

The Release of the Global Map Version 1 (National & Regional Version) Data in User-Friendly Formats

Syuhei Kojima ISCGM Secretariat

ISCGM Secretariat released Global Map Version 1 (National and Regional Version) data in user-friendly formats on October 30, 2008. This is based on the resolutions adopted at the 14th Meeting of ISCGM in Cambridge, UK in July 2007, which decided to provide the data in user-friendly formats in addition to the officially formatted data.

The "user-friendly formats" indicate SHAPE format for vector data and TIFF format with a world file, which has positional information (.tfw), for raster data. These formats can be easily used with many GIS programs compared to the official formats: VPF format for vector data and BIL format for raster data. In particular, data in TIFF format can be seen with an image viewer even if you do not have GIS programs. Therefore, it is expected that these data will broaden the range of Global Map users. Each file contains each feature class (ex. road, built-up area) for vector data and each layer (ex. elevation, land cover) for raster data. If you want to know more about the user-friendly formats, please access the ISCGM website shown below, which explains the summary of user-friendly formats, the relation between the user-friendly formats and the official ones, and the matching between the data feature and the file name, among other information.

(Reference URL)

The data made available in user-friendly formats are equivalent to the data which have been released as the Global Map Version 1 (National and Regional Version) in official formats. Please refer to the charts shown below when you download Global Map Version 1 (National and Regional Version) from ISCGM website in user-friendly formats.

		Official formats	User-Friendly formats	
Metadata		yes (.met)	no (please refer to the metadata of official formats)	
Vector	Data Format	VPF (4 files)	SHAPE (max. 19 files)	
	Data Item	Boundary	[polbndp] Administrative area (point)	[coastl] Coastline (line)
			[polbndl] Administrative boundary (line)	[oceansea] Sea water (polygon)
			[polbnda] Administrative area (polygon)	
		Drainage	[aquecanl] Aqueduct, canal, flume or penstock (line)	[watrersl] River (line)
			[inwatera] Inland water (polygon)	[miscp] Dam, weir, island, spring or water-hole (point)
			[miscl] Dam (line)	
		Transportation	[aerofacp] Airport, airfield (point)	[rryardp] Railroad yard (point)
			[railrdl] Railroad (line)	[roadl] Road (line)
			[transstrl] Bridge, ferry route or tunnel (line)	[traill] Trail (line)
		Population Centers	[builtupa] Built-up area (polygon)	[builtupp] Built-up area (point)
			[mispopp] Settlement (point)	
Raster	Data Format	BIL (max. 4 files)	TIFF (max. 4 files)	
	Data Item	Elevation	Elevation	
		Land Cover	Land Cover	
		Land Use	Land Use	
		Vegetation	Vegetation	

Comparison between Official Format and User-Friendly Format of Global Map

[How to Download Global Map V. 1 (National and Regional Version) in User-Friendly Formats]

- Access the ISCGM website (http://www.iscgm. org).
- 2. Click "Download" at the left side of the top page.
- 3. Enter User ID and Password, and then click "Login" button.

(If you have not finished user registration, please register yourself to obtain your user ID and password.)

- 4. Click "Go to Global Map V.X and V.1 (National and Regional Version) Data download page".
- 5. Select the countries or regions which you want to download and click "Go next / Preview download

list." (The countries which released the data in user-friendly formats are shown in blue-bold characters.)

6. Click "SHP & TIFF" at the right side of "List of release data." Finally, you can download the data.



Report on UN-SPIDER Workshop in Bonn and GOFC-GOLD Symposium in Jena

Yoshikazu Fukushima Secretary General, ISCGM

Yoshikazu Fukushima, Secretary General of ISCGM participated in the two meetings. UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop was held on 13-15 October. Future plan of UN-SPIDER was discussed based on regional UN-SPIDER workshops and recent earth observation experiences on the occasions of cyclone in Myanmar and earthquake in China. Preview of knowledge portal was introduced as a web based tool for knowledge exchange. The 3rd Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) Symposium was held at Jena University, Germany on 13-17 October. Many international and national land cover projects were presented and land cover strategies were discussed. Global Mapping was presented and participants

of the symposium were very interested in recently developed Global Map. National Mapping Organizations are also expected to contribute to developing detailed national land cover.



UN-SPIDER workshop in Bonn

Global Map Version 2: Standardization Challenges

Henry Tom Co-Chair, ISO / TC 211 Advisory Group on Outreach



Henry Tom

Global Map, comprised of the national mapping organizations (NMOs) of 164 countries and 16 regions, with unified specifications, covering the whole land area with global version (land

cover and vegetation) and 60% of the global land area with national / regional versions, are freely available for non-commercial purposes. The scale of this global coverage is at 1:1 million-scale or 1 km with the intent of Global Mapping for analyzing global environmental problems, achieving sustainable development, and mitigating large-scale disasters.

The two major international organizations for standardizing geographic information and software interface specifications respectively: the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 Geographic information / Geomatics and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) were established in 1994; and with the formation of the ISCGM in 1996; no international standards developed by these two organizations had been completed during these 2 preceding years for the ISCGM to adopt, however, the forthcoming Version 2 of Global Map affords opportunities to review and possibly adopt international standards. Global Map - Version 2 is projected for completion by 2012 and currently, an Action Plan is being formulated for revising ISCGM technical specifications.

A survey questionnaire on specifications will provide the basis for formulating new specifications; a workshop for new specifications is planned in Tokyo, Japan during September 2009; and adoption of the new Global Map specifications will occur at the 16th meeting of the ISCGM to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on October 25, 2009. Currently, there are several standards under consideration, namely Geography Markup Language (GML3), ISO 19115 Metadata Standard, and possible adoption of ISO 19144 –2: Land Cover Classification System (LCCS), currently as a United Nations (UN) standard adopted by the Global Map.

Inherently, Global Map technical specifications serve as default standardizing mechanisms; hence, the ISCGM adoption of existing international standards / technical specifications is of critical importance to the majority of national mapping organizations and their user communities. As a Class A Liaison member of ISO/TC 211, the ISCGM monitors all standardization activities and their possible implications for the Global Map community while providing ISCGM inputs into the ISO/TC 211 standardization process.

A Global Map presentation was given during the recent Standards in Action Workshop during the ISO/TC 211 Working Group and Plenary meetings in Tsukuba, Japan from December 1 - 5, 2008 and future discussions may involve joint initiatives between the ISCGM and the ISO/TC 211 Advisory Group on Outreach.



The ISO/TC 211 Working Group and Plenary meetings Tsukuba, Japan

Global Map Presentation at 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) of UNFCCC in Poznań, Poland

Takayuki Nakamura, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT) Toru Nagayama, Secretariat of ISCGM



Venue: Poznań International Fair, Poznań, Poland

COP14 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Poznań, Poland from 1 to 12 December 2008 to discuss international policy framework to cope with climate change. More than 9,000 people from governments, international organizations, NGOs, researchers and press attended the Conference.

MLIT and the ISCGM secretariat jointly participated in the Conference to promote the use of Global Map version 1 to facilitate the discussions on measures against climate change. Last presentation of Global Map was made at COP3 in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 by installing an exhibition stand.

At the side seminar on 9 December hosted by the Japanese Government, one of the authors of this report, Takayuki Nakamura made a presentation entitled "Utilizing Global Map for Addressing Climate Change." In addition to the outline of Global Map, the presentation drew interest of an audience of 150 on the possibility of use of Global Map in climate change fields: formulating adaptation measures in response to adverse effects of climate change such as sea level rise; grasping forest areas and forest distribution in an effort to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD); and calculation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions and removals from Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF).



Global Map presentation at the side seminar

Global Map was also presented at an exhibition booth of the Japanese Government in the main atrium of the venue. A panel of Global Land Cover by National Mapping Organizations (GLCNMO) was presented together with PC demonstration on Global Map. Further, 300 sets of CD-ROMs and brochures were also distributed to the participants from every corner of the world.



Global Map presentation at exhibition

Recently, climate change policy framework does not only focus on GHGs emission reduction, but also includes forest and other land management issues. It was so impressive that many side seminars addressed forestry, land management, and terrestrial observation issues where RS and GIS are central technologies employed. The next COP15 will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009, where an international climate change policy framework beyond 2012 (Post Kyoto Protocol) is expected to be adopted. These trends are encouraging messages that both National Mapping Organizations and ISCGM have more and more room to assist in climate change policy formulation at national and international levels through distributing necessary geo-information, now, up to and beyond 2012.

JICA Global Mapping Training Course 2008

NZELIA MINA Denise Researcher, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology D. R. Congo



JICA Global Mapping Course 2008

On my own behalf and on behalf of my fellow Participants and my Government, I wish to express my profound indebtedness to the Director General, Directors and staff of the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) for warmly welcoming us. Our experience here shall always remain with us for the cordial relationship we enjoyed during our training course.

Four participants came from three different countries, namely Gambia, Lesotho and myself from Democratic Republic of Congo with the objective of producing a Global Map for our individual countries. In this light, I can assure you that we have acquired the requisite skills necessary to achieve this task. In view of this, we shall definitely accomplish our Individual's map before the end of the period underreview-2008.

Not only have we gained the necessary skills and expertise to carry out Global Mapping, but have also learnt a new culture, traditions and beliefs and new ways of doing the same thing hitherto we would not have known or thought about. These new ideas would eventually help us in our future endeavors, because a new sense of understanding and appreciation of divergent views has been learnt in this short time of our stay which I believe has broaden our individual's knowledge. We left our countries without any knowledge and full of uncertainties as regards our host country and for that matter the people we were going to interact with. Now we gather here with full of smiles and excitement, because there has not been any regrets at all. The warm-reception accorded us; the tender treatment with high sense of respect based on our individual background and needs has indeed confirmed my earlier assertion of no regrets.

My next appreciation goes to the government of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the opportunity accorded to attend this short but intensive training course, to the Director General, the Deputy Director General, Directors, the two hard working staff, namely Mr. Hayakawa (Coordinator) of Tsukuba International Center (TBIC) for their invaluable assistance to us at all times.

To my Global Mapping colleagues Fatty-San, Mapuru-San and Kabemba-San, thank you for your continuous cooperation with me and with each other.

My sincere gratitude goes to my government: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the confidence reposed in, last but not least, to my Director General for submitting my name and assisting me in preparing within the shortest notice of time to participate.

Thank you very much for your time.



NZELIA MINA Denise (D. R. Congo)

From the Secretariat

Global data "Global Map Version 1" was released in June 2008. In addition to the officially formatted data, data in Shape format and TIFF format have been added for the convenience of the data users. Further, use of land cover data and vegetation data are decided to be free of charge for commercial purposes as well. In using these data, user registration and description of the data source are required (See the attached poster).

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Since the last issue of the newsletter on September 25, 2008, Global Map Azerbaijan (October 20) and Global Map Tunizia (November 20) were released. Currently 164 countries/16 regions participate in the Project.

Introduction of Global Map Data Use

Exhibitions of Map works by pupils and students have been held at various places in Japan aiming to facilitate geographic education and to enlighten and disseminate maps. We would like to introduce among other applications, an excellent work created by a student using Global Map data.



Observation: Australia mines more than 60 minerals at present. I have studied about minerals Japan highly relies on Australia, among the imports. I have put a seal on the places where 18 kinds of minerals are being mined. Global Map data (land cover) uncover that many minerals are distributed along the mountain ranges (forests) and that development is progressing near the coastal cities rather than inland. In addition, I understood that mines concentrate in the eastern and western parts. I thought that I can find out interesting things by overlaying multiple data on a map.

Title: Land Cover and Mineral Resources of Australia – using Global Map data-Author: Koki Ishida, Jonouchi Junior High School, Tokushima

The 16th Exhibition of Map Works by Pupils and Students on November 30, 2008 organized by Tokushima Geographical Society

Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings. Information on related meetings will be highly appreciated. 2009 · 12 - 16 July. England, U. K.

- 4 6 February, Kyoto, Japan 3rd GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium
 3 - 8 May, Eilat, Israel FIG Working Week and the XXXII General
- Assembly • 24 May, New York, USA

UNRCC-Americas

- 28 29 May, Molde, Norway ISO/TC211 28th Plenary
- **15 19 June, Rotterdam, Netherlands** GSDI 11: Eleventh International Conference for Global Spatial Data Infrastructure

- 12 16 July, England, U. K. CC: The Exchange
 9 - 12 September, Beijing, China
- 6th International Symposium on Digital Earth
 September, Tsukuba, Japan (tbd)

Global Mapping Workshop (tentative)

- 25 October, Bangkok, Thailand (tbd) 16th Meeting of ISCGM
- 26 30 October, Bangkok, Thailand 18th UNRCC-AP/15th PCGIAP Meeting
- 15 22 November, Santiago, Chile XXIV International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2009)

The Newsletter is distributed as information paper on Global Mapping to more than 1,200 people of NMOs, Global Map data users and other interested people of the world. Your contribution of articles, requests of subscription and provision of relevant information will be very much appreciated.

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