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Santiago
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Task Group 5

GIS Map Production Guidelines

Progress report

Task Group 5 Map Production Guidelines

Objectives

The objective of the Map Production Guidelines Task Group is to compile a set of standards applicable to most mapping situations.

Task Group Membership:

Task Group Manager:

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List of Tasks

Following up on 2005 TG-5 tasks list, the following 2006 tasks were identified at the 6th UNGIWG meeting in Addis Ababa:

- Explore the consolidation of DPKO, FAO and other UN documents focusing on Map Production Guidelines.
- Release as draft guidelines.
- Update with amendments as necessary.

Activities completed:

- Studied the map production guidelines documents produced by FAO, DPKO and other UN entities.
- Compiled sample map products from various UN agencies as reference material.
- Identified elements of a print map to standardize on.
- Obtained map symbol sets from various UN GIS shops to compile a digital symbol library.
- Developed multiple map layout designs and solicited feedback from users.
- Created ArcGIS map templates and their PDF versions for easy viewing.
- Created an ArcGIS Symbol-set Library.
- Generated a set of individual graphic files for each map symbol.
- Developed color gradients and line styles for a limited set of feature classes.
- Produced a "how to create a map using PowerPoint" document for beginners.
- Generated a set of example maps for download to demonstrate the map templates in action.
- Produced a video of a live demonstration where a symbol set was deployed via a Web Service supporting the Style Layer Description (SLD) standard being utilized by various thin and rich GIS clients including Google Earth, ArcGIS, uDIG and MapBuilder displaying data on South Asia Earthquake humanitarian operations.
- Developed a Map Production Guidelines web site for UN OCHA (<http://ochaonline2.un.org/mapguidelines>) as an example where relevant resources are posted along with links to a few selected Web sites and an e-mail facility to contact the Webmaster.

- Explored the provisioning of an SLD Web Service by the UNGIWG Interoperability Working Group (UNEP) to offer online access to UN map symbol sets.

Conclusions:

2006 was a fairly productive year for TG-5. Building on previous work, 2007 draft action plan, which will be finalized and adopted at the 7th UNGIWG Annual Meeting, will focus on three sets of activities:

Add and maintain reference pages on Map Production Guidelines along the lines exemplified in the prototype site developed for UN OCHA.

Within the services-oriented framework of the UNSDI architecture, work closely with the Interoperability Task Group (TG-4) to collaborate with GRID-Nairobi to provide an effective SLD Web Service component which UNEP would then be able to expose in its openGRID community as an UNGIWG offering.

Advocate for the implementation of UNGIWG Map Production Guidelines by UNGIWG Task Groups and the larger UN geospatial information management community.