

Course Completion Report Cartography 2

Course 4.13

NORPLAN 

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1 CONTENT

- Course data
- Course objectives
- Training focus group
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- Course evaluation: comments from participants
- Recommendations

2 COURSE DATA:

Name of course:	Cartography 2
Number of participants:	12 trainees from: RuWatSIP/MRRD, MAIL, MEW and MOM (AGS)
Location for training:	RuWatSIP Conference Room, MRRD
Date of implementation	27 & 28 May 2014
Course organiser	Mr. Andreas de Jong
Supporting presenter/Focal point	Prof. Zarinkhail

3 COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is a continuation of Course 4.9 Cartography 1 which was conducted On 10 & 11 December 2013. The main purpose of this course was to serve as part II of the first cartography course, and to elaborate on some of the issues which were not covered previously. The course was designed to be a practical hands-on training course, as the theory had already been covered in Cartography 1.

The key topics planned this course were:

- Review of Cartography 1, with emphasis on layout design
- Designing colours & legends
- Cartographic representations
- Advanced Labelling using MAPLEX Engine
- 2nd Review of completed Faryab Maps

Using colours to represent specific data classes according to international standards is one of the main points to make a map acceptable for users. Designing appropriate colour combinations for features to be shown on a map is a key for making successful maps. Cartographic representation is another important topic. This helps map designers to produce attractive symbols that represent

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data sets on maps. Another important topic determined to be covered in this cartography course was advanced labelling. Maplex is an extension of ArcGIS free available in version 10.1.

4 TRAINING FOCUS GROUP

This training course was designed according to recommendations from the Cartography 1 course delivered in December 2013. Both trainees and trainers from that course found that another course covering advanced topics should be continued. Therefore, the focus group for this training should be participants specialized in GIS, who had completed the first course.

The Cartography 2 course participants were from RuWatSIP, MRRD, MAIL, MEW, MOM and AGS. The people invited for this training consisted of technical GIS specialists, hydrogeologists, geophysicists and sanitation specialists from above-mentioned organizations and were: 1 person from GIS-MIS Unit of RuWatSIP/MRRD, 4 from RuWatSIP/MRRD, 1 from MAIL, 4 from MEW, and 2 from MoM/AGS.

5 PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL WORK

Unfortunately, the percentage of relevant participants was very low as many Afghan GIS specialists have gone to India on JICA funded training course, and of the 12 participants only four had attended the Cartography 1 course, and two of the participants had very limited or no knowledge of GIS. Their level of knowledge did not let them benefit fully from this practical training course.

Day 1: The course started with a very short introduction presentation and then continued with a review of designing layouts. As this is a practical course, the review of layout design was adjusted according to the requests received from the participants. Even those participants who had already attended the first Cartography course wanted to repeat the full design of the layout, including detailed concepts such as the design of the inset map.

In the afternoon it was scheduled to cover at the design of colours using some contoured geophysical data from Faryab. However, due to popular demand two (2) hours were spent teaching the steps required to go from processing data in MS Excel to importation into ArcGIS and contouring using the Geostatistical analyst extension. Clearly there was no point going into advanced topics, if participants were not sure about the basics. Note that this type of data processing has been covered in Course 4.10 (Application of GIS for Hydrogeological Mapping).

Day 2: As the RuWatSIP conference room was occupied in the morning, alternative arrangements were made in another MRRD conference room. The morning was spent on designing colours using calculated colour ranges provided by colorbrewer.org and progress was good. The concept of cartographic representations was introduced via a practical tutorial provided by ESRI.

Due to a shortage of time and also the technical level of many of the participants, the MAPLEX labelling tutorial was not covered. Also, it was felt that not enough senior GIS people were present to warrant a second review of the Faryab maps. This should be carried out when more GIS people are present in Kabul.

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6 COURSE EVALUATION: COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

The course is evaluated with 3 standard questions and 11 people out of 12 participated in this process by filling 11 sheets. Feedback was collected and organized in a spreadsheet. The course evaluation document is available on the project website with full comments.

In summary, the questions for evaluation and the participants' response in percentage is as follows:

Question 1: Did the training course meet your expectations?

1=Completely, 2=Partially, 3= Not at all,

Response: Completely: 9%, Partially: 73%, Not at all: 18%.

Question 2: What do you think about the overall relevance of training course? Considering the limits on your time and the topics discussed? 1= Too Long, 2= Just right, 3 = Too short

Response: Too Long: 0%, Just right: 27%, Too short: 73%.

Question 3: How relevant was the training workshop to your organization or project's need?

1= Very relevant, 2 = Somewhat relevant, 3 = Not relevant

Response: Very relevant: 64%, Somewhat relevant: 36%, Not relevant: 0%.

7 RECOMENDATIONS IF THE COURSE WAS TO BE REPEATED

1. The expected participants were not present in the course. We are in the second year of trainings and most of the courses have now moved to advanced topics. It is recommended to make the first course in a topic (if it exists) as a pre-requisite for the second course.
2. For advanced courses we need a way to filter the participants so that only participants with the relevant background experience attend.
3. We had 17 people trained in the Cartography 1 course. Out of this, only four people were present in this course. It is recommended to repeat this course, and cover all the planned topics, once most of the people from Cartography 1 are available.

Report prepared by: Prof. Zarinkhail, GIS-MIS Adviser, Norplan, May 2014