other organizations to distinguish themselves among their peers.
- Assist hiring organizations in assessing candidate skills and abilities.
- Workplace experience, combined with GIS education and ESRI training courses, is the best preparation.

The ESRI Technical Certification Web site lists specific skills that will be assessed in each exam, as well as training courses that aid in acquiring and improving these skills. [Read more](#).



ESRI South Africa presents a full spectrum of GIS courses: February and March 2013



The course covers GIS theory and functionality: The desktop products (ArcView, ArcEditor, and ArcInfo; Server products (ArcGIS server and ArcSDE); Programming to enable customization of the product, ArcGIS extensions, as well as Introductory and advanced courses in ERDAS Imagine Remote Sensing Software'. Various training venues are available at Esri South Africa, for further information contact: 011 238 6300 [email the training team](#)

GIS and Remote Sensing courses at Esri Eastern Africa

ESRI Eastern Africa is now offering update courses to conform to improvements in ArcGIS 10 and ENVI 4.8, conducted with skilled and experienced instructors together with conducive and state-of-the-art training facilities. Courses in the following tracks are offered: Fundamentals of ArcGIS Desktop; Data and Map Production; Geoprocessing and Analysis; Enterprise GIS; Multi-user Geodatabases; and Remote Sensing Arrangements can also be made for client's site training on request for 12-16 students. [Download](#) course catalogue and current class schedule.. To register, visit <http://esriatraining.cloudapp.net/>. For more information, contact: training@esria.co.ke, telephone: +254 20 2713630/1/2 or visit the offices on 3rd floor, KUSCCO Centre, Kilimanjaro Avenue, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya.

University of Twente - Faculty of Geo-Information and Earth Observation (ITC): 2013-14 courses



Apply online for courses starting in the academic year 2012-2013. Browse by programme (degree, diploma, and certificate), course domain (disaster management, earth sciences, geoinformatics, governance, land administration, natural resources, urban planning and water resources) or location in the course finder at www.itc.nl/CourseFinder. For printed copy of the study brochure, email: (alumni@itc.nl).

MSc degree course in GIS and Natural Resource Management with KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana. Starting date: 2 September 2013. Duration – 18.5 months. For more information: [Louis Addae-Wireko, MSc](#) - KNUST and [ir Louise van Leeuwen](#) - ITC

Short-courses offered by RECTAS, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



The [Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys \(RECTAS\)](#) is offering a number of three-week courses. Also note that RECTAS is able to package and deliver customised training for interested organisations. These could be either advanced or other certificate programs. Contact: info@rectas.org or thonteh@rectas.org.

RCMRD - Courses offered by the department of Remote Sensing, GIS and Mapping



The Centre offers the following courses in geo-information. The courses last between one week to three months, and offered through out the year.

- Introduction to Remote Sensing & Image Processing
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Introduction to Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Application of Remote Sensing & GIS in natural resources management.
- Application of Remote Sensing & GIS in Early Warning Systems for Food Security Application of RS & GIS in Disaster Risk Management
- Geospatial database development and management for use in planning process and decision making
- Principles of Digital Cartography
- Application of GPS technology in resource surveys and mapping
- Integrated Water Management
- Application of GIS in poverty mapping, health care & good governance
- Land Information Management Systems
- Service and Repair of Survey equipment

Funding Opportunities, Awards, Support

Netherlands Fellowship Program for Master's, PhD, and short courses for developing countries

The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) are demand-driven fellowship programmes designed to promote capacity building within organizations in 61 developing countries by providing training and education to their mid-career staff members. The NFP is funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs under



the development cooperation budget. The scholarships allow candidates to pursue Master studies, PhD studies, or short courses at Dutch Universities or academic institutions.

The scholarship covers many fields of study including: Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries; Architecture and Town Planning, Arts and Humanities; Business Administration and Management; Education; Engineering; Environmental Science; Fine and Applied Arts; Law; Mass Communication and Information Science; Mathematics and Computer Science; Medical and Health Science; Natural Science; Tourism and Leisure; Social and Behavioral Science; and Transport and Communications. For 2013/2014, see the: NFP course list for Master's degree programmes, NFP course for Short courses, and list of Dutch institutions eligible for PhD studies.

Target group: Students from NFP country list in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe (Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Autonomous Palestinian Territories, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mali, Moldova, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippine, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe).

Half of the available fellowships should be awarded to female candidates and the other half should be spent on candidates from sub-Saharan Africa. Apart from this, priority is given to candidates from priority groups and/or from marginalized regions to be defined by the embassies.

An NFP fellowship is intended to supplement the salary that the fellowship holder should continue to receive (at least partially) during the study period. The allowance is considered to be a contribution towards the cost of living for one person, whether in the Netherlands or in another country. The fellowship also covers the costs of tuition fees, visas, travel costs, insurance and thesis research. You must meet a number of criteria that support the aim of the NFP to be eligible for a fellowship. For more information, please contact the Netherlands Embassy or Consulate in your home country.

[Wireless and mobile communication system scholarships in Korea](#)

Wireless and Mobile Communication System (WMCS) LAB announces Scholarships for Master's, PhD and integrated Master's & PhD Program in Korea. Applicants applying for the scholarship must have degree in Electronics or Computer science engineering and should have grades/marks/score of 85% or higher from the previous attended institution. The scholarship is for spring semester and will close on May 31, 2013.

Eligibility: Language requirement: English fluency (TOEFL PBT 550, CBT210, IBT 80, IELTS 6.5 or higher); Degree on Electronics or Computer science engineering.

Its normal scholarship provided by their WMCS lab with full waiver of tuition fee along with monthly stipend of \$600. Scholarship application deadline: 31 May 2013. Submit application [here](#).

[Joint Japan/World Bank graduate scholarships program for students of developing countries](#)

World Bank, with funding from the Government of Japan offers Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarships Program (JJ/WBGSP) for nationals of a World Bank member country. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and born after March 31, 1973. Eligible applications are assessed according to academic excellence, professional experience, and relevance of program of study. The scholarship covers airfare, travel allowance, tuition and the cost of basic medical and accident insurance. The Program does not support studies in the applicant's home country.

Eligible applicants should propose a program of study related to development at the master's level, in fields such as economics, health, education, agriculture, environment, natural resource management, or other development and related subject. Applicants should submit evidence of current unconditional admission to at least one development-related university master's degree program. Applicants are encouraged to apply to one of the [Preferred Universities](#).

The awards are given for one year and, provided that the academic program is longer than one year, may be renewed for a second consecutive year or a portion thereof, subject to satisfactory academic performance in the first year and the availability of funds. There is an absolute two year maximum limit on JJ/WBGSP awards. Applicants will be notified of results by the end of July 2013. To submit application, click [here](#). Applications should be submitted online by March 31, 2013.

[Australian Government - PhD Awards in Agricultural Research for Africans in 2014](#)

The Australia Awards program will support 20 eligible candidates in Africa for PhD studies in agricultural research at Australian universities, commencing in 2014. The program is open to nationals from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia,



Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2013.

[International Livestock Research Institute \(ILRI\) -- Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund](#)

The Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA) Hub awards research fellowships to African agricultural scientists and students. Funding covers travel, accommodation, stipend, and research costs for short-term projects at the BecA-ILRI Hub in Nairobi. In 2012, the application deadline was 30 March (monitor for changes 2013).

[International Tropical Timber Organization -- Freezailah Fellowship Fund, First Cycle 2013](#)

ITTO makes grants through the Freezailah Fellowship Fund for training opportunities, demonstration tours, participation in conferences and workshops, preparation of technical papers, and post-graduate degrees. Grants are in support of sustainable tropical forest management. Applicants are young and mid-career professionals in ITTO's member countries; most grants are to individuals in the developing countries. ITTO normally invites fellowship applications twice a year. The next application deadline is 5 March 2013.

[Right Livelihood Award Foundation - Call for Annual Nominations](#)

The Right Livelihood Awards are annually made to individuals and organizations offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today. The Award is sometimes referred to as the "Alternative Nobel Prize." Past laureates include several whose work in issues of environment and natural resources advances social justice and grassroots development in the developing world. Normally, the Foundation makes three cash awards and one honorary award each year. Nominations are invited from anyone worldwide (excluding self-nominations, close relatives, and Foundation staff and jury). The deadline for nominations is 01 March of each year.

[Swedish International Development Agency \(Sida\) - International Training Program 2013](#)

Sida supports short-term training in selected development topics for participants from developing countries. The Global program includes courses in the following subject areas in year 2013: genetic resources (deadline 15 January 2013); efficient energy (deadlines 1 February and 1 August 2013); integrated coastal development (deadline 8 February 2013); and wind power (deadline 1 March 2013). Information about course content and eligibility are included with each course description. Note: Interested individuals should follow the website for additional courses that may be announced, including at regional levels.

[United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - "Land for Life" Award 2013](#)

The UNCCD presents the "Land for Life" Award for inspiring efforts in land conservation and management. Eligibility is open to individuals and institutions worldwide that are making a significant and innovative contribution to reduce land degradation through land management, political leadership, policy, business, advocacy campaigns, or scientific research. Three awards will be granted from a total prize fund of up to US\$100 thousand. The deadline for applications is 15 March 2013.

[Women's World Summit Foundation - Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2013](#)

The Prize honors women and women's groups anywhere in the world exhibiting creativity, courage, and commitment for improving the quality of life in rural communities. WWSF aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security, and peace. The Prize provides an award of US\$1 thousand per laureate, and US\$3 thousand for specific African women's organizations. Nominations are due 30 April 2013.

[African Network of Scientific and Technical Institutions \(ANSTI\) - ANSTI/DAAD Post-Graduate Fellowships 2013](#)

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) cooperates with ANSTI by offering financial support for Masters and Ph.D degrees at institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. The fellowships are awarded to nationals in Sub-Saharan Africa for studies outside the applicants' home countries. Participants must be from ANSTI member institutions, and be less than 36 years old at the time of application. The application deadline is 31 May 2013.

[World Food Prize Foundation - World Food Prize and Borlaug Field Award 2013](#)

The World Food Prize Foundation invites nominations for the World Food Prize, and for the Borlaug Field Award. The World Food Prize (US\$250 thousand) recognizes an individual or individuals who have made



outstanding achievements to enhance the world's food production and its distribution to those most in need. The Borlaug Field Award (US\$10 thousand) recognizes science-based achievement in international agriculture and food production by an individual under age 40 in the challenge to eliminate global hunger and poverty. Nominations must be submitted by 1 May 2013 for the World Food Prize, and by 30 June 2013 for the Borlaug Field Award.

No-profit supply of computers to Developing Countries

Computer Aid International has already shipped over 50,000 PCs to more than 90 developing countries. Out of those 50,000 shipped over 35,000 have gone to educational institutions while the remaining to community organisations working in fields as diverse as HIV/Aids, environment, human rights and primary healthcare. Computer Aid International aims to: (i) Increase the number of refurbished computers being re-used overseas; (ii) increase the number of UK organisations donating their used IT equipment for re-use overseas; (iii) identify and work with those organisations in recipient countries able to derive maximum value from refurbished computers; (iv) provide training and work experience in computer repair to people from socially excluded communities.

Research on Climate Change and African Political Stability (CCAPS)

The CCAPS fellowships aim to support the next generation of researchers and thought leaders on the topic of climate change and political stability in Africa. CCAPS offers up to three pre-doctoral fellowships in residence at the University of Texas at Austin (Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law) for an academic year, with preference for individuals who have made substantial progress towards the completion of their dissertations. CCAPS encourages applications from women, minorities, and citizens of all countries. The fellowship includes a nine-month stipend of US\$24 thousand, and one round-trip airline ticket. The application deadline is 15 February 2013.

PhD Awards in Agricultural Research for Africans in 2014

The Australia Awards program will support 20 eligible candidates in Africa for PhD studies in agricultural research at Australian universities, commencing in 2014. The program is open to nationals from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The closing date for applications is 31 March 2013.

Grants for Guest Researchers from Africa 2013

The Nordic Africa Institute provides funding to social science researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa for short-term collaborative assignments at the NAI in Uppsala, Sweden. Research areas include one on agrarian change, property, and resources. NAI provides travel, subsistence, an installation allowance, and in-kind support for stays of up to 90 days. The deadline for applications is 1 April 2013.

Employment Opportunities

National Geographic Information System (GIS) Officer at FAO Kenya

Under general supervision of the FAO Representative in Kenya and the direct supervision of the Assistant FAO Representative for programme implementation the overall responsibility of the National GIS Officer will support coordination through the provision of information products and services, and contribute to the creation of a common framework for information management within the Agriculture and Livestock sectors. The GIS unit is a service oriented unit ensuring the programme implementation teams have access to the best, most timely and reliable information products possible.

The GIS Officer will supervise development planning and GIS processes (coordination, data collection and system management) in support to all ongoing projects and will also be held responsible for design, development and Implementation of Web Based GIS Applications. The following are the duties and responsibilities:

The candidate should hold a degree in GIS, Data Management or a related field. The candidate should have at least ten years' experience in development and management of GIS data, and should have experience in providing training on GIS. Experience in planning and monitoring of development/emergency programmes would be a significant benefit.

FAO is an equal opportunity employer; qualified women are encouraged to apply. Acknowledgements will only be sent to applicants in whom FAO has a further interest. Interested candidates who meet the above qualifications may send their application letter, and a detailed CV clearly marked; National Geographic



Information System (GIS) Officer; not later than 7 February 2013 addressed to: Office of the FAO Representative in Kenya, FAO Representation in Kenya United Nations Office at Nairobi, Block P, Level 3, Gigiri. PO Box 30470, 00100, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: vacancy-Kenya@fao.org.

T24 technical analyst/application developer, website developer/administrator, systems administrator at central bank of Kenya, Nairobi

The Central Bank of Kenya hereby invites applications from suitably qualified, experienced and self-motivated IT professionals with excellent credentials to fill the following vacancies in the Information Management Services (IMS) Division and the Deposit Protection Fund (DP) Board. He/She shall be charged with the responsibility of developing applications in or to interact with the Bank's Temenos T24 applications.

Key Duties & Responsibilities:

- Use of jbase/java to develop or to interface with T24 applications.
- Recommend improvements to existing T24 technical and business processes in order to meet the Bank's requirements.
- Translate the business needs and Requirement Specifications into Design Specifications.
- Develop program/code from Design Specifications to good quality Software and in conformance to system development standards.
- Work closely with IT Security to ensure that applications are well secured.
- Work closely with third party vendors to assess vendor proposals and recommendations
- Specifying and ensuring application controls are incorporated during design of the software in order to check on risk exposure.
- Documenting system developments in accordance to the application development policy.
- Create test plans, test cases, test scripts and perform technical unit testing.
- Work with existing systems to track and manage change requests and user issues.
- Perform root cause analysis for recurring incidents, design and execute test plans.

Minimum Requirements: Degree in Computer Science or technical related field; At least 3 years' experience in application development; Demonstrated in depth Java development experience; Demonstrated in depth T24/JBASE development experience; Demonstrated understanding/knowledge of Linux/Unix Operating Systems; Certification in programming; Demonstrated experience working on/developing web or mobile application will be an added advantage; and Possess excellent communication, negotiation, presentation and interpersonal skills. Application deadline: 5 February, 2013.

Epidemiologist at MSF-SWISS in Somalia

MSF-SWISS is seeking candidates for the post of Epidemiologist to support its humanitarian operations in Somalia. The person will be required to:

- Develop, implement, analyse and evaluate the harmonized MSF Section's tools in order to compare medical data (surveillance) of the different sections in Somalia with early detection of outbreaks.
- Train national staff on the principles of disease surveillance and detection of outbreaks, and assist in defining training needs concerning surveillance, make a training plan and assist in its evaluation.
- Network with different health actors to gather epidemiological information, observe medical trends and detect outbreaks.
- Proactively seek to increase the quality of emergency surveillance and data collection, including direct lobbying as well as informing community leaders of the importance of health surveillance.
- Have an updated comprehensive contact list gathered from the different MSF sections and own networking.
- Proactively liaise with other organizations/ actors in terms of emergency surveillance/ information sharing; e.g.; FSNAU reports for nutrition/food security updates.

Recruitment criteria: A degree or (preferably) Masters in epidemiology and/or Masters in Public Health with extensive epidemiological training; Proven practical skills in design, implementation and evaluation of quantitative and qualitative epidemiological research methods; Ability to design and implement surveillance and other data collection systems for monitoring epidemic and nutritional interventions; Proven practical skills with software for epidemiological database and statistical analysis (Epi-info, SPSS); Ability to supervise and train international and national staff (especially in appropriate data collection and analysis); Readiness to travel, live and work under precarious conditions and in high-security environment; and Excellent command of English and Somali languages.

Please send by email your CV & Cover Letter to: msfch.som.recruitment@gmail.com. Applications must be received by latest 31 January 2013.



[University of Birmingham Scholarships for International Students](#)

In 2013/14, the University of Birmingham is offering 18 International Postgraduate Scholarships worth £10,000 towards the cost of a one year Masters (Taught or Research) programme. These awards are intended for tuition fees only and cannot be used towards living expenses. Applicants must have an excellent academic background; due to the level of competition for these scholarships, only applicants with a first class Bachelors degree (or equivalent) will be considered.

Applicants must also demonstrate excellence in an area of their life; this might be outstanding academic achievement, exceptional achievement in extra curricular activities (such as sport, music, managing events or societies) or significant achievement gained either in their working life or through volunteering and service to others. Applicants must also outline the contribution they will make to the University of Birmingham as a student and what they expect to gain from studying here.

In order to apply candidates must:

- Have been offered a place to study on an eligible one year Masters programme at the University of Birmingham;
- Be overseas for fee purposes;
- Be attending full-time and on-campus (not distance learning);
- have a valid student ID number;
- not be in receipt of a full fee scholarship from any other source;
- Have made adequate financial provision to study in the UK (including any associated visa/travel expenses);
- Be able to pay any outstanding tuition fees not covered by the scholarship.

Please be aware that you must have made an application to study at the University of Birmingham before submitting a scholarship application. To find out more about how to apply, please review our [application procedures](#). Applications will close on 31 May 2013 for entry in the 13/14 academic year.

[Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme, Kenya](#)

Applications are now open for the 2013/2014. The programme is fully managed by the British Council and will, support postgraduate degree, technical, training and vocational studies at leading universities in the UK. It aims to support Kenyans to participate in the oil, and gas industry.

Courses in the following areas: Engineering and Technology, Environment and Geosciences, Oil and Gas Economics, Business Journalism, Logistics and Supply Chain, Law and Legal courses, and other applied sciences apart from medicine

The scheme is open to candidates who want to make a real contribution to the future of their country. To apply for a scholarship, or for more information, please go to: www.tullowgroupsscholarshipscheme.org. Applications open from 9 January to 13 February 2013. Contacts: Tel: +254 (0)20 283 6000. Email: tullowscholarship@britishcouncil.or.ke.

Other

[Planning workshop discusses wetlands and urbanisation project in West Africa](#)



15 January 2013: The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) has reported on the planning workshop for the Wetlands and Urbanisation Project in West Africa, which highlighted several key issues related to the future implementation of the Project. The workshop, which took place from 16-20 November 2012, in Dakar, Senegal, brought together 25 participants representing UN-Habitat, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, wetlands experts and National Focal Points from the ten countries involved.

Meeting participants saw a series of presentations on wetlands in the urban context, an overview of urban development in Africa, a prospect on wetlands and health links and the presentation of some case studies. Outcomes of a working session, conducted using presentations and subsequent plenary discussions, were used by the Secretariat to provide a roadmap defining the steps from Project Concept to Project Document.

In their recommendations, workshop participants suggested a number of actions, including: that the Ramsar Secretariat facilitate local consultations; establish a follow up matrix during the implementation phase; ensure information flow; enable countries to share documents; examine the involvement of board countries that are not within the process be envisaged; and investigate ways to extend the project to the other countries, including the monitoring and evaluation process. The workshop was supported financially by IUCN-PACO, the Governments of Switzerland and Senegal, WacoWet and NigerWet. [[Ramsar Press Release](#)] [[Workshop Report](#)]



The New World Opinionator | Borderlines



An interactive series of maps show possible new additions to the world's list of independent nations. [Click](#) on the map to view what could possibly be the world's newest international borders. IT has been just over 20 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the last great additions to the world's list of independent nations. As Russia's satellite republics staggered onto the global stage, one could be forgiven for thinking that this was it: the end of history, the final major release of static energy in a system now moving very close to equilibrium. A few have joined the club since - Eritrea, East Timor, the former Yugoslavian states, among others - but by the beginning of the 21st century, the world map seemed pretty much complete.

Now, though, we appear on the brink of yet another nation-state baby boom. This time, the new countries will not be the product of a single political change or conflict, as was the post-Soviet proliferation, nor will they be confined to a specific region. If anything, they are linked by a single, undeniable fact: history chews up borders with the same purposeless determination that geology does, as seaside villas slide off eroding coastal cliffs.

Nigeria: Rescuing education with social media



In an era where mass failure has remained prominent among the problems holding the educational sector down in Nigeria, the introduction of a mobile social quiz platform for secondary school students – <http://www.efiko.com.ng> - appears poised to reshape the sector. This latest innovation, which was created by the Co-Creation Hub (CCHub), Nigeria's foremost social innovation centre, launched the EFIKO mobile application to enhance students' learning through self-assessment with topical quizzes.

The launch also served as an award ceremony for students who excelled using the platform during its pilot test in Lagos. With sponsorship support from Samsung Electronics West Africa, each winner from the pilot test went home with a Samsung Chief Hero E1500 mobile phone which they can use to download the efiko mobile application. According to the Project Incubator, CcHub, Mr. Tunji Eleso, the application has merged the powerful powers of social media and education to build a critical mass of students that can take on any educational challenge.

Some of the key features of EFIKO include: topical-based learning as students learn as they are taught according to the national curriculum; standardized content, which is especially important for students in schools with a shortage of teachers for certain subjects; and instant scoring with a leader board. Here, students are challenged to do better when they see their current scores and ranks as well as those of their peers. Others are social-based learning as peer-to-peer engagement makes learning fun for students and students can challenge each other on social media to become top students for different subjects; recognition in form of incentives for high performing students and their schools on the platform; geographical mapping, which is tied to the leader board and it enables students see schools of top scorers.

EFIKO was formally launched with a national secondary school challenge competition. For the next six months, the top student on the EFIKO leader board in five subjects will win a mobile phone i.e. 15 students every month for six months, bringing the total number of winners to 90 students. To participate, SS1, SS2 and SS3 students are to log on to <http://www.efiko.com.ng> to download the application and register (include a valid phone number), after which a test can be taken and submitted for them to see their scores.

Land conflicts affecting agricultural productivity in Uganda



Continuous land conflicts and land grabbing are increasing food insecurity and low agricultural output. "The Government needs to come out and map land for farming," said Bungangaizi MP Dr. Atwooki Kasirivu. Kasirivu, who is also the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on agriculture, urged farmers to demand the mapping of land. "The issue of decentralisation is intended to wipe out extension farmers who are key in creating awareness to increase food productivity," Kasirivu noted at the launch of research on indigenous foods conducted by the Participatory Ecological Land use Management (PELUM) at Lugogo late last year.

"The research showed that 60% of the population requires knowledge on farming and not advice," he said. "We have told the agriculture ministry to restore extension workers, but they have refused. A lot of money



has been spent on NAADS with no major benefits to farmers. Farmers want knowledge and not money.” Kakuto MP Mathias Kasamba, who is also the chairperson of the parliamentary committee on food security, said farmers must stop looking at agriculture as a side job. “Efforts must be put in place to ensure that farmers increase their productivity,” Kasamba said.

PELUM country director Stella Lutalo said the push for the production of exotic crops at the expense of indigenous foods needs to be re-examined, adding that indigenous foods also have the potential to get smallholder farmers out of poverty. She said research showed that some indigenous crops such as cashew nuts, which have local and foreign demand, are resistant to climate change. The head of food nutrition in the agriculture ministry, Alex Kambona, said indigenous foods must be used to generate money for households and not only for consumption.

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

Conferences, Events

Date	Location	Event
February 2013		
4-6 February 2013 *NEW*	Accra, Ghana	Workshop of the global soil partnership in Western and Central Africa: Towards an African soil partnership
11-13 February 2013	Denver, Colorado, USA	International LiDAR Mapping Forum http://www.lidarmap.org/ILMF.aspx
12-15 February 2013	Villa de Leyva, Colombia	Capacity Building for Conservation - An international exchange of opportunity & best practice
24-25 February 2013	Algiers, Algeria	5th Intl. Conference on Water Resources and Sustainable Development
27-28 February 2013	Padua, Italy	International Workshop on Hydrological Risk http://www.cirgeo.unipd.it/geomatics4risk/
24 February-1 March 2013	Nice, France	GEOProcessing 2013
March 2013		
2-9 March 2013	Big Sky, Montana, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
4-8 March 2013 *NEW*	Convention Centre, Dublin	2013 Dublin Conference Week Featuring: European Environment Agency Eye on Earth User Conference - (4-6 March 2013), Joint Research Centre - ENVIROFI Conference (6 March 2013) and EUROGI imaGIne Conference (7-8 March 2013) Registration and submission of Abstracts: https://www.softconf.com/d/dublinmarch2013conferences . Contact: Catharina Bamps at www.eurogi.eu
22-23 March 2013	Oxford, UK	International Conference on Development-Induced Displacement and Resettlement (DIDR)
26-28 March 2013	Lyon, France	International Conference on soils, sediments and Water
April 2013		
7-12 April 2013	Vienna, Austria	Successful Governmental policies and actions for a better soil management
7-12 April 2013	Vienna, Austria	Validation and uncertainty in soil erosion modelling: achievements and challenges
7-12 April 2013	Vienna, Austria	Soil System Sciences (All relevant sessions)
8-10 April 2013	Pafos, Cyprus	First International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geo-information of Environment
11-13 April 2013	New Orleans, LA, USA	Population Association of America 2013 Annual Meeting Website: http://paa2013.princeton.edu/
16-19 April 2013	Barcelona, Spain	12th International UFZ-Deltares Conference on Groundwater-Soil-Systems and Water Resource Management



22-26 April 2013	Beijing, China	35th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment
May 2013		
8-10 May 2013	Aachen, Germany	9th International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies (WEBIST) 2013
13-16 May 2013	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Geospatial World Forum 2013 Contact: info@geospatialworldforum.org
14-17 May 2013	Leuven, Belgium	16th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science
21-24 May 2013	Bonn, Germany	Water in the Anthropocene. Challenges for Science and Governance. Indicators, Thresholds and Uncertainties of the Global Water System
22-25 May-13	Belgrade, Serbia	2nd International Scientific Conference RESPAG - Regional Development, Spatial Planning and Strategic Governance
28-30 May 2013	Kampala, Uganda	UMEC 2013 1st Uganda, Mining, Energy Oil Gas Conference and Exhibition
June 2013		
4-7 June 2013	Ohio, USA	Mapping Global Change: Spatial Statistics 2013
10-12 June 2013	Mittersill, Salzburg, Austria	Symposium for Research in Protected Areas
17-18 June 2013	Ghent, Belgium	Conference on Desertification and Land degradation
19-20 June 2013	Napoli (Italy)	Four Decades of Progress in Monitoring and Modeling of Processes in the Soil-Plant-Atmosphere System: Applications and Challenges
23-27 June 2013 * NEW *	Florence, Italy	INSPIRE Conference 2013 Call for Contributions Theme: The Green Renaissance
July 2013		
3-5 July 2013	Denmark	From effective to intelligent agriculture and forestry
6-9 July 2013	San Diego, USA	ESRI Survey Summit - The Esri Annual Conference
7-11 July 2013	Catalonia, Spain	9th European Conference on Precision Agriculture (ECPA)
8-12 July 2013	San Diego, USA	ESRI International User Conference
21-26 July 2013	Melbourne, Victoria, Australia	IGARSS 2013 Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 10th January 2013 Check the event website for more details.
August 2013		
25-30 August 2013	Dresden Germany	26th International Cartographic Conference - From Pole to Pole...
26-31 August 2013	Busan, Korea	XXVII IUSSP International Population Conference
25-30 August 2013	Hong Kong, S.A.R. China	59th ISI World Statistics Congress : Includes meetings of the Bernoulli Society, the International Association for Statistical Computing, the International Association of Survey Statisticians, the International Association for Official Statistics, the International Association for Statistics Education, the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics, and The International Environmetrics Society. E-mail: isi@cbs.nl
26-29 August 2013	Sarawak, Malaysia	8th International Symposium on Digital Earth 2013
27-31 August 2013	Paris, France	IAG International Conference on Geomorphology
September 2013		



17-22 September 2013	Nottingham, U.K	<u>FOSS4G 2013 Conference</u>
23-25 September 2013	Technical University of Lodz, Poland	<u>2nd International Conference on Informatics & Applications (ICIA2013)</u> Abstract submission deadline is 5 August 2013. Email: icia@sdiwc.net
29 September-2 October 2013	Noordwijkerhout , Netherlands	<u>First International Conference on Global Food Security</u>
October 2013		
23-25 October 2013	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<u>Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics- ICAS-VI</u> , Abstract deadline 15 December 2012 FAO: www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/ess-icas/en/
November 2013		
4-8 November 2013	Adis-Ababa, Ethiopia	<u>GSDI 14 World Conference and AfricaGIS 2013 Conference</u> Please consult the <u>conference</u> web site on a regular basis as the Call for Papers and details about the program, facilities and sponsorship opportunities become available.
18 November 2013		African Statistics Day Celebrations - Organized by the UN Commission for Africa and the African Centre for Statistics.
December 2013		
28-31 December 2013	CRRAO AIMSCS, Hyderabad	CRRAO AIMSCS will be organizing a conference during the International Statistics Year, 2013 - <u>Statistics 2013: Socio-Economic and Sustainable Challenges and Solutions</u>
2014		
8-14 June 2014	Jeju ICC, Korea	<u>20th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS)</u>
2015	Durban, South Africa	<u>14th World Forestry Congress for SA</u>
1-31 August 2016	Cape Town, South Africa	<u>35th International Geological Congress</u> . Registration deadline: 30 June 2016.

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