

Course Completion Report Practical Use of Online GIS Maps

Course 4.5

NORPLAN 

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1 CONTENT

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- Recommendations for next or other courses

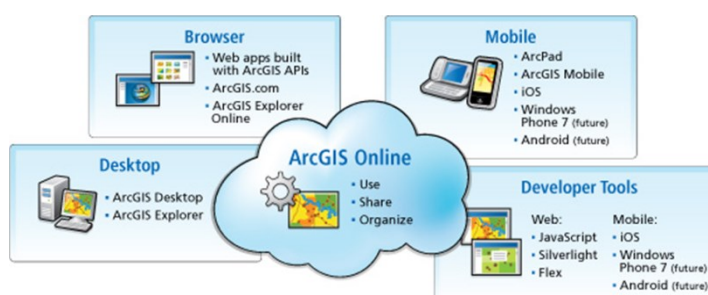
2 COURSE DATA:

Name of course:	Course 4.5: Practical Use of Online GIS Maps
Number of participants:	14 trainees from: RuWatSIP, MEW, AGS. MAIL & DACAAR
Location for training:	RuWatSIP Conference Room, MRRD
Date of implementation	09 th to 10 th December 2014
Course organiser	Mr. Andreas de Jong
Supporting presenter	Prof. Zarinkhail

3 COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this course is to introduce GIS users to (i) the practical aspects of creating online GIS maps using the ArcGIS Online utility, and (ii) to create some example maps using Afghan data. The course was designed to be mainly practical and taught using hands-on training. A prerequisite for attending the course is the completion of Course 4.4, an Introduction to Online GIS Maps, which covers all the skills needed to use ArcGIS Online.

ArcGIS Online is a simple, cloud-based utility for producing, editing, and sharing geospatial data. ArcGIS Online is a Web-based mapping solution for everyone from GIS professionals to those with no formal GIS training.



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4 TRAINING FOCUS GROUP

The focus group of this course were GIS professionals who are already familiar with ArcGIS, ArcGIS Online and the MS Office suite of programs. Participants from the various ministries were as follows:

- RuWatSIP/MRRD: 7 persons
- MEW: 1 person
- MEW Engineering Survey Department (ESD): 3 persons
- AGS: 1 person
- MAIL : 1 person
- DACAAR: 1 person

5 PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL WORK

The course was implemented over two days. The concept was to teach the practical aspects of data processing and quality control in order to produce point, polyline and polygon maps in ArcGIS Online, using real data from Faryab. For this course the project had hired a dedicated 3MB Wi-Fi internet connection. The speed was sufficient for 14 participants, and we experienced no major delays.

Day 1: during the first day there was a short presentation to refresh the participants' knowledge of the key issues covered during Course 4.4 and to introduce practical tips on setting up a public account in ArcGIS Online, the advantages and disadvantages of supported data types, the importance of data formats, and data management skills required to produce online maps. This was followed by

Practical 1 – Data Management for Point Features: The first practical covered the steps required to migrate data from MS Access to CSV format compatible with the ArcGIS Online utility, using real data from Faryab. Practical workarounds were demonstrated to deal with restrictions imposed by ArcGIS Online free public accounts.

Practical 2 – ArcGIS Online Point Features: The second practical covered the steps required to produce an Electrical Conductivity (EC) water quality point feature map of Faryab province, using the data from the first practical. Skills developed included manipulation of symbols, pop-up descriptions, data formats and linking to outside data sources such as DropBox and the MRRD website. All participants managed to produce a point feature water quality map in ArcGIS online.

Day 2: Practical 3 – ArcGIS Online Polyline/Polygon Features: The key skills learnt during the first day were applied to polyline and polygon features using ESRI shapefiles of the geological of Faryab province. Those participants who had brought along their own data started to make their own online maps after opening public ArcGIS Online accounts. The DACAAR participant managed to complete a functionality map of water points in Faryab using the new *DACAAR_Projects* online account. This is a great achievement, and the map features on the Faryab Maps group, and therefore also on the maps section of the NORPLAN.af website. Other participants have promised

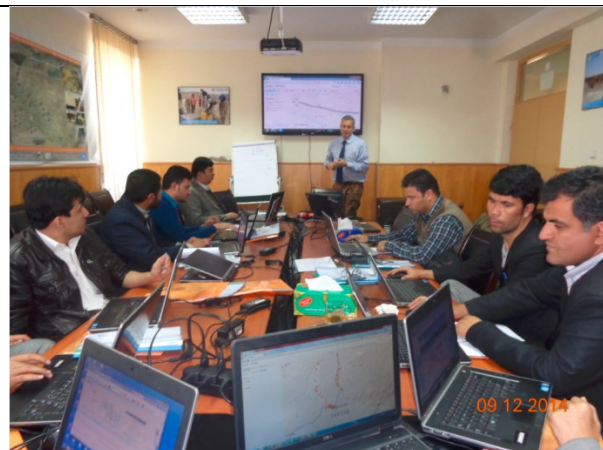
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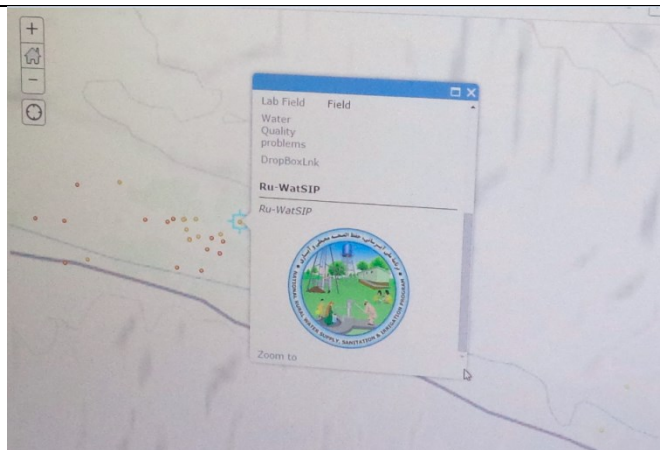
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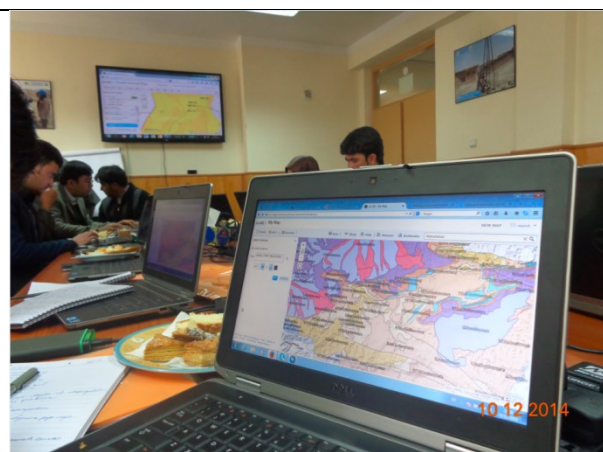
to complete their Faryab maps in the coming days, and they have also been invited to join the Faryab Maps group.



Discussing ArcGIS Online point data maps



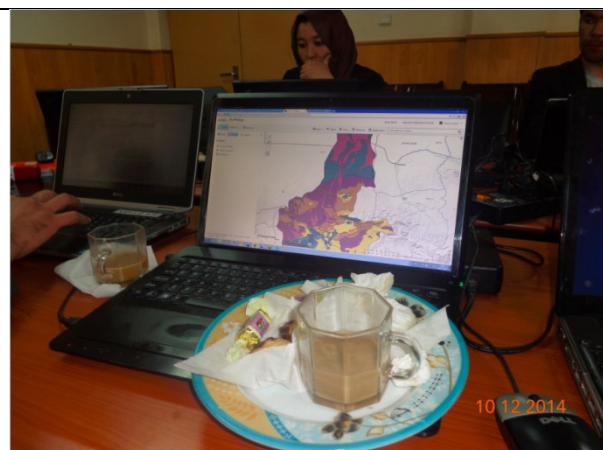
Pop-up with logo produced by participant



Online geological map produced by participant



Introducing the Faryab Mapping Group in ArcGIS Online



Working during the tea break



Group photo of course participants

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6 COURSE EVALUATION: COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

The course was evaluated with the three standard questions as shown below. Feedback was collected and organized in an Excel spreadsheet. The course evaluation document is available on the project website with full comments.

The evaluation questions and the participants' response in percentage were as follows:

Question 1: Did the training course meet your expectations?

Response: Completely: 71%, Partially: 29%, Not at all: 0%.

Question 2: What do you think about the overall relevance of training course? Considering the limits on your time and the topics discussed?

Response: Too Long: 29%, Just right: 50%, Too short: 21%.

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

Response: Very relevant: 71%, Somewhat relevant: 21%, Not relevant: 0%.

7 RECOMENDATIONS IF THE COURSE WAS TO BE REPEATED

1. This course is the second of three courses, so it is important that the participants have completed the previous course 4.4, An Introduction to Online GIS Maps.
2. A good knowledge of Excel and Access is a requirement if participants are to use this course as a foundation to implement their own online GIS maps. Participants should be at a minimum skill level of the Excel, Access and Data Management courses provided by the NORPLAN project. ***The main reason why many participants are struggling with their technical work is a basic lack of skills in data management and the practical use of Excel and Access. This leads to a range of quality control issues. This issue cannot be overemphasized.***
3. An internet speed of minimum 1MB per five participants is prerequisite for this course.
4. The advanced course in Online GIS maps (Course 4.6), should be implemented with the same participant group next year to cover topics such as linking to live online data, apps for embedding maps on web sites etc.

Report prepared by: Andreas de Jong, International Training Expert, Norplan, December 2014.