



SECOND ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL BOUNDARIES DATASET (SALB)

Progress Report 2008

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1: Introduction

This document summarizes the progresses made with the SALB project over the year 2008.

The objective of this past year was to continue building up on previous years efforts aiming at updating the National Mapping Agencies (NMA) and administrative boundaries data and information for the 193 UN Member States, more precisely:

- The contact information of the National Mapping Agencies,
- The historic changes observed at both the 1st and 2nd sub national level including the SALB coding scheme,
- Corresponding maps, in GIS format, for each period of representativity observed since January 2000.

2: Activities

This past year, the activities have focused on:

- extending the capacities of several of the existing regional nodes (Americas, Middle East and Europe)
- strengthening the capacities of the UN Cartographic Section in order to improve the UN International Borders template which is used in SALB
- institutionalizing the project at the UN level including the development of the new SALB portal to improve the way the data and information are share with users and provide an online managerial platform for the project

More specifically, the capacities of the nodes and of the UN Cartographic Section have been strengthened as follow:

- Americas: extension of the part time consultant to support the data collection efforts of the UN Map Library and UN ECLAC
- Middle East: extension, through other source of funding, of the full time GIS technician located at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Cairo, Egypt.
- Asia: provision of one year of salary to hire a full time staff at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok Thailand to continue playing the role of the technical component of this node.
- UN Cartographic Section: support the hiring of a full time consultant over 9 months to integrate treaty information/data into the UN International Border template

We also benefited from the work of an intern who helped us looking at possible solutions to improve the accuracy of the coastline layer used in the UN international Border template and therefore indirectly SALB.

When it comes to the institutionalization of the project:

- Discussion have been taking place with the UN Statistic Division to evaluate the possibility to place the SALB project under the umbrella of the UN Secretariat.

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This issue is now being discussed in the context of a consultation initiated with the UN Member States by the division.

- We contributed to the development of the core geo-database component of the UNSDI framework document because SALB is one example of SDI oriented projects which links countries with the UN.
- The development of the new portal:
 - The specification for the different types of users have been defined
 - The institution that will do the work has been identified
 - The different databases used to manage the project have been rethought and migrated into an SQL database

SALB has also been present at the following events:

- PCGIAP EB meeting (Canberra, 15-17 April 2008). A report presenting the progresses made with SALB in regards to the PCGIAP member countries has been presented to the participants and SALB continues to participate in the activities of their Working Group 2 on Fundamental Data.
- Global Mapping Forum (Tokyo, 5-7.06.2008) Thanks to the kindness of the International Steering Committee on Global mapping (ISCGM), a poster presenting the SALB project and its state of progress in Asia, has been displayed during this event.
- ESRI international user conference (San Diego, 4-8.08.2008) where, thanks to ESRI's support, SALB had a booth at the map showcase. This conference has been the occasion to discuss the future of the project with different private companies such as ESRI or Google.
- 9th UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) plenary meeting (Vienna, 5-7 November 2008)

The material presented during these events can be downloaded from the Project Overview page of the SALB web site

(http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm).

3 editions of the SALB Newsletter have been released this past year and sent to all the National Mapping Agencies as well as more than 700 individuals part of the SALB mailing list. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the SALB web site.

3: Outcomes

Thanks to the above activities funded by USAID, the following progresses have been made in 2008 (see Annex I for the details):

- update of the contact information for 85 NMAs
- update of the historic changes table for 38 countries, creation of the first table for 4
- improvement of the international border of 30 countries through the support provided to the UN Cartographic Section
- validation of 3 maps and extension of the representativity of the maps for 17 countries

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As these figures demonstrate, priority has been given to the update of the contact information as well as the improvement of the UN international border as those were respectively the main limitation to obtain information about the historic changes and make progresses with the release of the administrative boundaries map.

Concrete progress have also been made with several other countries but this did not reach the point of having a final product posted on the SALB web site. The data collection process will now be facilitated thanks to the recent strengthening of several of the nodes and additional information and data should therefore be posted soon.

Over the past year the SALB web site has been accessed by around 15'000 users and it is expected that the new portal currently under development will increase this number as well as the volume of information and data available to the public.

Annex 1: Detail of the progresses made in 2008

National Mapping Agencies contact information

The contact information for 162 countries can now be accessed from:

http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_contact.htm.

Among those, the contact information for the following 85 countries has been updated in 2008: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia.

Tables

January 2000 tables for 169 countries and historic changes tables for 137 countries can now be accessed from

http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/Login.aspx?RedirectURL=salb_coding.aspx

The following tables have been added to the SALB web site in 2008:

- The January 2000 table for 2 countries: Palau, Kyrgyzstan
- The historic changes tables for Iran and the Netherlands
- Update of the historic changes to reach 2008 for the following 38 countries: Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Germany, Guyana, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Sweden, Togo, United States of America, Zambia.

Maps

The following validated maps can now be downloaded from the SALB web site (http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/Login.aspx?RedirectURL=salb_MData.aspx):

- January 2000 maps for 48 countries
- maps presenting the situation as observed after 2005 for 38 countries

Apart from that, the maps for 47 other countries remains under validation.

The following progresses have been made in 2008:

- Validation of the following maps:
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2000 - 2003
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo: 2003 - 2008
 - USA January 2008-May 2008
- Extension of the representativity of the maps for the following 17 countries: Belgium , Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Germany, Guyana, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Togo and Zambia.