



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO  
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET  
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



ProGIS

# The Nordic GIS Conference, 2-4.10.2006, Helsinki

## Workshop:

*GIS in developing countries –  
challenges and approaches*

**Chairman Petri Pellikka**

**University of Helsinki, Department of Geography**



## Approach



- Aim of the workshop is to share experiences of GIS applications in developing countries
- Challenges and approaches to solve them
- GIS is applied in developing countries
  - by local organisations
  - by companies carrying out development projects
  - by research organisations
- The challenge is
  - to make the results and infrastructure sustainable
  - to share the data developed with developing countries
  - to have sufficient capacity in developing countries to apply the results and data
- Approaches vary and we are hear to hear more about them



# Programme



- 9.00, Opening, themes and approach
- 9.10, Niina Käyhkö, Landscape change research in Zanzibar: methods and challenges of space and time
- 10.00, Petri Pellikka, TAITA project and geographic database for environmental management
- 10.25, Coffee break
- 10.35, Ian Corker, Digitisation of Egypt's cadastral system
- 11.00, Sami Jänne, GIS component design for projects in developing countries
- 11.25, Sanna Mäki, Western Amazon GIS: facilitating access to environmental data
- 11.50, General discussion and conclusions,
- 12.00, Closing and goodbye



## Students



- Workshop is part of the Geoinformatics applications course of the University of Helsinki
- Workshop is also a separate study unit for which 1 credit unit is given
  - for being present
- 10.35, Ping Zhou, Soil erosion modeling and risk analysis for a mountainous watershed
  - for writing a summary of each presentation and about the challenges and approaches, totalling to 5 pages
  - further information of the presentations can be derived from the homepages of the projects presented
  - the summary should be sent to [petri.pellikka@helsinki.fi](mailto:petri.pellikka@helsinki.fi), deadline 23.10.2006



## Presentations



- Will be set up on GI Norden homepages as pdf-files
- Interest in full paper submission to Fennia, some GIS journal or some development studies journal?



## Challenges



- infrastructure in developing countries (physical map archives, computers and networks)
- human resources (staff) in developing countries
- interministry rivalry
- no language support (arabic or kiswahili) for GIS
- use of computers and IT skills
- the work model is not always transferrable and the western work model is not the best



## Problems



- no data or unsuitable or restricted
- the organisation you work with is unready
- corruption, politics
- resistance to digital data and GIS
- the work model is not always transferrable and the western work model is not the best



## Good partners

- mapping organisations
- land management organisations
- forestry organisations





## Remedies



- simple is beautiful
- aim low
- it takes time, be patient
- sustainability... plan the costs of maintenance of the systems you are creating