



GISCorps Newsletter

GIS Professionals Volunteering for a Better World

November 2009

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URISA

GISCorps Partner Agencies

EWB
GSDI
MMEX
UNDP
UNHCR
UNJLC
UNOSAT
iMMAP
Volunteers for Prosperity

Relief Agency Links

Relief Web
global hub for time-critical humanitarian information on Complex Emergencies and Natural Disasters

A Message from the Core Committee

The Core Committee (CC) of GISCorps held their annual business meeting at the URISA International Conference in October and during the meeting elected new members. Dianne Haley agreed to continue for another year as Chair of the CC, and Allen Ibaugh agreed to be Vice Chair. Heather Milton and Ray DeLeon were nominated as new members. We welcome both Heather and Ray to the CC and thank them for their participation. We have added information – and pictures – from the conference to our web page (please see the [link](#) below).

We would like to point out that we are currently recruiting for two new missions. The job descriptions for these missions can be accessed from [here](#). If either of these missions are of interest to you, please let us know.

And don't forget our K-12/4H initiative and check out our latest K-12 mission in Tennessee (more detail below). Please keep spreading the information that GISCorps volunteers are available to assist appropriate activities in the K-12 and 4-H communities; this gives our volunteers the opportunity to instill in the younger generation an appreciation for our world and how spatial technologies can contribute to making a better world for everyone.

As this will be the last GISCorps Newsletter of 2009, the GISCorps Core Committee would like to extend to you and yours our wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and the very best in the New Year.

GISCorps Core Committee,
Dianne Haley, Allen Ibaugh, Ingrid Bruce, Mark Salling, Shoreh Elhami,
Heather Milton, Ray DeLeon

P.S. Please email info@giscorps.org if you want to be removed from this list.

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Deployment and Partnership News

Missions in Progress:

- **Recruiting for two new projects in New Orleans, LA & Lagos, Nigeria:** We have received requests for two new projects. Detailed descriptions of both projects can be found in [here](#).
- **K-12 Project in Hamilton County, Tennessee** (more detail [here](#)): In February 2009, the UT-TSU Extension office in Hamilton County -

Data/Information Links

Earthwatch Institute

Earthwatch Institute is an international non-profit organization that brings science to life for people concerned about the Earth's future.

Service at Sea

Service at Sea is a ship-based technology assistance program that will begin a circumnavigation of the earth in August, 2007, with a goal to assist conservation organizations who are using GIS technology to meet goals of their communities.

Society for Conservation GIS

A non-profit organization supporting individuals using GIS and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage

GISCorps Core Committee

Dianne Haley, Chair
Allen Ibaugh, Vice Chair
Shoreh Elhami, Co-founder
Ingrid Bruce
Mark Salling
Heather Milton
Ray DeLeon

Contact Us

<http://www.giscorps.org>

Email: info@giscorps.org

Chattanooga, TN requested a GISCorps volunteer to help them install the ArcView software onto their new computers and facilitate group sessions on registering waypoints, downloading it into the computers, and creating printable maps for display. Andrew Carroll, the GIS Manager at ARCS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was selected for this project and has been assisting the 4-H club in various projects.

- **Mission with [iMMAP/WFP](#) - North Korea:** In late 2007, [iMMAP](#) in partnership with the [World Food Program](#) (WFP), Bureau for Asia sent a request for volunteers to compile features such as settlement points, transportation (roads, foot path, and railroads), rivers and lakes (complete with attributes) from 405 map sheets in North Korea. Following their request, GISCorps posted the information on its website and was then contacted by Karen Payne of University of Georgia's Information technology Outreach Services ([ITOS](#)) who expressed interest in assisting with the project. During the first phase, she conducted tests to determine the best options for rectification of scanned maps and forwarded the results to WFP. She then continued the test by investigating various methods for extracting features from those scanned maps. Recently, another volunteer, Chris Zumwalt, a GIS Manager with WRA Inc. CA, joined the team to run a pilot project to determine the best methodology for compiling these features. Read more [here](#).
- **Mission with [Fuquay-Varina Rotary Club](#) – Panama:** The Fuquay-Varina Rotary (FVR) club sought GISCorps volunteers' assistance to develop an online questionnaire to conduct a survey in poor neighborhoods of Panama. The objective was to locate and collect detailed information about the staggering number of orphans in Panama City and beyond. The online questionnaire will eventually enable FVR to geo-locate those who will be surveyed. In April 2009, two GISCorps volunteers were deployed to this mission. Jill Hume, a GIS Analyst for the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board and Steve Tsuida, a graphic designer and web developer with Kyros both in Calgary, Canada. Read more [here](#).
- **Mission with [Ministry of Tourism](#) – Mozambique:** In March 2009, a request for a remote sensing specialist came to GISCorps. The Ministry of Tourism has several Quick Bird imageries of Chimanimani National Reserve from 2005 and 2008 and is interested in having the volunteer conduct a change detection to identify changes in land use pattern. This is expected to help the reserve management team to locate the areas where more attention is required to control illegal activities currently occurring in the Reserve (e.g. gold panning). Stephanie Lassieur, a remote sensing specialist with the NATO Command Control Consulting Agency in the Hague (Netherlands) has been recruited for this mission. She provided preliminary results to the Ministry staff. Upon their feedback, she will conduct a full analysis.
- **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Small Grants Program's 2009-2010 Projects:** GISCorps first participated in the review of [2005/2006 Small Grants projects in 2005](#) and most recently has participated in the 2009/2010 projects. The team has reviewed over 25 applications. The announcement of awards is expected soon and we are investigating the potential role of GISCorps volunteers for a dozen of those proposals. The 2009/2010 efforts are currently spearheaded by Mark Salling, a GISCorps Core Committee

member.

Read more about completed projects [here](#).
Read more about projects in progress in [here](#).

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URISA Announcements

Upcoming Conferences

[URISA Leadership Academy -](#)

December 7-11, 2009 - Seattle, WA

[Teaching GIS Leadership](#)

[14th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference](#)

March 8-11, 2010 - Little Rock, AR

[2010 URISA/NENA Addressing Conference](#)

August 16-18, 2010 - Charlotte, NC

What's New

[GIS Day - November 18, 2009](#)

[Highlights from Anaheim!](#)

[Barry Wellar's Keynote Hits the Mark in Anaheim](#)

[Mapping Atlanta](#)

[URISA Remembers Dan Parr](#)

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Shop for GISCorps Stuff!!

Do you find yourself in need of a new T-shirt, coffee mug, ball cap or tote bag? Do you want to advertise GISCorps and your association with the organization? Well, you are in luck! You can now find various GISCorps items at our online shop at: <http://www.cafepress.com/giscorps>

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ESRI's 29th User Conference

ESRI's 29th User Conference, San Diego, July 13-17, 2009

The 2009 ESRI User Conference was held in San Diego from July 13-17. To see the photos taken at those activities, click [here](#).

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47th URISA International Conference

47th URISA Conference, Anaheim, CA, September 28-October 2nd, 2009

The 47th URISA Conference was held in Anaheim, CA. GISCorps held multiple events including a poster exhibit, presentations and an annual meeting. To see the photos taken at those activities, click [here](#).

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Featured Project

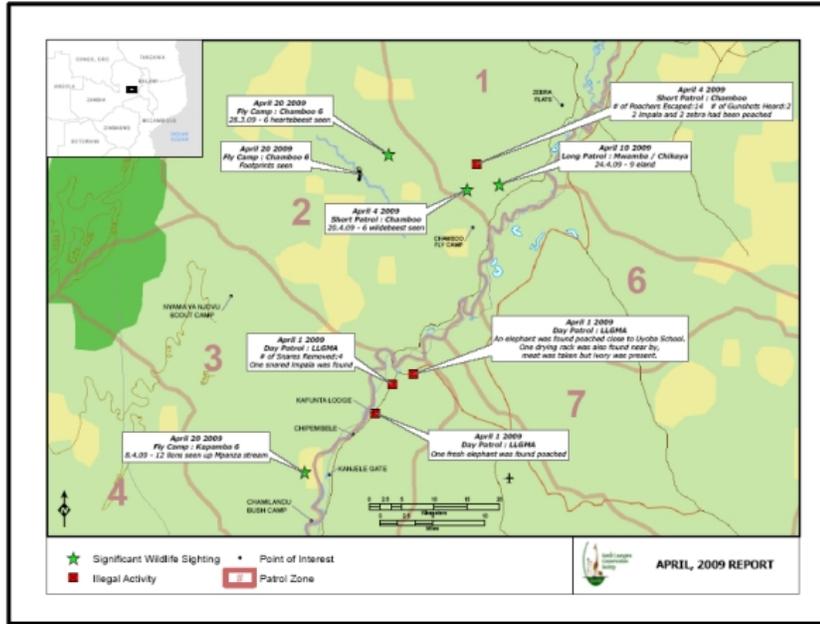
Mission with South Luangwa Conservation Society - Zambia

In March 2009, GISCorps received a request from [South Luangwa Conservation Society](#) (SLCS), an NGO in Mfuwe, Zambia.

The SLCS is a non-profit community based organization committed to the conservation of the local wildlife and natural resources of the National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas. The following are some of the projects they carry out:

- ◆ Anti poaching patrols and snare removal programs within the park and game management areas
- ◆ Upliftment of local communities by alternative income generating projects such as chili farming
- ◆ Education of local children to appreciate their heritage and work towards sustainable wildlife utilization and a balanced coexistence
- ◆ Sponsoring and coordinating village scout training programs
- ◆ Assisting the Community Resources Board with natural resources protection through the forest guards
- ◆ Promoting the South Luangwa Anti-Snaring Campaign in local villages and schools
- ◆ Management and sponsoring of Uyoba Community School
- ◆ Habitat and wildlife data collection through monitoring by village scouts

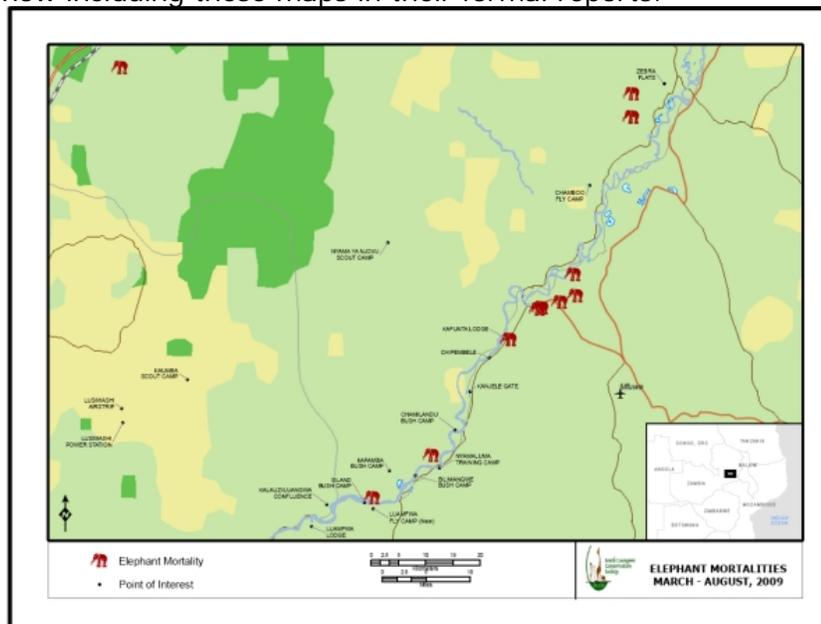
SLCS needed the assistance of a GIS Specialist to analyze their historic data and conduct trend analysis on three years worth of previously collected data (via their scouts, using GPS units) and they needed the assistance on an ongoing basis.



Prepared by Lisa Matthies, SLCS, June 2009 for SLCS

The recruitment resulted in deploying Lisa Matthies, a GIS and Geography Instructor at Erie Community College in Williamsville, NY. She has been supporting SLCS in both capacities; the analysis of their historic data as well as providing ongoing GIS support since April 2009. A few months later, another volunteer joined this project to assist in gathering datasets for better base map for the area. Her name Ember Crouch is and she works for Urban Mapping Inc. in California.

These two maps are examples of maps created for SLCS for all the activities recorded in the [month of April](#) as well as from [March to August 2009](#) in the region. Activities included locations of: poached elephants, impalas and zebras, snares, gunshots, and more. This information is integral to demonstrating the locations of various events as well as the relationship between them. SLCS is now including these maps in their formal reports.



This project and the services of these volunteers are ongoing and additional updates will be posted as they occur.

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