

## SALB Report of activities presented during the 8<sup>th</sup> UNGIWG plenary meeting Bangkok, November 2007

### Members

Members by region/function and alphabetical order (directly implicated in the technical work of the SALB project, the persons indicated by a \* are new members):

**Africa:** Chukwudozie Ezigbalike (UNECA), Teshome Abebe (UNECA)  
**Americas:** Brenda Brookes (UN Map Library), Elisa Gagliano (UN Map Library), Alejandra Silva (UN ECLAC), Grill Guenther (WHO/AMRO)\*, Claudia Lambe and Jorge Espinoza Santander (Consultants)\*  
**Asia:** Guoxiang Wu (UNESCAP)\*, Lal Samarakhon (AIT), Nah Kulapramote (AIT)\*, Thilantha L. Dammalage (AIT)\* and  
**Europe:** Tony Mathew (WHO)\*  
**Middle East:** Ahmed Bayomie (WHO/EMRO)\*  
**Coordination:** Steeve Ebener (WHO) and Yaniss Guigoz (WHO)

The following paragraphs gives a short summary of the activities performed and the description of the results which have been obtained over this past year. For more details, please look at the last 4 editions of the SALB newsletter ([http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb\\_PO.htm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm)).

### Activities

In order to make as much progresses as possible over this past year, and thanks to the funds received from USAID, WHO and UNHCR, most of the efforts have been concentrated on extending the capacity of two of the nodes and create two new ones as well as meeting with as many country representative as possible.

The capacities of the node for the Americas and Europe have been extended respectively through the hiring of a consultant since November 2006 and an half time staff since April 2007. Since last fall the project also greatly benefit from the help provided by the WHO Regional Office for the Americas (WHO/AMRO).

With the support of UNESCAP a node has been established at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok since July 2007 (two part time staff). A node has also been established at the WHO Regional office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) since January 2007 (one full time staff).

The project also received some support from two interns who worked on the possible improvement of the coastline used both within SALB and the UN international border template.

Meeting with country representatives from National Mapping Agency or mission to the UN (79 in total) took place during the following meetings/conferences that SALB attended:

- 9<sup>th</sup> GSDI Conference and 13<sup>th</sup> ISCGM meeting (Santiago de Chile, November 06)
- the FIG week (Hong Kong, May 07)
- 13<sup>th</sup> PCGIAP meeting and EB (Seoul, June 07)
- the Cambridge conference (Cambridge, July 07)
- 9<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN and 24<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN (New York, August 07)

The slides and/or papers presented during these meetings/conferences can be downloaded from the overview page of the SALB web site: ([http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb\\_PO.htm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_PO.htm)).

These meeting have also been the occasion to continue supporting the activities on Working Group two of PCGIAP towards the development, maintenance and distribution of a seamless 1:1'000'000 scale framework data set covering the all Asia and Pacific Region as well as strengthen the connection with the

Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) in charge of the development of the Americas Global Map.

Moving towards the institutionalization of the project new discussions took place with the UN Statistics Division and the UN Map library. A UN email address has also been created for the project ([SALB@un.org](mailto:SALB@un.org)) and the web site is going to be redesigned and accessible from UN URL some time next year. The implementation of a user registration module has been the first step in this direction.

When it comes to resource mobilization, USAID has extended their support to the project for the 2008-2009 period with a grant of 111'495 USD. Funds have also been received from UNHCR (15'000 USD) since the last UNGIWG plenary meeting.

## **Results**

The information reported in this section describes the new information and data that have been posted on the SALB web site since the last UNGIWG plenary meeting.

### ***NMA Contact information***

The contact information for 160 countries (+26 compared to last year) can now be accessed from the SALB web site: [http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb\\_contact.htm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_contact.htm). The contact information for several countries, already available in 2006, have also been updated.

### ***January 2000 data***

To date tables for 168 countries (+2) are available online from the SALB web site ([http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb\\_coding.htm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_coding.htm)).

In terms of validated maps, 47 (+8) of them can now be downloaded from the SALB web site ([http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb\\_MDATA.htm](http://www.who.int/whosis/database/gis/salb/salb_MDATA.htm)). The maps for 50 other countries remains under validation (+6).

### ***2005-2007 data***

The historic changes tables for 105 countries are now at least reaching 2005 (+21), 18 of them reaching 2007 and 31 other going until 2006.

In terms of maps, it is now possible to download validated maps representative of the situation observed between 2005 and 2007 for 32 countries (+8). The maps for 10 other countries remain under validation at the moment (+7).

## **Conclusion and proposed workplan for 2008**

SALB has still not reached the present like it was planned last year and will therefore certainly not be able to enter the regular updating mode at the beginning of 2008. Nevertheless the gap is closing itself at a much faster speed than before thanks to the regional nodes that have either been established or strengthened. The maps for several other countries (e.g. Brazil, Indonesia, Laos,..) are actually in the pipeline and will be sent for validation before the end of the year.

Based on the structure and resources at disposal it is proposed to continue on the same line than the one followed this past year trying to have the SALB data completed as soon as possible.

Finally, we would like to take advantage of this report to thank one more time the different donors which are supporting the project as well as all the institutions that have allowed us to make progresses, especially the different nodes.