



## **EXERCISE 1: EXPLORING ONLINE DIGITAL ATLASES**

With the advancement of information technology, the Internet is now teeming with freely available geographic information in various forms. This part of the lab exercise is intended to familiarize you with some of the available online interactive digital atlases and their capabilities. Examples are:

### Viewers with Downloadable Data

- GeoData.gov: <http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>
- National Climatic Data Center: <http://ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/dataaccessstools.html>
- Africa Data Dissemination Service: <http://igskmncnwb015.cr.usgs.gov/adds/index.php>
- CIESIN – Environmental Sustainability Index Viewer:  
<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/maps/client?cntx=Sustainability.xml>
- Natural Earth Data Site: <http://www.naturearthdata.com/>

### Viewers Only

- National Geographic MapMachine: <http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/map-machine>
- National Geographic MapMaker Interactive:  
<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>
- UNEP Shelf Program: <http://maps.continentalshelf.org/viewer.htm>
- UNEP/Grid-Arendal's Baltic Environmental Atlas: <http://maps.grida.no/baltic/>
- UNEP/Grid-Arendal's Arctic Environmental Atlas: <http://maps.grida.no/arctic/>
- National Atlas of the US - Dynamic Maps: <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/dynamic.html>
- Washington Coastal Areas: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlas2001/viewer.htm>

As you will discover in this exercise, some sites are more dynamic, interactive, and/or user-friendly than others. Your tasks are:

1. visit all the digital atlases listed above,
2. choose one that you think is useful and one that you do not think is useful (for whatever reasons), and
3. create a map using each chosen atlas.

## **REPORT**

Make a one or two page report that includes 1) a brief description on what makes you think that the atlases chosen in Task 2 are useful or not useful and 2) the two maps created in Task 3. Submit the report on our BILDA website by **Monday, September 3, 11:59 pm**.