

Events

GeoAdaptive prepares for participatory workshop in Alaska

GeoAdaptive hosted a preparatory visit in early October with NSSI Deputy Director, Dr. Denny Lassuy and University of Alaska, Fairbanks Research Associate Dr. Olivia Lee who is Principal Investigator for the project “Scenarios for Energy and Resource Development on the North Slope and Adjacent Seas”. A workshop will be held in late November with stakeholders in the region in order to identify possible future scenarios for 2040 for Alaska’s North Slope as it relates to energy and resource extraction and related activities. Participants will include environmental and social scientists, community leaders, as well as stakeholders from non-profit organizations, industry, state agencies, and federal agencies. The workshop will guide the analysis and next stages of the project moving forward. Dr. Lassuy and Dr. Lee were invited to collaborate with GeoAdaptive in its Boston office, in the early planning for the workshop activities. Their visit included a mock-workshop experience where they were invited to partake in the workshop activities with the GA team members and offer suggestions on how to improve the activities for the participants who will be attending in November.



GeoAdaptive welcomes back team member

GeoAdaptive is excited to welcome back Dr. Kimberly Karish to the GA team! Dr. Karish is a Conservation and Environmental Science Specialist at GeoAdaptive. She has eighteen years of academic and professional work as a project manager and resource specialist on projects involving open space planning, natural resources planning, sustainable land use practices, impact analyses and mitigation techniques, and alternative futures development, among others. She also has extensive experience in conducting field surveys and designing monitoring protocols, advanced research, GIS modeling, and conservation management for wildlife, plant species, and landscape-level ecological systems. Dr. Karish holds a Doctorate of Design in Landscape Ecology and Environmental Planning, from Harvard University. She also holds a Master of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Ecology from Utah State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Behavior and Evolution, from the University of California, San Diego.

GeoAdaptive discusses resilience simulations with Northeastern University researcher

Onur Özgün, postdoctoral researcher at the Resilient Cities Lab at Northeastern University was invited to participate in GeoAdaptive’s Lunch Talks this past month. Dr. Özgün and GeoAdaptive opened the discussion with presentations of their work followed by a discussion of developing new methods to measure and analyze urban heat island, among other topics related to urban resilience. GeoAdaptive team members will meet with the director of the lab, Dr. Matthias Ruth to continue the discussion in the upcoming weeks.



Spotlight - GeoAdaptive announces recipients of the Annual Service Grant

Last month, Hurricane Odile ripped through Baja California, Mexico, leaving people without electricity, damaging infrastructure, and without homes. Thousands of tourists visiting the peninsula were stranded while many residents resorted to looting in order to access basic resources. The city of La Paz, Baja California Sur, was also heavily impacted by the hurricane. In response to the impacts, Como Vamos La Paz, a local organization dedicated to promoting sustainable initiatives, applied for the 2014 Annual Services Grant.

Each year, GeoAdaptive offers a grant in the form of services to support local projects relating to a preselected topic for the year. This year’s topic is Urban Resilience. GeoAdaptive is pleased to announce Como Vamos La Paz as the recipient of this year’s Annual Services Grant. Como Vamos La Paz is a local organization dedicated to promoting sustainable initiatives within the city of La Paz. The award will be made in the form of GeoAdaptive services to support a larger project titled “Strategic Interventions towards a Resilient Future for La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico,” under negotiation with GeoAdaptive, the International Community Foundation (ICF), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that will aid in the development of a Resilience Strategy for La Paz. La Paz recently endured impacts related to the event of Hurricane Odile, which made landfall in September of this year. GeoAdaptive’s services will be provided to work closely with the city of La Paz to devise a Resilience Strategy “Road Map” outlining priority actions, procedures, and indicators that planners, decision makers and investors can employ to create a more resilient and competitive city for the future. The “Resilience Strategy “Road Map” will guide the implementation of strategies moving forward, including the gathering and development of geospatial information and recommendations, and a guide for monitoring and increasing adaptive capacity and resilience over time. Due to the urgency of the project in the wake of Hurricane Odile, the project is slated to commence before the end of 2014 and will be realized over the course of 2015. GeoAdaptive is pleased to contribute to the collaborative effort to increase resiliency in La Paz, through its long term relationship with the city and its partners.

NASA Terra Satellite image of Hurricane Odile

Research and Innovations

GeoAdaptive has devoted great effort to the study of regional economic development strategies and poverty reduction solutions. Our ultimate goal is to help localities to develop in more equitable and resilient ways. Tourism, due to its large market potentials and socioeconomic benefits, has become an emerging research interest at GeoAdaptive.

According to the study of World Tourism Organization, tourism contributes as much as 9% of the world’s GDP (UNWTO, 2014). In many developing and least developed countries, tourism is considered by economists as “the most viable and sustainable economic development options, and the main sources of foreign exchange earnings.” (UNWTO, 2014). Tourism can bring to the local society more employment opportunities and can benefit small and community-based enterprises, having positive impacts by reducing poverty levels. It can also improve living conditions for people through enhancing infrastructure and public service. If planned properly, tourism infrastructures and services can serve economic sectors and local residents simultaneously, maximizing the cost-effectiveness of social investment.

Acknowledging the importance and market potential of tourism, GeoAdaptive has started to explore an effective and innovative approach for modern tourism planning. We are interested to know where tourism infrastructure should be developed in a region, what types of tourist activities should be encouraged, what the prerequisites, risks and benefits may be, and how to integrate tourism into regional value chains. To find answers to these questions, GeoAdaptive’s research and analysis will aim to create a thorough understanding of a region’s socioeconomic environment and ecosystem, a scientific evaluation of the market probability, and a strategic tourism spatial development plan. The technology will combine geospatial analysis, geostatistical analysis and strategic plan development. We believe it can help the localities to know their strengths and opportunities regarding tourism development, and thereby support regional development decision-making towards a more equitable and competitive future.

Reference:

UNWTO. World Tourism Barometer. Volume 12, April 2014.

UNWTO. Tourism Highlights. 2014 Edition.



GeoAdaptive team members working together to improve an analysis

Upcoming

November | GeoAdaptive team members, alongside NSSI team members and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, will conduct a participatory workshop in Alaska.

December | GeoAdaptive team members prepare for field work in La Paz, Mexico.

GA Interests

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