



SALB

Second Administrative Level Boundaries

Newsletter, September 2005

Vol. 05 No. 2

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1. Introduction Note

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to send you the second edition of this year's SALB Newsletter.

We have received very positive feedback regarding the new format and have been very pleased to see an important increase in the number of hits on the SALB web site just after its release (2.5 times more than the previous month).

After concentrating on Africa in the previous edition, this Newsletter is largely dedicated to the Americas.

Progress has been made since last June but important work remains to be done. Resources need to be found in order to achieve the objective to be reached by the end of 2006: "reach the present".

I again take the opportunity of this Newsletter to thank all the institutions and individuals who are already supporting and contributing to this project, those that are just starting such as the UN Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC, see section 3) and those that will join 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 (June 2005).

2.1 National Mapping Agencies contact information

The National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) play a crucial role in the SALB process by providing the validation on all the information and data which finally gets posted on the SALB web site. It is therefore very important for the project to have access to up-to-date contact information regarding these institutions.

As this information is also very useful to other initiatives and projects, we have decided to generate a new page on the SALB web site containing the contact information of all the NMAs that have agreed to this posting.

It is planned to update this information at the beginning of each year as the basis for the updating process for the SALB database.

So far, the NMA of 49 countries have agreed to our request (we have not received any negative answer). Their contact information is therefore available at:

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

This process will continue through the coming month with the active support of the UN map library and the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP).

Discussion have also started to take place with the International Steering Committee on Global Mapping (ISCGM), the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and PCGIAP about the possibility of homogenizing and coordinating the collection and management of the NMA contact information in the future.

2.2 New tables

The following tables have been validated and coded since the last Newsletter. They are now available for

divisions, are crucial for the analysis and management of socio-economic phenomena,

1. Welcomes the efforts of the Global Mapping project and those of the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) Second Administrative Level Boundaries project (SALB) in the generation of global seamless data sets of importance for the Americas;
2. Recommends that Member States, particularly through their National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) and notably with the help of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PC-IDEA) and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), support and participate actively in the SALB and Global Mapping projects by providing the necessary data and information they require;
3. Further recommends member states in the Americas take full advantage of participating in the Global Mapping project for capacity building to help establish National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures in the region."

5. What's coming next ?

5.1 6th UNGIWG Plenary meeting

The progress report of the SALB project will be presented during the 6th UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) Plenary meeting taking place in Addis Ababa between 25-27 October 2005. This will also be the occasion to discuss and take decision regarding the work plan for the year to come in order to make SALB reach the present by the end of 2006. Please look at the UNGIWG web site (www.ungiwg.org) for more information regarding this meeting.

5.2 Africa GIS

Dr Steeve Ebener from the SALB coordination team will be present during the 2005 Africa GIS conference which will take place in Pretoria from 31 October to 4 November. If you are also attending this conference, please first have a look at the "help us" page on the SALB web site to see if there are data that you could bring to us there in order to help us complete the SALB data set.

5.3 Others

In order to move forward with SALB in the Asia region, which will be the topic of the next Newsletter, it is planned to present the project and meet with the NMA during the 8th South East Asia Survey Congress 2005 (SEASC) and the PCGIAP WG2 Workshop which will take place between the 21-26 November 2005 in Brunei Darussalam.

The resource mobilization exercise continues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have ideas regarding potential donors that could be interested in

supporting our work, or if you would like to provide direct financial support to the project.

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 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 newsletter is reporting the state of progress for the Americas, 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 (the indication of the name of the 1st administrative level unit in which each of these units are located is reported in between brackets):

- For Belize we are missing the delimitation of 9 units : "Belize city" and "San Pedro Town" (Belize); "Belmopan", "Benque Viejo Del Carmen town" and "San Ignacio/Santa Elena town" (Cayo); "Corozal town" (Corozal); "Orange Walk town" (Orange Walk); "Dangriga" (Stann Creek); "Punta Gorda town" (Toldeo)
- For Ecuador, we are missing the delimitation of 1 unit: "San Vicente" (Manabi).
- For Paraguay we are missing the delimitation of 15 units : "Iruna" (Alto Parana); "Filadelfia" (Boqueron); "Vaqueria" (Caaguazu); "San Juan Nepomuceno" (Caazapa); "Katuetete", "La Paloma del Espiritu Santo", "Nueva Esperanza" and "Puente KyJha"(Canindeyu); "Paso Yovai" (Guaira); "Cambyreta" and "Itapua Poty" (Itapua); "Jose Falcon" and "Nanawa" (Presidente Hayes); "Capiibary" and "Guajayvi" (San Pedro).
- For Venezuela we are missing the delimitation of 4 units: "Francisco Linares Alcantara" and "Ocumare de la Costa de Oro" (Aragua); "Andres Eloy Blanco" (Barinas); "San Judas Tadeo" (Tachira).

We are also still looking for a full map delimiting the administrative units as observed in January 2000 for: Brazil, Cuba and Mexico.

Please have a look at the help us page for 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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