

# Accuracy 2006

# Report



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## INTRODUCTION

The symposium **Accuracy 2006** (7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Spatial Accuracy Assessment in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences) was organised by the Portuguese Geographic Institute and by the Institute for Statistics and Information Management - New University of Lisbon. The event took place in Sana Lisboa Park Hotel (Lisbon, Portugal) from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

This symposium was the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of a series of biannual meetings organised by the Spatial Accuracy Research Group, who focuses on how to measure, model and handle uncertainty in spatial data, specifically originating from the fields of environment and natural resources. This group involves both researchers and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialists, who share a common interest on the use of spatial data and the management of its uncertainty.

The biannual meetings above mentioned have been held in diverse locations since 1994, being hosted in Portugal for the first time. Below we present some photos that illustrate different moments of the event.



Presidency table in the opening session



Registration desk and poster exhibition



Technical concurrent session



Audience in one of the plenary lectures

## COMMITTEES

The organisational and support structure of the symposium included an Organising Committee, a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee. The Chair and the Co-chair of this structure were, respectively, Prof. Mário Caetano (Portuguese Geographic Institute) and Prof. Marco Painho (Institute for Statistics and Information Management - New University of Lisbon). The Scientific Committee included some renowned scientists, at international level, in the field of spatial uncertainty associated with environmental information. The detailed composition of the various committees can be found in the following tables:

### Organising Committee

| Member           | Institution                         | Country |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Cidália Fonte    | University of Coimbra               | PT      |
| Gerard Heuvelink | Wageningen University               | NL      |
| Rui Julião       | Portuguese Geographic Institute     | PT      |
| Linda Lilburne   | Landcare Research                   | NZ      |
| Amílcar Soares   | IST, Technical University of Lisbon | PT      |
| Secretary        | Institution                         | Country |
| Maria Pereira    | Portuguese Geographic Institute     | PT      |

### Steering Committee

| Chair            | Institution             | Country |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Ronald McRoberts | USDA Forest Service     | US      |
| Member           | Institution             | Country |
| Gerard Heuvelink | Wageningen University   | NL      |
| Linda Lilburne   | Landcare Research       | NZ      |
| Kim Lowell       | Laval University        | CA      |
| Todd Mowrer      | USDA Forest Service     | US      |
| José Quintanilha | University of São Paulo | BR      |

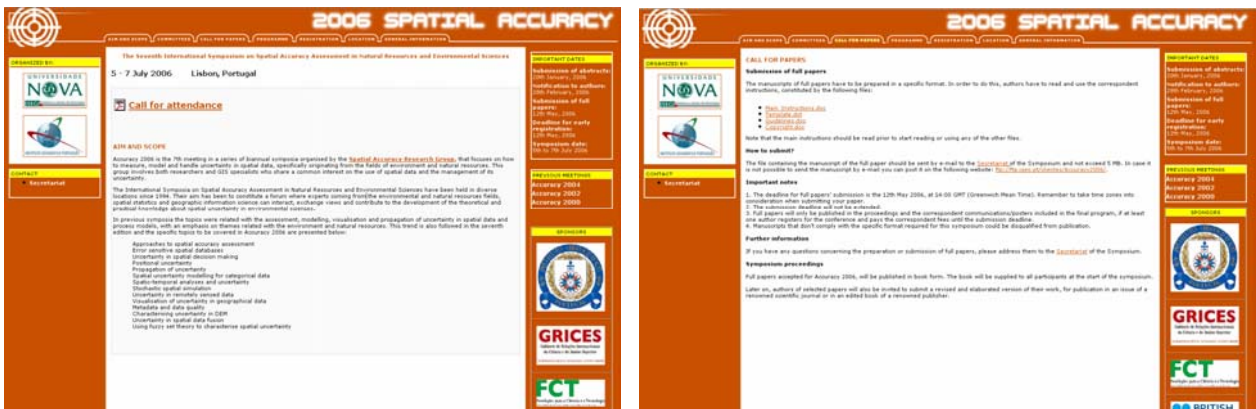
### Scientific Committee

| Member             | Institution                             | Country |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Patrick Bogaert    | Catholic University of Louvain          | BE      |
| Mário Caetano      | Portuguese Geographic Institute         | PT      |
| Frank Canters      | Free University of Brussels             | BE      |
| Keith Clarke       | University of California, Santa Barbara | US      |
| Russ Congalton     | University of New Hampshire             | US      |
| Ray Czaplewski     | USDA Forest Service                     | US      |
| Peter Fisher       | City University, London                 | GB      |
| Cidália Fonte      | University of Coimbra                   | PT      |
| Giles Foody        | University of Southampton               | GB      |
| Michael Goodchild  | University of California, Santa Barbara | US      |
| Pierre Goovaerts   | BioMedware                              | US      |
| Tomislav Hengl     | Joint Research Center                   | IT (EU) |
| Gerard Heuvelink   | Wageningen University                   | NL      |
| Gary Hunter        | University of Melbourne                 | AU      |
| Rui Julião         | Portuguese Geographic Institute         | PT      |
| Phaedon Kyriakidis | University of California, Santa Barbara | US      |
| Murray Lark        | Rothamsted Research                     | GB      |
| Linda Lilburne     | Landcare Research                       | NZ      |
| Kim Lowell         | Laval University                        | CA      |
| João Matos         | IST, Technical University of Lisbon     | PT      |
| Ronald McRoberts   | USDA Forest Service                     | US      |
| Todd Mowrer        | USDA Forest Service                     | US      |
| Marco Painho       | ISEGI, New University of Lisbon         | PT      |
| Edzer Pebesma      | Utrecht University                      | NL      |
| Maria Pereira      | IST, Technical University of Lisbon     | PT      |
| José Quintanilha   | University of São Paulo                 | BR      |
| Vincent Robinson   | University of Toronto                   | CA      |
| Amílcar Soares     | IST, Technical University of Lisbon     | PT      |
| Steve Stehman      | State University of New York            | US      |
| Stefano Tarantola  | Joint Research Center                   | IT (EU) |

## DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

An extensive dissemination of the event was made, through numerous national and international channels (professional and scientific associations, mailing lists, discussion lists...). We think that this was a factor that contributed to a wide participation in the event, as well as to having participants from various continents (see below the statistics relative to the participants).

It should be mentioned that the website developed specifically for the event (<http://2006.spatial-accuracy.org/>) had a crucial role, both in the dissemination of the conference itself and in the management and communication of information to authors and participants in general. This website contained quite comprehensive information and the one considered as most relevant to the symposium, spanning from the scope and aim, through the instructions for registration and submission of abstracts/papers, programme of the event, as well as practical information related with location, accommodation, etc. The following images illustrate how the pages of the main menu looked like.



It is also worthwhile mentioning that we communicated regularly (by e-mail) with authors, registered participants and, when appropriate, with a wider audience (potential participants), throughout the various stages of the conference organisation, giving instructions, conveying information, etc. The communication at this level was reinforced in three key-moments, through the production of leaflets, respectively: Announcement and call for papers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement and call for papers and Call for attendance. These leaflets were inserted in the website and, in the first and last cases, printed out for distribution amongst various entities in Portugal.

## STATISTICS

### SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The programme of the event included plenary lectures by guest speakers, as well as oral presentations and posters selected through abstracts evaluated by the Scientific Committee. There were 6 plenary lectures in total and 5 of them were published as full articles in the proceedings. The names and affiliations of the guest speakers can be found in the table immediately below.

| Name               | Institution                                 | Country |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Conrad Bielski     | Joint Research Center - European Commission | IT (EU) |
| Gerard Heuvelink   | Wageningen University                       | NL      |
| Giles Foody        | University of Southampton                   | GB      |
| Gilmore Pontius    | Clark University (Massachusetts)            | US      |
| Phaedon Kyriakidis | University of California, Santa Barbara     | US      |
| Yohay Carmel       | Technion - Israel Institute of Technology   | IL      |

Referring now to the statistics relative to oral presentations and posters, the numbers are as follows:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| ✓ No. of abstracts submitted:                   | 127 |
| ✓ No. of abstracts accepted:                    | 125 |
| ✓ No. of oral presentations:                    | 83  |
| ✓ No. of posters:                               | 9   |
| ✓ No. of articles published in the proceedings: | 84  |

#### REGISTRATIONS

The statistics relative to the registrations in the conference are shown in the tables presented below. The first table concerns to the various types of registrations, whereas the second concerns to the origin (country). It should be noted that the origin refers here to the work and/or study institution of the person registered, not being necessarily the same in terms of nationality.

#### Number of registrations per type

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Normal registrations                                  | 83         |
| Students' registrations                               | 32         |
| Sponsors' registrations                               | 7          |
| Registrations of members of the organising institutes | 24         |
| <b>Registrations - Total</b>                          | <b>146</b> |

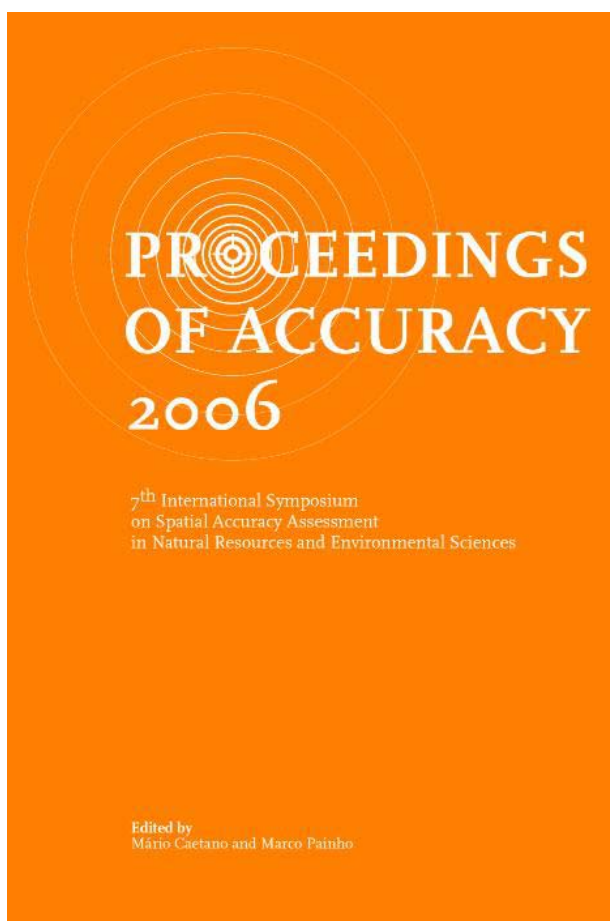
#### Number of registrations per country

| Country   | Nr. registered | Country        | Nr. registered |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Austria   | 1              | Japan          | 1              |
| Australia | 9              | Luxembourg     | 1              |
| Belgium   | 2              | Mexico         | 2              |
| Brazil    | 4              | Netherlands    | 9              |
| Canada    | 2              | New Zealand    | 2              |
| China     | 2              | Portugal       | 54             |
| Denmark   | 2              | Spain          | 8              |
| Finland   | 1              | Sweden         | 1              |
| France    | 4              | Switzerland    | 3              |
| Germany   | 3              | Turkey         | 5              |
| Israel    | 1              | Taiwan         | 1              |
| Iran      | 1              | United Kingdom | 7              |
| Italy     | 10             | United States  | 10             |

We would like to emphasise the high participation of students, revealed by the numbers of the first table. As for the distribution amongst the different countries, it can be observed that there were registrations from 26 countries, covering practically all continents. We also would like to emphasise the high number of Portuguese participants.

## PUBLICATIONS

Shortly before the event we made available, in the conference website, a compilation of the abstracts initially submitted and simultaneously correspondent to contributions included in the final programme. The full papers produced after these contributions were, for their major part, published in a book of proceedings. This book was distributed to the participants at the start of the symposium, so that they could follow and profit better from the various presentations. The reference to the proceedings should be made as follows: Caetano, M. and Painho, M. (eds), 2006, *Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Spatial Accuracy Assessment in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences*, 5 – 7 July 2006, Lisboa, Instituto Geográfico Português. Finally, the images of the cover and technical file of the proceedings' book are presented below:



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## SPONSORS

There were several entities that supported the event financially, namely private companies in the field of geographic information and various institutions belonging to Portuguese ministries. The table below contains the complete list of the conference sponsors.

| <b>Private companies</b>                           | <b>Institutions from Portuguese ministries</b>                               | <b>Other institutions</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| CME, S.A. - DEPARTAMENTO DE SISTEMAS DE INFORMAÇÃO | FUNDAÇÃO PARA A CIÊNCIA E A TECNOLOGIA                                       | BRITISH COUNCIL  |
| ESRI PORTUGAL                                      | GABINETE DE RELAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR | FUNDAÇÃO LUSO-AMERICANA PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO   |
| INTERGRAPH (PORTUGAL), S.A.                        | INSTITUTO GEOGRÁFICO DO EXÉRCITO   | INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA E GESTÃO DE INFORMAÇÃO – UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA |
| NOVAGEO  | INSTITUTO GEOGRÁFICO PORTUGUÊS   |  |
|  | INSTITUTO HIDROGRÁFICO   |  |
|  | INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA  |  |