



UNGIWG

United Nations **Geographic Information** Working Group

UNGIWG Coordination Videoconference¹
Task Groups and Global Partner activities
UNSDI Implementation priority actions

New York, USA
8 June 2007
9:00 - 12:30

REPORT

¹This meeting is the first held under the Chairmanship of OCHA/UNHCR. It follows the Co-Chairs Handover Meeting of 7 June 2007 with FAO/WFP (Co-Chairs for 2005-06)

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1. Opening statement and welcome

Ms. Alta Haggarty, Co-Chair for OCHA, acknowledged the work accomplished by the previous Co-Chairs since the creation of the task groups, thanked the former WFP and FAO Co-Chairs and briefed the participants on the Chairmanship Handover Meeting that took place on Thursday 7th June in New York. Among the points she summarized, are:

- The pending issues since the 7th Plenary UNGIWG in Santiago de Chile, including the revision of Terms of Reference of UNGIWG;
- The philosophy of the new Co-Chairs: building trust, consensus and ensuring transparency;
- The importance of developing consultative tools to achieve the above.

Mr. Karl Steinacker, Co-Chair for UNHCR, mentioned that UNGIWG is made of diverse agencies with diverse mandates, but this diversity strengthens the group. In this context, Chairs are facilitators and team builders. He insisted that the only agenda is to bring UNGIWG forward, prioritize transparent processes while welcoming openness. He insisted that focus will be put on the work ahead, namely the UNSDI which, he said, is at a crossroads.

2. Task Group Managers reports

Mr. Suha Ulgen invited the UNGIWG Task Group Managers to report on their activities since the 7th Plenary UNGIWG in Santiago de Chile (see Task Group reports in Annex III).

Task Groups	Topics	Related actions or remarks	Secretariat's comments
TG1 (<i>Steeve Ebener & John Latham</i>): Core Geo-Database	SALB activities	See Annex III	
	DPKO will update the international boundaries layers from SALB layers. The UNCS proposes to scan OLA treaty maps for international boundaries.	Plan time-line with SALB.	The UNGIWG Secretariat will support those exchanges.

UNGIWG Task Managers Meeting, New York, 08 June 2007

Task Groups	Topics	Related actions or remarks	Secretariat's comments
	FAO initiated a survey among the UNGIWG members (December 06) on geospatial data needs.	Only five agencies provided a full reply. See report submitted on 8 June 07.	
	Need: - Discipline and support for metadata cataloguing and consistent use of vocabulary in free text fields. - Agreement on how to proceed with the coastline layer. - Proper approach on how to maintain the core layers, responsibilities for updating, etc. - To draft how the TG will be functioning as discussed in Santiago.	Need for procedures and methodology for the core layers evaluation.	Include how to evaluate the Africa road network and similar layers for Africa. The Secretariat will coordinate with TG leaders.
	Status on acquisition on VMAP1.	The 70 tiles available are in the public domain, others are to be negotiated with each provider.	
TG2 (<i>Jeroen Ticheler and Mick Wilson</i>): Interoperability	The East Africa SDI started in March 07. Members of TG are involved and there is a lot of interest in the region.		
	A new release of GeoNetwork will be delivered by mid-July. GEOSS/FGDC will make GeoNetwork their clearinghouse metadata catalogue.		
	A teleconference with President of OGC took place on 8 th of June 07 related on how to put UNSDI on OGC's agenda, access to funds and others issues.	This could define standards for UNSDI 1.0, for tests and benchmarking available to all UN agencies and others. These points will be discussed at the next OGC meeting in July in Paris.	
	Proposed a UNSDI outreach workshop in East Africa (20 July 07, Nairobi).		

Task Groups	Topics	Related actions or remarks	Secretariat's comments
TG3 <i>(Francesco Pisano on behalf of Alain Rétiere and Einar Bjorgo):</i> Remote Sensing	TG will be revitalized, membership needs to be assessed/reviewed critically. Full list of RS activities is in the TG report. TG/UNGIWG provides a forum for coordinated action.		TG is interested in taking on coordination functions in addition to its technical advisory role. Coordination with the Secretariat is required.
	Imagery purchase mechanisms to be assessed and strengthened through collaborative processes.	See detailed report.	
	Find out how to benefit from GEO, RESPOND and UN SPIDER initiatives. TG can be the voice of UNGIWG in RS and this should be strengthened.	RESPOND II is a transition towards the European Commission Structure for Remote Sensing. UN-SPIDER is important to TG as this initiative could bring increased demand for geospatial data by national entities in areas of natural disaster response and preparedness. Mechanisms are to be developed.	
	To develop a UNGIWG RS TG wiki-mechanism as a common collaborative tool.	To see detailed report for the list of applications of this tool.	
TG4 <i>(Carrie Howard):</i> Map production	Find out how to create a livelier document on guidelines. 2007 work plan aims at this building on existing initiatives in the field. East Africa used as test bed.	Map symbology guidelines developed by OGC will be obtained to assist the work of the TG. UNEP is interested in map symbology for the environment.	
	TG will look into what exist in EU and UNEP for example.	The objective is to develop a living service - more will be added over time.	

Task Groups	Topics	Related actions or remarks	Secretariat's comments
TG5 (<i>Paola de Salvo on behalf of Menghestab Haile</i>): Global Navigation Satellite Systems	This Task Group needs to be revitalized. Presentation on GPS-enabled PDA as a cost effective and efficient tool for geospatial data collection.	Electronic presentation was shown in NY. PDA application is in Java for Pocket PC but could be translated to PC.	The UNGIWG Secretariat wants to support this group and reactivate TG membership. (No written report was submitted by TG5.)

3. UNSDI implementation strategy

Karl Steinacker presented the approach for the implementation of the UNSDI that was agreed upon at the Chairmanship Handover Meeting of 7 June 2007, reminding the participants that the UNSDI implementation document was actively discussed during the 7th Plenary Meeting where the participants expressed general support for implementation of the UNSDI. There it was also decided that the original 140-pages UNSDI document needed to be reworked to produce a shorter document to serve as a guide to the implementation strategy. Subsequently, the document titled "Strategy for Developing and Implementing a UNSDI in support of Humanitarian Response, Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Peace and Safety" was released in February 2007. This teleconference is a follow up to build a consensus on the latter.

The current Co-Chairs proposed three actions:

- Identify UNGIWG members' focal points to endorse the "Strategy for Developing and Implementing a UNSDI in support of Humanitarian response, Economic Development, Environmental Protection, Peace and Safety" document;
- Continue on-going technical initiatives (e.g. GeoNetwork, NCOs, etc);
- Separate all issue related to governance and institutional framework of UNSDI/UNGIWG. By the 8th Plenary Meeting, options will be worked out on what that institutional framework can be, identifying partners and membership rules, defining roles of Chairs, Secretariat, etc. and in defining the place and the legitimacy of UNGIWG within the UN Reform.

For this last point, the Co-Chairs have decided to find out how to anchor UNSDI in the "Delivering as One" UN Reform agenda; to hire a "governance" consultant with a ToR resulting from a transparent and inclusive consultation, to have a series of teleconferences on the issues before the next UNGIWG plenary meeting in Bangkok.

Participants welcomed the idea to separate and give priority to the governance aspects of the UNSDI implementation.

3.1. Endorsing the "Strategy for Developing and Implementing a UNSDI"

In order to move forward the UNSDI implementation, the "Strategy for Developing and Implementing a UNSDI in support of Humanitarian Response, Economic Development,

Environmental Protection, Peace and Safety" paper released in February 2007 needs to be adopted. Considering that the main objections and discussions that took place after its release mainly related to the implementation side, and never on the vision and objectives, the new Co-Chairs are convinced that this document is acceptable for adoption and that we need to move forward with workable solutions.

WHO mentioned that the comments they sent before the "final" version release were not taken into account and consequently asked for some clarifications. The Secretariat will review the version posted on the UNGIWG website and ensure that all comments submitted are considered.

3.2. Governance structure

Karl Steinacker acknowledged the initiatives undertaken by Jelle Hielkema and others who have worked on UNSDI and reassured them that Chairs and Secretariat will continue to provide support. Through a comprehensive consultative process, it is expected that a mature strategy with its governance component will be adopted within a few months and that the context will be more favourable to reply to offers of partnership.

3.3. Concerns on UNSDI Communication Strategy

The Secretariat will work on communication policy and strategy first through the UNGIWG website (brochures, short versions, etc.), and if need be and funds are available, obtain outside assistance. But the UNGIWG Co-Chairs and Secretariat will work in priority on the processes, on governance mechanisms and strategy, taking into account on-going initiatives and opportunities.

3.4. UNGIWG Membership

At the 7th Plenary in 2006, FAO proposed a non-UN member (CGIAR) become a UNGIWG member. The decision to first review the UNGIWG ToR was then taken before membership can be expanded to include non-UN organizations. A newly revised ToR was circulated after the 7th Plenary and posted on the website. The Secretariat will further the consultation on the UNGIWG ToR in the context of the governance framework. Meanwhile, the original ToR will replace the revised one on the website.

While FAO insisted that CGIAR is a valuable member, Karl Steinacker reminded the participants that the point contested is not the membership of CGIAR, but the membership policy. Communications will be sent to CGIAR and other applicants to express the Secretariat's interest in their collaboration while explaining the process underway.

The DPKO Cartographic Section congratulated the new Co-Chairs and reminded the participants that the original idea of UNGIWG was to facilitate collaboration within the UN which remains the priority. This does not mean that external participation is not possible but membership has to be explicit.

3.5. DPKO membership

The representative of DPKO Cartographic Section explained that the Section had been

through many changes over the last 2 years, including staff turnover. The Section now leads many GIS missions, activities and initiatives and is interested to participate more in the various TGs (e.g.: on RS purchasing mechanisms, TG4 on cartographic guidelines), support UNSDI development and provide more feedback.

FAO representative stated that they would welcome more communication from DPKO especially in earlier stages of actions they take that involve the UNGIWG community (e.g. ESRI purchase agreement).

3.6. Frascati Statement

A report was presented on the UNSDI Global Partners Meeting (UGPM), as agreed on during the 7th Plenary and held on 1 and 2 March in Frascati, Italy, hosted by the European Space Agency (ESA). The meeting brought together some 85 representatives from 12 UN Organizations and national and regional SDI authorities and allowed for an intensive exchange of experience and information on SDI developments within the UN system and at national and regional level. Following the meeting, based on the discussions held and conclusions of the technical and institutional working groups, a "Frascati Statement" was formulated outlining elements of cooperation between the UNSDI development process and SDI developments in UN Member Countries and Regional Organizations. The Secretariat will circulate this statement to the UNGIWG membership before the 8th Plenary Meeting".

4. Eighth UNGIWG Plenary Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 28-30 November 2007

The next plenary meeting will take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 28-30 of November 2007. The organization of this significant event will benefit from the support of the OCHA regional office. Around 75-80 participants are expected (hopefully with a large regional participation) while breakout sessions will be organized for around 35-40 participants. A consultative process will be undertaken for the development of the conference theme and program (interoperability, new technologies – Location Based Services-, etc.)

UNOOSA has indicated its interest in organizing the International Charter Space and Major Disasters Meeting back to back with the UNGIWG Bangkok Meeting in November. The Secretariat will coordinate and inform UNOOSA of venue and availability.

5. Any Other Business

Discussions took place on the acquisition of the road network data for Africa. There is a need for financial contribution from members in addition to the amount committed by UNOSAT. The Secretariat will review the options to determine what it considers to be the most sustainable solution.

The UNGIWG/GEO connection should be assessed including the option for UNSDI/UNGIWG to be formal partner of GEO.

6. Closure of the Meeting

Alta Haggarty closed the teleconference and thanked all participants, TG Managers for the impressive scope of work done during this teleconference and during the Chairmanship Handover Meeting. The new Co-Chairs committed themselves to move forward the UNSDI initiative and make it more relevant to our daily work.

ANNEXES

- I. List of participants
- II. Agenda of the teleconference
- III. TG progress reports

Annex I. List of participants

Rome

John Latham , FAO

Jelle Hielkema, FAO

Paola De Salvo, WFP

Stefano Giaccio, WFP

George Muammar, WFP

New York

Lorant Czarán, OCHA

Lauren Paletta, OCHA

Francesco Pisano, UNOSAT

Karl Steinacker, UNHCR

Alta Haggarty, OCHA

Suha Ulgen, OCHA

Franck Albinet, UNHCR

Luc Saint Pierre, UNHCR

Patrick Gordon, OCHA

Carrie Howard, OCHA

Jeroen Ticheler, FAO

Alice Chow, DPKO

Guillaume Le Sourd, DPKO

Australia

Barry Henricksen, FAO consultant

Geneva

Steeve Ebener, WHO

Nairobi

Mick Wilson, UNEP

Johannes Akiwumi, UNEP

Craig von Hagen, FAO

Annex II. Agenda of the teleconference

UNGIWG Coordination Videoconference

Task Group and Global Partner Activities

UNSDI Implementation priority actions

New York, NY, USA

8 June 2007

9:00 - 12:30

UNGIWG Co-Chairs, Task Group Managers, Secretariat staff and interested UNGIWG members

Proposed Agenda (v.0.7b)

9:00 am	The way forward for UNSDI (Co-Chairs)
9:30 am	Short status report from Task Group Managers (Task Group Managers) 10 minutes each
10:45 am	Short summary of activities regarding Global Partners (Secretariat Staff and others)
11:00am	Discussion on UNSDI Implementation Strategy and priorities for action (All)
12:15pm	Next Steps and Wrap Up

Task Team Managers present in New York will be offered meeting space during unscheduled periods to work together on Task Team activities.

Annex III. TG progress reports

TG1-SALB

Report on the progresses made with the SALB project since the Seventh Plenary Meeting of UNGIWG

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Introduction

This document therefore reports on the activities and the progresses made with the SALB project since the Seventh Plenary meeting of UNGIWG (Santiago de Chile, 02-04 November 2006) in terms of the:

- National Mapping Agencies (NMA) contact information
- historic changes observed in the administrative structure in terms of geography and names at the 1st sub national level since January 1990 and at the 2nd sub national level since January 2000
- GIS format map for each period of representativity observed since January 2000

The details of these activities and the progress achieved are reported in the next section of this document.

Modification in the structure of the SALB network

In order to be more effective and have a chance to really have an up-to-date data set by the end of 2007, the capacity of some of the SALB nodes has been expanded and two new ones have been created:

- the first one at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in order to cover the countries of the Middle East. The person in charge of the technical work for these countries is Mr Ahmed Bayomie.
- the second one in Bangkok at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The person in charge of the technical work for these countries is Ms Kulapramote Prathumchai.

The capacity of the node at UN ECLAC has been extended with the hiring of a part time consultant, Ms Claudia Laube, who is collaborating with the other members of this node (the UN Mal Library, WHO PAHO) to complete and update the data set for the Americas.

The capacity of the node at WHO Headquarter Geneva has also recently been extended with the hiring of a new staff, Mr Tony Rajan Mathew, who will be working part time on the SALB project to cover the European region.

Participation to the 9th GSDI Conference and 13th International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (Santiago de Chile, 7-12 November 2006)

The lessons learned from the SALB project in the Americas have been presented during the 9th GSDI Conference. The paper and slides, in Spanish, are downloadable from the project overview on the SALB web site (http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm).

Thanks to this presentation and the help received from some peoples involved in SALB (UN ECLAC, UNECA and ESRI, it has been possible to have a direct interaction with representatives of the NMAs coming from 18 countries (Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela). Progresses have been made directly there with some of them and we will now follow up on the remaining issues with the others.

Our participation in the 13th International Steering Committee for Global Mapping has been an occasion for us to mention again, our support to the Global Mapping initiative and the willingness to work towards a more collaborative process. In this regards SALB has been accepted as a member of the working group 2 which deals with what should be the specification of version 2 of the Global Mapping database.

**Presentation during the Workshop on Spatial Data Infrastructure jointly
organized by SCOSA and the Geoinformatics Center of the Asian Institute of
Technology (Bangkok, 22-24 February 2007)**

The presentation made by Mr Cihat Basocak (UNESCAP) during this workshop as well as the contacts made by Ms Kulapramote Prathumchai (AIT) has allowed us to move forward or get an update on the progress made in 7 countries (Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

The slides that have been presented can be downloaded from the project overview page on the SALB web site (http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm).

Participation to the FIG working week (Hong-Kong, 13-17 May 2007)

Since last September, the only opportunity to meet with representatives of the National Mapping Agencies has been the working week organized in Hong Kong by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Ms Kulapramote Prathumchai from AIT attended this meeting on behalf of SALB and was able to meet with representative coming from 32 countries. A follow up is currently taking place with these persons in order to obtain the information/data we are looking for.

New editions of the SALB Newsletter

Since last November two new edition of the SALB Newsletter have been published and sent to the all SALB mailing list.

Because of the restructuration of the SALB network, the focus of the SALB Newsletter will now rotate on each of the 5 SALB Regions

All the editions of the SALB Newsletter can be downloaded from the project overview page on the SALB web site (http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm).

Evaluation of the Global Shoreline Dataset

We have started the evaluation of the quality and suitability of the Global Shoreline Dataset for the context of the SALB project.

Using the global Landsat mosaic as ground reference, the first result of this analysis demonstrates the very good quality of this data set.

Nevertheless, its resolution (1:250'000) would create some important discrepancy if combined with administrative boundaries maps at a scale close to 1:1'000'000.

The possibility to generalize the Global Shoreline Dataset to make it compatible with this 2nd scale should therefore be envisaged if UNGIWG decide to use it as the reference.

Resource mobilization

A new proposal for the continuity of the SALB project after 2008 has been submitted to USAID.

Current state of progress

The following information/data is now available from the SALB project web site:

- The contact information for 145 countries (+ 11 compared to last year)
- January 2000 tables for 168 countries (+2)
- January 2000 validated maps for 46 countries (+7)
- Historic changes going at least until January 2005 for 98 countries (+14)
- January 2005, or more recent, map validated for 30 countries (+6).

Conclusion and future steps

The creation of new nodes for the SALB project in Asia and in the Middle East as well as the extension of the capacity of the node for Europe has allowed us to move faster on the completion or update of the data set but a lot still remains to be done in order to make the all data set at least reach January 2005 by the end of this year.

The most productive way to engage NMAs remaining to meet their representative in person we will continue to be present as much as possible during the important conference/meetings attended by NMAs this year. This will for example be the case next week during the 13th PCGIAP meeting.

Addition efforts will also be put in order to build on the collaboration already established between SALB, PCGIAP in the context of its Working Group 2 pilot project and the ISCGM to add other potential initiative/project, such as Digital Asia, to this "consortium" and make sure that each of these initiatives/projects support each other and avoid duplication of efforts.

Thanks to the help provide by our colleagues at WHO EMRO the SALB web site will be redesigned in order to for example insure that the users to agree on respecting the SALB data policy before downloading any map.

TG1- Core Geo Database task group report 08.06.07

1. Introduction

Details of the progresses made for each of the core layers is reported in the next section of this report.

Apart from that, the task group initiated a survey among the UNGIWG members last December in order to identify:

- the geographical framework in which your Agency is mainly interested in as priority area(s);
- the most relevant data layer(s) of the Core Database that your Agency need for supporting its work over the year to come.

Five institutions (UNESCAP, UNICEF, SWALIM, UNJLC and UNOSAT) provided a full reply to this survey, WHO only a partial one.

Some members of the task group also proposed to look at some products or layers for consideration:

- the track4Africa data set in terms of road network for the African continent
- the 1:250 000 scale Global Shoreline Dataset for the coastline

Limited analysis regarding the suitability of these layers have been conducted until now

2. Summary on the status of the Core Database

There are 13 layers identified for the core databases. These layers are:

1. International Boundaries
2. Sub national boundaries
3. [Transportation network/roads/rails/navigation routes](#)
4. [Population centres/gridded population density](#)
5. [Hydrography/Hydrology/drainage network/river and lake basins](#)
6. [Hydrogeology](#)
7. [Coastlines](#)
8. [Land-cover/Land-use](#)
9. [Hypsographic \(elevation contours\)](#)
10. [Bathymetry](#)
11. [Landmine areas](#)
12. [Protected area/Restricted areas](#)
13. [Geology/geomorphology](#)
14. [Airports/Helipad](#)
15. [Health facilities](#)
16. [New suggestion: FGGD, GAUL, GMIA](#)

Detailed information on the core databases:

1. International boundaries

The UNCS has initiated dialogue with the UN Treaty Section with the aim to scan and collect international boundaries related treaties and maps. The international boundary layer itself has not been updated since the meeting in Santiago

2. Sub national boundaries

See the separated report for SALB

3. Transportation network/roads/rails/navigation routes

Updated roads for Africa are available at <http://www.tracks4africa.com/>
Using GPS devices, the Tracks4Africa (T4A) community when touring Africa do meticulous record keeping of their travels. From this huge repository of high quality GPS data there are created accurate GPS maps. These maps can be integrated to existing databases to update road network for Africa.

4. Population centres/gridded population density

POPULATION CENTRES

FAO is developing a UN population centres with more than 100,000 people for Africa. The name of the urban centres and the population figures (for the city itself and for the urban agglomeration) is mainly derived from two sources:

- UN Statistics Division UNSTAT
- World Gazetteer

The source for the lat/long coordinates of the population centres is GEname Server (NGA), the most comprehensive and update source for city coordinates.

Content

UN population centres with more than 100,000 people for Africa

Coverage

The database is just for African countries.

GRIDDED POPULATION DENSITY

LandScan is a global population distribution model originally developed by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the Department of Defense. It is a worldwide model which estimates ambient population distributions within 30 arc-second by 30 arc-second grids, allocating people according to detailed statistical data on population count and other database like slope, nighttime light, roads and so on. The algorithm used for the allocation is not public and there is not a classification of the population according to the urban or rural environment. FAO has developed a

methodology to detect from LandScan the urban population and rural population, distinguishing the boundaries of the urban centers with the Nighttime Lights of the World database (NOOA) and taking into account the UN figure of urban and rural population by country (see more details in “[Mapping global urban and rural population distributions](#)”). The Poverty Mapping Urban and Rural (PMUR) database is now available for the year 2000 in FAO GeoNetwork. An updated version for the year 2005 is under process. In the same project in collaboration with CIESIN it was developed a global population density projection for 2015.

Content

Global population distribution in gridded population density.

Coverage

The PMUR database is available globally at 30 arc-second and at 5 arc-minute resolutions. PMUR includes:

- a rural population (count and density) grid layer
- an urban population (count and density) grid layer
- a rural settlement population (count and density) grid layer
- an urban boundaries grid layer

5. Hydrography/Hydrology/drainage network/river and lake basins

Note: Information needed

6. Hydrogeology

Note: Information needed

7. Coastlines

Note: Information needed

8. Land-cover/Land-use

LAND COVER

Land Cover products are available as high resolution products developed under the Global Land Cover Network (GLCN).

Content

Country level land cover polygon feature class based on Land Cover Classification System (LCCS). The database can be aggregated to any level according to the user requirements using the hierarchical system based on LCCS.

Coverage

The database is available for a number of countries. For more information visit <http://www.glcn.org/>. For information on Africover visit <http://www.africover.org/>

In addition the GLOBCOVER product is being developed, which will be a global land-cover map using fine resolution mode (300m) data acquired over the full year 2005 by the MERIS sensor onboard the ENVISAT satellite.

The product is intended to update, complement and improve (due to its better resolution) other existing comparable products. The thematic legend of the final product is intended to be compatible with the FAO Land Cover Classification System (LCSS). The first unvalidated products (version 1) will be available by October 2007 for Europe and Asia and for the whole globe by the end of the year. The product will be bimonthly mosaics. GLCN will be able to freely use and distribute the products but data quality will need to be assessed and reprocessing performed during 2007 and 2008.

LAND USE

FAO, IFPRI and SAGE set up in early 2002, an informal collaborative consortium, **Agro-MAPS**, aimed at compiling a consistent global spatial database based on selected sub-national agricultural statistics.

Content

Agro-MAPS contains data for primary crops on:

- area harvested (hectares)
- crop production (metric tonnes)
- yield (metric tonnes/hectare)

Coverage

The Agro-MAPS database contains data for 134 countries

- 130 countries at admin1 level; 59 countries at admin2 level.
- These countries represent 92% of the world land surface.

Level of aggregation of data

Agro-MAPS data are aggregated at sub national level for selected years with emphasis placed on the compilation of the most recent data available. In contrast, FAOSTAT data are aggregated at country level.

Outputs:

- A global spatial dataset of statistics on crop production, area harvested and yield, aggregated at the second administrative sub-division level, where available.
- Demonstration studies, highlighting the utility of the Agri-MAPS data in several

thematic areas, land degradation, early warning, food security, farming systems studies, nutrient balance and climate change.

- Specialized database query tools; interactive web sites for display of maps of major crops and to facilitate information exchange.

These products need to be updated, maintained and validated to keep the spatial and attribute consistency. Land use products are available as aggregate products at the lowest available administrative unit globally.

DISTRIBUTION

- in CD-ROM as Atlas
- the online distribution of the data layers is available at FAO's website:
<http://www.fao.org/landandwater/agll/agromaps/interactive/index.jsp>

METADATA

- The Agro-Maps data and layers are available at the Agro-Maps website; Agro-Maps will be available on GeoNetwork and the metadata will be standard ISO 19115; in the DVD the same metadata were converted in the way to be readable in ArcCatalog

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- AgroMaps are freely distributable through the FAO website

9. Hypsographic (elevation contours)

SRTM data was processed from FAO GLCN. The final products consist on interpolated "hydrological" DEM based on the procedure developed and implemented by GLCN. The elevation contours can be generated using the processed product.

Coverage:
Global

Resolution:
30 arc-second

PROJECTION INFORMATION

Global Projection *Geographic*

Horizontal Datum *World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84)*

Vertical Datum *WGS84 Earth Gravitational Model (EGM 96) geoid*

Vertical Units *meter*

DISTRIBUTION

SRTM Level 1 (3 arc second) data for global coverage will be distributed by FAO-SDRN as

20x10 Degree seem less mosaics
ArcGrid and GeoTIFF formats
on DVD-ROM and large storage devices

DIGITAL DATA FORMATS

ArcGrid is an Arc/Info proprietary format. Some other software packages can read the ArcGrid format.

TIFF for SRTM is a 16 bit signed integer grid format. No Data is stored as -32768.

10. Bathymetry

Note: Information needed

11. Landmine areas

Note: Information needed

12. Protected area/Restricted areas

Note: IUCN Protected areas is available globally.

13. Geology/geomorphology

Note: Information needed

14. Airports/Helipad

Note: Information needed

15. Health facilities

Note: WHO to complete

16. New suggestion:

16.1 FGGD

Food insecurity, poverty and environment Global GIS database (FGGD)

The FGGD is:

- a GIS database that contains 110 layers mainly at 5arc-minute resolution (almost 10 layers are at 30arc-seconds);
- a first display/query tool for not-GIS experts that allows to identify the value for a certain indicator in a specific area and print an already defined layout of the map;
- a second investigation tool for people with some little knowledge of GIS that allows to overlay different variables and have a more complete information of the

same location, that you can reach with a navigation system for your own specific location (e.g. cities, airport, rivers);

The FGGD contains six modules (see below for the details):

MODULE 1 BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY

MODULE 2 POPULATION

MODULE 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND NUTRITION INDICATORS

MODULE 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

MODULE 5 LAND USE PATTERNS AND LAND COVER

MODULE 6 LAND PRODUCTIVITY POTENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FGGD:

- ❖ in paper format as Atlas (with all the printable map) which will includes the DVDs with the tools and the complete archive
- ❖ the on-line distribution of the datalayers will be held in GeoNetwork
- ❖ for the navigation of the maps a web mapping is creating

MAIN ISSUES:

✓ THE RESOLUTION

We are at 5arc-minute resolution and we would like to improve the resolution at 30arc-seconds

✓ THE COASTLINE

We used the Digital Soil Map of the World coastline (DSMW) as reference (1: 5 000 000) for the database and would like to have the UN coastline as standard (1: 1 000 000)

✓ THE METADATA

The FGGD layers will be available in GeoNetwork and the metadata will be standard ISO 19115; in the DVD the same metadata were converted in the way to be readable in ArcCatalog

✓ COPYRIGHT, ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION

If eventually we will move to UN coastline,

MODULE 1 BOUNDARIES AND TOPOGRAPHY

- Map 1.1 Coastal and country boundaries of the world
- Map 1.2 Inland water bodies

MODULE 2 POPULATION

- Map 2.1 Rural population distribution (persons per pixel), 2000
- Map 2.2 Rural population density (persons per square kilometre), 2000
- Map 2.3 Global population density estimates, 2015

MODULE 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND NUTRITION INDICATORS

- Map 3.1 Degree of human development, by country, 2000
- Map 3.2 Share of population living in poverty, by country, varying years
- Map 3.3 Share of population living in extreme poverty, by country, varying years
- Map 3.4 Share of population undernourished, by country, 2000-2002
- Map 3.5 Changes in the number of undernourished, by country, between 1990-1992 and 2000-2002
- Map 3.6 Prevalence of stunting among children under five, by lowest available subnational administrative unit, varying years
- Map 3.7 Estimated number of stunted children under five, by lowest available subnational administrative unit, varying years

MODULE 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- Map 4.1 Thermal climate zones of the world
- Map 4.2 Length of growing period (LGP) zones of the world
- Map 4.3 Coefficient of variation (CV) of length of growing period (LGP), 1901-1996
- Map 4.4 Climatic zones of the world, based on length of growing period (LGP)
- Map 4.5 Major soil groups of the world
- Map 4.6 Terrain slope classes of the world
- Map 4.7 Global land area with climate constraints
- Map 4.8 Global land area with soil constraints
- Map 4.9 Global land area with terrain slope constraints
- Map 4.10 Hierarchical distribution of severe environmental constraints

MODULE 5 LAND USE PATTERNS AND LAND COVER

- Map 5.1 Occurrence of forest
- Map 5.2 Occurrence of cropland
- Map 5.3 Occurrence of pasture and browse
- Map 5.4 Occurrence of barren and sparsely vegetated land
- Map 5.5 Occurrence of irrigated areas
- Map 5.6 Protected areas

- Map 5.7 Global land cover distribution, by dominant land cover type
- Map 5.8 Irrigated area and land not currently available for rainfed crop production, by land cover type
- Map 5.9 Irrigated area and land not currently available for rainfed crop production, total
- Map 5.10 Farming system classes in developing and transition countries, 2000

MODULE 6 LAND PRODUCTIVITY POTENTIAL

For cereals

- Map 6.1 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of cereals (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.2 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of cereals (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.3 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of cereals (high level of inputs)
- Map 6.4 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of cereals (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.5 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of cereals (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.6 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of cereals (high level of inputs)
- Map 6.7 Variability of rainfed cereal production potential, by country, 1961-1990

For fibres

- Map 6.8 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of fibres (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.9 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of fibres (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.10 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of fibres (high level of inputs)
- Map 6.11 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of fibres (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.12 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of fibres (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.13 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of fibres (high level of inputs)

For oil crops

- Map 6.14 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of oil crops (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.15 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of oil crops (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.16 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of oil crops (high level of inputs)
- Map 6.17 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of oil crops (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.18 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of oil crops (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.19 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of oil crops (high level of inputs)

For pulses

- Map 6.20 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of pulses (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.21 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of pulses (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.22 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of pulses (high level of inputs)
- Map 6.23 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of pulses (low level of inputs)
- Map 6.24 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of pulses (intermediate level of inputs)
- Map 6.25 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of pulses (high level of inputs)

For roots and tuber

- Map 6.26 Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of roots and tubers (low level of inputs)

Map 6.27	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of roots and tubers (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.28	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of roots and tubers (high level of inputs)
Map 6.29	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of roots and tubers (low level of inputs)
Map 6.30	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of roots and tubers (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.31	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of roots and tubers (high level of inputs)
For stimulants	
Map 6.32	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of stimulants (low level of inputs)
Map 6.33	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of stimulants (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.34	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of stimulants (high level of inputs)
Map 6.35	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of stimulants (low level of inputs)
Map 6.36	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of stimulants (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.37	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of stimulants (high level of inputs)
For sugar crops	
Map 6.38	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of sugar crops (low level of inputs)
Map 6.39	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of sugar crops (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.40	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of sugar crops (high level of inputs)
Map 6.41	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of sugar crops (low level of inputs)
Map 6.42	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of sugar crops (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.43	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of sugar crops (high level of inputs)
For tree fruits	
Map 6.44	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of tree fruits (low level of inputs)
Map 6.45	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of tree fruits (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.46	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of tree fruits (high level of inputs)
Map 6.47	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of tree fruits (low level of inputs)
Map 6.48	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of tree fruits (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.49	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of tree fruits (high level of inputs)
For vegetables	
Map 6.50	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of vegetables (low level of inputs)
Map 6.51	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of vegetables (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.52	Suitability of global land area for rainfed production of vegetables (high level of inputs)
Map 6.53	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of vegetables (low level of inputs)
Map 6.54	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of vegetables (intermediate level of inputs)
Map 6.55	Suitability of currently available land for rainfed production of vegetables (high level of inputs)
For pasture	

Map 6.56 Suitability of global land area for pasture

Map 6.57 Suitability of currently available land for pasture

Combined suitabilities

Map 6.58 Multiple cropping zones under rainfed conditions, global land area

Map 6.59 Multiple cropping zones under rainfed conditions, currently available land

Map 6.60 Suitability of global land area for rainfed crops, using maximising crop and technology mix

Map 6.61 Suitability of currently available land for rainfed crops, using maximising crop and technology mix

Map 6.62 Combined suitability of global land area for pasture and rainfed crops (low input level)

Map 6.63 Combined suitability of global land area for pasture and rainfed crops (intermediate input level)

Map 6.64 Combined suitability of global land area for pasture and rainfed crops (high input level)

Map 6.65 Combined suitability of currently available land for pasture and rainfed crops (low input level)

Map 6.66 Combined suitability of currently available land for pasture and rainfed crops (intermediate input level)

Map 6.67 Combined suitability of currently available land for pasture and rainfed crops (high input level)

MODULE 7 DATALAYER WITH NO FGSD ATLAS MAPS (at 30 arc-second resolution)

7.1 Elevation and urban area boundaries

7.2 Urban and rural population database

7.3 Accessibility database (from road and urban areas)

7.4 Farming system

16.2 GAUL

The Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) is an initiative implemented by FAO within the EC-FAO Food Security Programme funded by the European Commission. GAUL aims at compiling and disseminating the most reliable spatial information on administrative units for all countries in the world.

The GAUL Project intends to a) overcome the fragmentation of the global dataset occurring when administrative units layers are digitized on a country-by-country basis, b) promote a unified coding system that reduces maintenance efforts and c) keep historical track of changes occurring on the shapes and extent of the administrative units. The GAUL provides a contribution to the standardization of the spatial dataset representing administrative units.

COVERAGE

GAUL is available at global level at scale 1: 1Million.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ the online distribution of the layer in GeoNetwork

MAIN ISSUES:

✓ BOUNDARIES

Disputed boundaries must be validated. Also the layer must be updated and maintained on regular basis.

✓ COASTLINE

The database must be improved upon the availability of the high resolution coastline.

✓ METADATA

GAUL will be available in GeoNetwork and the metadata will be standard ISO 19115 readable in ArcCatalog;

✓ COPYRIGHT, ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION

Using UN coastline, UN approved boundaries;

16.3 Global Map of Irrigation Areas (GMIA)

The Land and Water Development Division of the FAO and the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main are co-operating in the development of a global irrigation mapping facility. The objective of the co-operation between the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität and FAO is to develop global GIS coverage of areas equipped for irrigation and to make it available to users in the international community. The data collected through the AQUASTAT surveys is used to improve the overall quality and resolution of the information.

COVERAGE

GMIA is available at global level.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ the online distribution of the layer in GeoNetwork

UNGIWG Remote Sensing Task Group
Minutes from teleconferences 30 May and 5 June 2007

Participants:

Luc St. Pierre (UNHCR) – 30 May only
Franck Albinet (UNHCR)
Giorgio Sartori (WFP)
Lorant Czarán (UN OCHA)
David Stevens (UN OOSA)
Georg Magerl (UN OOSA)
Sharafat Gadimova (UN OOSA) – 30 May only
Francesco Pisano (UNITAR UNOSAT) – 30 May only
Einar Bjorgo (UNITAR UNOSAT)

Written input from:

Ashbindu Singh (UNEP) – input attached

Teleconference was split in two parts. Agenda items 1-3 were discussed 30 May and items 4-6 were discussed 5 June. Please see attached for agenda.

1. Welcome

Francesco Pisano welcomed the participants on behalf of Alain Retiere who was on travel. The RS TG has not been very active over the last year and the chairs would like to revitalize the group. New objectives are needed, as is a self-review of the membership list as there may be members who no longer are involved in this type of work and other individuals/organizations that are currently not members, but could contribute to the group as members. The issue of the TG contributing to UNGIWG as a whole was also recognized.

2. Recent and future activities related to remote sensing

UNHCR:

- Does not have considerable activities related to remote sensing
- Depends on UNOSAT for data and analyses
- Benefits from imagery through the Respond project via UNOSAT
- Currently focusing on Chad and Uganda for GIS in field and remote sensing
- Main application for imagery is mapping of refugee camps in support to camp management
- Currently starting to assess IDP camps – population estimates from remote sensing may be of interest for IDP camp assessments
- Potential future use of remote sensing include support to emergency teams and contingency planning
- Would like to see Space Charter accept requests for certain types of complex emergencies in support to UNHCR operations

WFP:

- Two main uses of remote sensing within the organization: Food security and emergency preparedness & response
- For food security typical remote sensing products include NDVI assessments of biomass
- For emergency preparedness & response WFP uses satellite imagery for preliminary assessments of natural disasters
- WFP is currently building its SDI which will include emergency related layers
- Imagery is also used to support emergency needs assessments planning
- ITHACA is a new venture between Turin Polytechnic Institute and WFP. The Centre will develop soft and hard technology to support emergency preparedness and response. Initial focus on satellite imagery and GIS in support to early warning and emergency response to ensure field office needs are met within short delays

UN OCHA:

- From ReliefWeb and FIS' side, imagery are used mainly in support to natural disasters
- Maps derived from Space Charter imagery are routinely received from UNOSAT and posted on ReliefWeb [UNOSAT note: some maps are produced by UNOSAT partners and projects]
- Supports OCHA field offices requesting free imagery, for example support with ASTER scenes
- Very limited image processing at HQ
- Working with DPKO to make their archive of very high resolution imagery available for UN HQ

UN OOSA:

- Works mostly in support to national governments
- Focus on capacity building through UN affiliated regional centres
- Guiding national entities to where remote sensing data may be accessed for capacity building
- Through SPIDER programme assist with access to and use of satellite imagery for national users
- Is currently discussing access to Korean, Chinese and Nigerian satellite constellations

UNITAR UNOSAT:

- Three main aspects are currently in focus at UNOSAT: Development, Data Grid and Humanitarian Rapid Mapping
- In support to for example UNDP and UNEP development-related projects UNOSAT typically undertake a full image processing and analysis chain, as well as local capacity building for hands-on training. Areas include for example Syria, Chad and Nicaragua
- Data Grid developments are related to the wide storage and significant computer

processing available on the Grid (network of inter-connected computer centres). The goal is to provide access to image storage and processing for developing countries and users with relatively low bandwidth

- Humanitarian rapid mapping is using satellite imagery from a range of data providers and mechanisms, including Space Charter data in support to requests from UN agencies. Value adding of imagery is performed in-house or with partners, such as GMES Respond project and bilateral agreements

3. Google Earth (GE) applications

UNHCR:

- Worked with the Holocaust Museum to support Darfur application with locations of IDP camps
- Discussing with INSTEDD on various software solutions, including GE
- Works with a French NGO in Uganda to develop GE layers using UNHCR vector data

WFP:

- Uses a range of Google tools (including Earth, Maps) and other similar tools
- Good for certain applications, but require wide bandwidth and thus not easily useful in the field offices. GE was not found to be very useful during Lebanon crisis for task forces and meetings etc
- Use GE for displaying security incidents
- Noted that Google Maps can import .klm files for display in 2D and these can also be edited on the spot. This is a good alternative for users with low bandwidth

UN OCHA:

- Have also discussed with INSTEDD at high level regarding use of free tools, such as GE
- Considerable amount of request for imagery to be put on GE through UNGIWG Geo3D mailing list
- Assisting UNDP in creating layers for geo-referencing and inclusion in GE (official launch in June)
- Currently discussing with GE on common UN layer for general public using GE. This will consist of 5-6 sub-layers that can alternate or be related to current events
- Involved in outreach activities from GE/UNF/Google.org
- Raised issue of potentially including Geo3D as part of RS TG

UN OOSA:

- Currently experimenting with mapping regional centres using GE, but 1- 1.5 years until concrete applications may be realized

UNOSAT:

- Using GE as part of a range of geo-spatial tools in production-chain
- Have recently initiated a participatory image analysis approach for disasters in collaboration with OCHA FCSS in the framework of GDACS, starting with

earthquake scenarios and very high resolution imagery. GE will be collaborative platform used by analysts in assessing each a small sub-section of the total area of interest comparing pre- and post-disaster imagery. .klm files to be sent back to UNOSAT for quality control and combination for overall assessment. This will involve training and simulation prior to operational implementation

4. Status of data purchase mechanisms, volumes and access to data

UNHCR:

- Does in general not procure imagery, except for a few project cases.

UN OOSA:

- Not purchasing satellite imagery
- As part of SPIDER programme, UN OOSA is interested in an overview of the various mechanisms for acquiring data within the UN system

WFP:

- Limited purchase of satellite imagery
- Suggested a need to ensure focal points at country level if list of available imagery to UN sister organizations is to be maintained

UN OCHA

- Limited image purchase within UN OCHA, but significant volumes purchased by DPKO using UN Secretariat System Contract, an agreement for imagery purchase mandatory for UN Secretariat and open to any UN agency. This agreement is due to be tendered for in the near future. Suggested that RS TG in future could provide input towards UN requirements for System Contract

UNOSAT:

- Has data procurement agreements with commercial vendors covering all main sensors. This purchasing mechanism is open to all UN agencies as well as organizations and institutions working in the context of UN supported initiatives
- Agreements are negotiated so as to facilitate the best possible discounts and to the degree possible ensure UN-wide licences for data purchased at discounted cost of single user license

Joint discussion following agenda item 4:

The need for a simple co-ordination mechanism providing an overview of what purchasing mechanisms and what medium and high-resolution imagery are available for free to UN agencies was identified. This mechanism must be simple to use and ensure access to all relevant actors to facilitate updating the envisaged website/database and optimal benefits from it.

Since a wiki-application for the UNGIWG website is currently being developed, it was agreed to implement this as the entry point for the mechanism. It was agreed that

this would need to be an application and mechanism running under the auspices of UNGIWG.

UNOSAT offered to host the free imagery available to UN sister agencies, which was positively received by the meeting participants. UNOSAT would work with the wiki-application development for the technical interface to the image hosting application.

5. Suggested objectives and tasks for RS TG in coming year

UNHCR:

- No specific suggestions

UN OOSA:

- Suggested to develop information site on image purchasing mechanisms for UN agencies. Interested to contribute to such a list

WFP:

- Need to develop mechanism for UN wide access to images for emergency preparedness and response
- Organize a lessons learned and capacity overview mechanism where the UN as a group can exchange experiences and learn from each other on RS applications
- RS TG should represent a common UN voice on various issues relevant to use of remote sensing within the UN

UN OCHA:

- Inventory and sharing mechanism of available medium and high resolution imagery to UN is needed
- List of who in RS TG is involved in what tasks in GEO. [UN OOSA indicated interest to help build such database]

UNOSAT:

- Agreed with WFP on the need for the RS TG to represent a UN common voice
- Need to develop data sharing mechanism designed so as to encourage use and contributions from widest range of UN organizations and staff
- Encouraged RS TG to provide input to UN common layer on Google Earth

6. Any other business

WFP:

- Ask UN agencies to provide two sub-layers to Google Earth UN layer. These should be global and focused on a theme.

UNOOSA:

- Proposed to build upon opportunity next UN wide Space Charter meeting may bring towards co-ordination mechanism for access to imagery for emergency preparedness and response

UN OCHA:

- Reiterated the need to review RS TG membership list

Joint discussion following agenda items 5 and 6:

Following the various input, the meeting participants agreed to the following tasks for the RS TG in the coming year:

1. To review RS TG membership to ensure those included are (still) relevant. Seek to include new members to ensure widest possible buy-in and new ideas from UN colleagues
2. To suggest global thematic sub-layers for inclusion in common UN layer in Google Earth. Each UN agency with an interest to propose two sub-layers. This will be co-ordinated by Geo3D discussion group
3. To provide regular input as a group on areas of priority for populating with very high resolution imagery to Google Earth
4. To regularly discuss issues of joint interest to the RS TG and ensure UNGIWG acts as a common UN voice representing RS TG member organizations on these issues
5. To develop UNGIWG RS TG wiki-mechanism as a common collaborative tool to include information on
 - a. Available image purchase mechanisms for UN agencies
 - b. List of who in RS TG is involved in what tasks in GEO
 - c. Available free medium and high resolution imagery to UN agencies. Data proposed hosted at UNOSAT
 - d. Co-ordination mechanism for access to imagery for emergency preparedness and response
 - e. Lessons learned and capacity overview information on the use of remote sensing within the UN family

Geneva, 6 June 2007

Einar Bjorgo

UNOSAT
RS TG co-chair

Agenda

1. Welcome, Francesco Pisano, UNOSAT
2. Each participating organization explains what areas (thematic and geographical) its present activities in remote sensing are focused on
3. Organizations with Google Earth applications of interest to the TG explain these (and prepare necessary .kml, .kmz files to share with RS TG if needed)
4. Status of data purchase mechanisms, volumes and access to data
5. Suggestions on what you would like the RS TG to focus on, for consolidation by TG coordinators
6. AOB

Written input from Ashbindu Singh (UNEP):

Dear Lorant

Unfortunately, I would not be able to join the telcon due to other commitments. You can convey followings:

We have recieved ome interest from US NGA to provide high resolution satellite data for Africa. We are thinking of requesting for free data for monitoring changes in forests in Kenya. They were complaining that UN (??) normally wanted everything without being specific. So we decided to focus on Kenya.

Google Earth: The UN Foundation has received a number of funding requests related to Google Earth. We had a meeting with them. GE told UNF to contact. They wanted UNEP to help other UN agencies in developing content for GE. We are internally evaluating how to help others with limited technical and financial resources.

Cheers

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Interim Report of UN Geographic Information Working Group 4 - Interoperable Services to UNGIWG ad hoc Meeting 7-8 June 2007, UN, New York

Task Managers: Mick Wilson (UNEP), Jeroen Ticheler (FAO)

Members of the Task Group have collectively and individually been rather active since UNGIWG-7. As per the draft workplan that circulated following that meeting:

- WFP (Olivier Cottray) has published have delivered version 1 of the UN Spatial Data Infrastructure Geo-database Model for Transport and Logistics and established a community list server unsdi-t@unjlc.org
- FAO (Jeroen Ticheler) remains on schedule for release of Geonetwork opensource in early July; both OCHA and UNEP continue their financial support to these developments
- UNEP (Mick Wilson) continues to liaise on behalf of TG-4 with the GEOSS pilot clearing house registry implementation with prospects for being to adopt and adapt the prototype for UN-SDI in time for UNGIWG-8
- FAO presented UNGIWG Profile of the ISO Metadata Standard at the Standards in Action Workshop in Rome (May 27, 2007)
- OCHA (Suha Ulgen, Carrie Howard) provided to DEPHA all VMAP-1 layers for the Horn of Africa region for serving to the humanitarian community in East Africa; initial WMS and WFS are operational for support data evaluation and improvement
- UNEP in March canvassed support an ad hoc SDI-East Africa. Respondents included 5 UN agencies (UN Habitat, UNHCR, FAO/SWALIM, OCHA, WFP/JLC), national SDI programmes (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda), NGO's, university staff and students, commercial entities and individuals as far afield as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, the USA and Europe. UNEP (John Mugwe) has provided direct technical support to FAO/SWALIM. OCHA, DEPHA and the Red Cross regional office to implement on-line data publication using open-standards web feature services. The adventures of SDI-EA are blogged haphazardly at sdi-ea.blogspot.com and the mailing list is at sdi-ea@als.unep.org

Outreach and ad hoc activities

- UNEP continues to provide the UNGIWG server in New York and to work with FAO (Jeroen Ticheler) and OCHA (Chris Nicholas, Lorant Czarán) to upgrade the to add a wiki collaborative workspace, to implement Geonetwork opensource, and to install OGC-compliant web transactional feature service (geoserver) as the basis for a future service for coordinating satellite image orders
- FAO/SWALIM (Craig von Hagen) and UNEP (James Osundwa) jointly presented on UNSDI and SDI-EA at the fifth meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 1-5 May
- DEPHA are supporting OCHA and UNHCR open-standards data publication operations (IDP camp locations, VMAP-1) pending implementation of their own services
- UNEP appointed Mick Wilson as its Expert for a Day on 29 March, an opportunity that was grabbed to promote the principles and promise of a UNSDI to all who would listen

Pending activities include

- TG-4 to undertake formal modelling of the UNGIWG ISO 19115 profile
- OCHA to lead development of a standard symbology library for humanitarian mapping applications and to present this as an open web service
- OCHA to work with DEPHA and CIESEN (Greg Yetman) trialing delivery of gridded human population data via web coverage services for development of strategic information services and products for the East African region
- FAO/SWALIM to work with DEPHA as part of SDI-EA in a trial of transactional WFS for improving quality of the VMAP-1 data layers
- SDI-EA technical support to be further extended beyond the UN family-RCMRD, KWS and SCGIS are immediate candidates
- UN Habitat to implement open web services delivering their global database of centres of habitation of over 100,000 people
- UNEP to host two UNSDI-related workshops in Nairobi (one managerial/institutional, one technical) raising awareness of the UNSDI effort and advocating adherence to the principles SDI in national and institutional programmes so as to

foster increased information flow, both for their own benefit, to increase national capability to exploit the UNSDI, and for their increased participation in regional efforts such as UNEP's regional environmental assessment activities. These workshops will be coordinated with the national SDI bodies in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

- UNEP to publish on-line an end-to-end open architecture for SDI implementation, in coordination with GSDI and OGC and as a contribution to national capacity development aligned with the GEOSS capacity building task
- UNEP and FAO/SWALIM to conduct a series of half-day hands-on technical training workshops in implementing open web services and publishing geographic data on-line, largely as train-the-trainer means for extending the SDI-EA effort
- UNEP to incorporate direct liaison with and support national SDI developments in the second half of 2007 during its regional and sub-regional networking workshops promoting improved reporting by countries against the Millennium Development Goals.

**UNGIWG Map production Guidelines – Task Team 4
Interim report to the Secretariat
June 2007**

Background 2006:

1. The work of the Map production Guidelines task team in 2006 could be characterized as a year of stock taking and pulling out existing agency resources on map production standards.
2. The result was a mixed set of resources; varied in scope and technical guidance and comprehensiveness. These technical guidelines and templates were often compiled at a single point in time, as a snapshot.
3. From this research/review the TT 5 questioned how it could work toward creating “a living document”, that both captured new information and delivered existing maps standard info - a living dynamic service rather than a set of reference documents.

Work plan and Achievements 2007:

4. The 2007 Task team 5 work plan was developed to work toward the goal of a common map production resource, build on existing work from Cartographic practitioners (FAO, DPKO, WFP, UNHCR and OCHA). This years work and achievements follow:
 - **Building on the existing resources toward common cartographic tools and symbol libraries.**
 - Inter-agency inventory complete
 - OCHA in process of endorsing base symbol library that will be used as an inter-agency tool
 - Symbol library to be tested through East Africa Region partners and presented at the next UNGIWG meeting
 - **Provide on-line access to existing resources**
 - this work is stalled until we have access to web resources
 - **Work with TT 4 on web service component within the framework of the East Africa SDI and UNWIWG_**
 - Ground work laid for providing symbols through TT 4 web-services
 - Installation and training on web services and geo-server on-going
 - **Advocate for the use of common map production tools across agencies and continue sharing of the new work building on a critical mass of keen users**
 - Ongoing mainly through the umbrella of the East Africa SDI
 - Symbols to be used on the *Humanitarian Layer* of the Google Earth project
 - **Build better inter-agency representation for the TT work:**

UNGIWG Task Managers Meeting, New York, 08 June 2007

- Working partnership initiated with DPKO to establish common tools for field missions
- East Africa SDI partners including UNEP, FAO, UNHCR, OCHA, IRC and actively building partners will test and comment products as produced.
- Wider partnerships established through leading Cartographers in UNEP and OCHA to pull on existing resources and further refine
- Existing members keen on advancing the TT work

For updates and details on Task Team activities contact:

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TG5

No report provided.

A presentation was given during the teleconf. This presentation is available on the UNGIWG website.