

## Appendix 5.1.8

### NOTES ON GIS / GPS TRAINING, C3P, KENYA AND DRC

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The logistics for both training courses were excellent, including collection from airports, transport, accommodation, food, meeting rooms, coffee breaks, etc.

The Kisumu course used desk-top computers hired from a local supplier. This ensured one computer for each participant in most cases (although some preferred to share and not all computers were in fact used), but the computers were not all the same age and capacity, and some were very slow and lacking in RAM, which made some operations in DIVA difficult.

By contrast, the Goma course relied entirely on laptop computers brought by the participants. This resulted in some problems. The CPM from Burundi had a laptop which was configured such that only the CRS Burundi System Manager could install new programmes (a very “old-fashioned” approach), and so despite telephone discussions with Bujumbura, DIVA software could not be installed and the Burundi team all had to share a single computer. One of the Rwanda laptops was very old and cluttered with software, much of it pirated, and proved so unstable that it could not be used. One DRC laptop, although new, would not run some operations in Diva. Most of the laptops ran English versions of the operating systems, but three operated in French. This proved unexpectedly problematic. The use of the comma as a decimal place indicator in French resulted in serious confusion for entry of parameters in DIVA, where the programme requires English-type decimals, and also for importation of GPS files through DNRGarmin, where comma-separated text files are the default. These could not be imported correctly by French computers due to the confusion between fields separated by commas and the use of commas as decimal points. A solution was found by exporting GPS files as semi-colon separated text files, which could be imported correctly on French computers.

Most of the desk-top computers used in Kisumu, and a few of the laptops in Goma, only had USB1 ports. Since about 1.7 Gb of data and software had to be loaded onto each computer before the training course, this required 45 minutes with USB1 and only 5 minutes with USB2. In fact, this was not a problem, since I had a full day to prepare for the training in each location.

The time allocation of a half day for GPS training and two and a half days for GIS was found to be adequate, although for future training courses it might be a good idea to increase the time allocations to one full day for GPS and three full days for GIS. This would allow more GPS field exercises, and greater experience in downloading data. The structure of the GIS course would also be modified to give greater experience in basic

operations such as finding files in directories, turning themes on and off, and changing the order of themes in the legend window. These are simple skills, yet essential to the success of more complex operations, and some participants had difficulty grasping them.

During the two training workshops, some minor “bugs” in DIVA GIS software were discovered. These have been checked by repeated operations during the training, and some “work-arounds” have been developed. The bugs have been fully documented, and will be reported to Robert Hijmans of IRRI, who will be able to fix them for future releases of DIVA. All participants will be provided with a new version of DIVA once it is available. All participants have been encouraged to email me with any questions and problems relating to DIVA, and I will provide a rapid response to such queries between now and the end of October, as covered by my current contract with CRS.