

Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Latin America and the Caribbean Newsletter

SDI-LAC

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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.



[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 number highlights the following updates: The **Global and Regional SDI** section comprises Messages from our Conference Supporters; The 3rd Session of UN-GGIM in UK; Recent GeoSUR News; The OGC ILAF Corner; The ICA-OSGeo Lab Network; The Timelapse project; US New Strategy for Civil Earth Observation; The Canadian GeoManitoba SDI; The Indonesian Spatial Database System; and notes on relevant Conferences taking place worldwide. The **IGS section** includes comments on IGS Membership Renewal. The **National SDI** segment informs on the upcoming IDERA Workgroups Meeting and Provincial Agreements to Strengthening SDI in Argentina; The Launching of GeoBolivia Version 1.0; The New Brazilian Institute of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions; The New version of the National Metadata Profile and "Los Rios" Work plan 2013-2014 of Chile; GeoSUR and IDECA webinar with LAC SDI initiatives; Jamaica GIS Success Stories; An IPDE Workshop on the GEORED Platform in Panama; and the IGVS agreement with the Urban Land Institute in Venezuela. **Articles and Publications** of the month include an article Comparing Approaches for NSDI Implementation between the Developed and Developing World; Launch of MundoGEO Magazine No. 71; The new environmental magazine FuturENVIRO: New INSPIRE Generic Conceptual Model (GCM); The Atlas of Urban Expansion; and AIMS Newsletter, no 18. **Geospatial Research and Applications** underline the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) Online Mapping System of Mexico; Using Remote Sensing to map Land Degradation in Colombia; Brazil to monitor the Amazon in neighboring countries; The IBGE – PAÍSES tool; The 1st US Continental Ecological Observatory; and Bill Gates to promote open access to agricultural data. The **Training and Funding**

Opportunities section encompasses calls for national and international initiatives, among them, the Geophysics Commission of PAIGH Graduate Scholarship; and Academic Bursaries for FOSS4G Nottingham 2013. 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

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Input to this Issue

Thanks for their contributions to this SDI-LAC Newsletter issue to:

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Global and Regional SDI, News, Presentations

AfricaGIS 2013

GSDI 14



UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
November 4-8, 2013

Messages from our Conference Supporters

Source: GSDI and IGS Global News, Volume 3, Number 4 for 2013

"We appreciate that the intention of the event is to give opportunity to Geographic Information System (GIS) experts from the entirety of the African continent for participation... This Conference can continue the intensive work undertaken by cartographers, GIScientists and researchers of Africa, providing a good opportunity to establish an interdisciplinary environment, where cartography and GIScience is the key scientific area" [Executive Committee of the International Cartographic Association].

Consult the Conference web site at <http://gsdi.org/gsd14/> for latest information and details about the program, facilities and Sponsorship opportunities. Come prepared to engage, learn and enjoy! More news on the conference in future issues. We look forward to seeing you in Addis Ababa in November 2013!

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Past GSDI World Conference Proceedings: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiConferences>

Past open access Books affiliated with the conference: <http://www.gsdi.org/openaccessbooks>

Other Important Dates: <http://www.gsdi.org/gsdiconf/gsdi14/dates.html>

[These news in PDF format are available under <http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#GSDI> or directly at http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1265]

[3rd Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, UK \(2013\)](http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters#GSDI)

Source: http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html



The Third Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from 24-26 July 2013 in Cambridge City, United Kingdom. Bringing together geospatial experts from across the globe, the Third Session of UN-GGIM is being convened back-to-back with the Cambridge Conference. It is expected that the meeting of senior executives from national geospatial information authorities and geospatial experts will augur for a very important visioning and strategic event which recognises the critical role of geospatial information management and the need for strengthened collaboration and joined initiatives, to advance the development and use of geospatial data and tools to support global sustainability. The United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organisations to its Third Session as it continues to move forward in fulfilling its mandate to enhance collaboration and support the use of geospatial information to promote sustainable development globally. On 27 July, 2013, Ordnance Survey invites meeting delegates to participate in a one day training session in geospatial data collection and management. For additional information on the Cambridge Conference you may visit http://www.cambridgeconference.com/conference_2013/

GeoSUR News

Source: Eric Van Praag

GeoSUR convenes a meeting of specialists to evaluate its technical platform:

The meeting was held at the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. on February 28th and March 1st 2013. Geospatial specialists got together to review the SDI platforms of the United States, Spain, Europe, Colombia and Chile, among others, to identify best practices in the implementation of SDI services and to define the new scope and functionality of the future GeoSUR platform. The meeting was attended (both physically and remotely) by specialist from the US Federal Geographic Data Committee, Chile's National Land Information System, Colombia's Geographic Institute, the US National Map, the Inter American Development Bank, the US Department of the Interior, the US Geological Survey, Spain's Geographic Information Center, EU's Joint Research Centre, the US State Department, the United Nations Environment Programme and ESRI. A technical report outlining the meeting recommendations and defining the future scope of the GeoSUR platform was produced and circulated to stakeholders in early May.

CAF and the University of Colorado initiate a project that will map floods in near-real-time in Latin America and the Caribbean: The GeoSUR Program and the [Darmouth Flood Observatory](#), University of Colorado, initiated a project that will map floods in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in near-real-time. The existing system at Darmouth will be adapted to serve flood information for the region, free of charge, users will be able to view and download maps of current floods and maps of historic floods. As part of the project Darmouth will increase the number of points where remote river flow monitoring in LAC is assessed with its [River Watch](#) application. The information generated by this project will be available from the GeoSUR Regional Map Viewer and from the Darmouth website.

CAF and the Ministry of Energy complete the first phase of a comprehensive hydropower assessment of Peru: CAF completed the first phase of an innovative hydro power assessment for Peru. This initiative leveraged the [SRTM level-2 dataset](#) (30 meter resolution) and hydrological data from Peru to undertake a detailed GIS analysis of the hydro power potential of more than 1,000,000 stream segments in this country. The study was conducted with funding from



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CAF and in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) [Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science](#) (EROS), Peru's Ministry of Energy, the GeoSUR Program and CAF's Energy Program. USGS/EROS developed the methodology and undertook the GIS analysis required by the first phase of the study. A similar study was previously undertaken for Sao Paulo State, Brazil in partnership with the Sao Paulo Energy Secretariat. A second phase of the Peru initiative will be launched in July of 2013, with a feasibility study to be conducted by local agencies and aimed at estimating where the potential assessed in Phase I can be exploited. Detailed technical sheets of potential hydro power projects will be developed in this second phase of the project. This type of hydro power assessment can now be conducted anywhere in Latin American and the Caribbean, thanks to the USGS and GeoSUR Program's access to the SRTM level-2 dataset for the whole region.

OGC ILAF Corner

Did you know that...

Source: Imma Serra and Joan Capdevila



The [Web Map Service \(WMS\)](#) standard defines a web service that produces maps dynamically from georeferenced geographic information. This service is invoked through a Web browser (client) that sends requests as a URL (Uniform Resource Locator). This petition is received and processed by the WMS server returns to the client an image in PNG, JPEG, and GIF formats and occasionally as vector graphics in [SVG](#) and [WebCGM](#) formats. This specification provides three operations: GetCapabilities operation returns a description of the contents of information and available parameters of the service request; GetMap returns a map image from the parameters defined in the application and an optional operation: GetFeatureInfo that returns information about geographic features shown on the map. For the representation of geographic information, the WMS allows representation styling by the [Styled Layer Descriptor SLD](#) profile. On the ILAF webpage is found an [example](#). This standard was adopted as OpenGIS® Implementation Specification in 2000 and since then numerous implementations have been developed. These include the Web Map Tile Service (WMTS) standard using a model with pyramidal tiles that pre-renders and fragments geographic data to a specific cell size for a given set of scales, with the aim of accelerating the server's answer. This standard specifies three operations: GetCapabilities, GetTile, and GetFeatureInfo. GetTile operation returns a map of a tile of one of its layers in a given scale and reference system. For more information see the documentation on the [WMTS 1.0.0](#) standard at the OGC website.

ICA-OSGeo Lab Network

Source: Sergio Acosta y Lara



In 2011, the International Cartographic Association (ICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo) with a view to develop global collaboration opportunities for academia, industry, and government organisations in the field of open source GIS software and data. The MoU aims to provide expertise and support for the establishment of Open Source Geospatial Laboratories and Research Centres across the world to support the development of open source geospatial software technologies, training and expertise. Over the last months, there is a rapidly expanding network of Open Geospatial Labs (<http://www.osgeo.org/education>) and is now in the process of setting up Open Geospatial Lab Network node site within OSGeo website so that all participating labs' URLs can be added to this. We are actively working in expanding this ICA-OSGeo initiative (<http://www.osgeo.org/node/1230>) globally in the aim to bring the benefits of geospatial technology to all. Applications from universities, educational institutes, government organisations in both developed and developing countries to

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develop capacity building in geospatial education by establishing Open Source Geo Labs are especially welcome. Details of how to apply for OSGeo Lab are at http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Edu_current_initiatives (see "Interested in adding your own node into the ICA-OSGeo Labs network?" at the bottom of the page).

[New TIME Feature Tracks Earth's Changing Landscape](#)

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez



TIME Magazine has rolled out a new feature that allows users to view time-lapse images of Earth's landscape. The [Timelapse](#) project compiles free images from Landsat satellites provided by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The feature shows how image and map technology can be used for several purposes, such as to monitor climate change, track the expansion of the city of Las Vegas and observe deforestation in the Amazon. Timelapse joins Esri's [ChangeMatters Viewer](#) in providing Landsat data that help GIS professionals in their public- and private-sector endeavors. "The 40-year archive of Landsat images of every spot on earth is a treasure trove of scientific information that can form the basis for a myriad of useful applications by commercial enterprises, government scientists and managers, the academic community, and the public at large," said Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary of the

Interior for Water and Science. ChangeMatters allows users to see how the Earth's landscape changed between 1975 and 2010. The viewer lets users search for points of interest around the world and zoom in and out to get a better look at key features. The viewer also offers multiple display modes such as "natural color," "infrared" and "vegetation analysis" to provide users with options as to how to view the data. "By combining Landsat imagery with a mashup of multiple data sources available through ArcGIS Online, such as bathymetric, world elevation services, and DeLorme datasets, as well as user-defined content, users can better understand the spatial relationship and interaction of ecosystems and urban development," said Lawrie Jordan, Esri's director of imagery. The Landsat satellite program is a collaboration between the USGS and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). NASA develops remote-sensing instruments and spacecraft, launches satellites, and validates their performance. The USGS then assumes ownership and operation.

USA: New strategy for Civil Earth Observation

Source: UN SPIDER Updates April 2013 by way of Santiago Borrero



Office of Science and Technology Policy

On 19 April 2013, the US Government's National Science and Technology Council released a National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations -a framework for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of using Earth observation data for civil use. A press release by the White House points out: "Currently, 11 Federal departments and agencies engage in Earth observation activities, collecting volumes of important data about the Earth on an ongoing basis, using an array of sophisticated tools and systems. The new strategy outlines a process for evaluating and prioritizing Earth-observation investments according to their value to society in critical areas such as agriculture, global change, disasters, water resources, and weather." "Going forward, the strategy will be used as a basis to inform a broad National Plan for Civil Earth Observations- a blueprint for future investments in US Earth-observing systems, including agency roles and responsibilities, and creative solutions to challenges related to maintaining the Nation's Earth-observing systems. It will also reinforce the United States' ongoing commitment to work with international partners through the multi-national Group on Earth Observations (GEO)." The strategy [is available online](#). Read more: [White House](#).

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OGC Standards Support US National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations

Source: OGC Press Release

[The Open Geospatial Consortium's](#) (OGC®) standards are cited in the recently released "[National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations](#)" - a framework for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Nation's Earth-observation enterprise." The OGC WaterML 2.0 Encoding Standard, recently approved by the OGC membership, has been endorsed as an official component of the civil Earth observation strategy of the federal government of the United States. The National Strategy for Civil Earth Observations identifies 12 "Societal Benefit Areas" for collection of information, one of which is water. The report states, "[WaterML: Water Markup Language](#) (ML) is an informatics initiative that provides a systematic way to access water information from point observation sites." OGC Web Services, including the [OGC Web Map Service \(WMS\)](#), [Web Feature Service \(WFS\)](#), and [Web Coverage Service \(WCS\)](#) interface standards are listed in another document, "[Exchanging Data for Societal Benefit: An IEOS Web Services Architecture](#)", which is referenced in the Data-Management Framework section in the National Strategy document. IEOS is the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Integrated Earth Observing System. The Architecture and Data Management Working Group of the [United States Group on Earth Observations \(USGEO\)](#) prepared the document. It states on page 4: "An Internet-based service-oriented architecture is the ideal approach for developing interfaces to both new and legacy data and information systems contributing to IEOS. Standards-based service interfaces can then be designed to promote interoperability and allow users seamless access to USGEO data and services from multiple sources." Through USGEO, the United States is a founding member and vital contributor to the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO). A group of 88 nations, the European Commission and GEO, is developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEOSS is a set of agreements and technical arrangements being developed to link together existing and planned observing systems around the world. The OGC, a Participating Organization in GEO, leads the [GEOSS Architecture Implementation Pilot \(AIP\)](#). Contact: info@opengeospatial.org



[GeoManitoba SDI Recognized for Building GIS Capacity within the Provincial Government](#)

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

Manitoba is leveraging ESRI's ArcGIS for server technology to build a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) that unites all of the province's mapping data and services in support of enhanced efficiency and better decision-making. The SDI will promote wider access to Geographic Information System (GIS) layers and thematic mapping for a range of internal applications and purposes. The benefits are projected to have a significant impact on economic development, agriculture, public safety, environmental sustainability and recreation. This centralized structure will also enhance how the province of Manitoba makes a wealth of geographic data accessible to the public. GeoManitoba was formed in 2011 to provide a revitalized approach to the delivery, acquisition and management of geospatial information as well as to ensure that best practices in GIS were established and utilized across provincial departments. The SDI makes it easier to deliver vital information services to both government staff and the public so informed decisions can be made quickly and accurately. Providing a scalable platform that will accommodate the province's growing library of remotely sensed data and aerial photography, the SDI will support many areas including land and resource management, Red River flood protection, emergency management, agri-food mapping and mineral resource management. With a commitment to GIS in education, the province also secured an Education Site License which will help to ensure that GIS programs remain a staple of k-12 school curriculum throughout Manitoba.

[Indonesia to build Spatial Database System](#)

Source: <http://www.futuregov.asia/>



The Geospatial Information Agency and the Ministry of National Development and Planning of Indonesia signed an agreement with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to build a Spatial Database System on the North Coast of Java island. Java is the most populated island of Indonesia and account for nearly 60

per cent of the total population. Its capital, Jakarta, is located on the North West coast of Java. The project, which has a budget of US\$3.5 million, aims to establish a basic spatial infrastructure to support policy decision making in coastal

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protection and climate change. It also aims to develop policies to minimise the adverse effects of natural disasters and to also help local authorities draft effective disaster preparedness plans. Furthermore the project aims to improve Indonesia's capacity to produce topographic maps by sharing know-how, necessary technology and knowledge through the capacity building programmes which will be hosted by visiting experts from South Korea. The spatial information generated by the project will be essential for the development of the national spatial data infrastructure, which plays a critical role in national development plans and policies for road construction, land use, public housing, and flood control among others.

Next FIG Commission 7 Annual Meeting and International Symposium

Source: FIG Commission 7 e-Newsletter April 2013 by way of Santiago Borrero

The next FIG Commission 7 (International Federation of Surveyors, Cadastre and Land Management) Annual Meeting will be held on October 21-25, 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroun jointly with the Francophone Federation of Surveyors (in French FGF) and the FIG Commission 2. In effect, both FGF and FIG Commission 7 have decided to organize their General Assembly and Annual Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This will be a second opportunity in 2013 for land surveyors from all over the world to come in Central Africa and meet and support their African colleagues in the field of land administration. The program of the event will be published soon and will include meetings, land administration training sessions, an International Symposium about Land policies and Land governance and a technical tour. More on FIG Commission 7 at: <http://www.fig.net/commission7/>



UN/Indonesia International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate Change

Source: UN-SPIDER Mailing List



From 2 to 4 September 2013, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) and the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space (LAPAN), Indonesia are organizing the United Nations/Indonesia International Conference on Integrated Space Technology Applications to Climate

Change. The conference will take place in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Conference will bring together experts from the space and the climate change community as well as decision makers from Member States and from national, regional, and international organizations. Read more and apply online: www.un-spider.org/climatechangeconference

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IGS News, Links, Publications



IGS Reminders – Membership Renewal

Source: News from the GSDI Association and the International Geospatial Society, Volume 3, Number 1, 2013

It is time to renew your membership in the International Geospatial Society (IGS). As a member you played a vital role in making the past year a great success.

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Activities and Benefits

The International Geospatial Society (IGS) is the global society for geospatial specialists who want to affiliate with, help support, learn from and communicate with peer professionals across the world. Without the base financial support and volunteered personal time and effort of members the numerous activities in which IGS engages would not be possible. See a description of member benefits and the range of activities in which members have been engaged at <http://www.igeoss.org/BenefitsOfJoining>.

In terms of new initiatives, the organization was able to implement a program to allow geospatial specialists in developing nations to provide services in lieu of dues. Those services consist of providing or updating each year a personal professional profile in the geographic knowledge network. This effort has provided a much broader geographic distribution of representation in the organization. See the full list of members at <http://www.igeoss.org/members>.

We also expanded publication of GSDI and IGS Global News so it comes to you through email on a regular basis. The organization continues to advocate open access to geospatial conference proceedings, books, learning materials, newsletters and standards across global geospatial organizations to ensure that all are able to benefit from the resources being developed.

Submitting your Dues or Maintaining Free Membership

In order to renew your membership, please go to <http://www.igeoss.org/join> and pay the dues of US\$50 by credit card (US\$25 for students). Dues payment is available only through use of a credit card. In the event that you are a citizen of and live within a qualifying economically disadvantaged nation, the online membership application at <http://www.igeoss.org/join> will provide you with the option of applying for free membership in IGS. The primary obligation is to provide the URL link to your professional profile in the GIKNetwork.

Information provided by Marilyn Gallant, GSDI Business Manager (mgallant@gsdi.org).

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National SDI, News, Links, Presentations

ARGENTINA

IDERA Workgroups Meeting

Source: IDERA Subscriptions news

The Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Republic Argentina (in Spanish IDERA) Coordinator Team, and the Government of the Province of Mendoza, invite you to attend the IDERA Working Groups Meeting that will be held on **June 13-14, 2013** at the Convention and Exhibition Center (Mendoza City). [For registration please click here](#).



Chaco to Sign Agreements to Strengthening SDI

Source: IDERA Subscriptions news

The Ministry of Planning and Environment signed agreements with the mayors of General Vedia and Las Palmas (Province of Chaco), in order to continue with the agenda timely scheduled with the Governor, Jorge Capitanich, aimed at strengthening the areas of cartography and development of Municipal Geographic Information Systems. Through this agreement, it begins a process of capacity building at municipalities for the development of geographic information that will be integrated into the Chaco SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Province of Chaco). It aims to promote and strengthen capacities of different actors, and to promote participatory-development processes that enable the implementation of the Chaco SDI with updated and timely information. More at: http://www.nordestealdia.com/noticias/chaco/_notix/noticia.php?i=55767

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New urBASig interactive map

Source: IDERA Subscriptions news

It is again available the urBASig Interactive Map, which depends on the Ministry of Government of the Province of Buenos Aires Provincial Urban and Territorial Planning. urBASig is renovated with some improvements: It offers the possibility to integrate layers of other organizations holding WMS, search tools, opacity and transparency for layers, and filters. It is open to the general public, and a key or password is no longer needed. [UrBASig WMS service to use with any GIS software](#). [See the urBASig Interactive Map](#).

BOLIVIA

[GeoBolivia Version 1.0 Launched](#)

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

As part of the implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (in Spanish IDE-EPB), the Vice President of the Plurinational State launched the GeoBolivia Platform's Version 1.0 (initiating node) that aims to facilitate access by different users to geographic information produced by the various levels of public and private administration. This is the result of an experience of nearly a year, which bets on free and open source technology and on Bolivian personnel (geographers and computer informatics). GeoBolivia managed to consolidate a platform composed of three main modules: [Visualization](#), [Catalog](#), and Services (downloads, APIs and library among others), demonstrating the utility of the implementation of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), not only as an information distribution technology, but also as a tool for public management and analysis to better enable regulation and future distribution of territorial information production.



BRAZIL

[Companies Create the Brazilian Institute of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions](#)

Source: Kate Lance



At a meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on April 23, 17 companies signed an agreement to establish the Brazilian Institute of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions Companies (in Portuguese IBG). The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Brazilian Defense and Security Industries Association (ABIMDE), with the participation of the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (in Portuguese APEX). The new institute is defined as a non-profit organization with the mission of promoting the development of the domestic market of Geomatics and Geospatial Solutions, aiming to create a competitive, sustainable, ethical and socially

responsible industry. The main IBG objectives are to represent the geospatial sector in important government forums such as the National Cartography Commission (in Portuguese CONCAR), develop and deliver studies and economic market and employability analysis, positively influence the public policies creation and the regulation, in order to improve the business environment, the free competition and the attractiveness of investments. Finally, formulate, develop and to implement projects in order to promote the exportation of geospatial products and services of its members. During the meeting, a temporary committee board was defined. The Council expectation is to have, within the next 60 days, an assembly to elect the first advisory council and board of the Institute for a term that will last three years. The probable location of this meeting will be during the [MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica 2013](#) event, to be held in Sao Paulo, from **June 18 to 20**.

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CHILE

[New version of the National Metadata Profile](#)

Source: <http://www.snit.cl/>

In the new version of the Chilean Geoportal it is highlighted a functionality that allows public institutions to catalog their geographic information using the National Metadata Profile ISO-NCh 19115/19139, which is an updated and corrected version of the old metadata profile that was developed and agreed by the National Territorial Information System (in Spanish SNIT) Coordinating Body during the few first years of its establishment (aimed at documenting data sets). Primary input for this National Profile updating-process were the geographic information metadata Chilean Standards. In the process of updating the National Metadata Profile the Geographic Institute “Agustín Codazzi” of Colombia (in Spanish IGAC) provided an active collaboration providing metadata specialists who examined the SNIT Executive Secretary Geographic Information Standards Working Group’s work.



[“Los Rios” SDI Work Plan 2013-2014](#)

Source: <http://www.idelosrios.blogspot.com/>

The Spatial Data Infrastructure of “Los Rios” has been constantly concerned with being visible as a tool for land information management in the region, with a technology platform that facilitates standardized and formalized geographic information access, search, and downloads. To ensure maintenance of the “Los Rios” SDI, the Regional Government of “Los Rios” Territorial Information Management Unit (in Spanish UGIT), has proposed strengthening of the following areas: Outreach, Training, Technology, Conventions, New Institutions, and National and International Networks. A PDF document that describes the 2013-2014 Work Plan for the development of Spatial Data Infrastructure, may be reached [here](#).

COLOMBIA

[IDECA Shares his Experience with SDI Initiatives in Latin America](#)

Source: Noti IDECA, May 2013



The Geospatial Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoSUR) convened last April with existing SDI initiatives in South America through Web sessions, in order to inform on

the operation guidelines of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Capital District of Bogota, Colombia (in Spanish IDECA), under the District Land Registry Administrative Unit. Consequently, two teleconferences were held aimed at GeoSUR network participants. The virtual conferences were held on last April 23 and May 2. Main objective was to socialize the history of the IDECA initiative and its evolution to the present. Representatives of various bodies of the following countries attended these meetings: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, among others. Main achievements of the infrastructure were presented during these events, particularly the District’s Reference Map determination, consolidation and distribution process, a product that is officially recognized as the basic spatial data set required by government organizations and the District’s community. The IDECA Portal, and the Bogota Maps Portal, which include District’s basic and thematic information together with visualization services provided to users by this Infrastructure were also shared. In addition, presentations on progresses made towards a Metadata Management Tool, a Geographic-Items System Registry, the Comprehensive Road Network Project, the Public Utilities Network Infrastructure, consolidation of the Regulatory Framework for the District’s geographic information, and documentation on other relevant procedures and instructions, were provided. Finally, projects for the maintenance of the Comprehensive Road Network, and additional applications to facilitate implementation of the Objects Catalog and Geospatial Platform in the cloud (cloud computing) were also part of these meetings’ topics.

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[French Guiana: launch of GeoGuyane portal \(in French\)](#)

Source: Kate Lance

To better respond to development issues of French Guiana, particularly territorial planning and the preservation of the environment, government offices and a number of partners launched in April 2013 a shared geoportal for geographic information, called GeoGuyane,

<http://www.geoguyane.fr/>. The platform is internet-based, with online services for research, consultation, visualization, and downloading. The portal allows approximately twenty partner organizations (data custodians) to conform with the INSPIRE directive, comply with standards, and put data at the disposal of the public. The development and organization of GeoGuyane is led by the DEAL Guyane (Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement) and the urban planning Agency, the AUDEG.

See also: http://www.aruag.fr/ftp.aruag/aruag/news/docs_telechargement/JINSPIRE_prog.pdf

Sharing and diffusing environmental and geographic data in French Guiana with the platform Geoguyane http://f.hypotheses.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/390/files/2012/09/Linares_2012_Sharing_Environmental_Information_BaqualaProject2.pdf



JAMAICA

[Jamaica GIS Success Stories](#)

Source: GSDI and IGS Global News, Volume 3, Number 4 for 2013



A 2011 GSDI Small Project Grants project was completed by Jamaica's National Spatial Data Management Division. The project initiated a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) awareness campaign that prepared and printed materials used for outreach to local, regional and international stakeholders. The final document describes the benefits, achievements, and plans for Jamaica's NSDI as well as six selected case studies that highlight NSDI successes in Jamaica. For more information please see: "Jamaica - NSDI Awareness Campaign." Primary Contact: Ministry of Water Land, Environment and Climate Change; Land Information Council of Jamaica; National Spatial Data Management Division; Rohan Richards (original project lead was Ms. Cecille Blake). The 82-page report (PDF file) may be downloaded from: http://memberservices.gsdi.org/files/?artifact_id=1244

PANAMA

[IPDE Workshop: Introducing the GEORED Platform](#)

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

On May 3, 2013 in the premises of the National Geographic Institute "Tommy Guardia" the approval and standardization of thematic layers to be used in the Panamanian Spatial Data Infrastructure (in Spanish IPDE) publishing services was initiated. This activity has been based on the GEORED tool, for which a one-day workshop was held with participation of 22 officials from 11 State institutions. Training was in charge of Mr. Manuel Quintero of the Authority for Government Innovation, and the closing remarks were given by Isis Tejada of the National Geographic Institute "Tommy Guardia".



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VENEZUELA

[IGVSB Signs Agreement with the Urban Land Institute](#)

Source: <http://www.igvsb.gob.ve/> #

The Ministry of Popular Power for the Environment (in Spanish MINAMB) through the Geographic Institute of Venezuela "Simon Bolívar" (in Spanish IGVSB) signed an Interagency Cooperation Framework Agreement with the Urban Land Institute on May 24 this year, for the purpose of regularizing land tenure of suburban settlements through cooperative integration between the two institutions based on an agenda. The commitment by both institutions will strengthen and complement activities set out in this agreement, bringing advice and technical assistance based on their pertinent skills. The signed agreement will last five years.



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Articles and Publications of the Month

Comparing Approaches and Strategies for NSDI Implementation between the Developed and Developing World
By Mohammed O. Idrees, Vahideh Saeidi, Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf, Abdul Rashid M. Shariff. Article under Review for the *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research (IJS DIR)*



JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research

Abstract: This paper reviews Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) approaches and implementation strategies of the developed and developing nations with particular focus on Canada, Nigeria, Malaysia and Switzerland,. The objective of the study is to explore strategies being planned like the institutional set-up, policy, infrastructure, system functionality and components of SDI for each country in order to make a justified comparison, and as well to uncover the margin between the two categories. The study shows that the social system of a nation has its implications for the successful and sustained implementation of SDI. SDI success also depends on the political will of the leaders as well as accountability and transparency in policy making. In order to gain support of the wider communities of data providers and users, government must provide a harmonized regulatory environment, develop user-oriented SDI and institutionalize responsible governance. The study also shows that devising a promising quantitative assessment model will bring along the much anticipated breakthrough in evaluating the performance of a nation's SDI so as to provide direction for improvement. Finally, it is recommended that developing nations should provide a bedrock that would sustain SDI development and proper implementation [Full article may be found at: <http://ijsdir.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php/ijsdir/article/view/304/336>]

'gvSIG: guide for independent learning' available for download

Source: gvSIG News Office

Within the digital repository of the Polytechnic University of Cartagena it has been released, for free download, the book 'gvSIG: guide for independent learning' made by Josefina García-León, Antonio García-Martín, and Manuel Torres-Pinney under the Master's Degree in Water Engineering and Land. This book is intended as a beginners' manual for Geographic Information Systems (hereinafter GIS) management in general, and in particular gvSIG, along with a quick reference guide for end users commonly working with this system. GvSIG Association thanks this kind of initiatives aimed at sharing knowledge and encourages the university community to continue publishing educational materials related to gvSIG. Link for downloading of the book at: <http://hdl.handle.net/10317/3262>

MundoGEO Magazine No. 71

Source: IDERA Broadcasting Group

In this edition of *MundoGEO Magazine*, the cover paper is about a project planned for registration of 5.4 million rural properties in Brazil by 2014. Full article may be found at: <http://mundogeo.com/mundogeo espanol71.php>

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***FuturENVIRO* new environmental magazine**

Source: Santiago Borrero



With five annual issues devoted to the management of water and five to waste management, *FuturENVIRO* provides clear, fresh and updated information for all environmental professionals nationally and internationally. Be among the first to visit the new website of *FuturENVIRO*, www.futurenviro.com, discover its vibrant picture, and learn from leading industry events. In a fully bilingual format, with all the content in Spanish and English, *FuturENVIRO* includes in

each issue articles and sections on everything relevant to the environmental sector: Water Management, Waste Management, Air Pollution, Contaminated Land, Municipalities, Smart Cities, Standards, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc. With an international distribution of over 4,000 copies on paper, 35,000 of the digital version and presence at major events, *FuturENVIRO* offers good solutions. From early June you will receive the *FuturENVIRO* digital version completely free (PDF format printable and downloadable). Contact: info@futurenviro.com

New GCM Version - Including Guidelines for Implementing Identifiers Using URIs

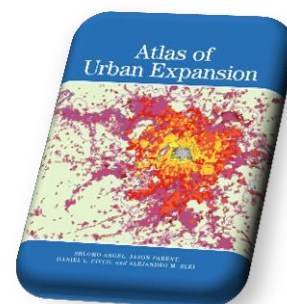
Source: <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

A new version of the INSPIRE Generic Conceptual Model (GCM) - version 3.4rc3 (release candidate 3) has been published on the [INSPIRE web site](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/). This version is consistent with the draft amendment of the Implementing Rules for interoperability of spatial data sets and services that was adopted by the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community - INSPIRE Committee on 8 April. The new version of the GCM contains a new informative Annex on the implementation of identifiers using URIs, that provides some background and guidance regarding identifiers and the deployment of URIs within INSPIRE for spatial objects and other resources such as code list values and coordinate reference systems. In addition, a FAQ page around implementing ids using URIs in INSPIRE has been set up at <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/ids>.

Atlas of Urban Expansion

Source: Kate Lance

The main objective of this Atlas of Urban Expansion is to increase understanding and help residents, policy makers, and researchers around the world come to terms with the expected global urban expansion in the coming decades. The Atlas in book form introduces the project and presents two sets of full-color maps and a set of raw data tables. The first map section contains pairs of urban land cover maps from circa 1990 and 2000, representing a global sample of 120 cities. The second map section includes composite maps of a global representative sample of 30 cities, showing the historical expansion of their urbanized areas from 1800 to 2000. In both sections, the maps shown are paired with numerical and graphical data, making it possible to compare cities in terms of their metric values on key attributes of urban expansion. The third section contains four extensive tables of urban, national, and regional data for each of the 120 cities. Data and images from the Atlas of Urban Expansion are available for download on the companion website: <http://www.lincolnst.edu/subcenters/atlas-urban-expansion/>. Use of data should include the following citation: Angel, S., J. Parent, D. L. Civco and A. M. Blei, 2010. *Atlas of Urban Expansion*, Cambridge MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, online at <http://www.lincolnst.edu/subcenters/atlas-urban-expansion/>.



AIMS Newsletter, no. 18 (May) now Available

Source: <http://aims.fao.org/>

The new issue of the *AIMS Newsletter* is now available. It contains the latest developments regarding AgriDrupal, E-LIS, VOA3R, AgriVIVO, Agrifeeds, OpenAGRIS, Semagrow etc. The monthly spotlight is dedicated to the AIMS User Survey 2013 - your feedback is highly appreciated to further improve the website. The glossary highlights the term Virtualization and the "5 Questions in 5 Minutes" are answered by Manuel Hidalgo, ICT specialist at SIDALC (Alliance of Agricultural Information Services) of IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture) in Costa Rica.

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Geospatial Research, Applications, Software, Data

[National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change Online Mapping System , Mexico](#)

Source: Jesus Yanez Villa

Since 2000 the National Institute of Ecology, currently National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (in Spanish INECC), through the Directorate General for Research of Ecological and Ecosystem Conservation (in Spanish DGIOECE) has been given the task for producing and disseminating geographical information in the entire national territory for purposes of supporting public policies on spatial planning and ecosystem conservation. Therefore, the DGIOECE has developed a new Internet portal for geographic web services integration, which aims at providing a means of consultation and access to mapping information for internal and external users. The information contained in this website is divided into five topics: biotic, economic, physical and social, as well as regional studies; it is presented through a map viewer that allows users to interact in an easy and friendly way. The Online Mapping System is available at the following link: <http://mapas.ine.gob.mx>



[IGAC: Using Remote Sensing to Map Land Degradation](#)

Source: UN SPIDER Updates April 2013

UN-SPIDER's Regional Support Office in Colombia (IGAC Geographic Institute "Agustin Codazzi") is currently working on elaborating approaches of using remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for monitoring soil erosion. Reducing land degradation is a major issue for the environment and sustainable development in the XXI century. Erosion is the main cause for the degradation of soils and rock in Colombia. Experts estimate that approximately 60% of the country is affected by a meaningful degree of erosion. In consequence, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia (in Spanish MAVDT) created the "following and monitoring for the land degradation program". One of the main goals of the programme consists in mapping the erosion grade (light, moderate, severe and strong) in Colombia on a scale of 1:100,000. This map is being built with RapidEye satellite images through visual interpretation. This research shows two image processing methods to identify the degree of degradation. LMSA–LMSA is a precise method for calculating land covers, in this case land degradation. But is necessary to understand this concept and make field trips in order to relate the R and C values. LMSA can be understood as an end-member (spectral signature) that takes into consideration all bands of an optical sensor and therefore allows making a connection to any coverage. USLE Equation–USLE is applied based on rainfall erodibility, soil erodibility, topographic and vegetation. In Colombia, there is enough data to estimate the erosivity, topographic and vegetation on a scale of at least 1:100,000. However, there is a major constraint: Studies of soil in Colombia lack the necessary variables to estimate accurately erodibility. Further information can be obtained from Elena Posada (Leader of Department, IGAC): epossada@igac.gov.co. Read more: [IGAC](#)



[Brazil will Monitor the Amazon in Neighboring Countries](#)

Source: <http://mundogeo.com/>

Brazil will support the fight against deforestation in other countries of the Amazon Rainforest. On May 3rd, the Amazon Fund through the National Bank of Economic and Social Development (in Spanish BNDES) approved \$23 million of Reales for Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization ([ACTO](#)), an intergovernmental partnership composed of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, which comprise the territory of the Amazon Rainforest. The resources will be invested in monitoring the forest in these countries, using Brazilian technology and training.

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According to Carlos Klink, Minister of Climate Change and Environmental Quality of the Ministry of Environment, to cooperate with the fight against deforestation in other countries of the Amazon rainforest, Brazil is promoting the general protection of the forest. "It not only serves to preserve the Brazilian area, it is necessary to increase the success we have had in reducing deforestation and carbon emissions, so that these countries can also improve their monitoring systems," he says. In practice, 23 million resources will be used for skilled labor and training. The idea is to implement an observation room to monitor the fight against deforestation in each of these countries, with teams and satellite imagery analysis. The training will be conducted by the National Institute for Space Research (in Portuguese INPE) in Brazil.

[IBGE - PAÍSES](#)

Source: Susana Barrera



This is a fantastic tool; you can get hundreds of pieces of data provided in English, Spanish and Portuguese on economy, demography, social conditions, living standards and more, concerning all countries on Earth. World data and links to sources of information are provided for each query <http://www.ibge.gov.br/paisesat/main.php>

[The First Continental Ecological Observatory](#)

Source: Arturo Brun-Martinez

The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a continental-scale observatory designed to gather and provide 30 years of ecological data on the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity. NEON is a project of the National Science Foundation, with many other US agencies and NGOs cooperating. All NEON data and information products will be freely available via the Web. NEON's open-access approach to its data and



information products will enable scientists, educators, planners, decision makers and the public to map, understand and predict the effects of human activities on ecology and effectively address critical ecological questions and issues. NEON will be the first observatory designed to detect and enable forecasting of ecological change at continental scales over multiple decades. NEON will use distributed sensor networks, coordinated airborne observations and experiments, linked by advanced cyberinfrastructure, to collect ecological data across the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. More in-depth detail about NEON's design and strategy plans can be found in "The NEON Strategy." NEON has partitioned the USA into 20 eco-climatic domains, each of which represents different regions of vegetation, landforms, climate, and ecosystem performance. In those domains, NEON will collect site-based data about climate and atmosphere, soils and streams and ponds, and a variety of organisms. Additionally, NEON will provide a wealth of regional and national-scale data from airborne observations and geographical data collected by

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Federal agencies and processed by NEON to be accessible and useful to the ecological research community. NEON will also manage a long-term multi-site stream experiment and provide a platform for future observations and experiments proposed by the scientific community. The data collected and generated across NEON's network –all day, every day, over a period of 30 years- will be synthesized into information products that can be used to describe changes in the nation's ecosystem through space and time. It will be readily available in many formats to scientists, educators, students, decision makers and the general public.

[Bill Gates joins United States Administration in Promoting Open Agricultural Data](#)

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



Bill Gates has joined top administration officials in promoting open access to agricultural data as a way to increase global nutrition and food security. The Microsoft co-founder and chairman helped launch a two-day [conference](#) with Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, and US Chief Technology Officer, Todd Park, to introduce and grow a [new online database](#) that allows farmers, ranchers, scientists and policymakers to freely access publicly funded information. Through this resource, the federal government provides free access to agricultural information from more than 300 data sets, as well as maps and applications. With the global population projected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, open-data advocates say the initiative will help combat food insecurity and help provide a framework for sustainable agricultural systems. "The digital revolution fueled by open data is starting to do for the modern world of agriculture what the industrial revolution did for agricultural productivity over the past century," Vilsack said in a

statement. The conference is as part of a food security and nutrition [initiative](#) President Obama agreed to during the 2012 G-8 Leaders Summit at Camp David.

[OpenGeo launches Mapmeter Public beta](#)

Source: Kate Lance

On May, 2013, at Sponsor Day at FOSS4G-NA 2013, OpenGeo announced a full public beta of its new server analytics console. The product, formerly known as "The Enterprise Console," is now Mapmeter (<http://mapmeter.com/>), a full administration and management tool for analyzing GeoServer systems. Mapmeter enables organizations to monitor the health of production deployments, optimize applications during development and diagnose critical issues. With these details, administrators and managers alike can better -and more cost effectively- make decisions about their geospatial deployments. Mapmeter sits on top of GeoServer- within the OpenGeo Suite or standalone. As a complete web-mapping solution, the Suite enables organizations to easily install, effectively operate and optimally manage spatial assets. The Suite is commercial open source software, offering customers the best of open source (greater access and control, scalability, customization and more) with the assurance of standards compliance, expert support and advanced capabilities guaranteed by OpenGeo. With Mapmeter, spatial monitoring and reporting become one piece in a complete IT workflow.

['gvSIG Desktop 2.0' Webinar Recorded](#)

Source: gvSIG News Office

It has been published the recorded Webinar "gvSIG Desktop 2.0" held in May. Following the recent release of Final version of gvSIG2.0, this webinar has been made in order to inform the gvSIG community on the main differences with the previous version, and actions to be performed in the coming months. The live webinar recording is available in the video section of the project's website: [gvSIG Desktop](#).



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Training and Funding Opportunities, Awards

Geophysics Commission of PAIGH Graduate Scholarship

Source: Santiago Borrero

Open call to apply for a graduate scholarship awarded by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) Geophysics Commission. Areas of study include: Solid Earth Geophysics; Groundwater Exploration and

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Modeling; Geology; and Atmospheric, Space and Planetary Sciences. Deadline to receive the required documentation is **June 30**, 2013. Further information please contact: Dr. Carlos Mendoza / cmendoza@geociencias.unam.mx; the complete Call is found at: http://ipgh.org/Comisiones/GEOFISICA/files/CONVOCATORIA_Beca_2013.pdf

Academic Bursaries for FOSS4G

Source: Kate Lance



The Global Conference for Open Source Geospatial Software FOSS4G2013 LOC has announced a limited number of Academic Bursaries for exceptional students and early career researchers to participate and contribute to the Conference. More details at <http://2013.foss4g.org/registration/academic-bursaries/>. The deadline for applications is **21 June** 2013. The provisional conference program is now available at <http://2013.foss4g.org/provisional/>, while the workshops can be viewed at <http://2013.foss4g.org/provisional/workshops.html>. The final programme will be announced on Monday 17th June.

Land Administration Domain Model (LADM)

Source: FIG Commission 7 e-Newsletter April 2013 by way of Santiago Borrero

The fifth LADM workshop (with attention to 3D aspects) will be in conjunction with the International Symposium on Geo-information, 24-25 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. More information is available on the LADM Wiki: <http://www.isoladm.org> and the call for contributions is at: http://wiki.tudelft.nl/pub/Research/ISO19152/LADM2013Workshop/flyer_LADM2013.pdf.

CATHALAC Opens Call for Diploma in Groundwater for Latin America and the Caribbean 2013

Source: Noemi Ruiperez

Groundwater represent 97% of usable freshwater herein our planet. However, in the Latin American context, most water development projects are based on river catchments and lakes, which are highly stressed, not only by the progressive demand, but by the deterioration of water quality, mainly by anthropogenic activities.

Objective: To contribute to sustainable development of groundwater resources in Latin America and the Caribbean, through training, continuous updating and ongoing communication between relevant actors of the national, provincial and municipal governments of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Target: Officials of public institutions, NGOs and private businesses with expertise in sustainable development of groundwater in the local, municipal, provincial, national or regional level in Latin America, teachers, researchers, professionals and students of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Geology, Agriculture and related areas. Hydrogeological Services Consultants and Contractors (Exploration, Drilling, Environmental Hydrogeology). For the Academic Content Standards, [click here](#). Date: From July 1 to October 31, 2013 / Mode: Online / Duration: Four months / Online Registration: www.cathalac.org/education/registration (Select Groundwater Diploma) / field practices / See investment opportunities, discounts, and scholarships [here](#).



GeoSUR Topographic Service Webinar

Source: Eric van Praag

GeoSUR recently held an interesting Webinar on the GeoSUR Topographic Processing Service and its latest developments, with participation of more than 400 specialists and support of MundoGeo. The seminar was presented in English and Spanish by the TPS author from the USGS. The recording is available at: <https://vimeo.com/66341958/> (password: dem)

Resistencia will Host First IGN Training on Georeferencing Nationwide

Source: <http://www.ign.gov.ar/node/550>

Resistencia, Argentina was chosen as the first city head for the Zonal Georeferencing Training Program driven by the National Geographic Institute (in spanish IGN). This program responds to a joint agreement between the IGN, the



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Federal Council of Cadastre and the Land Surveyors Argentinean Federation (in spanish FADA). The training is scheduled for the **July 3-4, 2013**.

OGC , SIG 3D, and TUM announce workshop to gather CityGML requirements

Source: OGC Press Release

The OGC CityGML SWG, the SIG 3D, and Technische Universität München will host a joint international workshop to gather requirements to guide the development of the next major version of CityGML (3.0). The workshop will take place on the 20th and 21st of June, 2013 in Munich, Germany. The organizations seek input from CityGML users, data producers, software manufacturers, and scientists working with or on CityGML. Participation in the event is free of charge. Travel, accommodation, and the social evening event are at the expense of the participants. See more details at <http://www.opengeospatial.org/node/1812> and in the Workshop Wiki at http://en.wiki.modeling.sig3d.de/index.php/Workshop_Munich_2013 Register for the SIG 3D – OGC – TUM International Workshop on Requirements for CityGML 3.0 at https://portal.opengeospatial.org/public_ogc/register/130620citygml.php.

Webinar on Citizen Science for Coastal and Marine Environments

Source: Sarah Carr



The [Ecosystem-Based Management \(EBM\) Tools Network](#) and OpenChannels.org are pleased to announce that they are hosting two webinars on Citizen Science for Coastal and Marine Environments. This second webinar featuring emerging research on marine citizen science in Australia, Redmap Australia, Reefwatch, Feral or in Peril, and Monitoring Seas and Inspiring Communities will be held on **July 18** at 10 am Australian EST (**July 17** at 5 pm US PDT). Please note that this is a different time from our regular webinars. Space is limited. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/803572384>

Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network and Forum (Campam) Launches Pioneering Mentor and Peer Exchange Program

Source: Georgina Bustamante



Senior marine resource managers from around the Caribbean are gathering for a one-week collaborative workshop to launch the first ever CaMPAM “Mentor and Peer Exchange Program” for marine protected area practitioners working in the region. The workshop is organized by United Nations Environment Programme- Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in support of the “Caribbean Challenge,” an initiative that aims to develop national networks of effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Globally, the evolution of effectively managed MPAs remains a slow process. CaMPAM stands out as an exceptional example of progress among a social network of marine resource professionals, though many challenges lie ahead for building effective, ecologically resilient and socially equitable MPA networks in the region. The mentor program will improve the professional capacities of managers from across the Wider Caribbean by responding to emerging training, capacity and technical assistance needs, particularly those faced by “Caribbean Challenge” countries. To learn more about the CaMPAM Mentor and Peer Exchange Program, please contact: Rich Wilson, Coordinator (on behalf of CaMPAM), rich@seatoneconsulting.com. Additional information on CaMPAM’s programmes in the Wider Caribbean: <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

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Employment Opportunities

Call for Geomatics Analyst, Mexico

Source: Gerardo Garcia Contreras

INFRAESTRUCTURA DE DATOS ESPACIALES DE LA PENINSULA DE YUCATAN

The objective of the Geomatics Analyst position is to support project implementation and administration at Pronatura Information Center for Coordination (in Spanish CPIC) in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Among the duties of the position are included: Participating in project planning, development and implementation; developing and implementing automation tools and procedures for data analysis; analyzing data, image mapping and GIS applications; database and metadata managing and updating; meeting the office needs (providing statistical and cartographic mapping); maintaining the www.idepy.org web page, and equipment maintenance and repairment (software, network, PC, etc.) to CPIC and Pronatura Yucatán Peninsula (in Spanish PPY). It is required that the applicant has his area of specialty in geography, geomatics, forestry engineering, biology, or related fields. With at least two years of professional experience on spatial analysis management tools and methodologies, use of geostatistical tools, preparation and administration of databases, use and management of photogrammetric tools, classification and interpretation of high resolution satellite images, and thematic mapping development. To apply please send resume to Geog. Gerardo Garcia Contreras, Coordinator of Pronatura Center for Conservation Information, gcontreras@pronatura-ppy.org.mx and fill out [this format](#).

Specialist in Ecosystem Services / Forestry / Agriculture, Ecometrica, Edinburgh (UK)

Source: Mike Paul, Ecometrica Biodiversity Info Mailing List

Ecometrica is recruiting an analyst with expertise in ecosystem services and/or land use and/or forestry and/or agriculture to work as part of a small multi-disciplinary team consisting of land use, GIS and remote sensing experts based in Edinburgh, UK. This position offers a unique and exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic, pro-active candidate with a good understanding of the natural environment and biological processes. You will form part of a dynamic team engaged in land use-related projects. You will also be actively involved in the development of client applications on Ecometrica's online mapping platform, Our Ecosystem. A basic understanding of GIS is therefore a strong advantage.

We are seeking a solution-driven analyst who can translate client needs into a realistic project plan. You should be able to work accurately under pressure, both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team. Good communication and client-facing skills are important and you will be expected to be able to communicate to a non-technical audience. You can view the full job specification and apply using the link at: <http://ecometrica.com/about-us/careers/>

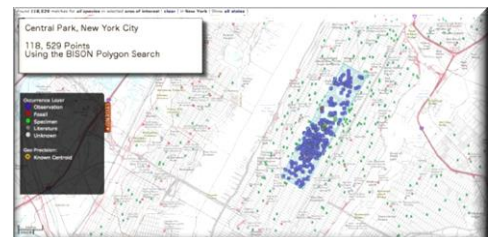
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Other

[BISON System from USGS](#)

Source: GSDI and IGS Global News, Volume 3, Number 4 for 2013

Biodiversity Information Serving Our Nation (BISON) is the only system of its kind - a unique, web-based Federal resource for finding species in the US and territories. Its size is unprecedented, offering more than 100 million mapped records of nearly every living species nationwide and growing. And the vast majority of the records are specific locations, not just county or state records. The USGS has built and maintains BISON, which is hosted on the massive Federal computing infrastructure at Oak Ridge



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National Laboratory. To learn more, visit: <http://bison.usgs.ornl.gov> or contact the USGS BISON Team at BISON@usgs.gov. Original article by Mike McDermott & Mark Newell may be found at: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3566>

[Expedition Discovers Sunken Continent in the South Atlantic](#)

Source: <http://mundogeo.com/>



The Geological Survey of Brazil, (in Portuguese CPRM) reported in May, during the opening of the exhibition on Marine Geology in Rio de Janeiro, the preliminary result of the unprecedented expedition made with Japan in international waters of the South Atlantic with the submersible Shinkai 6500, which led Brazilian investigators to the ocean floor in a region known as the Rio Grande Elevation where CPRM performs a series of investigations to assess the mineral potential of the region. During a press conference, the Director of Geology and Mineral Resources of CPRM, Roberto Ventura, announced the discovery of granite rocks during procedures performed by Shinkai. "These signs reinforce the hypothesis that the elevation of the Rio Grande is a continent that sank 100 million years ago when South America separated from Africa. This could revolutionize our understanding of the formation and evolution of the Earth's crust," said Ventura, adding that more studies are needed to

confirm this hypothesis. The Shinkai 6500 dipped seven times between the lift and the Dorsal de São Paulo, four leading Brazilian researchers. All sites were chosen based on previous CPRM expeditions. Besides granite were found traces of various minerals also important from the scientific point of view. The expedition started on April 13 from Cape Town in South Africa, having on board six Brazilian researchers and Japanese scientists, and are mapping and collecting geological and biological materials of South Atlantic seabed.

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Americas: Conferences, SDI Events

[Directions Magazine and MundoGEO Announce the Location Intelligence Conference Brazil](#)

Source: Rodrigo Ruibal



In 2013, [Directions Magazine](#) will collaborate with MundoGEO, the largest media and communications company in geospatial technology in Latin America, to offer the Location Intelligence Brazil Conference, which will be held concurrently with the [MundoGEO#Connect Conference](#) in Sao Paulo. MundoGEO#Connect LatinAmerica will be held on **June 18-20**, 2013; the Location Intelligence (LI) Brazil conference will be held on **June 19th** as a single-track event. LI Brazil will focus on the applications of geospatial technology for the community. "This is a tremendous opportunity for both organizations to offer an educational forum that addresses the applications of location technology in enterprise computing and business intelligence," said Joe Francica, editor in chief of *Directions Magazine*. "We are excited to broaden the scope of MundoGEO#Connect to offer more information to the

business community of Latin America and the great potential for geospatial technology for industries such as retail, banking and insurance," said Emerson Granemann, director and publisher of MundoGEO. Attendees may attend either event on its own, or both together. Held in an exclusive venue in the Centro de Convenções Frei Caneca, LI Brazil will include topics of value to senior management, C-level directors, as well as GIS analysts.

[5ths gvSIG Conference for Latin America and Caribbean: "Knowledge Gives Freedom"](#)

Source: gvSIG News Office

The 5th gvSIG Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) will be held on October 23-25, 2013 in Buenos Aires (Argentina), under the theme "Knowledge Gives Freedom." The Conference aims to provide a meeting place where technicians, researchers, developers, experts, and the Latin American community in general, could meet in an environment of debates about free geomatics and gvSIG. These working days are in turn the 3rd gvSIG



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Argentinean Conference, where participants will have the opportunity to reconvene on the previous days. The submission period of proposals for the conference communications is now open. You may send paper proposals to the email address jornadas.latinamericanas@gvsig.org, which will be evaluated by the scientific committee ahead of its inclusion in the conference program. There are two modes of communication: speech and poster. All information about the rules for submission of communications, are found at the [communications](#) section. Abstract submission period will end on **September 6**.

[SIRGAS 2013 Meeting: Panama City, October 24 - 26, 2013](#)

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

Thanks to a kind invitation of the Geographic Institute "Tommy Guardia" (IGNTG), the SIRGAS 2013 Meeting will be held in Panama City, Panama, from October 24 to 26, 2013. The main objectives in this year are to report the recent SIRGAS (Geocentric Reference System for the Americas) achievements, to evaluate the on-going activities, and to define new actions

oriented to take part in the geodetic issues discussed in a global frame.



Oral and poster presentations on improvements and maintenance of the SIRGAS reference frame, Earth modelling based on the SIRGAS infrastructure, real time applications in SIRGAS, towards an unified SIRGAS vertical reference system, practical developments for the adoption of SIRGAS at sub-regional and national levels as well as national reports summarizing the most important SIRGAS activities carried out in the member countries during the last year are very welcome. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of SIRGAS (1993-2013), a session dedicated to the original ideas of its establishment and development is also planned.

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YEAR 2013

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JUNE 2013

May 20- Jun 18 *NEW*	Bogotá, Colombia	IGAC Basic Course of GIS
2-26	San José, Costa Rica	34th International Course on Protected Areas and Biological Corridors: Tools for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
3-5	State College PA, USA	2013 PA GIS Conference
3-6	Las Vegas, NV, USA	Hexagon 2013
4-7 *NEW*	Bogota, Colombia	1st SOLCHA Graduate School Conferences
8-9	San Francisco CA, USA	OpenStreet Map's Annual U.S. State of the Map Conference
9-11	Austin TX, USA	67th International Convention-Forest Products Society
Jun 10 – Jul. 25	Atlanta GA, USA	Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site: Addressing Social and Environmental Disparities through Community Geography and Geographic Information Systems
12-14	México City, México	SIGSA/ESRI Users National Meeting 2013
12-15	San Jose, Costa Rica	Third IUFRO Latin American Congress
13	Caracas, Venezuela	ESRI User Conference and National ENVI 2013
17-20	Miami FL, USA	URISA's GIS in Public Health Conference
17-20	Tyler TX, USA	The 24th Biannual SaGES Colloquium & FIG Regional Conference
18-21	Sao Paulo, Brazil	MundoGEO#ConnectLatin America 2013
19-20	São Paulo, Brazil	Location Intelligence Brazil
18-21	Victoria BC, Canada	CoastGIS 2013 Conference: Monitoring and Adapting to Change on the Coast The 11th International Symposium for GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management
20	Charlotte NC, USA	Webinar: Imagery and LiDAR in ArcGIS 10.1

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24-26 *NEW*	Washington DC, USA	GIS for Government 2013
25-27	Toronto, Canada	Optech Third Imaging and Lidar Solutions Conference, ILSC 2013
27-30	La Paz, Bolivia	I International Fair of Energy, Environment & Water

JULY 2013

Jul.1 – Sep. 30	On line	Learning Course: Integrated Watershed Management
Jul. 3 – Aug. 3	Fort Collins CO, USA	Protected Area Management Course
3-5	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	14th Iberoamerican Conference on Geographic Information Systems (CONFIBSIG)
4-5 *NEW*	Catamarca, Argentina	7th International Congress of Inner Towns and Cities
6-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Education GIS Conference
6-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Survey Summit
7-9	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI Business and Location Analytics Summit
7-12	East Lansing MI, USA	15th International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS 2013)
8-12	San Diego CA, USA	ESRI International UserConference
8-12 *NEW*	Havana, Cuba	9th International Convention on Environment and Development
8-13	Cartago, Turrialba, Costa Rica	IX International Course Tools for Carbon Sequestration Monitoring Systems Land Use
10	Montreal QC, Canada	CSWS 2013 Fourth Canadian Semantic Web Symposium
15-25	Cartago, Turrialba, Costa Rica	International Course: Extension Methodologies for Sustainable Rural Development
16-18	Atlanta GA, USA	Business Continuity & Organizational Resilience for Utilities Conference
22-24	San Jose CA, USA	COM.Geo 2013
22-26	San Diego CA, USA	CMSC 2013
22-26	Rockport Maine, USA	2013 MAPPS SummerConference
23-26	Barquisimeto, Venezuela	5th International Congress on Historical Sciences in Venezuela (1st Call)

AUGUST 2013

1-4	Denver CO, USA	NCGE 2013 National Conference on Geography Education
11-15	Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada	Canadian Association of Geographers 2013 Annual Meeting More: http://www.mun.ca/caq2013/
12-15 *NEW*	Huntsville AL, USA	Space and Missile Defense Symposium
12-23	Cartago, Turrialba, Costa Rica	14th International Course Economic and Institutional Foundations for the Management and Assessment of Environmental Services
14-16	Cancun, Mexico	LACCEI 2013
21-24	Colorado Springs CO, USA	GeoGathering 2013
25-29	Arlington VA, USA	Advances in Geospatial Technologies for Health
26-27	Raleigh NC, USA	2nd International Conference on Hydrology & Ground Water Expo
27-29	Victoria BC, Canada	34th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing
26-30	Turrialba, Costa Rica	V Adaptation to Climate Change International Course: The Role of Ecosystem Services
29-31	Ibagué, Colombia	20th Colombian Congress of Geography

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sep. 2 – Nov.25	Turrialba, Costa Rica	E-Learning: Land use Planning at the Municipal Level
4-6 *NEW*	México City, México	SIGSA/ESRI Users National Meeting 2013
7-10	Cambridge MA, USA	International Map Industry Association (IMIA) Americas Annual Meeting and Member Showcase
8-10	Boston MA, USA	Map Conference
8-11	Daytona Beach FL, USA	Lucity Annual Conference and Training (ACT) 2013
9-13	Turrialba, Costa Rica	International Course of Forest Inventory Analysis Data

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11-13	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Latin America Geospatial Forum 2013
16-17	Buenos Aires, Argentina	2nd UNI-COM Latin American Congress: Quality of Life in Latin America and the Caribbean
16-17 *NEW*	Orlando FL, USA	7th Annual Central Florida GIS Workshop
16-19	Providence RI, USA	GIS-Pro 2013: URISA's 51st Annual Conference for GIS Professionals
16-20	Nashville TN, USA	ION GNSS+ 2013
16-20 *NEW*	La Havana, Cuba	Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation Congress
16-27	Turrialba, Costa Rica	International Course: Using the SWAT Model as a tool for Watershed Management
17-20	La Plata, Argentina	7th Argentine Congress on Hydrogeology and 6th Hispano-Latin American Seminar on Current Topics in Groundwater Hydrology
23-25	Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada	Geomatics Atlantic 2013
23-25	Edmonton Alberta, Canada	Ga3 - Geospatial - Anywhere, Anytime for Anyone
23-27 *NEW*	Iguazú, Provincia de Misiones, Argentina	4th Argentinean Forestry Congress and Latin-American Iguazú 2013
24-26	Atlanta GA, USA	Conferencia Servicio de Campo del Este 2013
25-28	Lake Tahoe CA, USA	AAG Pacific Coast Division Fall Regional Meeting
25-27	Manizales, Colombia	2nd Colombian Bioinformatics Computational Biology Congress (CCBCOL)
Sep.30-Oct.4	Turrialba, Costa Rica	Climate-smart Territories at the Tropic Information: conferenciawallace@catie.ac.cr

OCTOBER 2013

1-4	Manizales Caldas, Colombia	EIISI 2013 4th International Meeting and 7th National Engineering Research and Information Systems Meeting
1-5	Ciego de Ávila, Cuba	11th International Congress on Hydraulics Engineering and 7th International Seminary on Integrated Water Use
3-4	Polvorines, Argentina	II National Congress on Geographic Information Technologies and II Days on Geographic Information Systems E mail: iicongresotiq2013@gmail.com / infosiq@unqs.edu.ar
4-5	Entre Ríos-Concordia, Argentina	26th Forestry Working Days from Entre Rios
5-11 *NEW*	Salt Lake City UT, USA	IUFRO World Congress 2014. Sustaining Forests, Supporting People. The Role of Research
6-10	Silicon Valley, CA USA	BigData 2013
7-31	Turrialba, Costa Rica	25th Intensive Course International Diversified Management of Natural Tropical Forests: Managing the Challenges of Climate Change
9-11	Buenos Aires, Argentina	4th Congress on Environmental Sciences
10-12	Omaha NE, USA	AAG Great Plains/Rocky Mountains Division Regional Meeting
10-13	Oakland CA, USA	North American Association for Environmental Education: 41st Annual Conference
14-17	Belize Ciity, Belize	ICRI 28th General Meeting (ICRI GM28)
15-19	Chillán, Chile	34th National Congress and 19th International Congress on Geography
16-18	Santiago, Chile	GENERA Latinoamérica 2013
16-18	Lima, Perú	ESRI Latin America User Conference
16-18	Washington DC, USA	GIS in Transit Conference
17-19	Eau Claire WI, USA	AAG West Lakes Division Regional Meeting
18-19	Worcester MA, USA	New England/St. Lawrence Valley (NESTVAL) Division Regional Meeting
21-23 *NEW*	Panama City, Panama	School on Reference Systems, Crustal Deformation and Ionosphere Monitoring
21-25	Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia	10th International Course Tools for Carbon Sequestration Monitoring Systems Land Use
22-25	Lima, Perú	5th International Congress on Computing and Telecommunications
23-25	Santiago, Chile	LARS Latin American Remote Sensing Week - 2013
23-25 *NEW*	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fifth Latin American and Caribbean gvSIG Conference: "Knowledge Gives Freedom" and Third gvSIG Argentinean Working Days
23-26	Mendoza, Argentina	4th National Congress on Geography of Public Universities and 10th Cuyanas Workings day The complexity, permanent attribute of Geography Science
24-26	Nacogdoches TX, USA	AAG Southwest Division (SWAAG) Annual Meeting

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25-26	Toledo OH, USA	AAG East Lakes Division Regional Meeting (Jointly with CAG, Ontario)
24-26 *NEW*	Panama City, Panama	SIRGAS 2013 Meeting
27 - 31	Kansas City MO, USA	National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Annual Meeting 2013
Oct. 27 – Nov.1	Burlingame CA, USA	ACM International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM 2013)
Oct.30-Nov.2	Annapolis MD, USA	AAG Middle Atlantic Division Regional Meeting (Jointly with AAG Applied Geography Specialty Group)
Oct.31-Nov.2	Tampa FL, USA	Fifty-fourth Annual Meeting Society for the History of Discoveries
Oct.31-Nov.3	Trevelin – Chubut, Argentina	International Congress of Geography / Geography Week 74

NOVEMBER 2013

4-8	Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia	AfricaGIS 2013 Conference and the GSDI 14 World Conference
4-8	Turrialba, Costa Rica	Biodiversity Analysis: from Functional Diversity to Ecosystem Services
4-8 *NEW*	New York NY, USA	Geoweb Summit #7
5-8	Orlando FL, USA	21st International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems (ACM SIGSPATIAL GIS 2013)
6-9	Havana, Cuba	3rd International Congress on Local Development “For Local Sustainable Development”
13-14	Alexandria VA, USA	MAPPS International Market Conference – Entering and Expanding Global Business Opportunities
13-14	Alexandria VA, USA	International Conference on Exporting for Geospatial, Engineering and Related Services
13-16	Atlanta GA, USA	60th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International
17 *NEW*	Montevideo, Uruguay	6th Meeting of GeoSUR Program
18 y 19 *NEW*	Montevideo, Uruguay	22 Meeting of Consultation of the Commission of Cartography, 19 Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Geography, 18 Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on History and 12th Meeting of Consultation of the Commission on Geophysics of PAIGH
18-22 *NEW*	Mar del Plata, Argentina	7th Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting for Biotechnology REDBIO Argentina 2013 "Biotechnology and Society: Dialogues for Sustainable Development"
18-29 *NEW*	Bogotá, Colombia	IGAC Basic GIS Course
20-22 *NEW*	Montevideo, Uruguay	20 General Assembly of the PAIGH
21-24	Chicago IL, USA	38th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association (SSHA)
24-26	Roanoke VA, USA	Southeast (SEDAAG) Division Regional Meeting
Nov. 25 – Dec.6	Turrialba, Costa Rica	International Course: Comprehensive Management of Irrigation: Resilience to Natural Hazards Geological and Climatic

DECEMBER 2013

2-6	Lima, Peru	15th UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Conference 2013
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JANUARY 2014

28-30 *NEW*	San Antonio TX, USA	DistribuTECH 2014 Conference & Exhibition
29-30	Redlands CA, USA	Geodesign Summit Asks Attendees to Reimagine their World

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