

Name: Alan Mills

Current Position: Associate
ConsultingWhere Ltd

Key skills: GIS Policy and Protocol
Needs Assessment and Scoping
Geoservices for Environmental Management
Land Management Specialist
Disaster Response and Management

Profile

Alan is a passionate geographer who has both used and steered policy in GIS and remote sensing for over 25 years in research and consultancy in around 50 developing countries, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean.

Alan began his career at the world renowned Natural Resources Institute in the UK working on a range of projects from biogeography of rice pests in Asia and locusts in north Africa to land use and land cover mapping in Southern Africa, peri-urban development in West Africa then coastal zone management in the Eastern Caribbean. This led him to the British Virgin Islands in 2001 where he was both the GIS officer for the Conservation and Fisheries Department and their first National GIS Officer, coordinating all GIS activity in the archipelago including steering technical and strategic development of the territory's GIS capacity. Working as a freelance consultant since 2004 he continues to have a special involvement in the sustainable development of small island states and abroad interest in documenting natural resources in the marine and land environments, and in formal and customary land tenure documentation and property rights. He still has a strong connection with small island developing states in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and has developed products appropriate to their special human and natural circumstances.

Alan's breadth of experience in GIS spans from technical to strategic. He has used varied software packages to make maps, solve problems, do research, prepare customized applications and train others in both the use and management of GIS and remote sensing solutions. But he has also formulated policy, protocols and procedures surrounding GIS, from multiagency national systems in the Caribbean, solutions for large agencies, to grass roots NGOs. His skill in scoping needs for geographical products and systems is to get to the nub of clients' requirements quickly as well acting as a bridge between them and technologists.

Professional Experience

2004 to date **Alan Mills Consulting Ltd, Director**

- Leading research and implementation of low cost mobile mapping tools for property rights in East Africa, tapping entrepreneurship within the region to crowdmap. An expansive knowledge both general and for individual countries about land issues, from changing vegetation cover and use to formal and customary titling, strategic and development planning.
- Cultivation of the development of GIS in the Caribbean, including the development of national GIS in several states, committee member for the URISA Caribbean User Conference since 2004, coastal resource inventory and environmental monitoring and research projects, encouragement of networks of GIS professionals and support to the smaller island nations in the region.
- Establishment of standalone, enterprise and multi-agency GIS solutions from services for orphaned children for Lesotho charity Sentebale to census mapping for Mauritius National Statistics Office.
- Scoping requirements for GIS applications, reviews of existing status and development of roadmaps for intervention.
- Improving the preparedness of information managers to respond better after disasters; prepositioning ready to use data, nurture national and international interrelationships and improving operational procedures to streamline rapid services.
- Significant experience of training for bespoke on the job courses, inter agency capacity building and formal university level training.

2001 - 2003 **National GIS Coordinator, British Virgin Islands**

- Coordination of National GIS (NGIS). I established the instruments which formalised the National GIS, including convening a technical steering group from across government, a strategic group of heads of department to manage budget and vision, and integrating datasets with standard metadata. I also developed GIS policy and protocol for departmental and NGIS organisation. As part of this role, I advised many stakeholders in the use of GIS for development control, land management, land registry, planning and cadastre. I pioneered the first ever GIS day in BVI to educate children and the general public of the use of GIS in the territory. Capacity Building and Training, including MSc supervision for University of West Indies and University of Miami students.
- GIS Officer, Head of Information Division, Conservation and Fisheries Department. A role which meant I led up both the information management and educational side of the department, and included development of an Island Systems Management tool for environmental monitoring, coastal resource inventory, and helped establish locations of protected areas as part of the development of Fisheries Regulations.



1991 - 2001

**Natural Resources Institute (UK); Senior Scientific Officer,
Higher Scientific Officer and Scientific Officer**

10 years of working for an internationally renowned institute researching the biogeography of rice pests in east Asia and developing monitoring systems for locusts and their environment in north Africa. The latter included establishing national level monitoring systems for the first time tailored for non-GIS specialists to manage their data. Studies related to land use changes in tsetse controlled and non-controlled regions of Africa, development of GIS repository for peri-urban research in Kumasi, Ghana. Coastal zone mapping and livelihoods research on small islands in the Caribbean. Teaching at Masters level when NRI became part of the University of Greenwich. Meeting organisation (e.g. Remote Sensing Society Conference, 1998).

Qualifications

1994: MSc Remote Sensing, University of London

1990: BSc (Hons) Geography, University of Durham

Memberships

2009: Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and Institute of British Geographers (FRGS)

2004: Member of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)

Outside interests

Since 2005, Alan has volunteered with the disaster mapping charity, MapAction, and has worked as their preparedness coordinator since 2010 and a Director of the charity from 2012. As well as leading their preparation, he has responded to over 10 emergency relief operations from floods and tropical cyclones to migrant crises and the Ebola response.

CV last updated: 12 October 2017