



SALB

Second Administrative Level Boundaries

Newsletter, March 2006

Vol. 06 No. 1

In this edition

1. Introduction Note

2. What's new on the SALB web site ?

- 2.1 NMA contact information
- 2.2 New tables
- 2.3 New Maps

3. State of progress in Europe and the Middle East

4. Meetings and collaborations

- 4.1 UNHCR GIS06 workshop
- 4.2 Meeting with FAO
- 4.3 Others

5. What's coming next ?

6. Help us

1. Introduction Note

Dear Colleagues,

Even if this edition is a little bit shorter compared to the previous one, you will see that a lot of progress has been made over the past 3 months.

The ongoing problems in obtaining funds have forced us to reconsider the aim of updating all the data set up to 2006 by the end of this year. Unless we find the necessary resources, the data set will not be updated past than January 2005 therefore ensuring the transition with the yearly update that we plan to start from next January.

This new edition is dedicated to the progress made on the project in the last one of the 4 "Regions" that the SALB is working on: Europe and the Middle East. As you will see the situation in this part of the world needs to be improved once again underlining the importance of collaborating with the largest number of institutions possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the institutions which have allowed us to make such considerable progress over the past 3 months!

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 (December 2005).

2.1 National Mapping Agencies contact information

The contact information for **104** countries (+37 compared to last December) can now be accessed at the SALB web site:

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

Among the latest countries to have provided us with their updated contact information are:

Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Honduras, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia

2.2 New tables

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

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

As are the updated historical changes up to 2006 for 9 countries: Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Guinea-Bissau, Norway, Philippines, Poland and Sierra Leone. This brings the number of countries that have provided up-to-date historical changes to 57.

A zip file containing all the historical changes tables can now be downloaded from the bottom of the abovementioned page.

2.3 New maps

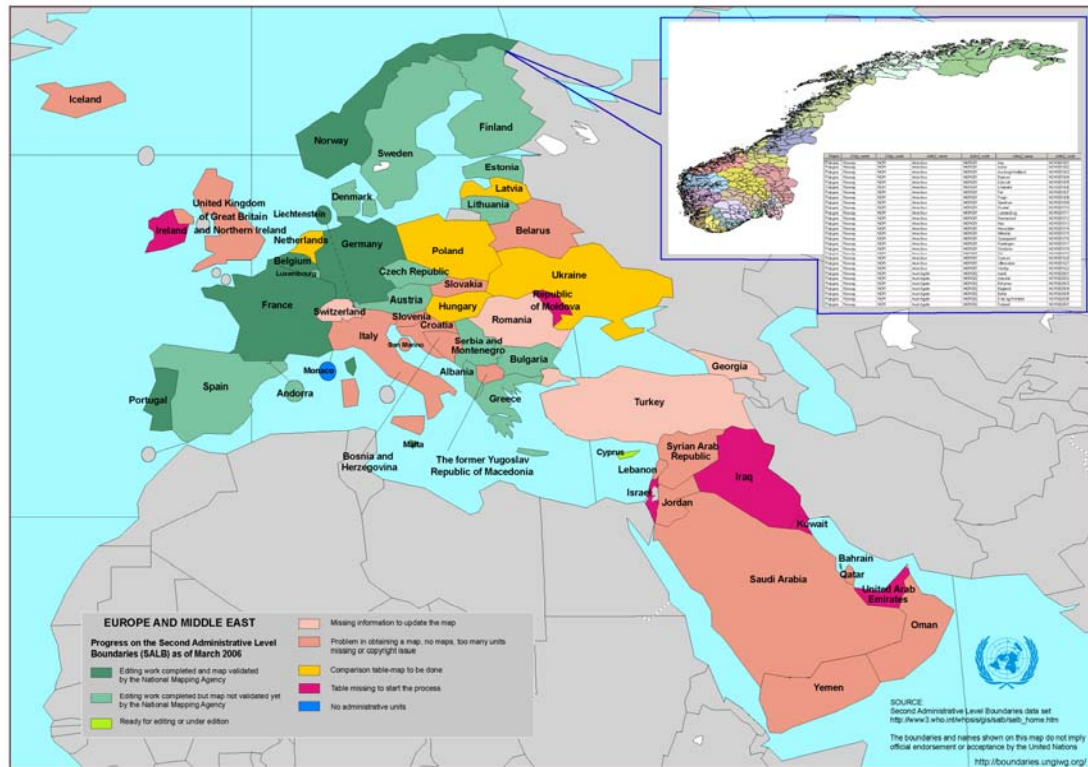
Since last December, we have received validation for the following maps:

- Burkina Faso 2000-2001 and 2001-2005
- Burundi 2001-2005
- Madagascar 2004-2005
- Niger January 2000
- Sierra Leone 2000-2006
- Sri Lanka for 2000-2005
- Timor Leste for 2000-2005

These maps can be downloaded directly from:

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

3. State of progress in Europe and the Middle East



The map shown above represents the state of progress of the SALB project in Europe and the Middle East regarding the situation observed in January 2000.

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

- **blue** correspond to territories without administrative divisions
- **fuchsia** the countries from which we have not yet obtained the January 2000 table in order to start the process
- **orange** show those for which the comparison between the table and the available maps has yet to be done
- **dark pink** corresponds to countries which we are having problems with in obtaining a map that corresponds to the table received from the NMA or where we have a copyright issue to resolve.
- **pale pink** corresponds to those countries where the delimitation of some units is missing preventing us from updating the map.
- **lime green** refer to countries which are ready for editing or in the process of being edited
- **pale 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 do look at the project overview page on the SALB web site for more information about the process followed in the SALB project. You can also consult 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 Europe and the Middle East. You might have the information or data we are looking for!

The maps showing the state of progress for January 2000, as well as the one for the period 2005-2006, will soon be posted on the SALB web site and updated regularly.

4. Meetings and collaboration

4.1 UNHCR GIS06 workshop

UNHCR field officers and senior registration officers from 15 countries, or Regional hubs, attended the UNHCR GIS06 workshop organized in Accra, Ghana from the 1-3 February, 2006.

The ongoing collaboration between SALB and UNHCR was strengthened through the establishment of new focal points in countries where we are encountering problems obtaining information from the National Mapping Agency, namely: Egypt, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

4.2 Meeting with FAO

A meeting with FAO took place from 1-2 March, in Rome in order to discuss the collaborative process to be put in place between the SALB and GAUL (Global Administrative Units Layer) initiatives.

The meeting was very successful and should lead to closer collaboration between the two initiatives. A document describing each project and their collaboration will soon be developed and shared.

4.3 Other

In the near future, the SALB newsletter will also be accessible from the GSDI web site at:
<http://www.gsdi.org/newsletters.asp>.

5. What's coming next ?

Discussions will continue in the coming months regarding the possibility of collaborating with EuroGeographics (www.eurogeographics.org) in order to make progress in Europe.

We also hope to participate in the 12th edition of the EC GI & GIS Workshops which will take place in Innsbruck, Austria, from 21-23 June, 2006 (<http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/12ec-gis/>) as this is a forum which focuses on the development of a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI).

The situation in the Middle East is more complex, but we hope that the recent discussion with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean will bear fruit.

The resource mobilization exercise is of course continuing as we are still missing a considerable sum of money (327'000 US\$) in order to reach this year's objective. We welcome any ideas you may have relating to potential donors that might be interested in supporting our work.

6. Help us

UNGIWG encourages 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 find 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 newsletter is reporting on the state of progress for Europe and the Middle East, here are some examples of the countries for which we are still missing a full map to be used in the context of the SALB project (number of units in brackets):

- Belarus (162 units)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (73)
- Croatia (546)
- Georgia (74)
- Iceland (125)
- Iraq (unknown)
- Italy (103)
- Israel (unknown)
- Jordan (39)
- Latvia (551)
- Lebanon (26)
- Republic of Moldova (unknown)
- Netherlands (537)
- Oman (59)
- Qatar (90)
- San Marino (12)
- Saudi Arabia (116)
- Slovakia (79)
- Slovenia (5992)
- Syrian Arab Republic (55)
- The F.Y.R. of Macedonia (1710)
- United Arab Emirates (unknown)
- United Kingdom of GB and N. Ireland (230)
- Yemen (320)

Please do have a look at the help us page for further information regarding the authorization we need in order to integrate them in the SALB data set.

We are also looking for the delimitation of some units in the following countries:

- Romania
- Turkey

We are also looking for institutions based in the following countries to help us obtain the information we are missing from the National Mapping Agencies: Iraq, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates.

SALB Contact Information

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