



Editorial

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of EIS-AFRICA we would like to wish you a Happy New Year and everything of the best for 2006.

This is not the best time of the year when it comes to receiving contributions for publication but we have still managed to present you with some interesting reading. As another year comes around we are very much committed to bringing you a better newsletter with more informative news. However, with escalating costs of translation services and a smaller operating budget, EIS-AFRICA may be forced to publish a single newsletter with the articles published in the language of origin. We will be seeking sponsorship to continue publishing a separate English and French newsletter.

Now for some good news, Burkina

Faso have signed the Memorandum Of Understanding with EIS-AFRICA to host AFRICAGIS 2007. Preparations for the conference are moving ahead rapidly. Opportunities to sponsor of the event is already possible and you can contact EIS-AFRICA for more information. Until next month, enjoy the read.

Regards

Sives Govender

Executive Director

South Africa says it will boost climate research

Africa's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases — South Africa — unveiled plans for a research and development strategy to address climate change this week at a national conference in Midrand.

But, although South Africa's Department of Science and Technology says the strategy will help the country produce locally relevant findings on climate change that can feed into national policies, some local scientists are unimpressed with the conference.

They argue that the government — already accused of being 'anti-science' by HIV/AIDS researchers — is more interested in publicity.

Rob Adam, the department's director-general, said the strategy would be finalised after scientists had provided their input. Research priorities identified so far include climate modelling, long-term monitoring of climate change, and studies of its impacts on society and the environment.

Adam warned that poor countries would come under increasing political pressure to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. South Africa's environment minister, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, however, told Reuters news agency that US de-

mands for poverty-stricken countries to do so were "much too early".

"But while we put pressure on the developed world we must put our own house in order," said van Schalkwyk.

In a letter published yesterday (19 October) by the Cape Times, Philip Lloyd of the University of Cape Town said "there is something seriously wrong with the meeting. It does not represent the climate change debate in South Africa".

He said that government organisers snubbed invited scientists — including himself — when they offered to share their research.

Lloyd, who recently co-wrote a report for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), said he noticed no input from the South African government when the IPCC's working group on climate change mitigation met in Canada last month.

Source: *SciDev.Net*

Request for Proposals to Host the GSDI-11 CONFERENCE In Spring/Summer 2009

The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association invites organizations to submit a proposal to host the 11th GSDI Technical Conference in the early Fall of 2008. GSDI-9 will be held in November 2006 in Santiago Chile and GSDI-10 is planned for February 2007 in Fiji.

The GSDI has conducted eight successful international meetings in 8 different countries. The last four meetings have drawn from 350 to over 900 participants representing between 35 and 88 nations. Typically these meetings draw between 100 - 200 foreign participants with many local attendees. Often successful meetings are conducted in conjunction with another local/regional GIS and/or SDI meeting.

Any organization wishing to host the GSDI-11 Technical Conference in the Spring or early summer of 2009 should submit a proposal that covers the basic framework categories listed below. Details will ultimately need to be negotiated between the local Organizing Committee and the GSDI Executive Committee. It is understood that many more business and technical issues will surface during the planning and preparation for this conference, and it is expected that they will also be negotiated amicably during the course of the planning process.

Issues the proposal should address:

* Hotel(s) for housing attendees with a range of rates allowing for those that may have meager resources.

* Facility in which to conduct the conference with the opportunity to conduct at least 6 parallel sessions for 3 - 4 days along with larger conference auditoriums to seat a minimum of 400 - 500. This could also be one of the hotels

mentioned above.

* Opportunities to conduct large food functions (could also be one of the hotels above.)

* Launching an integrated website for the GSDI conference so that the GSDI website and others can link to it. This site will provide information on the meeting like the call for papers, announcements, preliminary program, venue, travel information, housing and cultural information, registration information and mechanisms to register on-line as well as through processes like FAX and regular mail, etc. Some web mechanisms may be able to be provided by the GSDI Association if desirable with the parties.

* Provide a plan for printing and publishing meeting announcements, call for papers, preliminary program, compendium of abstracts, final program, final report, and related documents.

* Financial and accounting mechanisms for banking and to allocate money from many different nations for registration, exhibits, contributions, and related income and costs associated with the subject meeting. Use of in-place mechanisms of the GSDI Association may be an option to consider.

* Local technical and cultural tours for attendees and accompanying persons.

* Other related issues.

A sample past agreement is available as a guide but most provisions are negotiable.

Please submit proposals to host the GSDI-11 conference to the GSDI Association on or before September 1, 2006 to proposals@gdsdi.org. If you have any questions or inquiries, please consult Alan Stevens at astevens@gdsdi.org or Harlan Onsrud

at onsrud@gdsdi.org

Proposal materials will be circulated to GSDI Board members prior to the November 2006 conference in Santiago Chile and a board vote will be taken at that time to determine the preferred proposal and location to pursue for GSDI-11.

Past International GSDI conferences Interval Between Conferences

GSDI 1 Bonn, Germany 4-6 Sept 1996 Europe

GSDI 2 Chapel Hill, USA 20-21 Oct 1997 N. America - 13 months

GSDI 3 Canberra, Australia 17-19 Nov 1998 Australia - 13 months

GSDI 4 Cape Town, South Africa 13-15 Mar 2000 Africa - 16 months

GSDI 5 Cartagena, Colombia 21-24 May 2001 C. America - 14 months

GSDI 6 Budapest, Hungary 16-19 Sept 2002 Europe - 16 months

GSDI 7 Bangalore, India 30 Jan - 6 Feb 2004 Asia - 17 months

GSDI 8 Cairo, Egypt 16-21 April 2005 Africa - 14 months

GSDI 9 Santiago, Chile 6-10 November 2006 S. America - 19 months

GSDI 10 Nadi, Fiji February 2008 (likely) S. Pacific - 15 months

GSDI 11 (Location to be determined) approx. May or June 2009 - 16 months

Submitted by Harlan Onsrud

Geospatial 21 program

We would like to invite GIS experts from Africa to join our "Vetting Circle Membership for the Geospatial Generalist Certificate of Completion" as part of the <http://www.geospatial21.org/> .

The curriculum can be downloaded <http://www.geospatial21.org/curriculum/index.asp> online and we are planning a global webcast for all "Vetting Circle Members" on February 24, 2006 for their interactive input. The downloadable PDF file includes lessons covering information from four areas of geospatial technologies: an introduction unit to the tech-

nologies in general, a Geographic Information Systems unit, a unit covering GPS, and a remote sensing unit. We are asking for experts in these areas from around the world to review our lessons and provide feedback and comments on the content. Once we have the feedback, we are going to go into production to produce various videos, interactive graphics, labs, assignments, quizzes, and demos based on the lessons in the curriculum. Our goal is to create an interactive online curriculum that will provide a gateway for students to pursue further education and careers in the geospatial industry.

We hope you will recommend several candidates to participate to give this certificate more global significance.

*Submitted by Phil Cruver,
President, Kidz Online*

Results from 2005 NOAA Remote Sensing Market Research Study

Last year, notices were sent out to the GSDI discussion and mailing lists encouraging colleagues to participate in the NOAA-sponsored remote sensing market research study which covered issues related to eight sectors of the remote sensing market: aerial film, aerial digital, aerial sensors, satellites, commercial end users, value added hardware and software, academic, and government. The results are now available at: <http://www.licensing.noaa.gov/SurveyAnalysis.pdf>

This summary report identifies technical trends in the industry, satellite sector trends, and government and political trends. It also discusses the future of remotely sensed software products, revenues, types of data, and applications/uses of satellite data.

The results reflect only a small portion of the data analyzed and the remaining data is available for further analysis.

NOAA will be extending this survey shortly to collect in-depth information about the Asian market.

*Submitted by Kate Lance,
SDI Newsletter*

Ghana Biotech Assessed in Presscon

Ghana can develop its own genetically modified (GM) seeds, but “the public sector must be ready to absorb the cost.” This was stated by Dr. Walter Alhassan, coordinator for the Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) in West and Central Africa, during the press conference for the release of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications’ (ISAAA) Annual Report on GM Crops.

Speaking in Ghana’s capital, Accra, Dr. Alhassan also announced that Ghana would host this year’s

West Africa Ministerial Conference on Biotechnology. This, Dr. Alhassan said, was due to the country’s contributions to and interest in the field. Dr. Alhassan also encouraged Ghana’s Ministries of Environment and Science, and Food and Agriculture to speed up the approval process of Ghana’s National Biosafety Law, which is currently before Ghana’s cabinet.

Also speaking at the conference was National Biosafety Project Coordinator Alex Owusu-Biney, who said that the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is considering an additional four

years of support to help in the Law’s implementation.

With reports from Ghana Today and Public Agenda news at <http://news.africastv/article.php?newsID=57568>. For more information, contact Dr. Walter Alhassan at WAlhassan@fara-africa.org.

Source: *Crop Biotech Update*, 20 January 2006

GSDI Announces Awards in Annual Small Grants Program

In the third year of its Small Grants Program, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association announces grants of \$30,000 plus \$13,500 in consulting services to fifteen organizations around the globe. This year the cash grants were enhanced with the addition of consulting from GISCorps with an equivalent value of up to \$2,500 per project which allowed for both a larger number of grants and an increase in the value of grants.

The grants are aimed at assisting member organizations in building key components of their countries’ emerging Spatial Data Infrastructures and are awarded to SDI coordinating bodies (councils, committees) and GIS user groups. Priority was given to projects in developing nations and countries with economies in transition. A GSDI Association team, including a representative of GISCorps, reviewed the 71 proposals and selected fifteen for grants.

Three grantees received \$2,500 in funding from GSDI supplemented with voluntary services from the GIS Corps:

Institute for Ecology & Botany (Hungary) - Botany Portal

World Food Program (Mali) - SDI Application

Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands) - Metadata/clearinghouse

Nine grantees received \$2,500 in funding from GSDI:

Columbia - Web Mapping Workshop

Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (Congo) - Biodiversity Database

Directorate of Land and Property (East Timor) - SDI Workshop

Foodlink (Kenya) - Workshop on Data Inventory and Agreement

Ministry of Lands & Environment (Jamaica) - continuation of existing work

Livestock (Kenya) - Data Inventory & Clearinghouse Development

Delta (Niger) - On-line Database and Clearinghouse

Information Management (Philippines) - Building NSDI, Technology Working Groups; Policies, and Database

Management of Health Services (Uganda) - SDI Workshop

Three Grantees received voluntary services from the GIS Corps:

Biodiversity (Namibia) - Biodiversity Database

Armenia - Web-mapping Volcanoes

Kenya - Coastal Resources Maps / Oil Spills

The GSDI Association supports the work of organizations in developing their own SDI initiatives nationally and regionally, and collaborates with local, national, and international organizations to ensure that geospatial data, services, and metadata are accessible through interoperable standards-based services, systems, software, and products that operate in a web-enabled environment. The success of the GSDI Association depends on the quality of its partnerships with public, private, academic, and non-governmental organizations.

For more information visit <http://www.gsdi.org>.

GISCorps is an international initiative that offers GIS consulting and development services by qualified volunteers to civil society organizations.

For more information visit <http://www.giscorps.org>

For information about this announcement, contact: Alan Stevens astevens@gsdi.org

Space Technology and Development in Africa and the Nigeria's Experience

This new book was launched at the recent African Leadership Space Conference in Abuja, Nigeria. Prepared by Dr. R.A. Boroffice and Dr. J.O. Akin-yede, leaders of the Nigerian

National Space Research and Development Agency, it discusses the importance of space technology for socio-economic development in Africa. Further information can be

obtained contacting the author: Dr. Joseph Akin-yede: jakin-yede@yahoo.com

Source: UNOOSA newsletter

Southern and East African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC) Training Courses

Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania

SEAMIC is embarking on a new phase of its restructuring by expanding and diversifying its activities and

enhancing its capacity to assist its members through its Geo-information and Laboratory Services. Services

have also been extended to the general public and the mineral industry in particular. Training courses are

offered, scheduled or upon request tailor-made, on different topics related to the mineral industry. Upcoming

scheduled courses include:

- Geological Map Making, 6-10 February 2006

- GIS Data Standards and Web Mapping, 6-17 March 2006

- Application of Remote Sensing in Geology and Mineral Exploration, 10-21 April 2006

- GIS Principles and Applications, 8-12 May 2006

- Web Mapping, 19-23 June 2006

Contact: Mr. Mesfin W. Gebremichael, Geo-information Head, mesfin@seamic.org, seamic@seamic.org.

Source: GSDI Newsletter, Vol 5 No 1

2006 Rhodes University/SADC International Certificate Course in Environmental Education

A participatory course for professional development in Environmental Education that provides a structured framework and materials around which participants can enhance their skills to support, initiate or improve environmental education in their own contexts.

The course will be negotiated around four themes:

- . The Environmental Crisis: Issues and Risks
- . Emerging Responses to the Environmental Crisis
- . Environmental Education Methods and Processes
- . Curriculum, Project and Materials Development

Where: Rhodes University/Umgenti Valley Project (South Africa)

When: 04 September - 27 October 2006

Closing date for applications: 30 March 2006

Contact: Elizabeth Martens emartens@wessa.co.za

Tel: +27-33-330 3931; Fax: +27-33-3304576

The Science Plan and Implementation Strategy of the DIVERSITAS Cross-Cutting Network agroBIODIVERSITY

The Science Plan and Implementation Strategy of the DIVERSITAS Cross-Cutting Network agroBIODIVERSITY is now available online. Follow the link www.diversitas-international.org to download the PDF. The goal of the agroBIODIVERSITY Science Plan and Implementation Strategy is to establish the scientific basis needed to address the trade-offs between food production, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and human well-being in agricultural landscapes. Three key research foci of the agroBIODIVERSITY Science Plan integrate the biological and social sciences: To assess biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and the anthropogenic drivers of

biodiversity change; To identify the goods and services provided by agrobiodiversity at various levels of biological organisation, e.g. genes, species, communities, ecosystems and landscapes; To evaluate the socioeconomic options for the sustainable use of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes. Implementation of the agroBIODIVERSITY Science Plan will involve collaboration between geneticists, ecologists, anthropologists, and economists among other disciplines, to understand the environmental and social drivers of biodiversity change, ecosystem services provided by biodiversity in agricultural landscapes, and how to use this information for pol-

icy-relevant strategies to meet human needs. For more information on the project, please contact the chair Louise Jackson (lejackson@ucdavis.edu) If you would like some paper copies, please contact the DIVERSITAS secretariat (secretariat@diversitas-international.org)

Malawi unveils US\$8.3 million science plan

Malawi has launched a comprehensive five-year plan intended to foster rapid industrialisation through the use of science and technology.

The plan, announced on 19 January, is the first of its kind, has a budget of one billion kwachas (US\$8.3 million), and places a heavy emphasis on popularising science.

The money will be spent in four main areas: capacity building (US\$3.5 million), promoting and popularising science (US\$2.3 million), developing and commercialising research (US\$1.5 million) and administration (US\$1 million).

It will be in addition to the ministry of science's annual budget, and Malawi will ask international donor agencies to partly fund the activities.

Under the plan, the ministry will develop policies to support research and development and the transfer of technology from industrialised nations. In particular, public-private partnerships will be encouraged to achieve these goals.

The way that science is taught in Ma-

lawi's schools and universities will also be reviewed and improved.

Launching the plan, science minister John Khumbo Chirwa said the time had come for Malawi to use science and technology as a tool for creating wealth. But he added that for science to become a driving force behind Malawi's development, his ministry would need both additional funding and greater political support.

The ministry, which was created in 2004, will ask the finance ministry to increase Malawi's research spending to one per cent of its GDP - to about US\$2 million - in the 2006 budget. Currently Malawi spends around US\$1.2 million on science.

In a related development, Malawi will in the coming year begin building its first university dedicated to science and technology.

Source: *Scidev.net*



Malawian crop scientist working with cassava

Future of Oceans, Coasts, Small Island States in Conference Spotlight

Coral reefs and mangroves are fast disappearing, according to a United Nations report released today at an oceans conference that takes place just once every three years. Close to a third of corals have gone, with 60 percent expected to be lost by 2030. More than a third of all mangroves have disappeared, with the rate of loss greater than that of tropical rainforests.

The Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands opening today at UNESCO headquarters in Paris will review progress achieved and obstacles blocking the sustainable development of oceans, coasts, and small island developing states. Hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), some 350 delegates from around the world will examine the planet's increasingly threatened marine and coastal ecosystems.

Excessive runoff, sedimentation, trash, pollutant discharges from coastal development, agriculture, deforestation, and sewage treatment plant operations can harm corals. Hot water discharges from water treatment plants and power plants can alter the water chemistry in coastal areas.

The value of healthy coral reefs anywhere in the world is estimated at between US\$100,000 to US\$600,000 per square kilometre per year. The costs of conserving these same reefs in a marine protected area, would be just US\$775 per square kilometre per year, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report estimates.

"I hope the financial facts contained in this study will radically change the attitude and behaviour of governments, industry, local authorities and individuals, so that they better prize and conserve these natural assets, said UNEP's Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, "so that they think twice about the pollution, climate change, insensitive development and other damaging practices that are rapidly undermining the economic basis for so many coastal communities worldwide."

In Indonesia, where tourism is the main use, reefs are estimated to be worth US\$1 million per square kilometre, based on the cost of maintaining sandy beaches.

Similar values have been obtained for the Caribbean, varying from "US\$2,000 to US\$1 million, with the highest values in areas heavily dependent for tourism," says the report.

In American Samoa, researchers calculate that mangroves there are worth just over US\$100,000 per square kilometre equivalent to US\$50 million a year. In Thailand, the figure is even higher with mangroves estimated to be worth up to US\$3.5 million per square kilometre.

The report, "In the Front Line: Shoreline Protection and other Ecosystem Services from Mangroves and Coral Reefs" was produced by UNEP's World Conservation

Monitoring Centre in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Action Network and IUCN-the World Conservation Union.

Of the estimated 30 million small-scale fishers in the developing world, most are dependent to a greater or lesser extent on coral reefs. In the Philippines, the study finds that more than one million fishers depend directly on coral reefs for their livelihoods.

Overall, reef fish may account for a quarter of the global fish catch, providing food for one billion people.

Mangroves protect shorelines from the effects of storms and serve as nurseries for fish. (Photo courtesy NOAA)

Mangroves are also important for fisheries. An estimated 75 percent of commercially caught prawns in Queensland, Australia, depend on mangroves. A 400 square kilometre managed mangrove forest in Matang, Malaysia, supports a fishery worth US\$100 million a year.

Marine organisms often contain pharmaceutically active compounds. To date, reef organisms have provided an anticancer agent and show promise for HIV treatment.

In 2000, net annual benefits from dive tourism in the Caribbean amounted to just over US\$2 billion with US\$625 million spent directly on diving on reefs.

Jon Hutton, the incoming director of UNEP-WCMC, said the study is important because "it not only gives tangible values for nature's services, it also illustrates the critical importance of data collection, storage and analysis that UNEP undertakes on behalf of the world."

Reefs and mangroves are important, but an array of other ocean issues are also urgent. Conference delegates will pay special attention to emerging and unresolved issues of oceans and climate, including ocean acidification, carbon dioxide sequestration, and Arctic climate change.

The conference will focus on lessons learned from the tsunami disaster of December 2004 in which more than 225,000 people in 11 countries around the Indian Ocean lost their lives. More than three million people were displaced by the 9.0 earthquake off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra and the resulting tsunami.

The gathering is intended to provide a multi-stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral South-North dialogue among developed countries, developing countries, small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition in advancing the global oceans agenda.

Delegates are expected to develop recommendations for tangible next steps and markers by which to track progress in the attainment of the international ocean tar-

gets such as implementation of the UN Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities with a view to achieving substantial progress this year.

A Kiribati boy fishes off the Tarawa wharf. Mostly low-lying coral atolls surrounded by extensive reefs, the Pacific Ocean nation of Kiribati includes three island groups - the Gilbert Islands, Line Islands and Phoenix Islands.

A particular focus of attention at the conference will be implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, written in January 2005 to address the fact that small island developing states are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world for intense and frequent natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact. Small island nations face disproportionately high economic, social and environmental consequences, as demonstrated by the tragic impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

The delegates will develop specific recommendations for engaging decision makers and the public in support of a global oceans agenda based on consideration of resolutions of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Development Goals, and other related agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21.

Major targets for oceans, coasts, and small island states from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals include the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010 for the sustainable development of the oceans, particularly in the management of fisheries and the conservation of biodiversity.

The World Ocean Network and its partners invite Global Conference participants to participate in the 3rd International Meeting "Acting Together for the Future of the Blue Planet" to be held immediately after the Third Global Conference at NAUSICAA, Centre National de la Mer, in Boulogne/Mer in France, from January 29 to February 2.

All organizations reaching out to the general public are encouraged to participate in the meeting to help further develop a global campaign to raise public awareness and an action plan for the sustainable use of the ocean.

The event, organized under the aegis of the IOC/UNESCO and with the participation of Jean-Michel Cousteau, chair of the World Ocean Network committee of honour, will allow participants the opportunity to state their priorities regarding sustainable use of the ocean. They will also share results of the joint activities conducted since the 2nd International Meeting in 2002, and plan further cooperation for the next three years.

Upcoming Events

CESPAM Executive Programme Seminar, **APPLYING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO SADC DEVELOPMENT**, Cape Town, South Africa, 14-17th February, 2006. CESPAM's initiative for capacity-building in e-Government is intended to support the objectives and targets under the area of ICT Intervention expounded in SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic and Development Plan (RISDP). Further, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme makes explicit references to: skills development at individual and institutional levels, strengthening government capacity for policy and regulatory frameworks (for ICT and for e-Government), environment and sustainable development as a priority cross-sectoral area. SADC Member States have committed themselves to integrated and sustainable development and the Region has endeavoured to put in place mechanisms for the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, amongst which are a number of UN Conventions. In addition, the attainment of environmental sustainability is a Millennium Development Goal to which SADC States are committed. While some encouraging progress has been made in environmental management, the Region continues to experience high levels of land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution, inadequate access to clean water and sanitation services and poor urban conditions. These factors are linked to the high and rising levels of poverty in the Region, whereby the poor are both victims and agents of environmental degradation. These environmental challenges undermine the sustainability of the socio-economic development of the region. A key aspect of environment and sustainable development is the issue of water-resource management and the RISDP makes explicit reference to enhancing the knowledge-base on water resources through improved information management, including water data-banks and planning networks as a SADC objective for 2007. This intensive management-development programme is intended to assist delegates in: understanding the potential of Geographic Information Systems in the development process, as well as in e-Government services; reviewing regional developments and SADC targets in this area; reviewing international case studies; proposing national and SADC actions in support of models of good practice and intra-regional information-exchange understanding the potential role for private-sector partnerships in this area. This is an interactive seminar, which will provide participants with opportunities to freely exchange ideas, knowledge and experience with each other and the resource persons facilitating this seminar. This will be achieved through the use of discussion groups and case studies. The seminar will be practical and will maintain a balance of lectures, discussions and case studies.

The seminar is being held in Cape Town (venue to be announced). CESPAM's Secretariat may be contacted for details of accommodation. Please contact Ms Nomsa Mokgwathi on +267 355 2735/9 Fax +267 3170706 e-mail mokgwanj@mopipi.ub.bw or cespam@mopipi.ub.bw. The seminar fee is US\$750. This includes materials, lunches and tea breaks. Delegates will settle their own hotel and transport costs directly. South African nationals resident in South Africa are entitled to a seminar fee of US\$600. The registration deadline is 25th January, 2006. Delegates are advised to take out adequate personal and health insurances as the organizers cannot undertake any liabilities in this regard. For further information, see www.cespam.net

International Conference and Exhibition on Water in the Environment, 20-22 February 2006, Stellenbosch, South Africa. Water Resources Management is a challenge to many countries, especially those with limited resources. Many aspects must be considered to supply people with clean water and to guarantee the water quality. Continuous improvement of water (drinking water as well as wastewater) treatment technologies and the results of R&D must be transferred to real applications. This conference will be an effective tool to organise the exchange of know-how locally, but also an opportunity for contributions and co-operation from international water experts. Contact: Elsbeth Verhoeven-Lutsch, Tel: +27-21-887 41 13. E-mail: verhoeven@enviroWater.de. Website: www.enviroWater.de

The Ghana Institute of Surveyors and International Society of Surveyors is organising the **5th Regional Conference** in Accra next year. The deadline for the submission of papers has been extended. For more information, see <http://www.fig.net/accra>.

IWC III: Third International Conference on Early Warning, Bonn, Germany, 27—29 March 2006. For more information, see: <http://www.ewc3.org>.

International Stakeholders Workshop on Geo-Information System-Based Forest Monitoring in Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria, 27—30 March 2006. For more information, contact Dr T. Salami at ayobasalami@yahoo.com

ISPRS Commission VII, Mid-term Symposium. Remote Sensing: From Pixels to processes, 8—11 May 2006, Enschede, The Netherlands. For more information, see <http://www.eis-africa.org>.

Upcoming Events (cont.)

UDMS 2006: 25TH URBAN DATA MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM. 15—17 May 2006, Aalborg, Denmark UDMS, the Urban Data Management Society, has organised international symposia at various locations in Europe in order

to promote the development of information systems in local government since 1971. An important aim of UDMS has been to provide a forum for people to discuss new approaches, to consider new technologies and to share practical experiences in the field of urban data management. The focus has been on urban applications but regional and rural issues have always been well represented and have grown recently in importance. All accepted papers will be published and distributed to all participants at the symposium. For more information, see: <http://www.udms.net>

1st International Conference on ICT for Development, Education and Training, 24—26 May 2006, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. eLearning Africa intends to become the eLearning capacity-building event for the entire African continent and a forum for all stakeholders engaged in the planning and implementation of technology-supported learning and training. The event is supported by the United Nations Commission for Africa and the European Commission's DG Information Society and has the patronage of The Ethiopian Ministry of Capacity Building. The conference will be accompanied by an exhibition. Organisers: ICWE GmbH, www.icwe.net, Hoffmann & Reif www.hoffmann-reif.com Contact: Rebecca Stromeyer, info@elearning-africa.com, Tel.: +49-30-327 6140. Website: www.elearning-africa.com

Workshop on the Applications of Global Navigation Satellite System Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa, Lusaka, Zambia from 26 to 30 June 2006. For further information and to download the application form, see <http://www.eis-africa.org>.

GEOINFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (gi4dev): Bridging the divide through partnerships, agit_SPECIAL, July 7, 2006 - Salzburg, Austria. The event is hosted and organised by Z_GIS (Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg University) and sponsored by AARSE, GTZ, UNOOSA and UNU-EHS. gi4dev is one thematic focus of the annual AGIT Symposium (www.agit.at/en). Conference scope: Development topics are emerging more and more in daily discussions. Affected by natural disasters and the consequences of global change, economic development and human security issues, actors require explicit spatial information for improved decision making. The geoinformation community is aware of these potentials and application fields. However, there are still many obstacles in the way of successful implementation. The lacking awareness about GI applications, inadequate human resources or missing institutional provisions all hamper improvements. gi4dev wants to address these topics by means of an open discussion forum. Keynotes will prepare the ground from where discussions will start. Contrary to classic conference scenarios, this event will focus on result-oriented discussions by using moderation methodologies. Conclusions and recommendations will be evaluated in a final panel discussion. Information and a Call for Papers & Workshop topics is also available online: web: www.agit.at/gi4dev, email: gi4dev@agit.at

12th International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling, Vienna, Austria, 10—12 July 2006. Web http://www.agile-secretariat.org/docs/12th_SDH.pdf

Call for papers for the planned **2nd Gi4DM** which will take place in Goa, India from 25—26 September 2006. Deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 January 2006. For more information, see: <http://www.eis-africa.org>.

6th African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) Conference, Cairo, Egypt, 30 October—2 November 2006. Theme: Earth Observation & Geoinformation Sciences in Support of Africa's Development. For further information, visit <http://www.narss.sci.eg/aarse2006>. For information concerning AARSE go to: <http://www.itc.nl/~aarse/>. The AARSE conference is the largest gathering of remote sensing and GIS users in Africa. The conference is a premier forum in Africa which brings together scientists, practitioners, educators, developers and vendors and policy and decision makers to discuss advancements (Latest developments), applications, capacity building and promotion of geo-information technologies in sustainable development of Africa. It is a forum in which participants learn and exchange ideas on the latest advancements in the technologies and their applications in different fields. Strategies for promotion and use of the technologies in Africa are also discussed.

The **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association** is pleased to invite the global spatial data community to attend their 9th international conference in Santiago, Chile. The primary sessions will occur Monday through Friday November 6-10, 2006. Continuing with their organizational goal of fostering spatial data infrastructure developments in support of important worldwide needs, the theme of GSDI-9 is "Spatial Information: Tool for Reducing Poverty."

The conference program has been designed to accommodate opening and closing plenary sessions with keynote speakers, a special plenary session on the use of spatial technologies in addressing the plight of the poor, technical sessions in five parallel

Upcoming Events (cont.)

tracks for which many will have simultaneous translation in Spanish and English, half-day pre-conference and mid-conference workshops freely open to all registrants, an extensive poster exhibit and competition, and numerous organized round table discussions to allow people from common regions of the globe or with common interests to present, discuss, and share issues, experiences and plans.

The conference will be held at the Diego Portales Convention Center in the heart of the lovely city of Santiago. The program promises to be the most exciting and best yet.

For further information, see:

Conference web site: <http://www.igm.cl/gsd9/>

Call for papers: http://www.igm.cl/gsd9/english/04_Over_Call_for_Pap.htm

Submission deadlines:

Fully Refereed Publication: Full paper due March 15, 2006

Proceedings Publication: Abstract due May 2nd, 2006. If accepted, full paper due Sept 1, 2006



EIS-AFRICA

Postnet Suite No: 156
Private Bag X 15
Menlo Park
0102
South Africa

Phone: +27 12 349 1068
Fax: +27 12 349 2080
Email: svorster@eis-africa.org

***A network for the co-operative
management of environmental information***

www.eis-africa.org

February Newsletter

Any contributions, which are welcomed, must reach us by 20 February January 2005. Contributions can be sent to svorster@eis-africa.org.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors Or Publisher. EIS-AFRICA will not be held liable for any errors, mistakes, misprints or incorrect supplier information.

Comments welcome

If you have comments regarding the content of this edition of EIS NEWS, please contact EIS-AFRICA at the following address: svorster@eis-africa.org

Subscription

To subscribe, please send an e-mail to the following address: svorster@eis-africa.org with "subscribe" as subject.

To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to the following address: svorster@eis-africa.org with "unsubscribe" as subject, and you will

ESD Shared Resources and Values

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) must continue to stress the concept that resources, whether renewable or non-renewable, are to be shared among the present and future generations of all living organisms. This is one of the factors to consider in our pursuit for sustainable development. Since the earth has a resources budget the contents of which must be distributed with greater justice if sustainability is to be achieved, societies need to be helped not only to understand but also to develop the commitment to social and economic justice for all in the way we share our resources.

Minimising the depletion on non-renewable resources and conserving renewable

resources are some of the ways of ensuring that the future generations also have their share. In addition, the concept of shared values needs to be stressed by highlighting the need to develop respect for the dignity and human rights of all people, including the future generations. This can provide an enabling environment for educators to effectively deal with one of the central challenges of ESD which is to help communities to develop respect and care for the greater community of life in all its diversity, which includes among others, the protection and restoration of the earth's ecosystems.

This article is a response to the international discourse on issues of environment and

sustainable development, particularly the underlying values of ESD.

By Desmond Shamenda

Source: SADC REEC News Flash