



“GeoSur develops geographic services on a free-access web platform”

## The Editor's Note

In this issue's interview are emphasized the achievements of a local SDI and the regional cooperation in capacity building, research and innovation. The two standing columns (GeoSUR and PAIGH) focus on one side on current aspects of SDIs to enable or constrain the achievement of real and measurable impacts on development, and on the other, the high-level dialogues to enhance technical assistance, publications, and initiatives that support development and encourage geospatial information sharing. New data included in the GeoSUR map viewer, and the call to GeoSUR

2014 award, are also highlighted.

GeoSUR newsletter seeks to disseminate GeoSUR Program's achievements and characteristics as well as events, projects and best practices for the application of GI into sustainable development and decision making in the region, as part of the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas.

The Portuguese translation is performed by [Eduardo Freitas](#) of Brazil. Please send your contributions and suggestions to: [Nancy Aguirre](#), Editor GeoSUR Newsletter, at [cnaguirre@ipgh.org](mailto:cnaguirre@ipgh.org).

## Inside this Issue:

- Interview of the month *Jasmith Tamayo, Manager of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for Bogota (IDECA), Colombia.*
- *From Eric's desk stresses the interrelatedness of SDI funding at all levels, and the interoperability among global networks with GeoSUR.*
- *From PAIGH's General Secretariat reports on the 81st Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH, and the 4th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.*



Jasmith Tamayo, Systems Engineer, is Manager of the Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Capital District of Bogota (in Spanish IDECA) from August 2011, which is located at the District Cadastral Special Administrative Unit where she worked since 2008.

*“The valuable relationship with GeoSUR has helped ... the refinement of project formulation as in the case of the Geospatial Platform for the Capital District”*

## Jasmith Tamayo, Manager of IDECA talks about an urban SDI and its synergies with GeoSUR

**When was IDECA launched and what are the main accomplishments achieved?**

The [Spatial Data Infrastructure of Bogotá \(IDECA\)](#) was created by the District Agreement 130 issued by the City Council in 2004; this year we celebrate 10 years in operation.

Its purpose is delivering effective mechanisms to providing quality-standard spatial information to support decision-making and the development of sector, local and regional projects to the capital city of Colombia. [IDECA](#) has promoted collaborative geographic information management based on official policies and standards, technological tools to facilitating their use, and the advancement of institutional strategies aimed at citizens.

Its main application is the [Maps Portal for Bogotá](#), which is directed at all users, and includes spatial information on security, mobility and social services, among others, from various official institutions to supporting the city's governance. Other key applications are data management and institutional documentation-oriented such as the [Geographic Items Registration System](#) (ISO19135) that received a special recognition from GeoSUR in 2013, and the [Metadata](#)

[Management System](#) (ISO 19112). In 2011 we commenced approaches with other Latin American initiatives as to learn and to improve our operations and projects.

**What are possible synergies with GeoSUR Program?**

The valuable relationship with GeoSUR has helped making visible IDECA's work in Latin America, as well as progressing knowledge management and the refinement of project formulation as in the case of the "Geospatial Platform for the Capital District" soon to be launched.

I look forward to countless scenarios to continuing generating synergies: The opportunity to training SDI at all levels; bringing experiences and lessons learned to other local SDIs in the Americas; the possibility of pursuing aid for regional-scope project improvement; and the joint development of research and innovation projects, for example, to ensuring autonomous and independent access for people with sight limitations.

I invite the Latin American community to continue building partnerships, learning on SDI experiences -consolidated or not-, and thus to progressing the strengthening and competitiveness of the region.

## From Eric's Desk

Relevance of geospatial sciences in our region is on the rise and hopefully will contribute more and more to the implementation of public policies and development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

I've been following this topic with great interest, especially the interplay between spatial data infrastructure at the city, provincial, national, regional and international levels.

In the CAF we think it is necessary to stimulate exchange and to improve communication between these SDI levels with the ultimate goal of achieving real and measurable impacts on development, which may encourage resource flows to implementing such initiatives.

We note with concern that SDI in our region –at all levels– have financing deficits and also have trouble showing

practical results that guarantee better access to funding.

In the CAF we are aware of this need and are evaluating how we could contribute as a development bank, to improve this situation.

GeoSUR can play a key role at the interface between national SDI and a future global SDI, for the simple reason that there are few regional SDI showing significant progress in their applications' advancement.

In this regard, discussions with UNEP-LIVE and GEOSS to increase interoperability between their global networks and GeoSUR have been initiated.

Moreover, GeoSUR continues exploring various cooperation prospects with agencies and initiatives globally.



Eric van Praag, GeoSUR Program Coordinator



Barbara Ryan, Director of GEO, Monika MacDevette, UNEP-LIVE representative, and Eric van Praag during the Eye on Earth Congress 2013 in Dublin

## From PAIGH's Secretary General

In my capacity as Secretary-General I wish sharing with you that recently, between July 9th and 11th, the 81st Meeting of Authorities of PAIGH was held at our General Secretariat headquarters in Mexico City, opportunity in which we were also visited by Ambassadors and members of Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Government of Mexico with whom we shared important concepts, especially regarding the ongoing processes for the Institute's modernization through the Pan American Agenda.

During this Meeting of Authorities various proposals were discussed, particularly in order to optimize the Institute's procedures related to its Technical Assistance Program and publications for the benefit of Member States. Another relevant issue was the election of Rigoberto Magaña as President of PAIGH.

Moreover, it seems to me very important partaking with you results of the 4th United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Expert Meeting held on August 4-8 in New York, where important agreements were adopted, for example: Advancing the definition of a Global Geodetic Reference Framework; Searching mechanisms for integrating statistical data with geospatial information; the Proposal for a Global Cartographic Model to supporting sustainable development in a holistic way; and Recommendations for Effectively Sharing Spatial Information. All of these are actions that are fully aligned with relevant PAIGH objectives.



Members of diplomatic corps and attendees to installation of the 81 PAIGH Meeting of Authorities (Mexico City, July 9-11)



Participation of the Secretary General of PAIGH at the 4th UN-GGIM meeting (New York, USA, August 4-8)

## GeoSUR Portal's Novelties

During July we continued densifying the River Watch Network of remote sensing-based river flow estimates. The University of Colorado, our partner in this project, has validated and improved the information contained in the current network using new methodologies to estimating flow and assigning quality values to the data produced, and also added new points to the regional network.

We currently have over 200 points suggested by colleagues in the region that will be gradually incorporated into this network.

The new information is available in the [GeoSUR map viewer](#) ("River Flow Estimates" layer).

In the near future this service will include a recently produced Map on Flooded Areas in Latin America 2012.

On July the following data were included in the map viewer:

- Map of LAC Rarity Species by Nature Serve
- Map of LAC Current and Future Landscape by Nature Serve
- Map of Protected Areas by Nature Serve
- Political-Administrative Boundaries 2014 by FAO

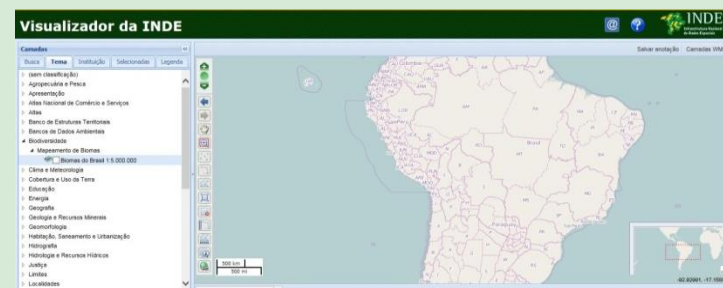
During this month information in the GeoSUR Portal was updated by adding recent news, novel participating institutions, the Map of the Month, and the correction of problems found in the "GeoSUR Library."

With support from PAIGH and UNEP, technical-assistance visits are being planned to more than ten institutions in the region, aimed at offering support on migrating spatial data and geo-services to The Cloud. This project is carried out with funding from the Eye on Earth initiative.

We are pleased to inform the community that the Call for "GeoSUR Award 2014" that is granted annually is now opened, in which institutions or individuals from any country in Latin America and the Caribbean may participate. Details on the Award's Call may be found [here](#).



River Watch Network in GeoSUR [map viewer](#). Dots indicate current flow-measurement sites



Brazilian SDI Viewer ([SDIV](#))



Alejandro Coca received the GeoSUR 2013 award on behalf of Terra-i, CIAT-Colombia)

### GeoSUR Program: Basic Figures

Years in Operation	7
Participating Institutions	95
Beneficiary Countries	25
GeoSUR Network Specialists	500
Officials Trained (6 Regional Workshops)	250
CAF Officials Trained	120
Virtual Workshops Offered	35
Available Digital Maps	10,000
Available Metadata	14,000
Map Services (WMS)	250
WFS Services	25

Webpage: <http://www.geosur.info>

**CAF - Development Bank of Latin America**

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**PAIGH**

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**GeoSUR Program**

[geosur@googlegroups.com](mailto:geosur@googlegroups.com)

[www.geosur.info](http://www.geosur.info)

## Other events in the region

### 2nd REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CRT2014), PANAMA

Organized by CAF and other institutions, it aims at bringing together key industry players to exchange experiences and best practices on public policy issues and regional regulation, investment, infrastructure, connectivity, and service coverage and quality, as to help generating a digital economy in Latin America the second fastest growing region in the global mobile market. In the CAF's study "Expansion of Regional infrastructure for the Interconnection of Internet Traffic in Latin America" it is recommended deploying a regional IXP network that could generate a 38 percent reduction in current transit costs, which would represent an important contribution to the gross regional product with moderate capital investment.

[General Plenary Session Agenda](#) [Source: Eduardo Mauricio Agudelo, CAF, Principal Executive / Directorate on Sector Analysis and Programming].

*"Investment in infrastructure is one of key developmental and regional integration factors and, therefore, a priority in the comprehensive development model that promotes CAF for Paraguay and Latin America," said Fernando Infante.*

### 18th CAF ANNUAL CONFERENCE (SEPTEMBER 3-4)

CAF's Annual Conference brings together more than 1,000 high ranking officials from government and international organizations, entrepreneurs, investors, journalists, analysts and representatives of organizations of the civil society from the region and the United States. This year's Program will address the evolution and prospects of major regional and global issues [Source: CAF].

### 16th SELPER SYMPOSIUM "GEOINFORMATION TO THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY"

The Latin American Society of Specialists on Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Systems (SELPER), will hold its 16th Symposium on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems "Geoinformation to the Service of Society", from September 29 to October 3, 2014, in the city of Medellin (Colombia), which aims to highlight current importance of these disciplines on geographic information use and management for development and decision making. For more information please visit the website at: [www.selpercolombia2014.com](http://www.selpercolombia2014.com) [Source: Luz Angela Rocha, President of the Board, SELPER Chapter Colombia].

### 1st FREE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND OPEN DATA TECHNOLOGIES AND 3rd GVSIG URUGUAY WORKING DAYS

The [event](#) will take place on October 2-3, 2014 under the theme "Free and Responsible Information Management: An Equity Issue", being the first day of lectures and of workshops the second. These are framed in a favorable situation based on the recent adoption of the "Law on Free Software and Open Formats in Uruguay", the new phase of the [SDI of Uruguay \(IDEuy\)](#) from January 1, 2014 with the recent organization defined in [Articles 35 and 36 of Law 19149](#), and the 10th anniversary of gvSIG software [Source: Sergio Acosta y Lara, Bureau of Surveying GIS, MTOP, Uruguay].

**PUBLICATIONS:** *GIM International* magazine on geomatics, which offers free access, is now also available in Spanish. Its [second issue](#) was released in August.



17th CAF Conference



16th SELPER Symposium 2014



2nd gvSIG Working Days