



3rd Call for Presentations

The conference <http://pgis2005.cta.int> will bring together people with extensive practical experience in Participatory GIS (PGIS) and community mapping in Developing Countries and First Nations.

The focus of the event will be on sharing experiences and defining good practices for making spatial information technologies and systems available to less-favoured groups in society in order to enhance their capacity in managing and communicating spatial information in the contexts of:

- asserting ancestral land and resource rights and entitlements;
- supporting collaborative planning and management of lands and natural resources;
- promoting equity in terms of ethnicity, culture, gender, environmental justice, hazard mitigation, etc;
- managing and ameliorating conflicts amongst and between local community groups, and between communities and higher-level authorities or economic forces; and
- supporting cultural heritage preservation and identity building among indigenous peoples and rural communities.

The conference's objectives are to develop and share a knowledge base on PGIS practice. The event will lay the foundations for the development of regional networks, communities of practice and resource centres.

Practitioners and researchers are invited to submit abstracts (in English or French) for presentations of case studies on completed initiatives. The organizers strongly support the sharing of experiences and critical reviews of successes and failures as basis for learning and discussion. Papers on would-be initiatives will not be accepted.

Depending on available financial resources sponsorships for attending the conference will be made available to a limited number of presenters from Developing Countries and First Nations.

The conference focuses on the following three main topics:

- Enabling and disabling environments for PGIS and community mapping practices to work
- Methodological issues in practicing PGIS and community mapping
- Implementation issues in practicing PGIS and community mapping

TOPIC 1: Enabling and disabling environments for practicing Participatory GIS and community mapping

To be successful it is crucial that the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks in which the PGIS processes can unfold, are in place. Case studies on how practitioners have been dealing with disabling or enabling regulatory, legal, policy and institutional environments are the focal subjects of this topic.

After the presentations working groups will elaborate communication strategies, actions and channels which need to complement PGIS practice / community mapping in order to address disabling environments or to successfully ride on enabling frameworks.

TOPIC 2: Methodological issues

Presenters will share lessons learned in practicing PGIS in developing countries and First Nations in different socio-cultural, economic, environmental, institutional, political and

technological circumstances within initiatives where spatial information management and communication have reinforced participatory processes.

PGIS practice has to be embedded into a well thought-out process, including understanding peoples' questions, assessing the existing legal and regulatory frameworks, jointly setting project objectives, defining strategies and choosing appropriate spatial information management tools. Such choices involve a broad range of tools and methods ranging from simple sketch mapping to modern geographic information technologies and systems (GIT&S), and always foregrounding the issues of connectivity and the skills and capacities of actors concerned with the systems being developed, with or without external support and funding.

Within the main topic of "Methodological Issues" four tracks will deal with the following:

- Tools, methods and processes for representing (visualising) popular / indigenous spatial knowledge (mental maps);
- Ethics of PGIS practice (e.g. control and use of Indigenous Spatial Knowledge, intellectual property rights, data privacy, ownership, access, exclusion, sensitivity, etc.);
- Supporting cultural heritage preservation and identity building among indigenous peoples and rural communities. How mapping of intangible heritage and traditional spatial knowledge is important for ensuring cultural pluralism and sustainable resource management;
- Participatory Geo-information: How to deal with issues of scale, accuracy and precision in the context of community mapping and PGIS.

Cross-cutting issues: promoting equity in terms of ethnicity, culture, gender, environmental justice and hazard mitigation, etc.

TOPIC 3: Implementation issues

Practitioners around the world have found ways to support their causes through participatory mapping and use of spatial information. In four tracks we would like to highlight success stories and pitfalls from which other practitioners can learn lessons about:

- Land and resource rights and entitlements; how communities were able to acquire rights and entitlements through participatory mapping, or where they failed despite mapping efforts; what are the main challenges?
- Participatory land use planning and collaborative natural resource management; how does it improve planning and management either in open access domains or protected areas and what is the added value of indigenous spatial knowledge for planning and management purposes?
- Conflict management and amelioration; in which cases was participatory mapping able to ameliorate conflict and where did it lead to escalation? How to manage conflict arising from change induced by participatory mapping processes?
- Integration of PGIS with GIS institutions; what are the factors that allow or hinder this integration? Examples of acceptance or rejection by government or other institutions?

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to the Organising Committee pgis2005@itc.nl before **30 April 2005** and should contain the paper title, authors names and affiliations, the contact address of the corresponding author, the relevant conference theme and should not exceed 250 words in length.

More information on how to submit is available on the conference web site at <http://www.iapad.org/pgis2005/announcement.htm>