

QRap Help

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www.QRap.org.za

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1) Introduction

QRap is an Open Source Radio Planning software package, which can be used by cellular operator, radio amateurs, people installing any form radio based technology, to do radio coverage analysis and link planning.

The core origin of this package was developed specifically for the South African Police Services' Radio Technical Services which paid for the initial development and specified that the software be release as Open Source to enable the continued development and maintenance thereof. This original project was done via/by Business Enterprises at the University of Pretoria ([BE@UP](#)) and executed mainly by Magdaleen Ballot from the Department for Electictrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of Pretoria. The copyright belongs to the University of Pretoria. The core propagation prediction algorithms originates from the GISRAP tool developed by the Meraka Institute, then Mikomtek at the CSIR. The copyright these classes re-used from the GISRAP code hence belongs to the Meraka Institute. Meraka also paid for the further development of a multi-link identification tool, while the Department of Science and Technology sponsored the development of the Spectral Analysis tool for the Square Kilometer Array project. The South African Police Services(SAPS), the University of Pretoria and the Meraka Institute has all agreed to release the code under the General Public License.

The core properties of this package are:

- It is based on an Open Source Geographic Information System (QGIS), which enables easy integration with all GIS functionalities.
- It has an fairly flexible open database structure, that allows easy changes and translations. It is based on Open Source PostgreSQL.
- The use of Open Source Postgis enables a number of spatial queries on the data.
- The use of the open source package GDAL allows the use of almost any Digital Elevation Model format.
- Most package choices (e.g. open source Qt for interface development) were made to allow it to be Operating System independent.
- The database structure and design choices were made to allow for various and multiple technologies.
- Data that is visible can be filtered based on location, technology, project and other criteria.
- The core propagation prediction model is based on free-space loss calculations and the multiple knife-edge diffraction losses done according to the Deygout method. It includes addition losses for rounded hills.
- The effective earth model is used. The k-Factor, i.e. the ratio of the real earth radius to the effective earth radius, reflects the gradient of the refractiveness of the lower earth, and hence the curvature of the path of the radio waves. This model originates from the Mikomtek, CSIR, now the Meraka Institute.
- Easy to use, particularly when compared to other free mobile planning tools.
- Amble use of tool-tips to ease use.

The following functionalities are currently included:

- Link Analysis including Fresnel Zone clearance.
- Coverage prediction that calculates the received signal strength at all points for one or many radio installations,
- Primary Server calculations that indicates the actual 'cell' area of each radio installation,
- Number of server calculations, with which coverage overlap can be determined.
- Interference calculations based on frequency assignments in the database.
- Loading of small area of the Digital Terrain Data
- Spectral Interference analysis for inter-system interference analysis
- Automatic tool for the identification of visible links among a set of sites.

For help on QGIS functionalities please refer to the QGIS manual.

2) Getting Started

2.1) Installing Ubuntu

The instructions on how to obtain Ubuntu and install it, can be found on the following pages

<http://www.ubuntu.com/getubuntu/download>

<http://www.ubuntu.com/>

The image could also be downloaded from:

<ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/mirrors/ubuntu/ubuntu-cdimage/releases/>

2.2) Downloading the required software

In Ubuntu the tool Synaptic Package Manager (under System->Administration) is used to download and install the software. Once you opened this package you need to set-up the necessary “repositories”, where the software is kept.

This can be done within Synaptic, under Settings->Repositories. You will need to add at least one location under “Other Software”, (which is the second tab). After clicking *Add* you will be required to enter the apt line:

deb <http://ppa.launchpad.net/ubuntuugis/ubuntuugis-unstable/ubuntu> *lucid* main

. *lucid* is here the Ubuntu version and could be something else in later versions (e.g. maverick)

You also need to add:

deb-src <http://ppa.launchpad.net/ubuntuugis/ubuntuugis-unstable/ubuntu> *lucid* main

to be able to install QGIS, which is the open source geographic information tool on which Qgis is built. For more information see <http://www.qgis.org/en/download.html>. It is important to use QGIS version 1.4 or later.

Synaptics might want you to activate the authorisation key, which is available under the Technical details on the download page. This is however not critical.

If you live in South Africa you might want to add the following repositories as well:

deb <ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/ubuntu> *lucid* main universe multiverse restricted

deb <ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/ubuntu> *lucid-security* main universe multiverse restricted

deb <ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/ubuntu> *lucid-backports* main universe multiverse restricted

deb <ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/ubuntu> *lucid-updates* main universe multiverse restricted

deb <ftp://ftp.up.ac.za/ubuntu> *lucid-proposed* main universe multiverse restricted

You must *Reload* the repositories before continuing:

Using the *Search* (not Quick Search) you must find and mark the following packages for installation:

- qgis
- libqgis-dev

(make sure all older versions of qgis and the development files are removed completely)

- gdal

(once again ensure that you have only one version installed)

- g++
- cpp
- gpp
- cmake
- subversion
- flex
- bison
- libpoco-dev
- qt4-designer
- qt4-dev-tools
- libqt4-core
- libqt4-dev
- libqt4-sql-psql

- libqwt5-qt4-dev
- libpqxx-dev
- postgresql
- postgresql-server-dev-8.4 (or latest)
- postgis
- postgresql-8.4-postgis (or latest)

The following packages are optional:

- gpx2shp
- gpsbabel
- postgresql-doc
- tora (database interface tool)
- xiphos

Now might also be a good time to *Mark All Upgrades* to ensure that you have the latest software installed. Downloading and installation might take a while, so take a break once you hit the *Apply*-button. Go to the gym, home, lunch, meeting ...

3) Installing QRap on Ubuntu

3.1) Compiling from source

The first releases of QRap will need to be compiled from source. To obtain the source you must enter the following on the command line (a terminal interface is available under Applications->Accessories ->Terminal):

```
svn co https://qrap.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/qrap qrap
```

this points Subversion to the server that currently contains QRap. Once it has been downloaded (enough time for a cuppa coffee) you can compile QRAP. The source code will be provided in the directory '/qrap/'. On the command line, go to the /qrap/ directory. You can use

- *pwd* to determine your **present working directory**
- *cd ..* to go one directory up and
- *ls -l* to view the content of the current directory and
- *cd qrap* to go to the qrap directory

In this directory run

```
cmake ./
```

to configure the makefile. Take note of any dependencies that might still not be resolved and download these packages. Then to compile the package run:

```
make
```

and to install run

```
sudo make install
```

you will be asked for the password of the main user. Time for a refill. QRap should now exist but alas you will first need a database.

3.2) Creating the Database

Change the password of the **postgres** user

```
sudo passwd postgres
```

change it to *postqrap* to make life simple at first

Still in the command line, log-on as user **postgres**

```
su postgres
```

Go to the /qrap/DataBase/ directory by typing

```
cd DataBase
```

Run the script CreateDB.sh.

```
./CreateDB.sh
```

If you have problems with the scripts you can try the following:

- Confirm the permissions of the **grap** directory and **DataBase** and **Prediction** subdirectories:
 - o Using the file browser right click **each** (sub)directory. Select **Permissions**. Make sure that all users have create, delete, read and write permissions to all the files.
 - o If this does not work enter
exit
goto the /grap/ base directory
and then
sudo postgres chown <subdirectory> for the DataBase and Prediction subdirectories respectively.
- Try the above again.
- Make **CreateDB.sh** executable:
 - o In the file browser right click on the file, go to **Permissions** and tick the “*Allow executing file as program*” tick-box.
- Make sure you are using the correct **PostGIS** script directory
 - o Open the **CreateDB.sh** file for editing, and change the **PostGISDir** variable to the directory on your machine containing **postgis.sql** file. Try **/usr/share/** or **/usr/share/postgresql/8.4/contrib/**
- Another problem might be that the default port **5432** is not applicable to / available on your machine, then you need to change the file **grap/DataBase/settings.xml**, and change the port to for example **5433**.

3.3) Loading the demo database (Optional)

If you just quickly want to get an feel for what this tool can do, this is really recommended. However the demo database does not exist yet:

We must write a script that will load all the data including the height data that you will be able to use.

3.4) Setting up QRap

3.4.1) Activate the QRap-plugin

To get most feedback it is best to run QGIS from the command line. Simply type:

```
qgis
```

Activate the ORap plug-in:

On the tool-bar of QGIS, select command **Plugins**, and **Plugin Manager** and select at least **QRap** and **SPIT**, but you may want to try out some of the other plug-ins as well.

On closing the **QGIS Plugin Manager**, the **Login Dialog** box will appear:

All you need to do is fill in the password, which should be postqrap, unless you changed the CreatedB.sh script. The port setting might also be different: e.g. 5433.

The QRap tool-bar should now appear on the QGIS interface. It might be necessary to rearrange the Tool-bars a bit to make it visible.



QRAP Login

Username: postgres

Password:

Database: qrap


port: 5432

Host: 127.0.0.1


Login Cancel

3.4.2) Set up a map in QGIS

You can refer to the QGIS help for more information on how to go about adding layers. To provide some form of visual reference on the map you can add a vector layer by clicking on the **Add a Vector**

Layer icon, , and finding a normal shape file to add. Some examples are available in /qrap/Data/Shapefiles/. The file federal.shp will provide provincial boundaries.

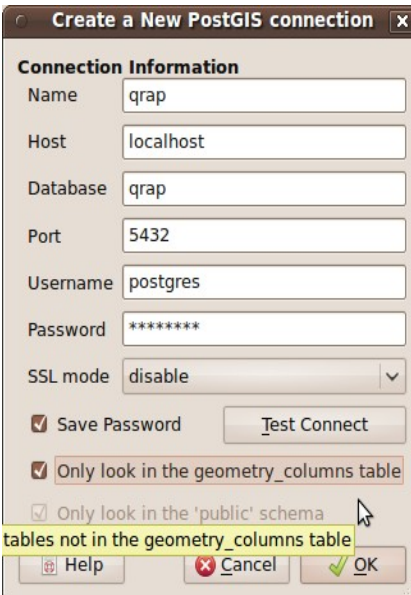
3.4.3) Make the QRap-spatial information visible

Click on the **Add a PostGIS Layer**, , icon. Add a New database and complete the following information and click **OK**.

Connect to the database and **Add** the selected **Site** and **Link** information to be displayed.

On the QGIS tool-bar **Save Project**. This will allow you to avoid all this setting up next time you start.

You can additional layers to the postgis-layer of the qrap-database using the SPIT tool (look for the blue elephant). It might be for example be a good idea to add the provincial boundaries. These boundaries could later be used as a why to filter for different sites.



Create a New PostGIS connection

Connection Information

Name: qrap

Host: localhost

Database: qrap

Port: 5432

Username: postgres

Password: *****

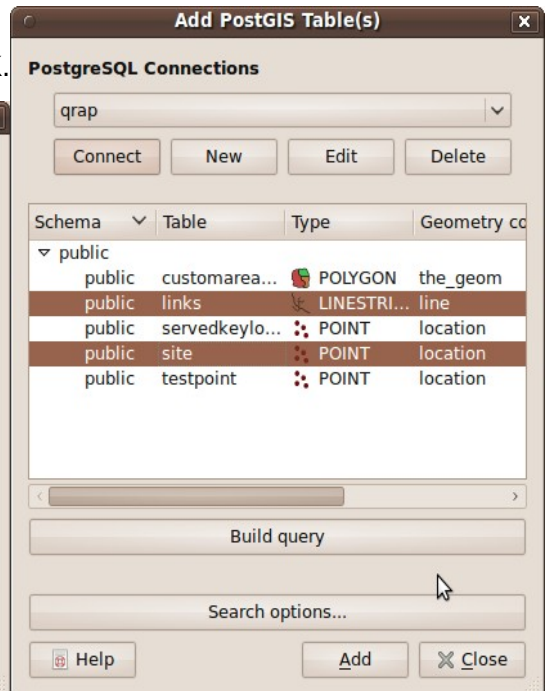
SSL mode: disable

☒ Save Password

☒ Only look in the geometry_columns table

☐ Only look in the 'public' schema

☐ tables not in the geometry_columns table



Add PostGIS Table(s)

PostgreSQL Connections

qrap

Schema	Table	Type	Geometry co
public	customarea...	POLYGON	the_geom
public	links	LINESTRI...	line
public	servedkeylo...	POINT	location
public	site	POINT	location
public	testpoint	POINT	location

3.4.4) Setting up the QRap-database

In this section we will only briefly go through all the steps that are required to get going using Primary GSM as an example technology. For a complete discussion of each step you will have to refer to the latter sections of the manual.

The first step is to open up the database interface: Click on the QRap Database Interface icon, .

3.4.4.1) Set up a Technology

Select the **Supporting Tables** tab, and the **Technology Form View** to complete the following and **Commit** it to the database:

The screenshot shows the QRAP Database Interface 0.1. The 'Supporting Tables' tab is active, displaying an 'Insert Form' for a Technology entry. The form includes fields for Type (GSM900), Start of frequency band (890.00 MHz), End of frequency band (960.00 MHz), Prediction frequency (960.00 MHz), Channel spacing (200.00 kHz), Band Width (270.00 kHz), Uplink offset (890.00 MHz), Downlink offset (925.00 MHz), Maximum Path Loss (170.00 dB), Maximum Range (120.00 km), Minimum receiver level (-110.00 dBm), Co-channel carrier interference ratio (9.00 dB), Adjacent carrier to interference ratio (-9.00 dB), Fade margin (3.00 dB), and EbNo (8.00 dB). A 'Filter' panel on the right allows filtering by Technology Type, Status, Project, Flag X, Flag Z, Area Type, and where the field. The 'Table View' and 'Form View' tabs are visible on the left.

3.4.4.2) Import a few antenna pattern files

QRap imports any antenna file that is in "planet" format. Some antenna suppliers make files in this format available. A few samples files are available in /qrap/Data/AntennaFiles/.

On the toolbar of the database user interface select

**File,
Import,**

Antenna Files.

Select the Technology that will be served with these antennas patterns. Browse for and select the antennas you would like to import. Select OK.


The screenshot shows the 'QRAP Import Antenna Files' dialog box. It features a 'Selected File' list with entries like 'yagi12db.ant', 'isotropic.ant', 'colinear.ant', and several files from the '065_17_XTB_0900' directory. A 'Browse...' button is at the bottom left. On the right, the 'Antenna Technology' is set to '12:GSM900'. 'Cancel' and 'OK' buttons are at the bottom right.

Alternatively, the Antenna Device and Antenna Pattern Form Views could be used to enter your first antenna pattern in the database.

3.4.4.3) Create a Mobile installation

The mobile installations are used to represent the subscribers units when doing coverage predictions.

3.4.4.4) *Generate default entries*

The first entry of a table (with primary key 0) will generally be used to set the default entries into any given table. Select the Preference icon, , or select

**Edit,
Preferences**

on the QRap Database Interface tool-bar.
Select

**RAP
Defaults**

and select the **Edit Defaults** radio button.

Now you can proceed to enter all the tables you would like to with default entries in each field. It might be a particularly good idea to at least provide defaults for the Radio Installation table with sensible default entries. First you need to add the default site:

QRAP Database Interface 0.1

File Edit Help

Sites Cells Inventory Supporting Tables Links Served Key Locations Raster Files

Site
Site Description
Site Contacts
Radio Installation

Table View
Form View

Update

ID: 0

Name: Default

Status: 4:Default

Latitude: 25:0:0 S ☒ DD:MM:SS X ☐ DD:MM.mm X ☐ ± DD.dddd

Longitude: 24:0:0 E

Close by Sites

Ground height: 0

Lookup

Filter:

Apply filter changes

Technology Type: All

Status: All

Project: All

Flag X: All

Flag Z: All

Area Type: customareafilter

where the field: areaname

is Area: All

Create Custom Area

QRAP Database Interface 0.1

File Edit Help

Sites Cells Inventory Supporting Tables Links Served Key Locations Raster Files

Site
Site Description
Site Contacts
Radio Installation

Table View
Form View

Commit Add Next

Insert Form

Site ID: 0:NULL

Sector: 1

Permanent: 0:FALSE

Technology: 12:GSM900

EIRP: 43.00 dBm

Diversity: 0:FALSE

Transmitter power: 43.00 dBm

Transmitter losses: 0.00 dB

Transmitter antenna height: 15.00 meter

Antenna pattern: 23:colinear.ant

Transmitter bearing: 0.00 degrees

Transmitter tilt: 0.00 degrees

Receiver sensitivity: -111.00 dBm

Receiver losses: 0.00 dB

Receiver antenna height: 15.00 meter

Filter:

Apply filter changes

Technology Type: All

Status: All

Project: All

Flag X: All

Flag Z: All

Area Type: customareafilter

where the field: areaname

is Area: All

Create Custom Area


You can also create a default configuration, e.g. a 3 sectored site, for each technology:

First change the **Defaults** radio button back **Edit Normally**.

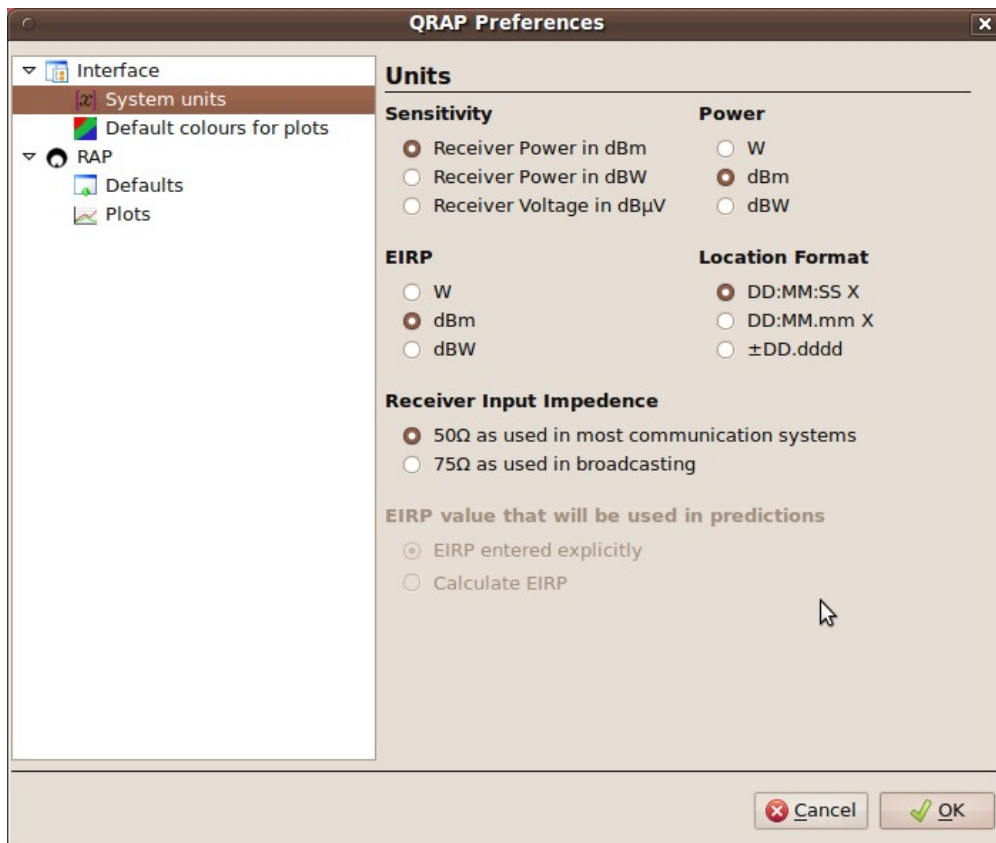
Add a new site, making the position lets say 00:00:00 N and 00:00:00 E to ensure that it is not confused with an actual site. Set its status flag as **Default**
Add 3 Radio Installations with sector numbers 1,2 and 3 and Transmitter and Receiver Azimuths as 0, 120 and 240 degrees respectively. Select the site created above in SiteID and e.g. GSM900 as Technology.

Edit the Technology to have the Default Site (at the bottom of the Technology form) reference the site created above. This will be the configuration added when one selects to add a default site.

3.4.4.5) Setup Plot defaults.

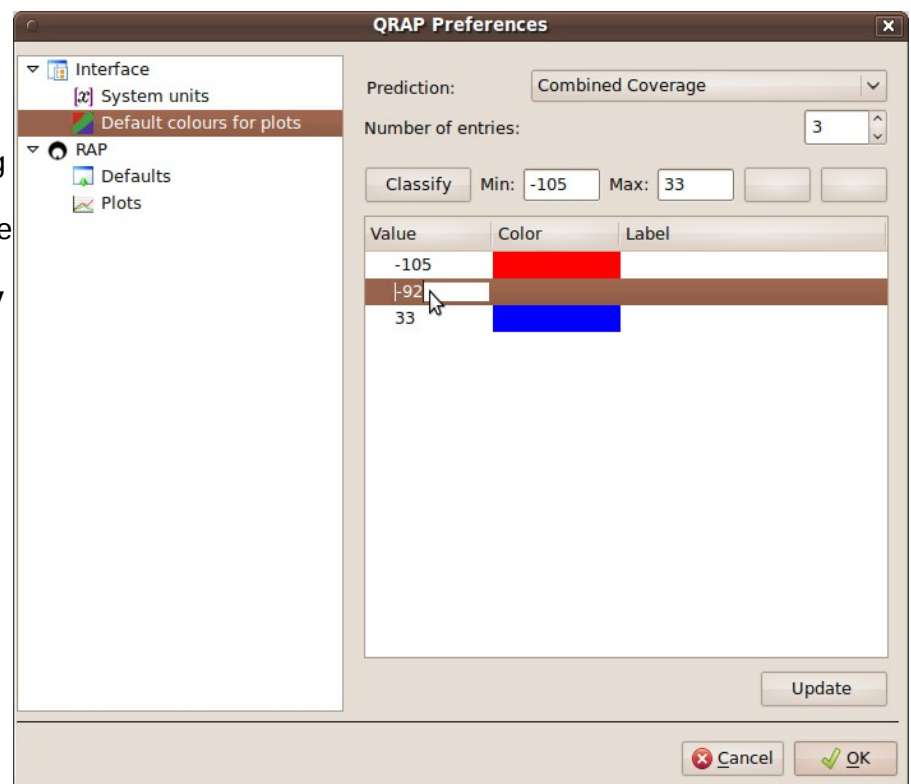
The Preferences could be accessed either by selecting **Edit**, and **Preferences** on the Database Interface, or clicking on the **Preferences** icon, . The Plots preferences or defaults is used when doing plots, but also setup a few other defaults. When completing this form be sure to select a Default Technology and that the directory where Basic Transmission Loss files are stored, **BTL directory** and **Output directory** exist and is writable for the user(s).

Now might also be a good idea to confirm that your preferences for the input formats are selected:



3.4.4.6) Set-up Colours for the Maps

Defaults colours for the different kind of maps could be setup using Preferences Dialogue box. First enter the number of bands and the minimum and maximum values you expect, then click on **Classify** which will render default starting values, that can be edited by clicking on each entry.

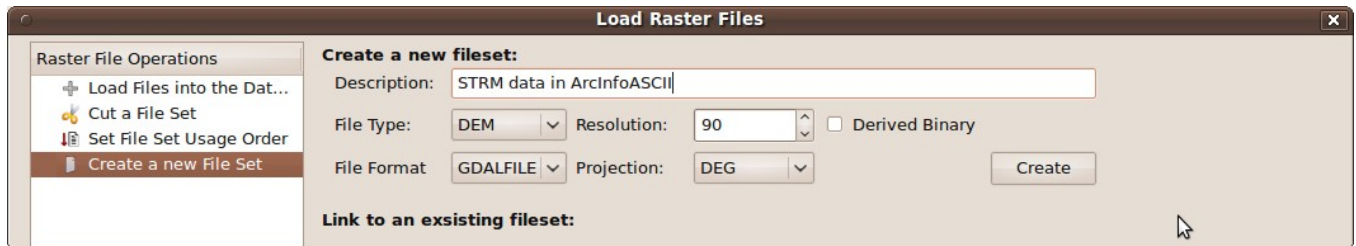


3.4.4.7) Add DEM and Clutter raster files

To “import” the raster files select **File, Import** and then **Raster Files** on Qrap Database Interface.

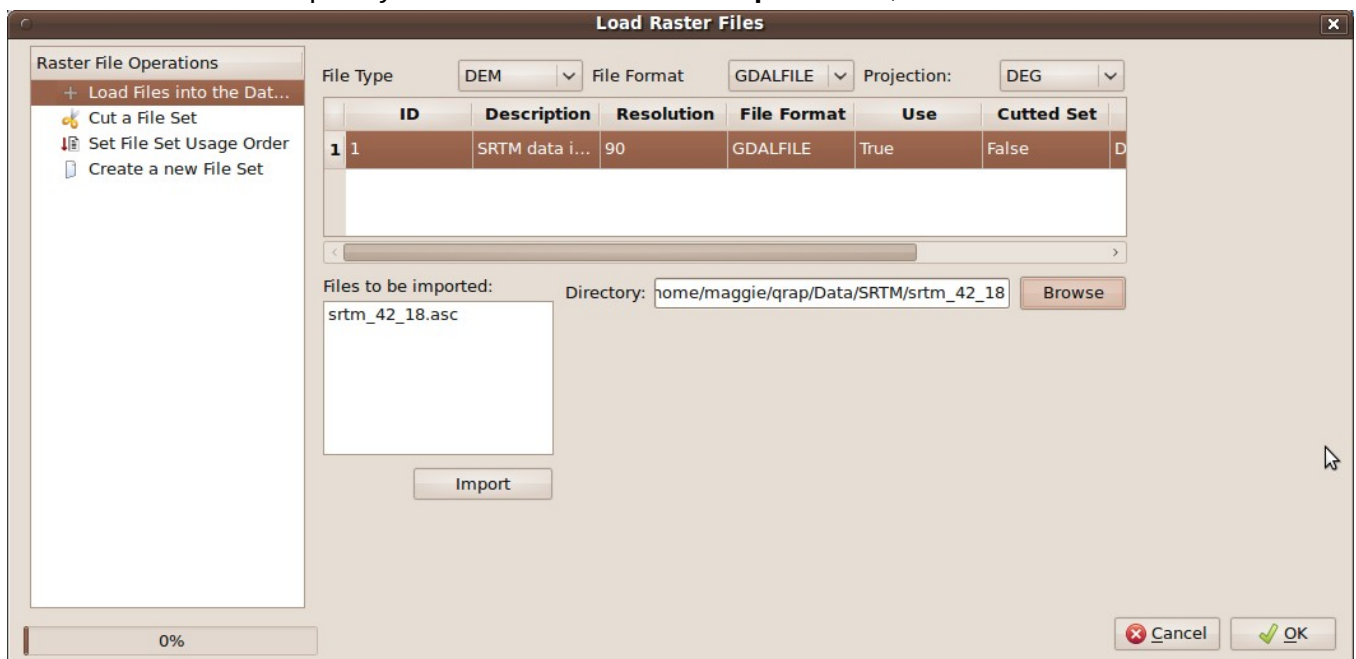
Here we will only present an example. More detailed information is available in a later section.

First create a new File Set to which the files could be added. In this example we will add the SRTM data that is available from <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/> or you can directly to <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/SELECTION/inputCoord.asp>. ArcInfoASCII (or GeoTiff) format can be used. The gdal libraries (<http://www.gdal.org/>) is used to load these files, so most files could be loaded selecting the **File Format** “GDALFILE”. The files could be loaded as either **DEM** (Digital Elevation Model) for the local ground height data or **Clutter** for land cover type data.

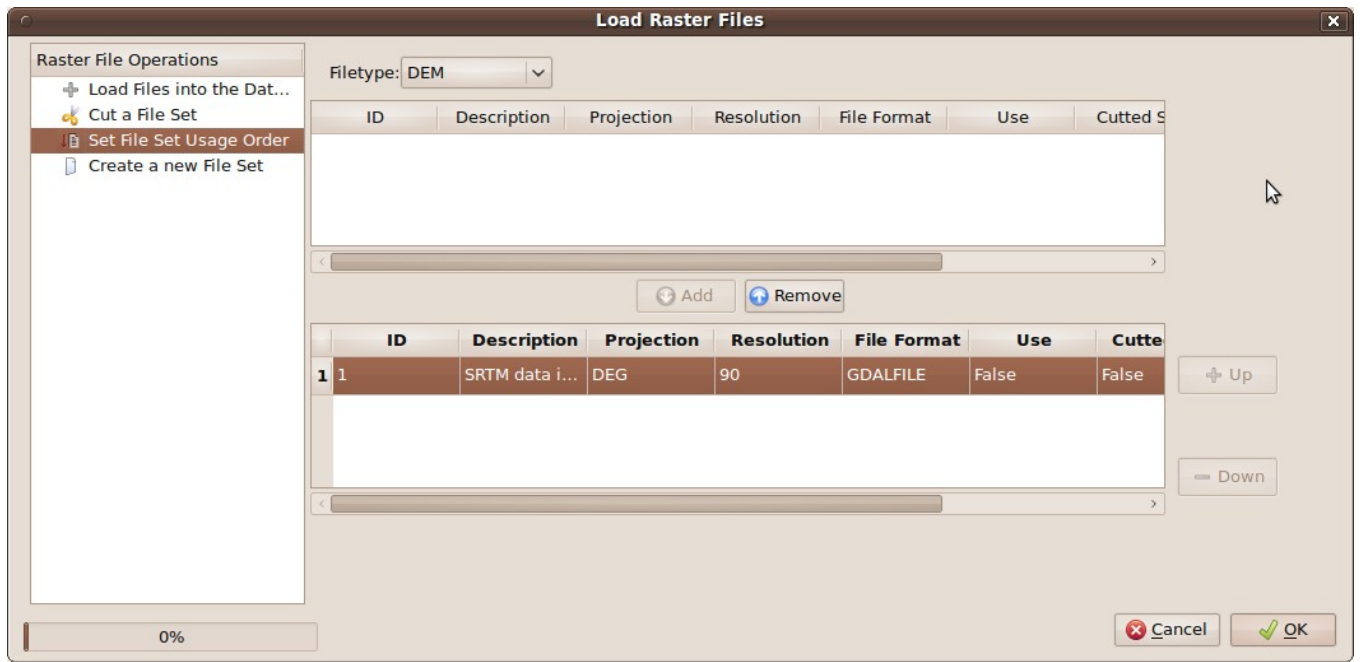


Next one needs to add the references to these files in the database. Select the newly created File Set, and **Browse** for, select and **Open** the files. For your ease there is a compressed SRTM file in qrap/Data/SRTM/. To **Import** the files might take a while ... you are probably in need of a break.

When the files are completely installed the **Files to be imported** list, will be clear.



It is important to **Set the File Set Usage Order** (Raster File Operation on the left hand of the dialog box). **Add** the newly created FileSet to the list for the DEM **FileType**.



4) A Few First Examples

4.1) Loading Digital Elevation Model



Click on the **Perform a Prediction** icon, and with the mouse's left button select an area for which you would like view the Digital Elevation Model data, ending the selection with a right button click. If the area does not include any site, a information or warning message will appear. Upon closing this message box, The Prediction Dialog box will appear. The Digital Elevation Model is the last option

Site	Sector	Radius	Technology	Radio Inst ID	Project	Flag X	Flag Z	Status
------	--------	--------	------------	---------------	---------	--------	--------	--------

Prediction: Digital Elevation Model

File Output Type: Edras Image Forma (*.img)

Output File Name: DigitalElevationModel.img

Output Directory: /home/maggie/

Mobile Radio Used: 1:Cell Phone

Required Minimum Receiver Level: -110.00

Required CoChannel Carrier to Interference Ratio: 9.00

Required Adjacent Carrier to Interference Ratio: -9.00

Required Energy per Bit to Noise Ratio: 8.00

Down Link ☒ Up Link ☐ Use Clutter ☐

Output Units: dBm

Fade Margin: 3.00

Noise Level: -123.00

Required Signal to Noise Raio: 8.00

k-Factor for Servers: 1.00

k-Factor for Interferers: 2.50

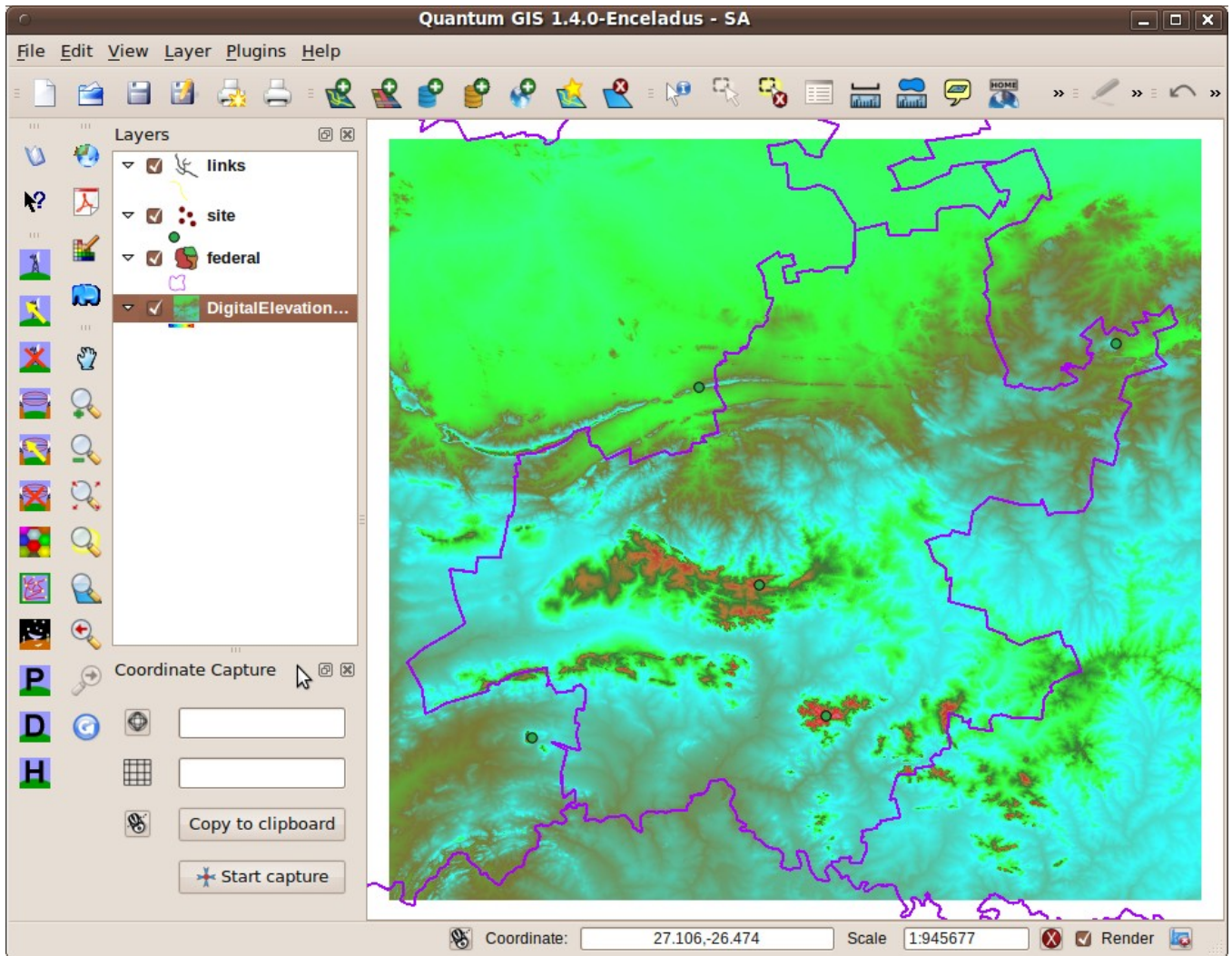
Plot Resolution: 90.00

Minimum Angle Resolution: 1.00


☒ Predict selected area ☐ Predict selected area with radius included

Print Done Cancel Do

available under Prediction. Click on **Do**. When the height data has been loaded the **Done** can be used to close the Dialog Box. An example of such a DEM is shown below.




4.2) Creating a site.

Click on the **Place a Site** icon, , point the cursor to the location where you would like to place a site and click on the left mouse button. First you are informed that to obtain the height data at the point might take a while. Click on **OK** and wait for the dialog box to appear. To add a set of installations like those edited in paragraph 3.4.4.4) click on **Add Default Installation**.

Site Name:	MyFirstSite
Latitude:	25:41:50.28 S
Longitude:	27:54:37.8 E
Ground Height:	1598
Status:	Experimental
<input type="button" value="Just a Site"/> <input type="button" value="Move Site to ..."/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	
<input type="button" value="Edit Installation(s)"/> <input type="button" value="Add Default Installation"/>	

4.3) Do a Coverage Prediction

Once again by clicking on the **Perform a Prediction** icon, , and selecting an area that includes all the sites for which you would like to include in the prediction, ending with a right click will bring the Prediction dialog box up. Click **Do** to start the prediction. This might take a while. The **Radius** determine the maximum distance from the site for which the prediction will be done.

	Site	Sector	Radius	Technology	Radio Inst ID	Project	Flag X	Flag Z	Status
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite 1	1	120	GSM900	13				Experimental
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite 2	2	120	GSM900	14				Experimental
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite 3	3	120	GSM900	15				Experimental

Prediction Type / Plot Type:

Coverage

☒ Down Link
 ☐ Up Link
 ☐ Use Clutter

File Output Type:

Edras Image Forma (*.img)

Output Units:

dBm

Output File Name:

CombinedCoverage.img

Fade Margin:

3.00

Output Directory:

/home/maggie/

Noise Level:

-123.00

Mobile Radio Used:

1:Cell Phone

Required Signal to Noise Raio:

8.00

Minimum Required Received Signal:

-110.00

k-Factor for Servers:

1.00

Required Carrier to Co-Channel Interference Ratio:

9.00

k-Factor for Interferers:

2.50

Required Carrier to Adjacent-Channel Interference Ratio:

-9.00

Plot Resolution:

90.00

Required Energy per Bit to Noise Ratio:

8.00

Minimum Angle Resolution

1.00

☐ Predict selected area
 ☒ Predict selected area with radius included

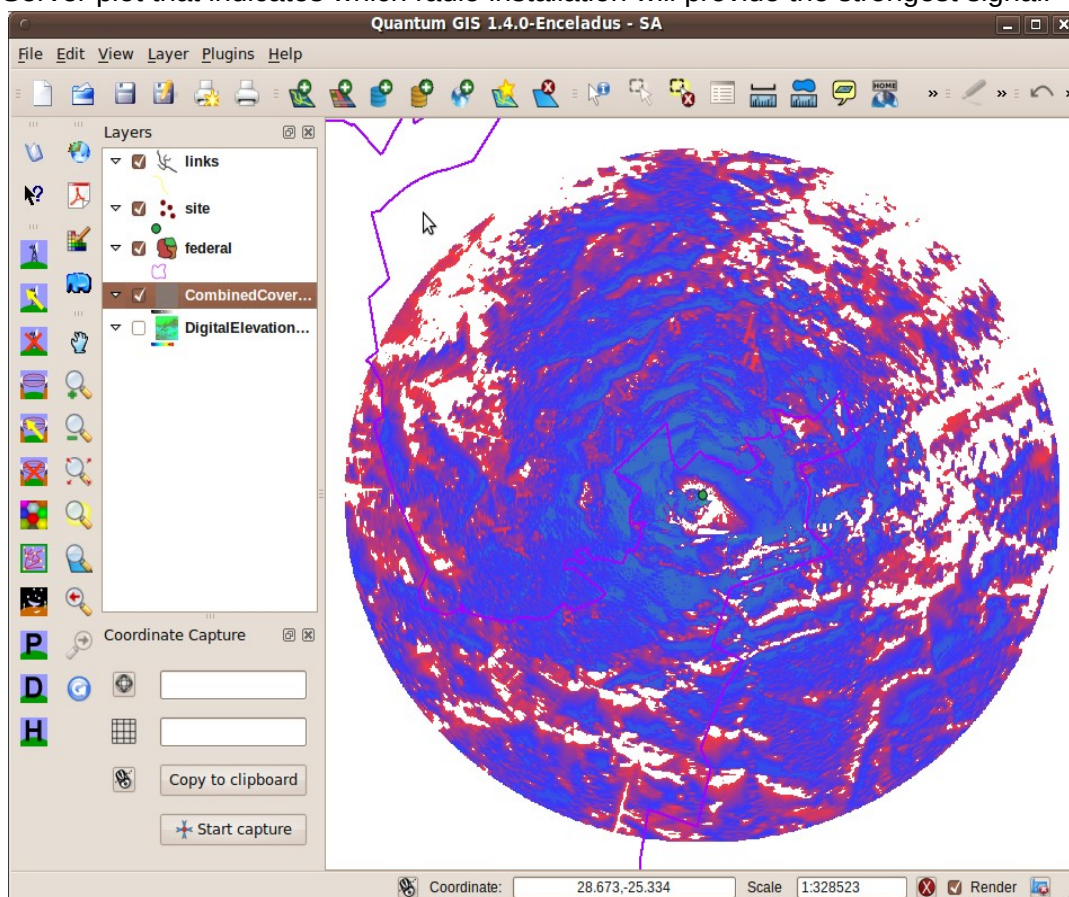
Print

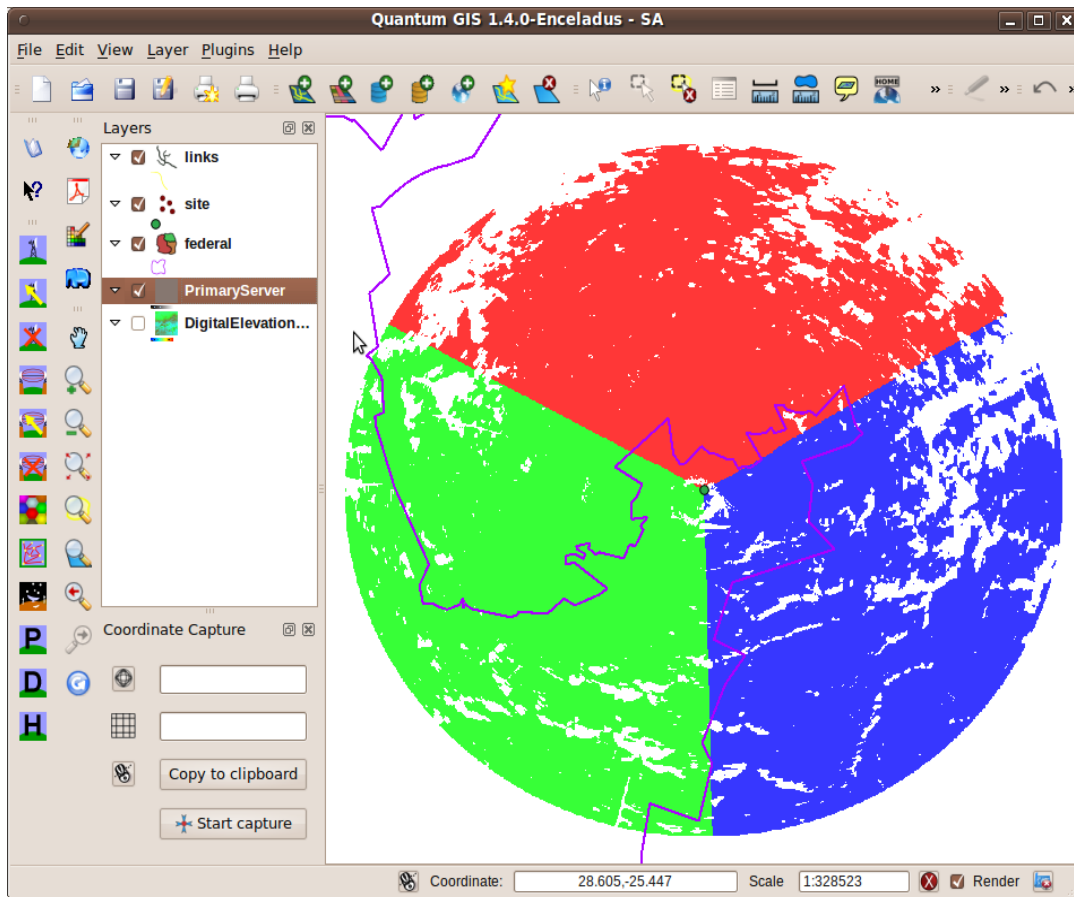
Done

Cancel

Do

Many prediction options are available. They will be discussed in later sections. Two examples are a Coverage plot that indicates the receivable signal strength at different locations and the other a Primary Server plot that indicates which radio installation will provide the strongest signal.





4.4) Perform a link analysis

Create another site, in a similar manner described in 4.2). Note that both sites need to have a radio installation attached.



Click on the **Link Analysis** icon, then on the first site, and then on the second. The link request dialog box should appear. After selecting the radio installation between which you would like to do the link analysis click on **Ok**.

Below is the resultant Link Analysis. Saving the link stores it in the database. Clicking on the **Align Antennae** will result in changing the radio installations in the database to point to one another. It also re-analyse the link.

Confirm Link Analysis

Transmitting Radio Installation:

	Tx Site	Technology	Rad Inst
1	<input type="radio"/> MyFirstSite	GSM900	4
2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> MyFirstSite	GSM900	5
3	<input type="radio"/> MyFirstSite	GSM900	6

Link Name:
MyFirstSite_to_MySecondSite

Receiving Radio Installation:

	Rx Site	Technology	Rad Inst
1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> MySecondS	GSM900	7
2	<input type="radio"/> MySecondS	GSM900	8
3	<input type="radio"/> MySecondS	GSM900	9

Output Units: dBm

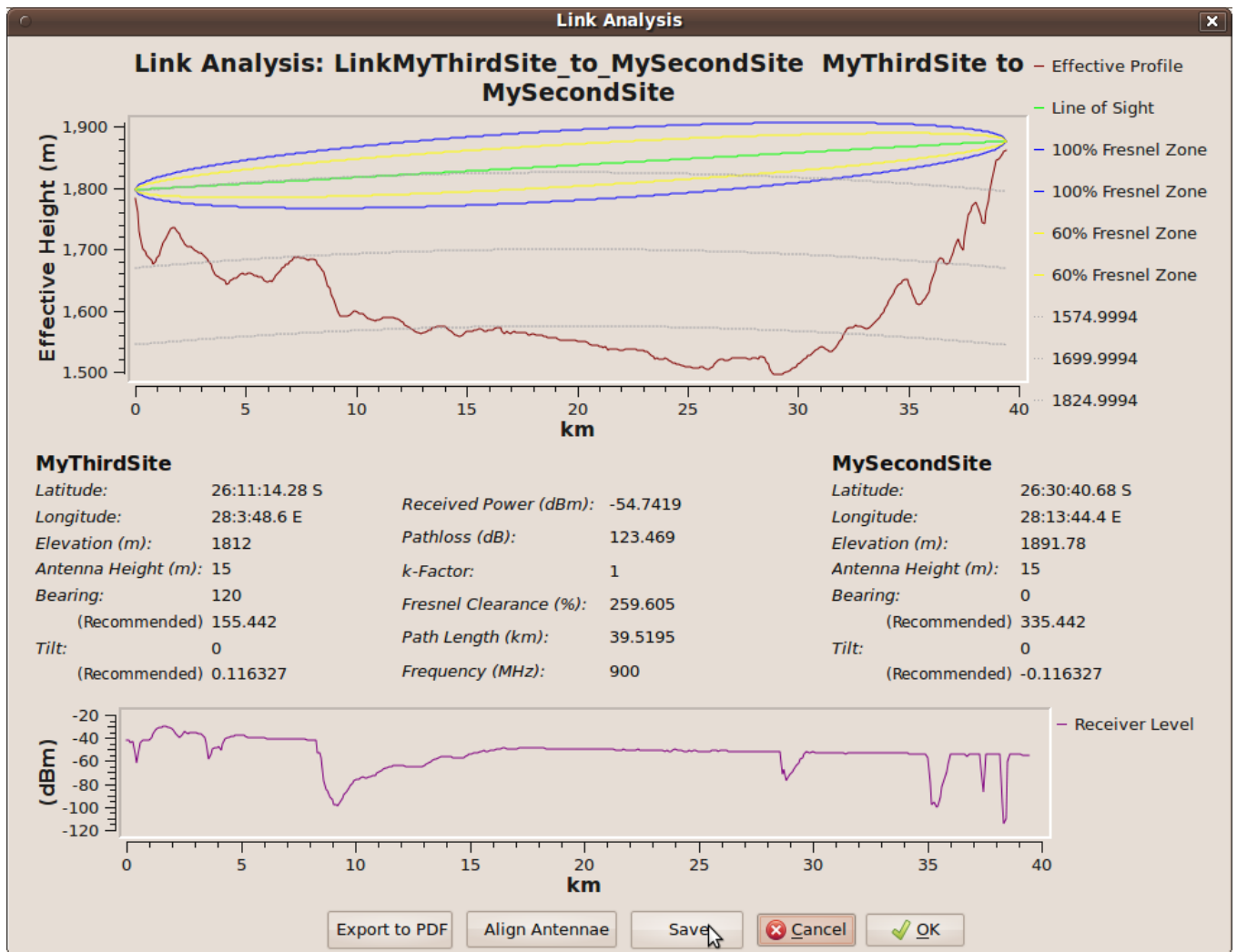
Frequency: 900.00

k-Factor: 1.00

Plot Resolution: 90.00

☐ Use Clutter
 ☒ Down Link
 ☐ Up Link

Ok Cancel



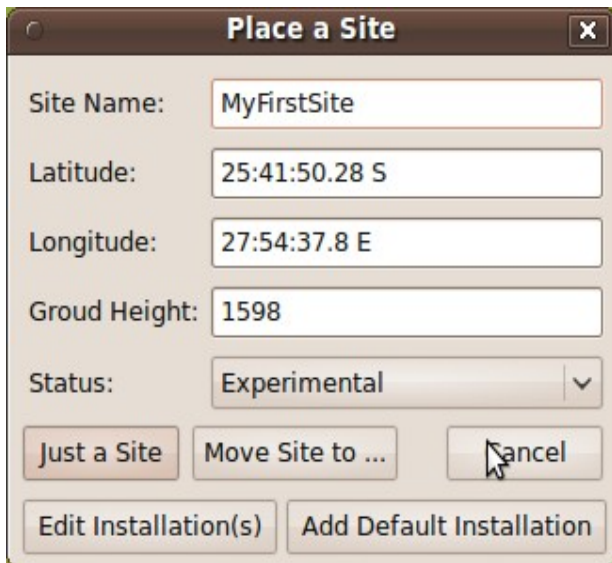
5) Description of User Interface Functionalities

5.1) Place Site button

This button is a way to create a site via the QGIS user interface.

- Click on the button,
- move the mouse cross-point to the location where you would like to place the site.
- Left click again.
- A information dialog box will appear requesting you to wait a while, close it by clicking on **Ok**.
- Wait until the Site Dialog box appears:

5.2) Place Site dialog box



5.2.1) *Move Site to ... button*

This buttons allows one to again use the QGIS user interface to move the site position:

- Click on the button,
- move the cross-hair mouse position to the the position where you would like to place the site,
- Left click.
- The coordinates of the new position will appear in the dialog box. The position shown will not move until one of the three accepting buttons are clicked:

5.2.2) *Just a Site button*

If you just want to add a site, but do not want to place any radio installation on the site, clicking on this button will store the site in the database and close the dialog box.

5.2.3) *Add Default Installation button*

Clicking on this button will save the site and add copies of all the radio installations connected to the default site (3.4.4.4)) of the current default technology as selected in Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). It results in the dialog box being closed.

5.2.4) *Edit Installation button*

Clicking on this button will save the site in the Database, close the dialog box and take you to the Database User Interface where you will be able to edit, and commit (a) radio installation(s) that is connected to this site.

5.2.5) **Cancel button**

This button will close the dialog box WITHOUT saving the site information in database.

5.3) **Select a Site button**

To edit a site click on this button. The same Dialog Box as above will appear, and the functionalities will be exactly the same as in (5.1)) except:

5.3.1) **Update button**

This will save any changes you made to the information in the dialog box in the database can close the dialog box.

5.3.2) **Edit Installation button**

After closing the dialog box clicking on this button will take you to the information of any existing radio installations on the site and allow you to edit it via the Database User Interface.

5.4) **Delete a Site button**

Clicking on this button will bring up a confirmation dialog box. On clicking **Delete**, the site and any radio installation and or any other information linked to that site will be removed from the database.

5.5) **Link Analysis button**

To create a site-to-site radio link between two sites that already have radio installation installed:

- Click on this button.
- Move the mouse to the site that you would like to serve as transmitter.
- Left click.
- Move mouse to site that were the receiving radio installation will be.
- Left click.

The Link Analysis dialog box (4.4))will appear.

5.6) **Confirm Link Analysis dialog box (4.4))**

- Use the radio buttons select the radio installation you would like to use for the transmitter and receiver respectively.
- The radio button on the bottom allows you to an analysis using the Tx radio installation as the actual transmitter (Downlink) or the Rx radio installations transmitting part (Uplink).
- The **Link Name** may be any recognisable name and duplicates may occur.

For help on the remaining parameters see Section 6).

Click **Ok** and wait a bit. The Link Analysis Display will appear:

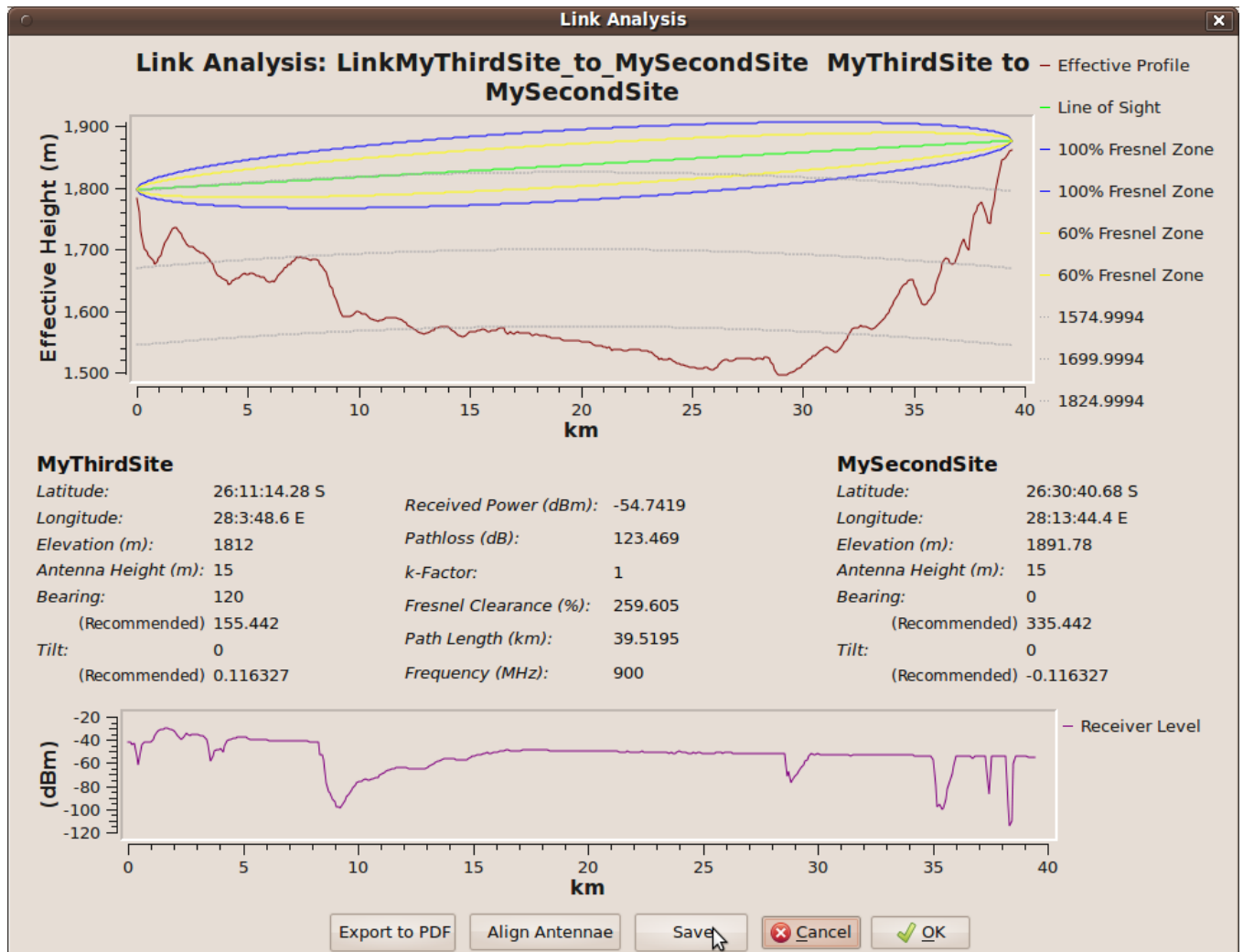
5.7) **Link Analysis Display**

5.7.1) **Export to PDF button**

This allows one to save the information of the link on a *.pdf file of your choice. It does not save it in the database.

5.7.2) **Align Antennae button**

This alters the radio installations involved to point to one another, which means the actual azimuth and tilt of the antennae will change to the recommended values. This change is save in the database. The link is however not saved in the database.



5.7.3) Save button

Clicking on this button will result in the Link being saved in the database. When an existing link was selected (5.8)), this will result in the link being updated in the database.

5.7.4) Ok button

To close the display click on this button.

5.7.5) Cancel button

This button also make the Link Display button disappear.

5.8) Select Link button

To view the Link Analysis of a Link in the database,

- click on this button,
- move the mouse pointer to anywhere on the line representing the link.
- Left click.

The Confirm Link Analysis dialog box (5.6)) will appear with the actual values of the link in the dialog box. You may now edit these values and press **Ok**, to view the Link Analysis Display (5.7)). Pressing the **Save** button will now result in updating the link in the database.

5.9) Delete Link button

To delete a link from the database

- click on this button,

- move the mouse pointer to any point on the line representing the link.
- Left click.

A confirmation dialog box will appear.

Press **Ok** to delete the link. The radio installations on either side of the link will also be removed from the database. (The sites with any other radio-installation on it will remain).



5.10) Perform Area Prediction button

This button enables one to perform any of a number of possible area analyses. These are described in detail in Section 7). To perform any of these analysis.

- Left click on this button
- Using the left mouse button mark a polygon on the QGIS user interface that includes all the sites that you would like to include in the analysis.
- End the selection with the right mouse button.

The Confirm Prediction Information Dialog Box should appear.

5.11) Confirm Prediction Information dialog box

	Site	Sector	Radius	Technology	Radio Inst ID	Project	Flag X	Flag Z	Status
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite	1	120	GSM900	13				Experimental
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite	2	120	GSM900	14				Experimental
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyForthSite	3	120	GSM900	15				Experimental

Prediction Type / Plot Type:

Coverage

☒ Down Link
 ☐ Up Link
 ☐ Use Clutter

File Output Type:

Edras Image Forma (*.img)

Output Units:

dBm

Output File Name:

CombinedCoverage.img

Fade Margin:

3.00

Output Directory:

/home/maggie/

Noise Level:

-123.00

Mobile Radio Used:

1:Cell Phone

Required Signal to Noise Raio:

8.00

Minimum Required Received Signal:

-110.00

k-Factor for Servers:

1.00

Required Carrier to Co-Channel Interference Ratio:

9.00

k-Factor for Interferers:

2.50

Required Carrier to Adjacent-Channel Interference Ratio:

-9.00

Plot Resolution:

90.00

Required Energy per Bit to Noise Ratio:

8.00

Minimum Angle Resolution

1.00

☐ Predict selected area
 ☒ Predict selected area with radius included

Print

Done

Cancel

Do

The Prediction Information that can be edited are:

5.11.1)Radio Installation Select Table

This table contains a row for each Radio Installation in the selected area.

- The tick boxes allow for these installations to be included(ticked) or excluded (unselected) in the prediction analysis.
- The only other entry that really makes sense to edit is the **Radius**. It is the maximum radius from the site for which the prediction will be done. The default value supplied here originates from the setting in the Technology table (3.4.4.1)for the Technology of that site, if it was specified, otherwise the default value will be that supplied in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)).

The remaining columns are there to ease the identification of the Radio Installations.

5.11.2)Prediction Type

In this combo box one can select the type of plot you would like to have generated. In Section (7)) you will find a complete description of each of these options.

5.11.3)Output File Name

The default output filename corresponds to the Prediction Type or Plot Type. This could be changed to anything. At this stage the file extension needs to remain *.img.

5.11.4)Output Directory

This is actually more informational. This is the directory where the output file is saved. It can be altered under Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). Make sure that the current user has write access to this directory.

5.11.5)Mobile Radio Used

This is a selection from the Mobile table (3.4.4.3)) entries. This is to represent any mobile, cellphone or handheld unit for which the coverage is to be planned.

5.11.6)Minimum Required Received Signal Level (dBm?)

This determines the minimum level that will be displayed on the plot. Signal levels below this level will not be displayed as coverage at all (a value of -9999 is assigned, which will be transparent). The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on how to chose this parameter will be found in Section 6)

5.11.7)Required Carrier to Co-channel Interference Ratio (dB)

This value will be used in the interference related plots as criteria when interference should be displayed. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.8)Required Carrier to Adjacent-channel Interference Ratio (dB)

This value will be used in the interference related plots as criteria when interference should be displayed. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.9)Required energy per Bit to Noise Ratio (dB)

This value will be of particular importance CDMA based systems. Currently it is not incorporated in any plot. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.10)Down-link or Up-link Radio button

Normally when doing area predictions the prediction is done on the down-link, i.e. with the fixed installation or base station as the transmitter and the mobile unit as the receiver. It is however often useful to present the value that would be received by the base-station from a mobile transmitter at the point in the area. The default is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)).

5.11.11)Output Units

This determines the units in which particularly the Coverage Plot will be presented. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on the meaning of different output units will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.12)Fade Margin (dB)

This represent a margin that is introduced to ensure that a certain percentage of the signal will be above the required level in a fading environment. Currently it is not incorporated in any plot. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on how to chose this parameter will be found in Section 6)

5.11.13) Noise Level (dBm)

This is the noise level or noise floor. The value is used in the signal to noise ratio plot. This level is determined by the bandwidth of the technology and the environmental noise sources present. More detail on how to choose this parameter will be found in Section 6) (In future versions this will be set as the power spectral density in e.g. dBm/Hz)

5.11.14) Required Signal to Noise Ratio (dB)

The value is used in the signal to noise ratio plot. This value is mostly determined by the technology and the quality of the equipment. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section 6)

5.11.15) k-Factor for Servers

This parameter is used in the effective earth model. It depends on the gradient of the refractiveness of air just above the surface of the earth. The value for servers will be used for the serving calculations in Coverage Plots and Interference-Plots. Values between 0.96 and 1.33 are typical. The smaller the value the more likely it is that hills and mountain will obstruct the wave. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.16) k-Factor for Interference

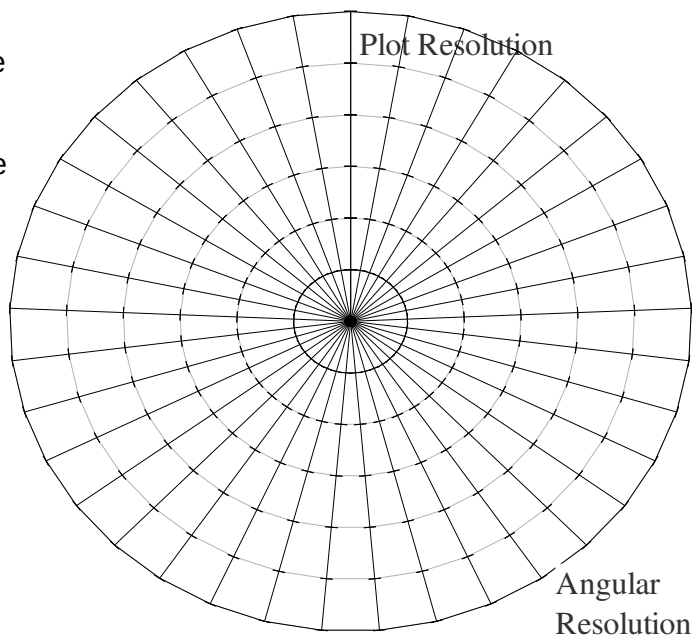
This parameter is used in the effective earth model. It depends on the gradient of the refractiveness of air just above the surface of the earth. The value for servers will be used for the serving calculations in Coverage Plots and Interference-Plots. Values between 1.33 and 6.8 are typical. The bigger the value the more likely it is that the interfering signal will overshoot obstacle to cause interference. The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)). More detail on this parameter will be found in Section (6)).

5.11.17) Plot Resolution (meter)

This value determines the resolution at which points along a path profile will be sampled from the raster files. The recommended value for the plot resolution is the lowest resolution or the resolution of the first file of the loaded raster files that is in the list of the File Set Order (3.4.4.7)). The default value is determined by the values set in the Plot Preferences (3.4.4.5)).

5.11.18) Minimum Angular Resolution (degrees)

This value determines the difference in angle of different path profiles that will be extracted. The lower the value the longer it will take but the better the result will pick up any changes. The smallest recommended value is the Plot Resolution divided by the Radius (5.11.1)) (converted to meters) multiplied by $180/\pi$.



5.11.19) Predict selected area (with radius included) radio button

The default value is **Predict selected area with radius included** for most plots which means that the area for which the coverage will be calculated is all the sites selected plus the extent of the prediction radius of the sites so that the entire coverage of all sites will be shown. For a Digital Elevation Model plot (DEM), only a square around the selected polygon will be shown.

5.12) Multi-link identification button

This button provides access to a utility that will perform all link analysis between a set of sites, and store the links that adhere to certain criteria. For this utility the sites may be without any radio-installation, however it is necessary that a default site with one radio installation is defined for the technology that will be used on the links. This radio installation will be automatically installed for each site of each link that works and the links that works will be automatically saved in the database. To use this functionality:

- Left click on this button
- Using the left mouse button mark a polygon on the QGIS user interface that includes all the sites that you would like to include in the analysis.
- End the selection with the right mouse button.

The Multi-Link Dialog Box should appear.

6) Parameters

W
dBW
dBm
dB μ V
dB μ V/m
dBW/m²
dBW/m²/Hz

Power

EIRP

Sensitivity

Required Signal to Noise Ratio
(Required SN)

Fade Margin

Minimum Required Signal Strength
(Rx Min)

Required Co-channel Carrier to Interference Ratio
(Req CoCI)

Required Adjacent-channel Carrier to Interference Ratio
(Req Clad)

Required Energy per Bit to Noise Ratio
(Req EbNo)

Plot Resolution

kFactor

kFactor Server

kFactor Interference

Select Sensitivity

Frequency
operating/centre frequency

Uplink vs. Downlink

7) Analysis Functionalities

8) Design and Planning Assistance Functionalities