



SALB

Second Administrative Level Boundaries

Newsletter, June 2005

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1. Introduction Note

SALB is a project launched in the context of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG). During its last plenary meeting, which took place in Geneva in October 2004, the working group has proposed that the SALB data set "reach the present" by the end of 2006. This objective means that the SALB data set will offer a full coverage in terms of:

- list of administrative units as observed in January 2000
- historic changes going from 1990 to 2006 at the 1st administrative level and from 2000 to 2006 at the 2nd administrative level
- administrative boundaries maps with one map for each period of representativity observed between 2000 and 2006

The SALB coordination team has accepted this new challenge and has, since then, actively worked on establishing new collaborations and looked for resources in order to reach this objective.

We will not be able to reach this objective without your help and support as the way to go is still long in some regions of the world. This is the reason why we have decided to change the format of the SALB newsletter in order to make it more attractive and inform all of you more often about where we are, what are the

information and data we are still looking for in order to complete the data set.

It is also the first edition of the SALB newsletter which will not only be sent to the SALB mailing list but also to all the National Mapping Agencies (NMA) which have been contacted so far.

I finally would like to take the opportunity of this first edition of the newsletter in this format to thank all the institutions and individuals who have already contributed to SALB and thank all of you in advance for the help and support you will be able to provide to the project in the future.

Steeve Ebener
Coordinator of the SALB project

2. What's new on the SALB web site

The information reported in this section describes the new information that has been posted on the SALB web site since the last Newsletter (November 2004).

2.1 New tables

The following tables have been validated and coded. They are now available for download from the SALB web site

http://www3.who.int/whosis/gis/salb/salb_coding.htm:

- The historic changes observed at the 1st level since 1990 for 6 new countries: India, Maldives, Mali, Poland, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia
- The historic changes observed at the 2nd level since 2000 for 2 new countries: Mali and Poland

The SALB coordination office, with the help of the UN Map Library has started to contact the NMAs in order to update the historic changes tables. So far 77 NMA have been contacted and the update received for 28 of them.

A recent collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO EURO) should allow us to post new tables in the near future.

2.2 New maps

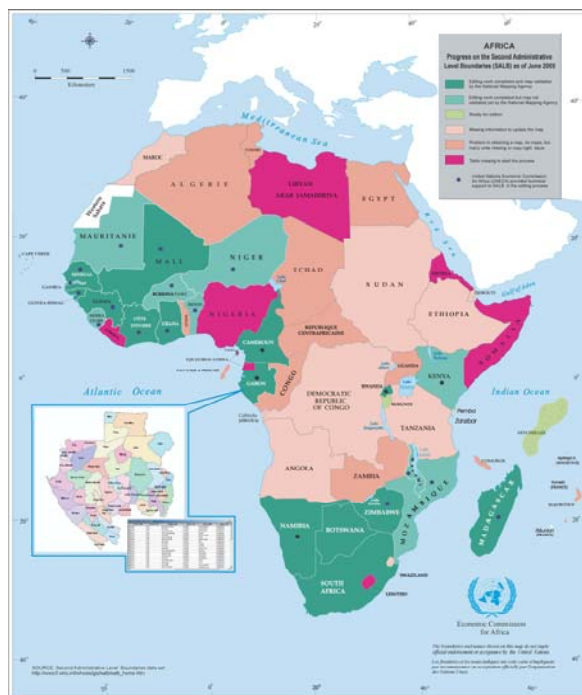
Since last November, we have received the validation of the map for 7 new countries: Belgium, Bolivia, Ghana, Guinea, Jamaica, Mali and Zimbabwe. These maps can be directly downloaded from: http://www3.who.int/whosis/gis/salb/salb_MDATA.htm

As you will see the "maps download" page has been modified in order to be able posting one map by period of representativity. This represents an additional step taken in the direction of making SALB reach the present by the end of 2006.

The indication of the representativity of each map is now matching with the historic changes information. Germany is for example the first country for which a map is now available for each of the 3 period of representativity observed since January 2000.

3. State of progress in Africa

In order to better visualize where we stand with the SALB project on a continent by continent basis, each of the coming edition of the newsletter will contain a map such as the one presented below for Africa.



This map has been produced by UN ECA, the editing node for SALB in Africa, in the context of the CODI IV meeting which took place last April in Addis Ababa. It has been updated in order to reflect the validation of the maps for Guinea and Mali received since then.

The following legend applies for this map: the territories in:

- red are the ones for which we are still missing the January 2000 table in order to start the process.

- dark pink correspond to the ones for which we are having problems in obtaining a map which correspond to the table received from the NMA or where we have a copyright issue to solve.
- light pink correspond to countries where the delimitation of some units is missing in order to update the map.
- light green have been sent for validation to the NMA but are still not validated
- dark green have been validated and are downloadable from the SALB web site

Please look at the project overview page on the SALB web site for more information about the process followed in the SALB project.

See also the help us section in this newsletter for more details about the information we are still missing in order to complete the coverage of the SALB data set in Africa. Maybe that you have the information or data we are looking for.

4. Meetings and collaboration

GSDI 8 and CODI IV

Thanks to funding to be received from USAID it has been possible to attend the 8th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) conference (Cairo, 18-21 April 2005) and the 4th meeting of the Committee On Development Information (CODI IV) which took place in Addis Ababa (23-28 April 2005).

Apart from allowing us to enter in direct contact with 25 NMAs these two meetings allowed us to have very fruitful discussion with:

- the Secretary General, the assistant secretary general and the chair of the International Steering Committee on Global Mapping (ISCGM) regarding the possibility to strengthen the collaboration between the Global Mapping Initiative and the SALB project.
- the Executive Director of Eurogeographics, which is grouping the NMAs of 41 European countries, in order to see how we could solve the issues linked to the access of validated maps for the European countries.

The presentation done during one of the sessions of the GEO sub committee of UNECA has been very well received and a resolution presented to the Committee On Development Information (CODI). This resolution is requesting the member states to provide the data and information to the project (http://www.uneca.org/codi/codi4/codi_iv_report.pdf)

The CODI meeting has also been the occasion to link the SALB project with the Mapping Africa for Africa (MAfA) initiative which is encouraging countries to participate in the Global Mapping and other relevant regional and international initiatives.

5. What's coming next ?

5.1 Resource Mobilization

Making SALB reach the present will require a lot of technical work that needs to be financed. We are therefore working on two fronts:

- build on the successful example of UN ECA for Africa and the precious help received from the UN Map Library, we are trying to decentralize as much as possible the technical work linked to the collection, compilation and edition of the maps
- find external resources for covering the technical work that could not be decentralized

Proposals have therefore been sent to two potential donors and we have been very pleased and grateful to receive a positive answer from USAID which will allow us to cover part of the salary of a GIS technician here at Geneva until next year.

Funding nevertheless remains to be found in order to cover the remaining technical work as well as the other expenses which are linked to the project (data, participation to key meetings,...)

Building on the recommendation made during the last United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) plenary meeting, and with the help of the new Co-chairs of the working group (WFP and FAO), the UN agencies interested in the SALB data (especially in the Geneva area) will be encouraged to support the project with resources in order to accelerate the process.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have ideas regarding potential donors that could be contacted in order to find resources or if you could yourself provide direct financial support to the project.

5.2 the 8th UNRCC-A

A paper, which can be downloaded from the project overview page of the SALB web site, will be presented during the 8th UN Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, 27 June- 1 July 2005). Apart from presenting the state of progress of the project in the Americas this meeting will give us the opportunity to look for the establishment of a node in the Americas, following the model of UN ECA for Africa, as well as further discussing possible areas of collaboration with ISCGM, PCGIAP, PC-IDEA and PAIGH.

5.3 Others

As a follow up to the discussion which took place with Eurogeographics in Cairo, the possibility to directly integrate the EuroGlobalMap product into the SALB data set is under evaluation. If this is possible, this would represent a major step forward for the European countries.

The metadata records for the maps validated in the context of the SALB project will soon be moved to the

recently established WHO Geonetwork node (<http://www.who.int/geonetwork/srv/en/main.search>). These records will remain accessible through a distributed search from any other Geonetwork node.

6. Help us

UNGIWG encourage the institutions that need to answer a particular request to look first at the SALB web site to see if this information is available and provide feedback if they found information or data that could complete the SALB data set.

All the information and maps we are looking for in order to complete the SALB data set are posted on the help us page of the SALB web site:

http://www3.who.int/whosis/gis/salb/salb_help_us.htm

As this edition of the news letter was reporting the state of progress for Africa, here are some examples of the information or data that we are missing for this continent and that you might have in one of your databases:

- For Angola we are missing the delimitation of 5 units : 1) "Catumbela" in the "Benguela" 1st administrative unit, 2) "Maianga" in the "Luanda" 1st administrative unit, 3) "Capenda", "Camulemba" and "Tchitato" in the "Luanda Norte" 1st admin level unit.
- For Djibouti, we are missing the delimitation of 8 units : 1) "1er arrondissement", "2e arrondissement", "3e arrondissement", "4e arrondissement", "5e arrondissement", "Arta" and "Damerjog" in the "Djibouti" 1st admin level unit and 2) "Ali Adde" in the "Ali Sabieh" 1st admin level unit.
- For the Democratic Republic of Congo we are missing the delimitation of 5 units : 1) "Kikwit (city)" and "Plateaux" in the "Bandundu" first administrative level 2) "Boma (city)" in the "Bas-Congo" first administrative unit 3) "Gbadolite (city)" in the "Equateur" first administrative unit 4) "Kolwezi (city)" in the "Katanga" first administrative unit.

We are also still looking for a full map delimiting the administrative units as observed in January 2000 for: Algeria, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

Please have a look at the help us page for having further information regarding the number of units that these maps should contain as well as the authorization we need to have in order to integrate them in the SALB data set.

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