

ANNOUNCEMENT

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Users Group Meeting / Briefing



Engineers and technicians interested in GIS are invited to participate in the first of a series of meetings / briefings on SAVE's GIS initiative that will form a GIS Users Group. This initial meeting will introduce participants to general principles and methodologies of GIS. At the meeting, SAVE will describe its new GIS activity including specifics of the "physical map" being created from high-resolution satellite data and the status of access to the SAVE GIS server, software, data, and broadband internet connections. During the meeting Dr. Francois Smith will lead a technical session on the process used to classify the satellite data for creation of the various data layers.

The new Geographic Information System (GIS) activity is designed to improve land use planning, the management and utilization of natural resources and protection of cultural heritage sites. The GIS activity was developed based on the expressed needs of environmental managers and planning professionals. The GIS Users Group will provide an opportunity to actively collaborate in the work being done by SAVE.

SAVE works on building local capacity to better protect and manage Cyprus' valuable natural and cultural resources. SAVE is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by International Resources Group (IRG).

DATE – TIME – PLACE

Wednesday, 10 October 2007
10:00 – 11:30
SAVE

James A. Price is the SAVE GIS Program Manager and leads the GIS team. He has over 20 years in the geospatial industry, with both public and private sector work. Throughout his career Mr. Price has worked in all aspects of GIS implementation, management, and application development. Most recently he has been working for the City of New Orleans, in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. As an authorized ESRI Instructor Mr. Price has hired and trained GIS staff. He has designed specified, procured, and installed GIS workstations and servers lead entire department in the upgrading of their GIS hardware and software, developed production tools for automation of GIS production work, and led the implementation of internet map services. He has experience in all types of data and data management issues including creating and maintaining metadata, converting paper maps into digital GIS databases, and modernizing data products for agencies including FEMA and the National Hurricane Center.

Can Kara is the SAVE GIS Deputy Program Manager. He has over 7 years of experience in the planning industry, with both public and private sector work. His first experience on planning was with “Nicosia Master Plan” extension project. He has also worked for the UNOPS “Vision for the Core of Nicosia” project funded by UNDP and USAID for two years. Mr. Kara worked on the development of Bafra, Morphou and Kyrenia planning regulations and related digitalization work. He has also coordinated digitalization projects for Nicosia and Famagusta. Mr. Kara has been applying landfill location development for the Waste Management Project in cooperation with the European Union Coordination Center. He also has experience with the Urban Research and Development Center – Eastern Mediterranean University, Quality of Life project on database management - creating and maintaining data and converting paper maps into digital maps using GIS.

Dr. François Smith is a GIS/ Remote Sensing specialist with 12 years of GIS/Remote Sensing - related work experience. He received a BA in Anthropology, an MS in Remote Sensing/Geography and a Ph.D. in Remote Sensing from the University of South Carolina. He has worked at the South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archaeology processing historic and prehistoric site locations and for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources producing land cover data layers and processing satellite imagery. Currently he works for MDA Federal Inc. and manages several projects and engages in GIS related technical development, proposal writing and fieldwork.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:15	Welcome & Introduction by <i>James Price</i>
10:15 -10:30	Update on SAVE GIS Project by <i>James Price & Can Kara</i>
10:30 – 10:45	BREAK
10:45 – 11:10	High Resolution Satellite Imagery Classification & The Physical Map Project by <i>Dr. Francois Smith</i>
11:10 – 11:25	Group Discussion on GIS Items of Interest
11:25 – 11:30	Closing Remarks by <i>James Price & Can Kara</i>

