

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

November

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



Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

# GSDI

[GSDI Definition](#)

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

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## Message from the Editor

This SDI-LAC issue highlights the following updates: The **Global and Regional SDI** section comprises notes on the SDI Cookbook Update; GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee; the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal; The International Charter "Space and Major Disasters"; UN-GGIM 2nd High Level Forum; The Digital Observatory for Protected Areas DOPA; the 44th Meeting of the Directing Council of the PAIGH; FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting in Argentina; FGDC's Geospatial Platform Business Plan; and key conferences taking place worldwide. The **IGS section** includes comments on how to join and maintain membership in the Society. The **National SDI** segment informs on the New corporate image and 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of Argentinean IDERA; 1<sup>st</sup> seminar on Geographic Information and SDI-EPB of Bolivia; the National SDI of Nicaragua; and 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Spatial Technology and Information for social inclusion in Peru. **Articles and Publications** of the month include an article on *Semantics-Aware Indexing of Geospatial Resources Based on Multilingual Thesauri*; Introduction to Geospatial Semantics and Technology Workshop Handbook; *Geographic Analysis Magazine* No. 50 on Cadastral Management; The Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices Review Process 2012; and UN-SPIDER September 2012 Updates and Newsletter "Crowdsourc Mapping." **Geospatial Research and Applications** underline the Integration of the National Reference Network of Guatemala in SIRGAS; New version of the Geographical Atlas of Ecuador 2012; the eSDI-Net+ SDI Self-Assessment Framework; and the Drought Metadata Catalogue. The **Training and Funding**

**Opportunities** section encompasses calls for international initiatives, among them relevant Masters and webinar programs. Finally, several **Events taking place in the Americas** are listed in the last section.

Translation of SDI-LAC Portuguese is possible thanks to undergrad students from UNESP **Mateus de Barros Manhani** and **Esrom A. Rissate Júnior**, from UFPE **Caroline Martins** and the cartographic engineers: **Alexandre Scussel**, editorial assistant MundoGEO. **Annette Pic**, MSc in Remote Sensing; **Camila Bassetto Guedes**, advisor of the Operations Department of the DECEA; **Edilce Figueiredo Burity**, Technologist of IBGE/PE Geographic Information and Statistics; **Edmilson Martinho Volpi**, Natural Resources Secretary in SP; **Eduardo Freitas**, editor of the MundoGEO portal and magazine; **Flávio Porfírio**, UGP-Dam of the ITEP; **Juan Carlos Gironda Mamani**, a consultant in Geotechnology and IT solutions for Geoinformation; **Rodrigo Quirino** Technologist of IBGE/RJ Geographic Information and Statistics; **Silvana Camboim** Professor at UFPR; **Silvane Paixão**, PhD in Land Administration and Land Information Management. Under the general coordination of Silvane Paixão and review of Eduardo Freitas.

Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI website: <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>  
Editor, Nancy Aguirre, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), <http://www.ipgh.org>, [cnaguirre@ipgh.org](mailto:cnaguirre@ipgh.org)  
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### Input to this Issue

Santiago Borrero	Secretary General, Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, PAIGH, Mexico
Arturo Brun-Martinez	Architect, Colombia
Joan Capdevila-Subirana	Regional Service of the National Geographic Institute in Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
Sarah Carr	Network Coordinator, Ecosystem-Based Management Tools Network, NatureServe, Arlington, VA, USA
Ludo Engelen	KU Leuven, R&D Division SADL (Spatial Applications Division Leuven), Leuven, Belgium
Kate Lance	SERVIR, NASA/USRA Coordinator, Huntsville, AL, USA
David López-Carr	Director, Latin American and Iberian Studies, Professor, Department of Geography, Human-Environment Dynamics Lab, UC Santa Barbara (UCSB), Santa Barbara, CA
Douglas D. Nebert	Senior Advisor for Geospatial Technology, System-of-Systems Architect FGDC Secretariat, USA
Josh Newell	Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan USA
Daniel Roberge	Chair FIG Commission 7, Canada
Joaquin Segura-Martin	Master's Program in Applied Geomatics Technology, University of Jaen, Spain
Carmelle J. Terborgh	Team Lead and Account Manager, Federal / Global Affairs, ESRI, USA
F. Javier Zarazaga-Soria	Associate Professor, IAAA Laboratory, University of Zaragoza, Spain

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### Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations

#### SDI Cookbook Update

Source: Douglas D. Nebert

The [SDI Cookbook, in its wiki version](#), now has an updated Chapter 10 to reflect the latest slate of standards and popular version numbers. We seek contributing editors for the other Chapters to also bring them up-to-date. About three months prior to the next GSDI Conference we will seek to affix a date and snapshot the Cookbook into a "SDI Cookbook 2013" PDF version. By saving a PDF and giving it a date of publication, it will clarify the reference and citation of the document and provide a time context. If you are interested in helping update any of the chapters, please contact Douglas D. Nebert [ddnebert@usgs.gov](mailto:ddnebert@usgs.gov)



#### [GSDI Outreach & Membership Committee News](#)

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



In September, vice-Chairs Roger Longhorn and Joep Cromptvoets, worked on developing the O&M Committee work plan for the next 18 months, and participated in teleconferences with other GSDI Board of Directors members in developing new vision and mission statements for the Association, noting that the definition of "Spatial Data Infrastructure" is evolving due to innovations in location-based information collection, processing and dissemination. The new work plan and associated Communications Plan will be on the GSDI O&M Committee web pages from the end of September – see <http://www.gsdi.org/standingcomm>. In mid-August, Roger and Joep were also guests of the Government of Chinese Taipei, presenting keynote speeches at the day-long seminar launching the Chinese Taipei Geoportal One Stop (TGOS) portal. Longhorn spoke on the value of geospatial data and of spatial data infrastructures

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– to the economy, to businesses and to citizens. Cromptvoets presented his analysis of the Chinese Taipei SDI “state of play” using formal assessment methodologies. Chinese Taipei’s SDI ranks in the top four that have been analyzed globally. Chinese Taipei has a highly advanced national SDI already under development for more than a decade, with strong government support from the Ministry of the Interior. Special emphasis in Chinese Taipei is on disaster planning, monitoring and mitigation, due to the number of typhoons and earthquakes to which the island nation is subjected. The visit was arranged and hosted by Jeremy Shen, Director of the Information Centre, Ministry of the Interior – also an active member of the GSDI Association’s Societal Impacts Committee.

### UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal

Source: The UN-SPIDER team by way of Santiago Borrero



We are constantly trying to improve our Knowledge Portal ([www.un-spider.org](http://www.un-spider.org)) to promote the use of space-based information for disaster and risk management in the best way possible. In this context, your opinion on the Portal's structure as well as on the usefulness of the presented information is extremely important to us. If you would like to help us improve the Knowledge Portal for you, kindly take 10-15 minutes to fill out this [questionnaire](#). Please send your answers until **15 November** 2012 to [juan-carlos.villagran@unoosa.org](mailto:juan-carlos.villagran@unoosa.org). Thank you for your time and input.

### [The International Charter “Space and Major Disasters” is Further Strengthening its Contribution to Disaster Management Worldwide](http://www.earthobservations.org/)

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



Building on a decade of success in making satellite data available to users for disaster response, the International Charter for Space and Major Disasters is now opening its doors even wider. Following a formal request from the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat, the Charter Members have adopted the principle of Universal Access. Any national disaster management authority will be able to submit requests to the Charter for emergency response. Proper procedures will naturally have to be followed, but the affected country will not have to be a Charter member. GEO has been collaborating with the Charter since 2009 with a focus on disaster management users in GEO Member States. This collaboration concentrated on user awareness and methods to improve broader access to the Charter. For example, both the GEO Secretariat and GEO Principals have participated in the formal user-consultation events conducted in more than fifteen countries in Africa. National disaster management authorities expressing an interest in participating in the Charter will be required to carry out a

registration process to ensure conditions are properly met. Steps and applicable conditions are explained in the [Universal Access Information Brochure](#) available together with a registration form.

### [UN-GGIM Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management](http://ggim.un.org/)

Source: <http://ggim.un.org/>

The Second High Level Forum on GGIM, jointly organized by the GGIM Secretariat and the Government of the State of Qatar, is scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar, 4-6 February 2013, at the Qatar National Convention Centre (<http://www.qncc.com/>). It will again function as an open forum that brings together government representatives from all member states as well as interested stakeholders from non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector to address and discuss critical and cutting-edge issues on global geospatial information management. Similar to the First High Level Forum, an Exchange Forum with the Geospatial Industry, shall be held on 3 February 2013, one day prior to the Second High Level Forum. Recognizing the



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importance of geospatial information in national and global development, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established in 2011 the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UNCE-GGIM) and encouraged "Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies". The First High Level Forum was held in Seoul, 25-28, October 2011, jointly organized by the GGIM Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Korea (<http://ggim.un.org/forum1.html>). [Announcement Letter](#).

### [The Digital Observatory for Protected Areas](#)

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez; <http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>



The Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) has been created as a component of the GEO-BON observation network by the Joint Research Centre in collaboration with other international organizations including the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), Birdlife International and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). DOPA is conceived as a set of distributed databases combined with open, interoperable web services to provide a large variety of end-users including park managers, decision-makers and researchers with means to assess monitor and forecast the state and pressure of protected areas at the global scale. DOPA is also a contribution to the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network ([GEO BON](#)), the biodiversity arm of the Global Earth Observation System of System (GEOSS). GEO BON coordinates activities relating to the Societal Benefit Area (SBA) on Biodiversity of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Some 100 governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations are collaborating through GEO BON to organize and improve terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity observations globally and make their biodiversity data, information and forecasts more readily accessible to policymakers, managers, experts and other users. Moreover, GEO BON has been recognized by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Biodiversity Observation Network is both a Community of Practice and a Task in the GEO Work Plan. It is a voluntary partnership that is guided by a steering committee. GEO BON draws on GEO's work on data-sharing principles to promote full and open exchange of data, and on the GEOSS Common Infrastructure to enable interoperability through adoption of consistent standards. To assist both holders and users of biodiversity information to engage with GEO BON, this website contains links to information resources, activities and GEO BON documents, meetings and other resources.

### OGC ILAF Corner

Source: Joan Capdevila-Subirana



The Styled Layer Descriptor (SLD) of the OpenGIS ® Encoding Standard [Web Map Service](#) (WMS) defines an encoding that extends the WMS standard to allow users to define symbols and colors of [geographic features](#) and [coverage data](#). SLD addresses the need for users and software to control the visual representation of geospatial data. The Symbology of the OpenGIS ® [Symbology Encoding](#) (SE) Specification provides the language, while the SLD profile of WMS enables application of SE to WMS layers using extensions of WMS operations. In addition, SLD provides an operation for standardized access to the legend symbols. In [ILAF website](#) you may

find an example. More on OGC in the [website](#) of the Iberian and Latin American Forum of OGC!.

### 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Directing Council of the PAIGH

Source: Santiago Borrero

The [PAIGH's National Section in Argentina](#) invites the Pan American community to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Directing Council to be held from November 14-16, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The following documents are available to interested parties: [draft agenda](#), [registration form](#), [accommodation](#), [location map](#) and [information for delegates](#). Within this framework, the National PAIGH Section in Argentina is hosting the Conference on "Geospatial



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Technology for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction" on November 12 and 13, at headquarters of the National Geographic Institute. For participation, it is necessary to pre-register using the form found at: [http://www.ipgh.org/GSDI/Files/2012/2012-11/JornadasIDE\\_GyRDD\\_Inscripcion.doc](http://www.ipgh.org/GSDI/Files/2012/2012-11/JornadasIDE_GyRDD_Inscripcion.doc), and to send this form to: [subdir@ign.gov.ar](mailto:subdir@ign.gov.ar). The respective Program may be found at: [http://www.ipgh.org/GSDI/Files/2012/2012-11/JornadasIDE\\_GyRDD\\_Circular\\_01.pdf](http://www.ipgh.org/GSDI/Files/2012/2012-11/JornadasIDE_GyRDD_Circular_01.pdf) Likewise, the "History of the Americas" Workshop (only by invitation) and the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CAF-PAIGH GeoSUR Program -the Geospatial Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, will take place on November 14. Further information is available upon request at: [secretariageneral@ipgh.org](mailto:secretariageneral@ipgh.org)

### FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and International Symposium 2012

Source: Daniel Roberge by way of Santiago Borrero



The first ever International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Commission 7 Annual Meeting in Latin America will take place in San Luis, Argentina from 30 November to 4 December 2012. This FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and the International Symposium are co-organized by the Consejo Federal de Catastro and the Federacion Argentina de Agrimensores. For FIG Commission 7 delegates, this Annual Meeting and the International Symposium will be an amazing opportunity to share experiences and views about cadastre and land management with their Argentinian and Latin American colleagues. Topics like future cadastre,

disaster management, the evolving role of the land surveyor, State land management, land governance will be presented and discussed and this, in a regional and international perspectives. Our colleagues and friends from all the Latin American countries are especially invited. It is a unique opportunity to join the worldwide network of Cadastre and Land administration experts. For more information about the Annual Meeting and International Symposium: <http://fig2012-c7.jimdo.com>. The September 2012 edition of the newsletter of the FIG Commission 7 is now available on the website of the Commission: <https://www.fig.net/commission7/index.htm>.

### New Agencies Become Members of GeoSUR

Source: <http://www.geosur.info/>

GeoSUR is continuously expanding its reach and accepting new member agencies. GeoSUR is open to the participation of any agency that produces spatial information that is deemed of interest to the public and that can benefit the planning of development projects and general decision making. The process of joining GeoSUR is fairly simple, and once a new agency agrees to participate and to develop geoservices that will be accessible from the GeoSUR Portal, it submits a letter of intention to CAF expressing its interest of becoming a member of this regional network. We welcome the participation of the following agencies which have joined GeoSUR in 2012: The Azuay University in Ecuador, the Peruvian Ministry of Transport and Communications, the National Electricity Council of Ecuador, the Nicaraguan Institute of Land Studies (in Spanish INETER), the Ministry of Urban Development of El Salvador, and the von Humboldt Institute in Colombia. Ten other agencies are currently holding conversations with GeoSUR and are likely to join in the near future.



### FGDC Steering Committee approves the Geospatial Platform Business Plan

Source: <http://www.fgdc.gov/>



On September 20, 2012, the FGDC Steering Committee approved the Geospatial Platform Business Plan. The final version of the plan describes a clear path forward for the build-out of the Platform, the interagency funding strategy, and an inclusive governance model. [Geospatial Platform Business Plan](#) (redacted) (pdf, 1.1mb). The Geospatial Platform provides a suite of well-managed, highly available, and trusted geospatial data, services, and applications for use by Federal agencies—and their State, local, Tribal, and regional partners. The Geospatial Platform is being

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implemented to help agencies meet their mission needs, including communicating with and publishing data and maps to the public. The Geospatial Platform focuses on web applications that facilitate participatory information sharing, interoperability, user - centered design, and collaboration on the World Wide Web. The Business Plan for the Geospatial Platform (Business Plan) serves as a “what and how” document, providing an overview of the operational elements and the organizational structure of the Geospatial Platform. It addresses important issues such as the governance framework and funding options for the Geospatial Platform.

#### Conference Proceedings LAGF 2012 now Available

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on Geospatial Technologies and Applications of the Latin America Geospatial Forum (LAGF) took place on August 15-17, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Conference Proceedings including Plenary Sessions, the Symposium, Seminars, and Technical Sessions, are now available [here](#). With the aim of further strengthening the geospatial agenda in the Latin American region, next year the Latin America Geospatial Forum will be held from 11-13 September, 2013 at the Sur America Convention Centre, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



#### Call for Presentations GI Science Sessions / Special Issue

Source: Ludo Engelen by way of Santiago Borrero



Please find herewith the Call for Presentations: Special GIScience Research Session, ESRI International Users Conference, 8-12 July, 2013, San Diego, California <http://blogs.esri.com/esri/gisedcom/2012/09/29/call-for-presentations-special-giscience-research-session-2/>

For questions or guidelines on this special GIScience Research Track, contact Michael Gould at [mgould@esri.com](mailto:mgould@esri.com). Abstracts should be submitted via e-mail with a subject line

“Esri GIScience Abstract, Authors Last Name” no later than **9th November**, 2012 to John Wilson at [jpwilson@usc.edu](mailto:jpwilson@usc.edu)

#### Abstracts are now Being Accepted for the 8th International Symposium on Digital Earth

Source: 8<sup>th</sup> ISDE Symposium Secretariat by way of Santiago Borrero



The 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Digital Earth 2013 with the theme “Transforming Knowledge into Sustainable Practice” aims to enable digital earth modeler and experts in the field of geospatial science and technology to provide a brand new opportunity to share their ideas and insights on how we share knowledge and act together globally. The symposium will cover a broad range of digital earth modeling, natural resources management and geographic information issues. The symposium will involve plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops, poster presentation and “coffee house” sessions with specific land care and digital earth themes. Join leading experts in the geospatial field and share your knowledge, experience and vision with over 1000 delegates by presenting a paper at this premier Symposium. Please contact

[isde2013@aosconventions.com](mailto:isde2013@aosconventions.com) or visit <http://isde2013.utm.my> for more information

#### 16th AGILE Conference on Geographic Information Science

Source: Chairs AGILE 2013 Programme Committee by way of Santiago Borrero

The 16th AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science is scheduled to take place between 14 and 17 May 2013 in Leuven, Belgium, which is situated at the heart of Europe. This years' conference will pay special attention to the role Geographic Information Science and Technology can play to help resolving the societal challenges we are facing, and to support European policy making in particular. **November 9**, 2012 is the deadline for submission of full papers for the Springer book. For any information with respect to the conference, please contact Danny Vandenbroucke: [danny.vandenbroucke@sadl.kuleuven.be](mailto:danny.vandenbroucke@sadl.kuleuven.be) or see the conference website at: <http://agile.gis.geo.tu-dresden.de/web/index.php/conference/conference-2013>.



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### GEOProcessing 2013

Source: GEOProcessing 2013 by way of Santiago Borrero

The Fifth International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Applications, and Services will take place on February 24 - March 1, 2013 - Nice, France. General page: <http://www.iaaria.org/conferences2013/GEOProcessing13.html>. GEOProcessing 2013 Topics include: Geo-spatial fundamentals, GIS, Geo-spatial Web Services, Geo-modeling, Digital cartography data, Earth Geo-observation, Geo-sensing, Specific geo-data processing, Geo-spatial domain applications, and Managing geo-spatial data.



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### IGS News, Links, Publications



International  
Geospatial Society



Remember that individuals in low and very low income nations can apply to join the International Geospatial Society (IGS) by providing specific information of value to the global community in lieu of annual cash dues. The listing of low and very-low income nations may be found at <http://www.gsdi.org/RankingTable>. To join for free, simply add your professional profile to the growing interconnected network of geospatial specialists across the globe on the Geographic Information Knowledge Network (GIKNet) at <http://giknet.org> and then apply for membership in IGS at <http://www.igeoss.org/join>. To maintain your free membership, simply update your professional profile each year on or about December or January. You have the ability to view, edit, or delete your individual profile at any time. Members who joined IGS via this route, i.e. without paying the annual members fee, are reminded to update their information annually, or lose their membership of IGS.

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### National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

#### ARGENTINA

##### [New Corporate Image will Identify IDERA](#)

Source: <http://www.idera.gob.ar>

David Paoloni won first place in the Logo Contest organized by the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina (in Spanish IDERA) under the VII IDERA Day, held in the city of San Salvador de Jujuy. The logo was created by a student of the Catholic University of Santiago del Estero (in Spanish UCSE), resident of the city of San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina.

##### [Seventh Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina in San Salvador de Jujuy](#)

Source: <http://www.ign.gob.ar/>

The Faculty of Engineering and Agricultural Sciences of the National University of Jujuy (City of San Salvador de Jujuy) was the host of the Seventh Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic of Argentina (in Spanish IDERA), which was held on September 27 and 28. The meeting sought to establish and foster communications between agencies and technicians from around the country, promoting knowledge sharing, and dissemination of Spatial Data Infrastructures, and interoperability benefits of geographic information to society. Within the program it was included the 1st Assembly composed of representatives of different national, provincial and municipal levels, resulting in the general guidelines for the establishment of a law, which will institutionalize the IDERA. More information at: <http://www.idera.gob.ar>



**IDERA**

Infraestructura de Datos Espaciales  
de la República Argentina

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### BOLIVIA

#### [First Seminar on Geographic Information and SDI-EPB in the City of El Alto](#)

Source: <http://www.geo.gob.bo/>



On October 24, representatives of GeoBolivia participated in the seminar "Geographic Information for everyone via Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (IDE-EPB)" in order to promote awareness of OpenGIS tools, the development of GeoBolivia computing platform, and the role of the IDE-EPB as a planning tool. The event, run by the Department of Engineering Systems of the Public University of El Alto (in Spanish UPEA), was held in La Paz, Bolivia.

### NICARAGUA

#### **National SDI of Nicaragua**

Source: <http://www.ineter.gob.ni/index.html>



Development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (in Spanish IDE- INETER) is part of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) of INETER, and heart of the five-year Strategic Plan for 2012-2016. The development of the national SDI is in the making by the Land Management Group (LMG), led by INETER. More information is found in the document "[Feasibility of the National SDI of Nicaragua](#)." Likewise, the [Bill on General Land Use and Development of the Republic of Nicaragua](#) defines SDI as a "core set of technologies, policies and institutional arrangements to facilitate the availability of, and access to, geospatial information, including data and geographic attributes, metadata, query methods, visualization, data descriptions such as catalogs, and Web mapping and mechanisms to provide geospatial data access. In Chapter IX of this same Bill "it is created the Territorial Information Subsystem (in Spanish SIT) as part of the national, integral and homogeneous Information System which will incorporate Sectors, Departmental, Municipal-Autonomous and Regional information; as well as compile, manage, update, report and provide geospatial data and socioeconomic information for public and private bodies for effective decision-making processes exclusively for Territorial Development .... (it also) creates the National Observatory of Territorial Information (in Spanish ONIT), as a technical manager of the Territorial Information Subsystem, which will be part of the organizational structure of the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (in Spanish INETER). The National Land Information Observatory (in Spanish ONIT), will have the necessary tools for its operation, leading to the collection, storage, systematization, processing, generation, dissemination and distribution of biophysical, environmental, social and economic geospatial data and information, from institutions that produce data, information, basic studies on the various aspects and components that characterize the territories, using technologies, standards and institutional arrangements, in the framework of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), as the means for interoperability between systems." (pp. 45 and 46). Currently, this Bill is in the process of judgment for approval in the plenary of the Commission on Population, Development and Municipalities of the National Assembly.

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### PERU

#### [1st Workshop on "Spatial Technology and Information for Social Inclusion, a Platform for Decision-making"](#)

Source: <http://www.ccidep.gob.pe/>

The seminar was held on October 30 and 31, 2012. The aim of the event was socializing activities of the Permanent Coordinating Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure of Peru (in Spanish CCIDEP) in the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure which aims to improve the efficiency of access to geographic information by regional and local governments. Many Geographic Information System and geographic information producers as well as representatives of Information Technology Offices participated in this event, among them, regional and local governments of the Northern Region such as: Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Cajamarca, Ancash..



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### Articles and Publications of the Month

#### **Semantics-Aware Indexing of Geospatial Resources Based on Multilingual Thesauri: Methodology and Preliminary Results**

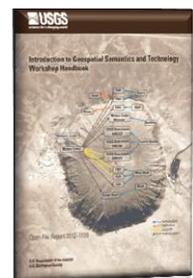
By Cristiano Fugazza, Gianluca Luraschi, article of the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research* (IJS DIR), Vol. 7 (2012)

**Abstract:** The discovery functionality implemented by geoportals is primarily based on the syntactic matching of users' search pattern against descriptive metadata, such as title, abstract, or keywords. As a consequence, the retrieval process is often hampered by linguistic issues related to multilingualism, semantic heterogeneity (synonymy, homonymy, etc.), and terminology mismatch in general. We propose a novel criterion for associating resources to language-neutral identifiers, thus enabling multilingual access to datasets and services as well as query expansion and refinement. The methodology has been successfully applied to the ISO-compliant metadata records aggregated by the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) Geoportal and is driving semantics-aware extensions of the discovery functionalities of the latter [Full text may be found at: <http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/255/320>]

#### **[Introduction to Geospatial Semantics and Technology Workshop Handbook](#)**

Source: Kate Lance

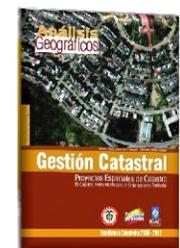
**Abstract:** The workshop is a tutorial on introductory geospatial semantics with hands-on exercises using standard Web browsers. The workshop is divided into two sections, general semantics on the Web and specific examples of geospatial semantics using data from The National Map of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Open Ontology Repository. The general semantics section includes information and access to publicly available semantic archives. The specific section includes information on geospatial semantics with access to semantically enhanced data for hydrography, transportation, boundaries, and names. The Open Ontology Repository offers open-source ontologies for public use. Suggested citation: Varanka, D.E., 2012, Introduction to geospatial semantics and technology workshop handbook: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2012-1109, 107 p. More information at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/>



#### **[Geographic Analysis Magazine No.50: Cadastral Management](#)**

Source: <http://www.igac.gov.co/>

The Geographic Institute "Agustín Codazzi" of Colombia recently released the *Geographic Analysis* magazine No. 50 on Cadastral Management: Cadastre Special projects, Cadastre, Land Management Tools; Cadastral Statistics 2000-2012. The magazine includes the following chapters: (1) Cadastre-Projects; (2) National Register-Statistics-2000-2012; (3) Urban land-Statistics; (4) Rural land-Statistics; (5) Territorial Ordering; (6) Topographic Surveys; (7) Cadastral Information System; (8) Colombian Municipalities-Statistics; and (9) Topographic Surveys. The magazine may be viewed and downloaded [here](#).





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

### The Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices Review Process: 2012 Revision Published

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



The 2012 revised version of the Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices Review Process is now available. This document explains all steps to be taken between the submission of a candidate standard (or best practise) and its approval and publication by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). The document (INF-1297) can be downloaded from [here](#). On June 2012, 18 members of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) development consortium met to plan the future OBIS data system architecture. The outcomes of this technical group will be further discussed at the next IODE steering group for OBIS meeting in November 2012 and a final recommendation will be brought forward to the IODE-XXII general assembly in March 2013. The meeting report provides a summary of the discussions, ideas, and issues that will be dealt with in the coming months. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

### UN-SPIDER September 2012 Updates and Newsletter "Crowdsourcing Mapping"



Source: UN-SPIDER Mailing List

The most recent version of our UN-SPIDER Newsletter focuses on Crowdsourcing Mapping, shedding light on UN-SPIDER's efforts in this area, presenting some of the community's main players and showing hands-on experiences of a Crowdsourcing Mapping simulation exercise. Both publications are available for reading or downloading on the UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal.

UN-SPIDER Newsletter "Crowdsourcing Mapping":

<http://www.un-spider.org/about/newsletter/un-spider-newsletter-212-crowdsourcing-mapping>

UN-SPIDER Updates September 2012: <http://www.un-spider.org/about/updates/un-spider-updates-september-2012>

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## Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

### [Integration of the Continuously Operating National Reference Network of Guatemala in SIRGAS](http://www.sirgas.org/)

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



The National Geodesic Network of Guatemala is composed by 17 continuously operating GNSS (GPS+GLONASS) stations. They were installed and are maintained by the National Geographic Institute "Ing. Alfredo Obiols Gómez" (in

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Spanish IGN) with the support of the Cadastral Information Registry (in Spanish RIC) ([www.ign.gob.gt/paginaign/Proyectos/CORS.aspx](http://www.ign.gob.gt/paginaign/Proyectos/CORS.aspx)). The Guatemalan reference stations have permanently been operating since February 2009 and their adequate functioning and long-term stability are guaranteed. In order to refer the Guatemalan National Reference Network to SIRGAS (and with this to the ITRF), these 17 stations are integrated in the SIRGAS-CON network since July 1, 2012. They are routinely processed by the following SIRGAS Analysis Centers:

- CEPGE: Centro de Procesamiento de datos GNSS del Ecuador, Instituto Geográfico Militar (Ecuador)
- CPAGS-LUZ: Centro de Procesamiento y Análisis GNSS SIRGAS de la Universidad del Zulia (Venezuela)
- IGAC: Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (Colombia)
- INEGI: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (México)
- IBGE: Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (Brasil)
- DGF: Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut (Alemania)

Station coordinates are available together with the other SIRGAS products.

### [New Version of Geographical Atlas of Ecuador 2012 for Review by the General Public](#)

Source: Kate Lance



New version of the Geographic Atlas of Ecuador is in progress including, new social economic and environmental data, INEC Census 2010. Please send your comments or suggestions by email to: [alvaro.davila@mail.igm.gob.ec](mailto:alvaro.davila@mail.igm.gob.ec), [martha.villagomez@mail.igm.gob.ec](mailto:martha.villagomez@mail.igm.gob.ec) or [diana.fierro@mail.igm.gob.ec](mailto:diana.fierro@mail.igm.gob.ec)

Your contribution will be very important for the improvement of this work.

### [Important ESRI Executives Visiting the IGNTG](#)

Source: <http://ignpanama.anati.gob.pa/>



The National Government of Panama is pushing the GEORED project, which goal is the implementation of a National Geographic Information System that will allow proper Geospatial collaboration throughout Panama and many actions arising from a MOU signed on December 9, 2011 between the State and ESRI (Environmental System Research Institute). Due to this project, several executives from ESRI visited offices of the National Geographic Institute "Tommy Guardia" (in Spanish IGNTG). The purpose of the visit was allowing the use of tools (software and training) that ESRI distributes. The main purpose was presenting the state of art of geographic information management technological developments by ESRI in order to improve, maximize and upgrade, with these new technologies, all information that the Institute currently has, both internally and for the public. ESRI Director also addressed all officials by presenting and providing information regarding this company's products and services.

### [Assess your SDI with the Assistance of the eSDI-Net+ SDI Self-Assessment Framework](#)

Source: <http://www.esdinetplus.eu/>



During 2008 and 2009 the eSDI-NET+ project team produced a "Methodology for describing sub-national SDIs" derived from that an operational "[Evaluation Framework](#)" that includes defined criteria, indicators and weighted indexes in order to assess sub-national SDIs. This process was tested and verified with all submitted [SDIs from 24 countries in Europe](#). The results of this assessment process were presented in [the European SDI Best Practice Awards 2009](#). Learning from Best Practices, International Conference held in Turin, Italy, 26th and 27th November 2009. Twelve sub-national SDIs were commended as

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excellent [Best Practices](#). The [eSDI-Net+ SDI self-assessment framework](#) (SDI-SAF) derives from the experiences resulting from the adopted methodology and the overall assessment process which were presented and appreciated at an international level. Its main purpose is to help SDI's in characterising and describing themselves. It can be even regarded as useful check-list to better focus at key issues in developing an SDI. To single out and to follow a successful implementation path in developing an SDI needs understanding of its own strengths and weaknesses. The SDI-SAF is also intended to work in the opposite direction, from SDIs to the SDI community: by facilitating the comparison among various SDIs practices, it fosters networking and sharing experiences among similar SDIs.

### Drought Metadata Catalogue

Source: F. Javier Zarazaga-Soria



The Advanced Information Systems Group of the University of Zaragoza in Spain (<http://iaaa.unizar.es>) has contributed to the European Drought Observatory (EDO) with the implementation of the Drought Metadata Catalogue (<http://vap-xjedo.jrc.it/Search/Search.html>). The EDO geoportal (<http://edo.jrc.ec.europa.eu>), created by [the Institute of Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission – Joint Research Centre](#), provides users with drought-relevant information such as maps of indicators derived from different data sources (e.g., precipitation measurements, satellite measurements, modelled soil moisture content). The Drought Metadata Catalogue was developed under the framework of the EuroGEOSS project (<http://www.eurogeoss.eu/>), a European FP7 project whose aim was to demonstrate the added value of making existing earth observation systems and applications interoperable and used within the GEOSS and INSPIRE frameworks. The software of the catalogue has been implemented under the LGPL license, and is based on the Open Source product “SpatiumCube – CatalogCube” (<http://spatiumcube.sourceforge.net/>), which is part of SpatiumCube, an Open Source Initiative developed by GeoSpatiumLab, Zeta Amaltea and the University of Zaragoza with the support of IGN/CNIG (Spain).

### CatMDEdit, an Open Source Project 10 Year Success

Source: F. Javier Zarazaga-Soria

CatMDEdit, the metadata edition tool for geographic information resources developed by the [Advanced Information Systems Group \(in Spanish IAAA\)](#) from the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and the private company GeoSpatiumLab, celebrates its 10th anniversary. <http://www.geoslab.com/en/last-moment/news/190-catmdedit-10-anos-de-un-proyecto-de-software-libre-de-exito>



**CatMDEdit** OpenSource Project

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## Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

### [UNIGIS@ University ICESI, Colombia](#)

Source: <http://unigis.blogspot.com/>

In order to deepen the recently established cooperation between UNIGIS in Latin America and the University ICESI, Colombia (<http://www.icesi.edu.co>), both organizations jointly organized a well-attended GI-symposium at the ICESI campus in Cali. Nearly 200 attendees discussed challenges and opportunities for GIS-practitioners in Colombia with a specific focus on GI-education. The UNIGIS International Association is the world's premier distance education initiative offering masters and diploma programmes in Geographical Information Science and Systems (GISc). As a global network of higher education institutions UNIGIS is dedicated to enhance the competence of Geographic Information System professionals.



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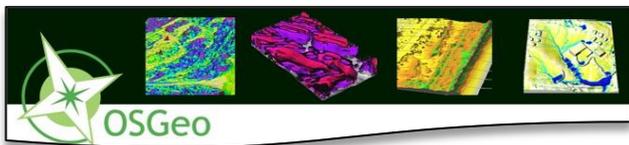
### Master on Applied Geomatics: Geomatics 2.0, Web, IT, Electronics, Automation and Telecommunications - University of Jaén Degree

Source: Joaquin Segura Martin by way of Santiago Borrero

The new training project: Master in Applied Geomatics: Geomatics 2.0, Web, IT, Electronics, Automation and Telecommunications is a degree program of the University of Jaén which aims to provide the skills and abilities to link different elements of hardware and software (e.g. programming, programming libraries, APIs, web services, mobile devices, sensors, hardware development boards, etc.) with the potential of today's data (e.g. linked data, VGI, open data, etc.) to develop new and innovative geomatics database applications. More information at: [www.atgeomatics.com](http://www.atgeomatics.com). Deadline for preregistration period is **November 30, 2012**

### Open Source Geospatial Research and Education Laboratory

Source: <http://gis.ncsu.edu/>



The OSGeo Research and Education Laboratory (OSGeoREL) is located at the [North Carolina State University Center for Earth Observation in Raleigh](http://www.ncsu.edu/), NC. Our mission, as one of the founding laboratories in the OSGeo worldwide network, is to develop collaboration opportunities for academic, industrial, and government organizations in open source GIS software and data. OSGeo/ICA Memorandum of

Understanding [the Open Source Geospatial Foundation \(OSGeo\)](http://www.osgeo.org/) and [the International Cartographic Association \(ICA\)](http://www.ica-international.org/) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for developing global open source GIS software and data collaborations for academic, industrial, and government organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding aims to provide expertise and support for the establishment of Open Source Geospatial Laboratories and Research Centers across the world for development of open-source geospatial software technologies and training. Laboratories are being established in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Australasia which will act as nodes for future expansion of the [worldwide network](http://www.osgeo.org/).

### New Webinars on MPA Capacity Building, Communication, and Monitoring

Source: Sarah Carr



The [EBM Tools Network](http://www.ebmtools.org/) is teaming up with [NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center](http://www.noaa.gov/), [MPA News](http://www.mpanews.org/), and [OpenChannels.org](http://www.openchannels.org/) on a series of webinars to promote promising and proven methods for Marine Protected Area capacity building, communication, and monitoring. Information on the webinars and links to register are below.

- [Building the Capacity of MPA Programs Around the Globe](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/972146616)  
Thursday, **November 8, 2012**, 1 pm EST/10 am US PST/6 pm GMT. Presenter: Anne Walton, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' MPA Management Capacity Building Program works with 22 countries around the world on a wide range of topics including climate change adaptation, marine spatial planning, managing tourism, MPAs and fisheries, and other topics. What can their experiences in other countries teach US MPA managers? To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/972146616>
- [Can You Hear Me Now? Research and Tools on Ocean Communication](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/155176304)  
Thursday, **December 13, 2012**, 1 pm EST/10 am US PST/6 pm GMT. Presenter: Bill Mott, Director and Wei Ying Wong, Communications Project Director, The Ocean Project. The Ocean Project conducts cutting edge market research and analysis to help inform outreach and education on ocean issues. Find out what people really think about ocean issues, and how to target your outreach messages. To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/155176304>
- [How Are We Doing? Taking the Pulse of California's Oceans](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/155176304)  
Thursday, **January 10, 2013**, 1 pm EST/10 am US PST/6 pm GMT. Presenter: Dr. Liz Whiteman, MPA Monitoring Enterprise, California Ocean Science Trust. Monitoring California's statewide network of MPAs will produce an unprecedented body of data that will be useful not only to assess the performance of MPAs, but also to measure the health of the ocean ecosystems and inform management decisions. Find out about the new framework developed to guide a partnerships-based monitoring program and a new online community platform –

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OceanSpaces - for sharing monitoring data and results. To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/152670337>

- Thank You Ocean. Building Common Outreach Messages and Strategies through the California Ocean Communicators Alliance

Thursday, **February 14**, 2013, 1 pm EST/10 am US PST/6 pm GMT. Presenter: Sarah Marquis, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Federal and state marine and coastal programs in California are working together to spread the word about the value of healthy oceans through Thank You Ocean, a series of public service announcements, podcasts and other tools that are reaching a broad and diverse audiences. Learn how stronger communications networking can increase your MPA program's impact. To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/797313800>

Webinar participants can use their computer speakers/microphone OR a telephone conference call for audio for the presentations. The webinars will be enabled an hour prior to the start of each webinar to allow users to test their systems. If you have any other questions about the webinars, please contact me at [sarah\\_carr@naturereserve.org](mailto:sarah_carr@naturereserve.org). To sign up for announcements of future EBM tool presentations or demonstrations, sign up for EBM Tools Network updates at [www.ebmtools.org/contact.html](http://www.ebmtools.org/contact.html)

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## Employment Opportunities

### Dow Sustainability Fellows Program: Postdoctoral Fellowship Request for Proposals

Source: Josh Newell



The University of Michigan defines sustainability as an emerging field of problem-driven, interdisciplinary scholarship and practice that seeks to protect the environment and enhance quality of life for present and future generations. The field is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It draws from multiple disciplines of the natural, social,

engineering, design, and medical sciences; from the professions and humanities; and from practical field experience in business, government, and civil society. These fellowships are designed to support a new generation of sustainability scholars who understand the necessity of collaborating across disciplines and sectors to address and solve complex sustainability challenges. They provide a unique opportunity for fellows to interact intensively with interesting, talented people across disciplines; to learn skills and gain knowledge that will enrich subsequent research and practice; and engage in an intellectual environment with unique professional opportunities. Fellowships are funded through a mix of support from the Dow program and U-M units/faculty with whom the fellows work. The program seeks candidates working on sustainability issues at the interface of the social sciences/humanities and natural/physical/engineering sciences. Eligibility: The Program is accepting applications from qualified candidates who are at the beginning of their academic careers, having received the Ph.D. or comparable professional or artistic degree within four years of the fellowship start date (i.e., between September 1, 2009 and September 1, 2013). In rare circumstances, this timeframe can be relaxed, but you must consult with the program ([dow-postdoc@umich.edu](mailto:dow-postdoc@umich.edu)) before completing your application if your degree was awarded before September 1, 2009. Non-US citizens may apply. Application deadline: **December 15, 2012**. To help identify and connect with a potential faculty collaborator at the University of Michigan, applicants should search our Sustainability Experts database, which is available online at: <http://graham.umich.edu/research/findresearcher.php>. For questions about identification of potential mentors, contact [dow-postdoc@umich.edu](mailto:dow-postdoc@umich.edu). Please refer to <http://sustainability.umich.edu/education/dow> for additional details on the program. Questions may be submitted to: [dow-postdoc@umich.edu](mailto:dow-postdoc@umich.edu)

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## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### **The University of California, Santa Barbara, one-year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Marine Environmental History**

Source: David López-Carr

The University of California, Santa Barbara, invites applications for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship (2013-14) in marine environmental history, broadly conceived. Applicants should have interdisciplinary interests but may specialize in historical ecology or geography, cultural, contemporary, or environmental history, or the histories of science, art, or literature. The fellowship will be part of a temporary research center in marine environmental history funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's and John E. Sawyer seminar series, which supports collaborative and comparative scholarship on the "historical and cultural sources of contemporary developments." The fellow will not teach courses, but will assist in the organization of public events, study groups, and symposia, as well as the production of publications related to the center's activities. The postdoctoral fellow will receive salary of US\$41,364 - 44,340 (depending on experience) plus benefits, as well as up to US\$3,500 for research and travel expenses. Applications should include a cover letter, CV, and the names and contact information for two recommenders. All materials should be submitted by email to [jparra@ihc.ucsb.edu](mailto:jparra@ihc.ucsb.edu) by **January 15, 2013**. Include the words "Mellon Sawyer" in the subject heading. Please send any questions about the position to Peter Alagona at [alagona@history.ucsb.edu](mailto:alagona@history.ucsb.edu). UCSB is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



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### Other

#### **[Interactive Map of the Area Devastated by Sandy was Released through Google](#)**

Source: <http://google.org/crisismap/sandy-2012>

The Google digital gateway released an interactive map which you can get more information on the damage caused by the deadly hurricane Sandy, the second in the 2012 hurricane season in touch American soil. Sandy is a major storm, previously a hurricane that has caused extensive flooding, power and transportation outages and physical damage to the US East Coast and Caribbean.



#### **[Global Precipitation Variability Decreased from 1940 to 2009](#)**

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

One of the strongly held assumptions of climate change is that the variability of precipitation will grow with an increase in temperature. Storms will become heavier but less frequent. Flash floods and droughts will increase. Regions that see extensive rainfall will get even more while arid regions will dry out. These projections stem from the way temperature affects precipitation patterns in global models. However, drawing on seven databases representing global monthly mean precipitation values, Sun et al., find that from 1940 to 2009 global overland precipitation variability actually decreased. The authors' findings stem from a novel interpretation of existing precipitation databases that enabled them to separate the overall precipitation variability into temporal and spatial components. They suggest that aerosol emissions generally dampen precipitation variability in heavily emitting regions, leading to a net decline in global land precipitation variability over the study period.

#### **[Can we Move Beyond Prediction to Synchronized Action?](#)**

Source: Sensors & Systems Newsletter Vol. 6 / Issue 43 / Oct. 30, 2012

Late October saw a travesty of justice when Italian scientists were convicted of manslaughter because they didn't adequately prepare citizens for the severity of an earthquake that took the lives of 300 people. The membership of the scientists on the National Commission for the Forecast and Prevention of Major Risks, translated into responsibility in the eyes of the jury, although the science and mechanisms for sensing earthquakes are nowhere near prediction.

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# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

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### Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

#### **Puerto Rico 8 GIS User Conference**

Source: Carmelle J. Terborgh by way of Santiago Borrero



**geographic mapping technologies, corp.**

The Conference will be held on November 14, 2012 in Santa Rita urbanization, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico 8 GIS User Conference aims to present latest advances in GIS technology. Geographic Mapping Technologies Corp., announces its participation at the Eighth Conference which is free, please communicate by phone: (787) 250-8182 and (787) 250-8185. More information at [www.gmtgis.com](http://www.gmtgis.com)

#### **URISA's 2012 Caribbean GIS Conference**

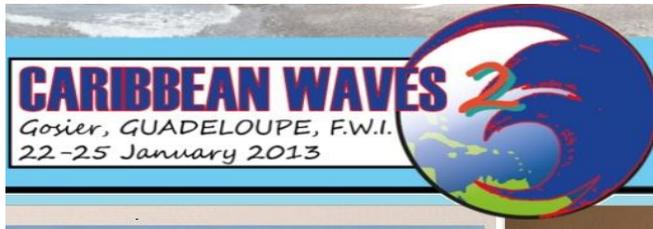
Source: <http://www.urisa.org/carib2012>



URISA announces its Sixth Caribbean GIS Conference taking place November 12-16, 2012 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The inaugural URISA Caribbean Conference took place in Montego Bay where the first conference occurred. Previous conferences have taken place in Jamaica (2001), Barbados (2004), the Bahamas (2006), the Cayman Islands (2008) and Trinidad and Tobago (2010). The 2012 event is themed "Spatial Technologies - Critical Thinking for Critical Times". Schedule and detailed information may be found at the Conference website: <http://www.urisa.org/carib2012>

#### **2nd International Conference Caribbean Waves**

Source: Kate Lance



This second edition of the Caribbean Waves Conference that will be held on January 22 -25, 2013 in Guadalupe (F.W.I.), will be a great opportunity for

geophysicists, geologists, geographers, oceanographers and coastal engineers to discuss together about marine natural hazards (tsunamis, swells, surges, flooding) and their generation modes (earthquakes, eruptions, landslides, cyclones, etc.) within the Caribbean with a special attention on the Lesser Antilles islands. All aspects from the description of historical events, results of field surveys and numerical simulations of past and potential events, prediction and mitigation of possible events, risk assessment and early warning systems will be in the framework of the Conference. Further discussions about general tectonic, geology, coral reef protection, mangroves rehabilitation processes, etc., are directly concerned. A special session concerning the production of electricity using the waves' energy as a sustainable method is also planned. Send your queries and/or your abstract to this address: [caribbeanwaves2@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanwaves2@gmail.com). Registration on line : <http://www.caribbeanwaves2.fr>

#### **Working Days of Geospatial Technology for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction**

Source: <http://www.ign.gob.ar/>



The Conference will be held on November 12 and 13, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at headquarters of the National Geographic Institute (IGN), as part of the 44<sup>th</sup> Pan American Institute of Geography and History Directing Council. Activities will include: hands on presentations with risk management experts, presentations by experts on geospatial technology, SDI, and workshops for articulation of the IDERA (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina). The event include the following topics: Disaster Risk, The Hyogo Framework for Action, Organization of the State, Geospatial and Temporal elements of risk; Geospatial technology and SDI, The IDERA (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Argentina), and Science and Education on risk management. Information and Registration: [here](http://www.ign.gob.ar/). Contact: [subdir@ign.gob.ar](mailto:subdir@ign.gob.ar).

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## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### [Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty](#)

Source: The Land Conference Team by way of Santiago Borrero



**Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty**  
April 23–26, 2012

This conference will be held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on April 8-11, 2013. Every year, the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty brings together representatives from governments, the development community, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss issues of concern to communities, land practitioners and policymakers worldwide. The Conference aims to foster dialogue and sharing of good practices around the diversity of reforms, approaches and experiences that are being implemented in the land sector around the world (see the 2012 Conference website at [www.landandpoverty.com](http://www.landandpoverty.com) for details on format of the Conference). Under the theme of “Moving towards transparent land governance: Evidence-based next steps”, the 2013 Conference will promote evidence-based discussion of innovative approaches to

implement recent global and regional initiatives. It will also highlight concrete steps to improve country-level land governance in ways that contribute to poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth. Papers are invited for presentations at the Conference in five thematic areas: Securing land rights and improving land use at the grassroots; Adjusting laws and institutions to address urban expansion and governance; Innovative approaches towards spatially enabling land administration and management; Supporting a continuum of rights in a decentralized environment; Mobilizing the private sector to improve land governance; and Sharing benefits from exploitation of land-based resources. Submission of abstracts (between 800 and 1500 words) on the theme “Moving towards transparent land governance: Evidence-based next steps” are invited. More information on the Conference topics is available on the Conference website: <http://goo.gl/D7ezq>. To register or submit an abstract, please use this link <https://www.conftool.com/landandpoverty2013/> Online submission of abstract: **November 15, 2012** Notification of acceptance: December 15, 2012 Submission of full paper with a 200-word summary: March 1, 2013

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## YEAR 2012

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

### NOVEMBER 2012

1-4	Vancouver BC, Canada	<a href="#">37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association – “Historical Geography and Histories of Capitalism”</a>
2-3	Salisbury MD, USA	<a href="#">Middle Atlantic AAG Division Meeting</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
2-3	Shippensburg PA, USA	<a href="#">Middle States AAG Division Meeting</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
5-7	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">SI World 2012 - Situational Intelligence</a>
5-7	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">Trimble Dimensions User Conference</a>
5-9	Santiago and Temuco, Chile	<a href="#">Symposium "Identities in Production: Production and Identified Movements Between Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities and Race in Latin America" Further Information: Dr. Luis Fernando Angosto Fernández (<a href="mailto:luis.angosto-ferrandez@sydney.edu.au">luis.angosto-ferrandez@sydney.edu.au</a>), and Dr. Sabine Kradolfer (<a href="mailto:kradolfer.sabine@gmail.com">kradolfer.sabine@gmail.com</a>)</a>
5-9	San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina	<a href="#">26 Scientific Meeting (AAGG2012) and First International Workshop on Geomatics</a>
6-9	Redondo Beach CA, USA	<a href="#">20<sup>th</sup> ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
6-9	Redondo Beach CA, USA	<a href="#">First ACM SIGSPATIAL International Workshop on the Use of GIS in Public Health - HealthGIS 2012</a>
<b>*NEW*</b>		
7	São Paulo SP, Brazil	<a href="#">Webinar on Georeferencing and Rural Properties Certification</a>
7-9	Cuenca, Ecuador	<a href="#">IEEE Latincom 2012</a>
7-9	San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina	<a href="#">26 Scientific Meeting (AAGG2012) and First International Workshop on Geomatics</a>

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7-9 <b>*NEW*</b>	São Paulo SP, Brazil	<a href="#">SIG 2012 - GIS and the Environment</a> / Contact: <a href="mailto:sig2012@institutoaf.org.br">sig2012@institutoaf.org.br</a>
8-9	Atlanta GA, USA	<a href="#">MAPublisher Training</a>
8-9	Huntsville AL, USA	<a href="#">GEO Huntsville</a>
9 <b>*NEW*</b>	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#">GIS Day 2012 Event</a>
11-13	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">III National Scientific Congress on Disaster Management and Administration (in Spanish CONGESAD 2012)</a> . Operational response models.
12-13 <b>*NEW*</b>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">Working Days on Geospatial Technology for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction</a>
12-14	San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina	<a href="#">II International Seminar on Micro-territoriality in the Cities</a>
12-15 <b>*NEW*</b>	Jacksonville FL, USA	<a href="#">AWRA 2012 Annual Water Resources Conference</a>
12-16	Montego Bay, Jamaica	<a href="#">URISA's Caribbean GIS Conference</a>
12-16	Santiago de Chile, Chile	<a href="#">United Nations/Chile Workshop on Space Technology Applications for Socio-Economic Benefits</a>
14 <b>*NUEVO*</b>	Santa Rita, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico	<a href="#">Puerto Rico 8 GIS User Conference</a>
14-15	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">4G Conference and Latin American Exhibition</a>
14-16	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">44th Meeting of the Directing Council PAIGH</a>
14-16	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">Second National Working Days on Research and Teaching in Geography Argentina (2nd JONIDGA) and 8th Working Days on Research and Extension from Geographical Research Center (8th JIECIG)</a>
14-16 <b>*NEW*</b>	Orlando FL, USA	<a href="#">2012 VUEWorks User Conference Agenda</a>
15-16 <b>*NEW*</b>	College Park MD, USA	<a href="#">Community Indicators Consortium Impact Summit</a>
16	Santiago, Chile	<a href="#">Third Colloquium "Geography, Social Movements and Territory" of the 4th Seminar on Critical Geography "Gladys Armijo Zuniga." - "Social Geography and Transformative Critical Pedagogy in Action"</a>
17-19	Berkeley, USA	<a href="#">Fourth International Conference on Science and Society</a>
18-20 <b>*NEW*</b>	Asheville NC, USA	<a href="#">Southeast AAG Division (SEDAAG) Meeting</a>
19-23	Cayenne, French Guiana	<a href="#">Symposium SELPER 2012: Earth Observation for a Green Co-developed World</a> Contact: <a href="mailto:contact@selper2012.com">contact@selper2012.com</a>
26-29	Montevideo, Uruguay	<a href="#">8th FIG Regional Conference</a>
27-29	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">Autodesk University</a>
Nov. 4 - Dec. 4	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">FIG Commission 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting</a>

### DECEMBER 2012

3-5 <b>*NEW*</b>	San José, Costa Rica	<a href="#">7<sup>th</sup> REDLACME Conference</a>
4-5	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Transportation Safety Public Conference</a>
5	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">FIG Commission 7 International Symposium</a>
11-12 <b>*NEW*</b>	Baltimore MD, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Mid-Atlantic User Conference</a>
27-29	Las Vegas NV, USA	<a href="#">IMTA (Americas) 2012 Strategic Planning Session</a>

### YEAR 2013

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### JANUARY 2013

13-14	Vancouver, Canada	<a href="#">Ninth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge and Society</a>
22-25 <b>*NEW*</b>	Guadeloupe (F.W.I.)	<a href="#">2nd International Conference Caribbean Waves</a>
24-25	Redlands CA, USA	<a href="#">Geodesign Summit</a>

# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### FEBRUARY 2013

6-8 <b>*NEW*</b>	Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="#">CEGeoIC Conference 2013</a>
11-12 <b>*NEW*</b>	Columbia SC, USA	<a href="#">SCARC 2013</a>
11-13	Denver CO, USA	<a href="#">International LIDAR Mapping Forum</a>
25-27 <b>*NEW*</b>	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Federal GIS Conference</a>

### MARCH 2013

18-22 <b>*NEW*</b>	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">8th International Congress on Geomatics 2013</a>
24-28 <b>*NEW*</b>	Baltimore MD, USA	<a href="#">ASPRS 2013 Annual Conference</a>

### APRIL 2013

1-5	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">V Cuban Convention on Earth Sciences - Geosciences 2013</a> <a href="http://www.lagf.org/">http://www.lagf.org/</a>
4-5	Banff, Alberta, Canada	<a href="#">The 12th International Symposium on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS 2013)</a>
7-11 <b>*NEW*</b>	Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> SOLBABIAA Latin American Congress: Biotechnology for the Service to Society</a>
8-11 <b>*NEW*</b>	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty</a>
9-13	Los Angeles CA, USA	<a href="#">2013 AAG Annual Meeting</a>
9-13 <b>*NEW*</b>	Los Angeles CA, USA	<a href="#">Land Systems Science Symposium at AAG 2013</a>
14-17 <b>*NEW*</b>	Denver CO, USA	<a href="#">16th Annual AAAE Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference and Exhibition</a>
15-17 <b>*NEW*</b>	West Long Beach CA, USA	<a href="#">19th Annual CalGIS Conference</a>
21-23 <b>*NEW*</b>	Sao Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">Joint Urban Remote Sensing Event (JURSE 2013)</a>
22-25 <b>*NEW*</b>	Chicago IL, USA	<a href="#">International BIO Convention</a>
Apr.29-May.1 <b>*NEW*</b>	Jacksonville FL, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Southeast User Conference</a>

### MAY 2013

7-9 <b>*NEW*</b>	Houston TX, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Petroleum GIS Conference</a>
7-10 <b>*NEW*</b>	Havana, Cuba	<a href="#">Vegetable Biotechnology Congress</a>
21-24 <b>*NEW*</b>	Washington DC, USA	<a href="#">Location Intelligence + Oracle Spatial and Graph User Conferences 2013</a>
28-30 <b>*NEW*</b>	Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="#">Argentinean Congress on Landscape Ecology CAEP 2013</a>
May 28-Jun.1 <b>*NEW*</b>	Lawrence KS, USA	<a href="#">Changing Nature: Migrations, Energies, Limits</a>

### JUNE 2013

3-6 <b>*NEW*</b>	Las Vegas, NV, USA	<a href="#">Hexagon 2013</a>
12-15 <b>*NEW*</b>	San José, Costa Rica	<a href="#">Third IUFRO Latin American Congress</a>
18-20	Sao Paulo, Brazil	<a href="#">MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2013</a>



# Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

## Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

### JULY 2013

<b>6-9</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI Education GIS Conference</a>
<b>7-12</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	East Lansing MI, USA	<a href="#">15th International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS 2013)</a>
<b>8-12</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	San Diego CA, USA	<a href="#">ESRI International User Conference</a>
<b>22-24</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	San Jose CA, USA	<a href="#">COM.Geo 2013</a>
<b>23-26</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Barquisimeto, Venezuela	<a href="#">5th International Congress on Historical Sciences in Venezuela (1st Call)</a>
<b>To be determined</b>	Lima, Peru	<a href="#">14th<sup>th</sup> Latin American Geographers Meeting (EGAL), Lima 2013, " Latin American Regional Knowledge Gathering "</a>

### SEPTEMBER 2013

<b>8-10</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Cambridge MA, USA	<a href="#">International Map Industry Association (IMIA) Americas Annual Meeting and Member Showcase</a>
<b>11-13</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<a href="#">Latin America Geospatial Forum 2013</a>

### OCTOBER 2013

<b>4-5</b> <b>*NEW*</b>	Entre Ríos-Concordia, Argentina	<a href="#">26<sup>th</sup> Forestry Working Days from Entre Rios</a>
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