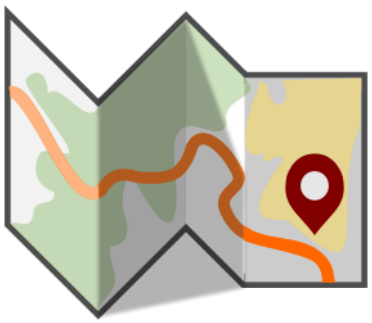
<?py # This templating language is pyTenjin ?> <?py # http://www.kuwata-lab.com/tenjin/pytenjin-users-guide.html ?>

<?py if title: ?>

#{title}

<?py #end ?>

QGIS Tutorials and Tips



Author

<?py for author in authors: ?> .. cssclass:: author

#{author}

http://www.spatialthoughts.com

<?py #end ?>

Find Neighbor Polygons in a Layer

There are some use cases where you want to find all neighboring polygons of each of the polygons in a layer. With a little python script, we can accomplish this and much more in QGIS. Here is an example script you can use to find all polygons that share boundary with each of the polygons in a layer and also add their names to the attribute table. As an added bonus, the script also sums up an attribute of your choice from all the neighboring polygons.

Overview of the task

To demonstrate how the script works, we will use a layer of country polygons and find countries that share the border. We also want to compute the total population of the country's neighbors.

Get the data

We will use the Admin 0 - Countries dataset from Natural Earth.

Download the Admin 0 - countries shapefile..

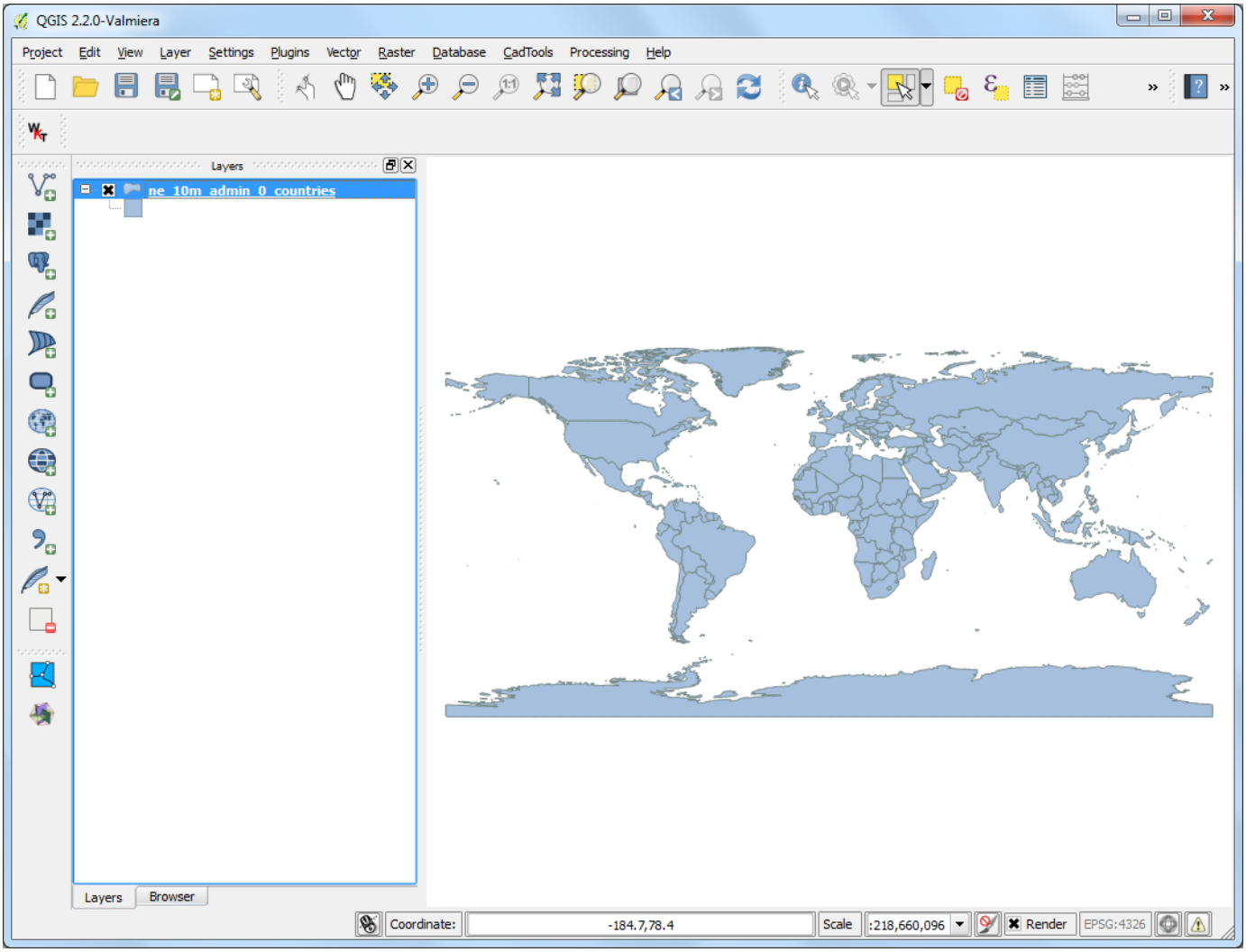
Data Source [NATURALEARTH]

Get the script

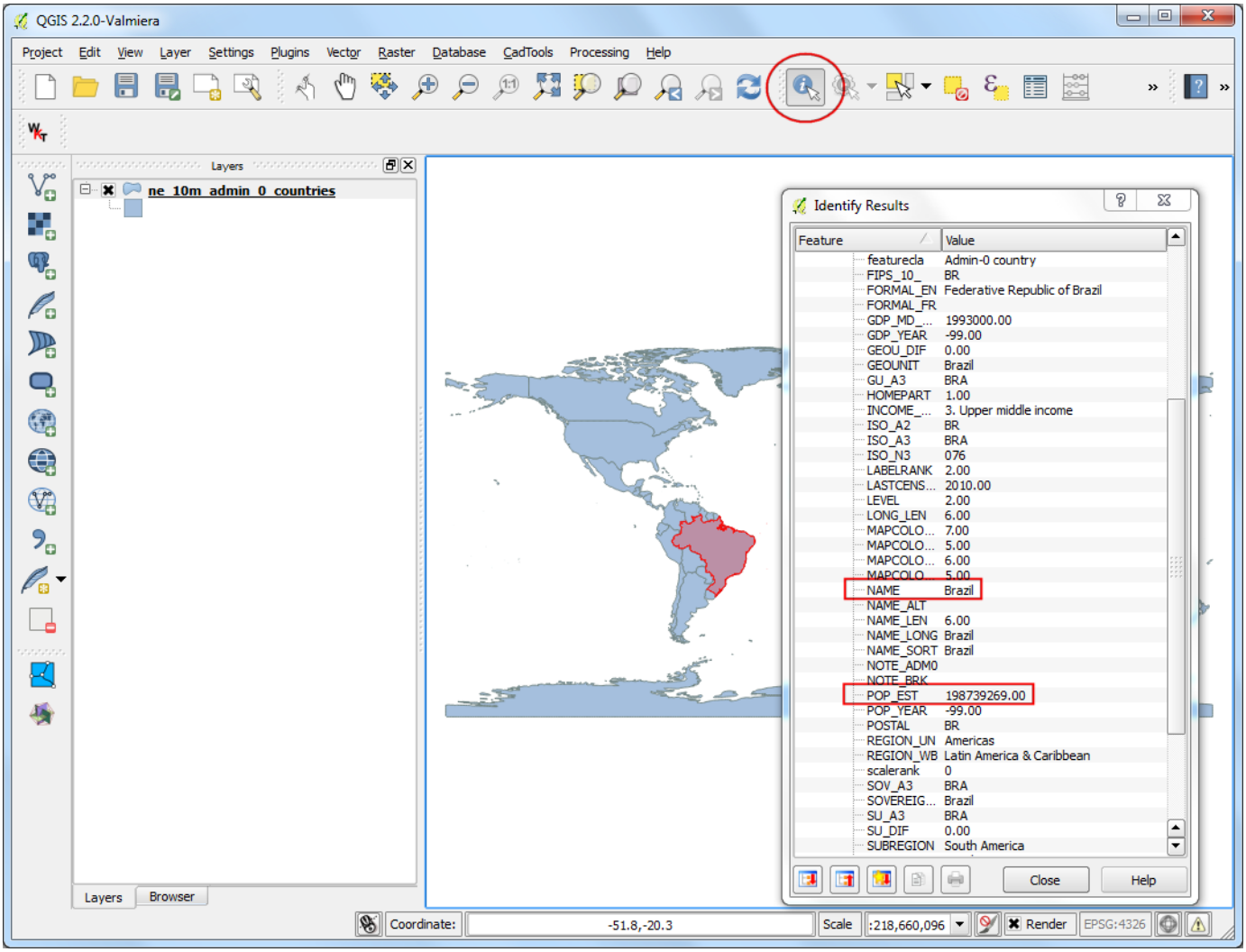
Download the **`neighbors.py script`** and save it to your disk.

Procedure

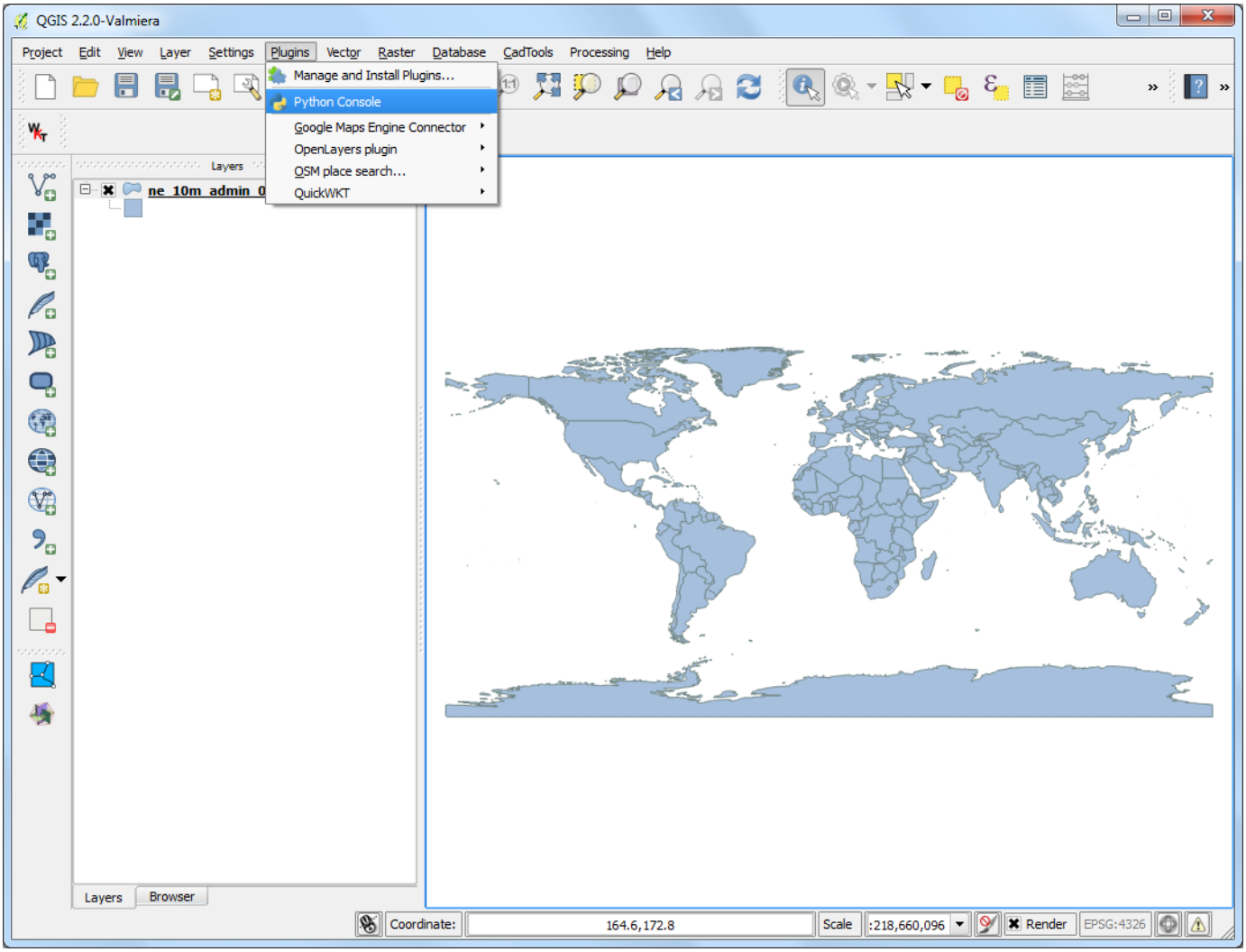
1. Load the `ne_10m_admin_0_countries` layer by going to Layer ▸ Add Vector Layer.



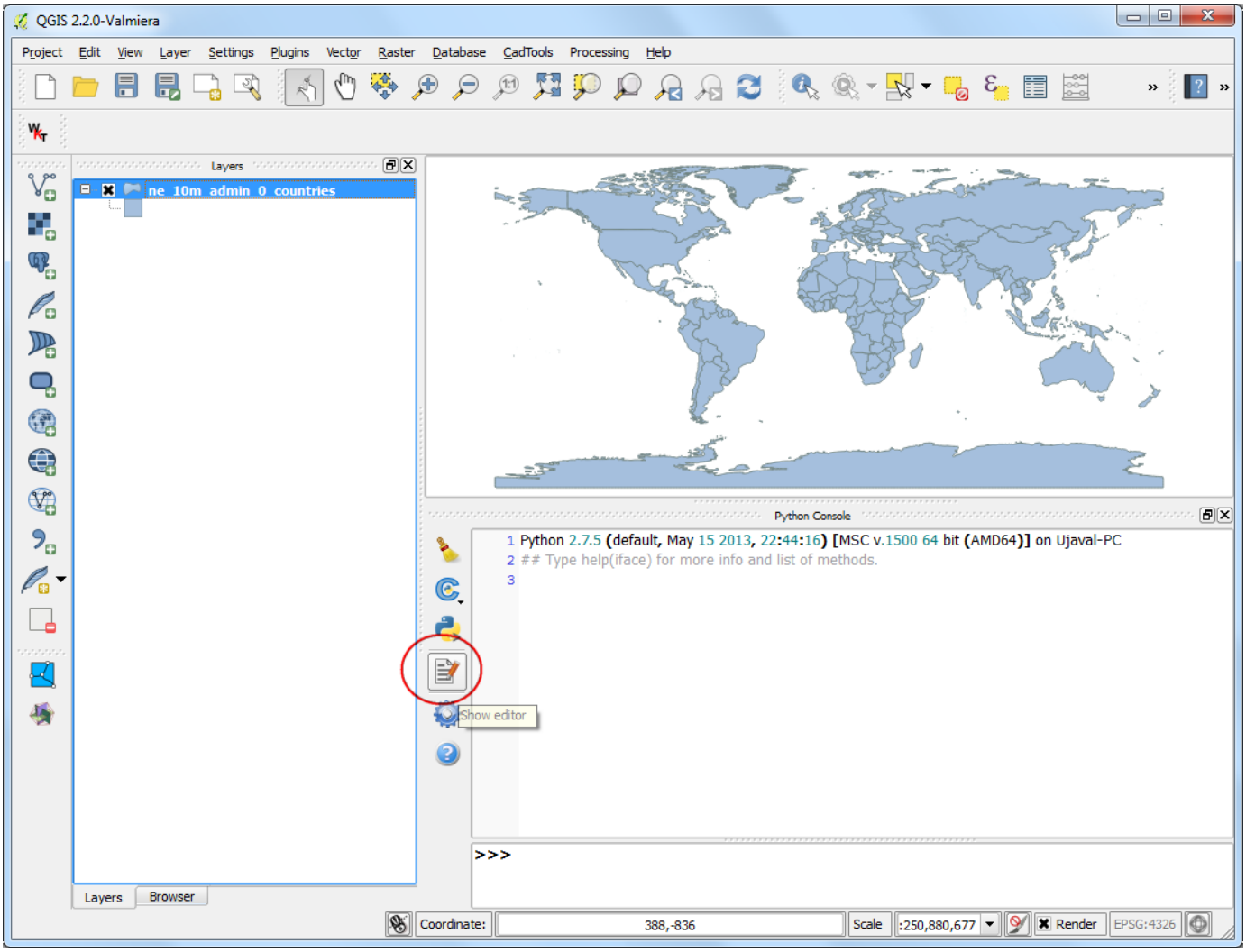
2. The script uses 2 fields to perform the action. A name field and a field that you want to sum up. Use the Identify tool to click on any feature and examine the attributes. In this case the name field is NAME and we want to sum up the population estimates from POP_EST field.



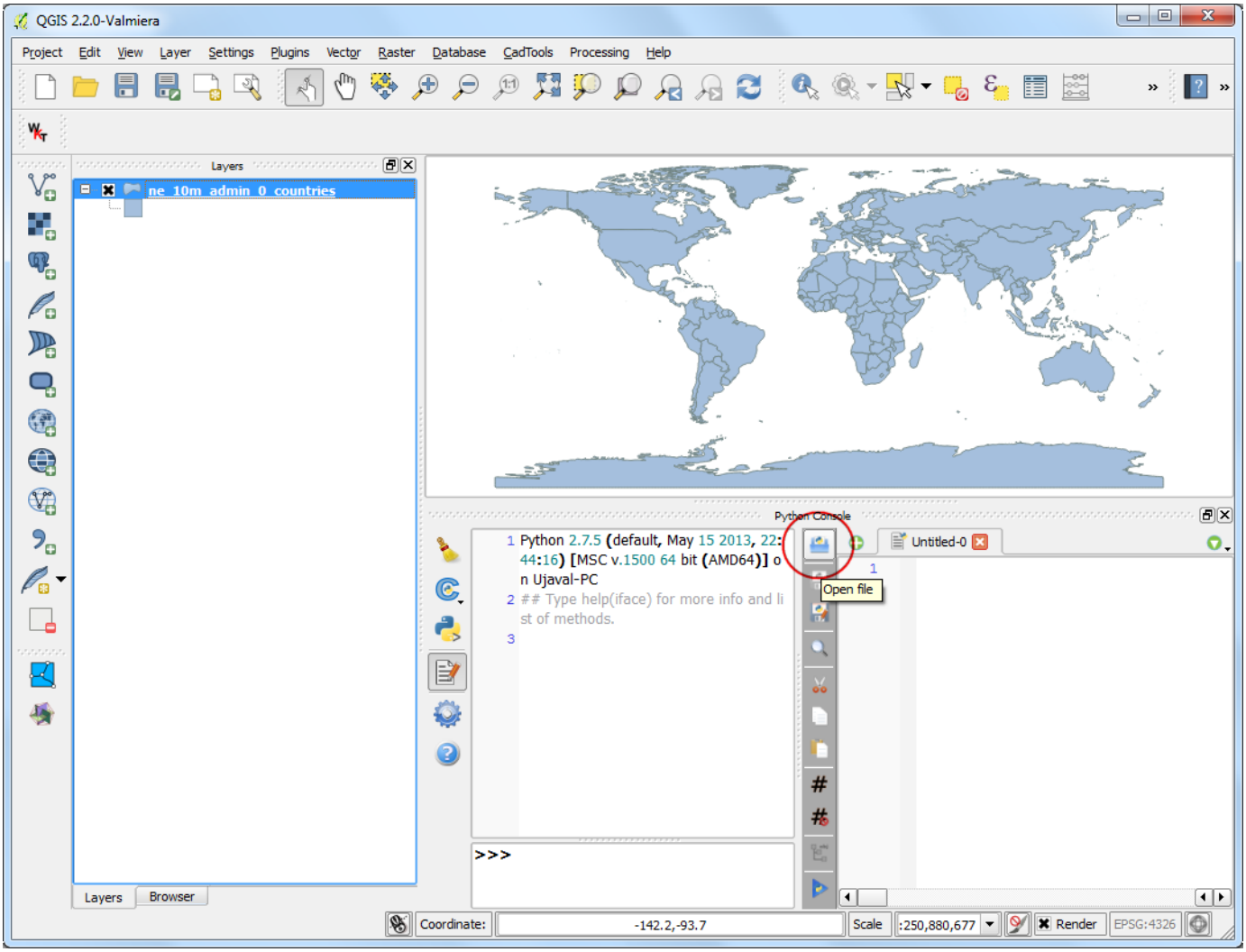
3. Go to Plugins ▸ Python Console.



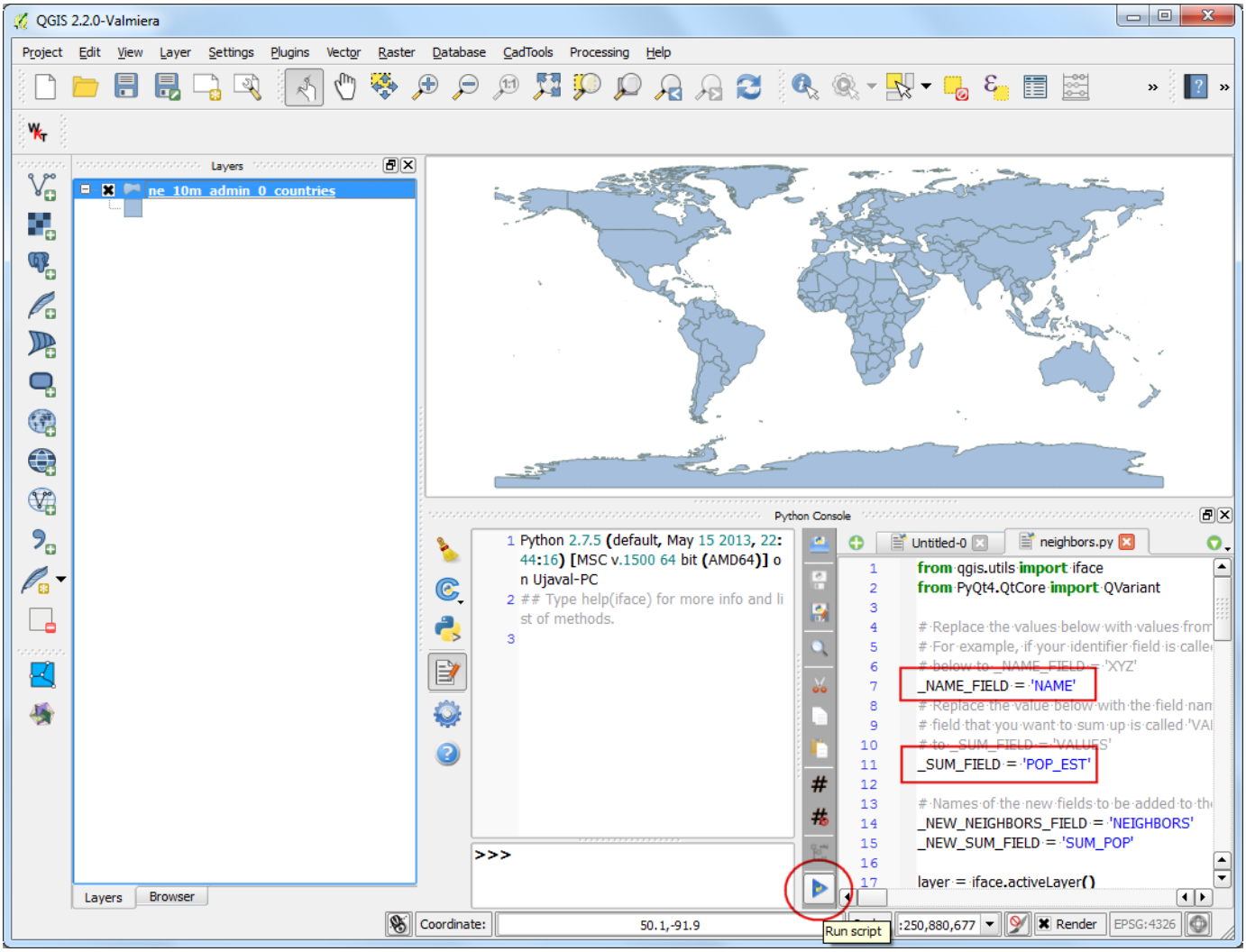
4. In the Python Console window, click the Show Editor button.



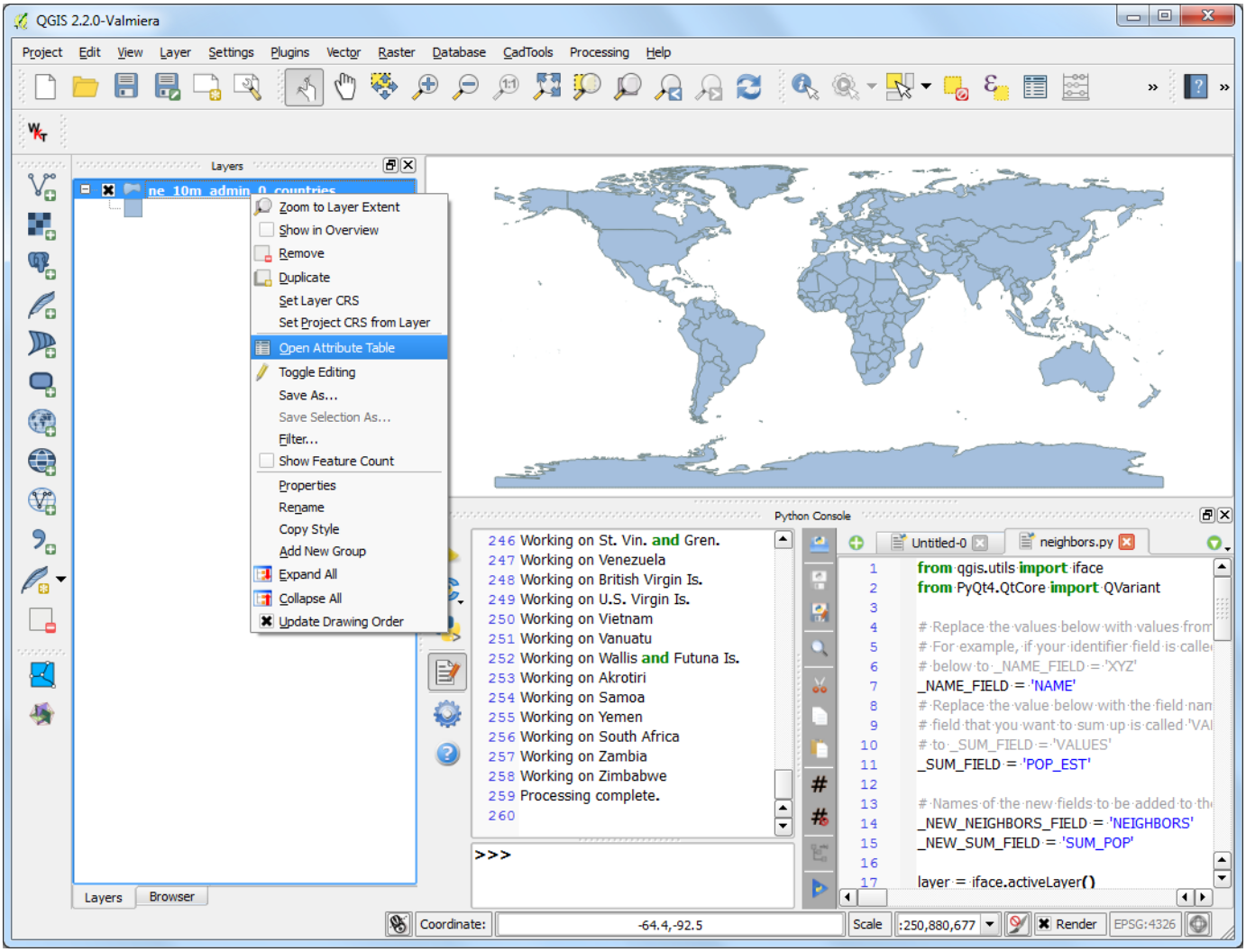
5. In the Editor panel, click the Open file button and browse to downloaded `neighbors.py` script and click Open.



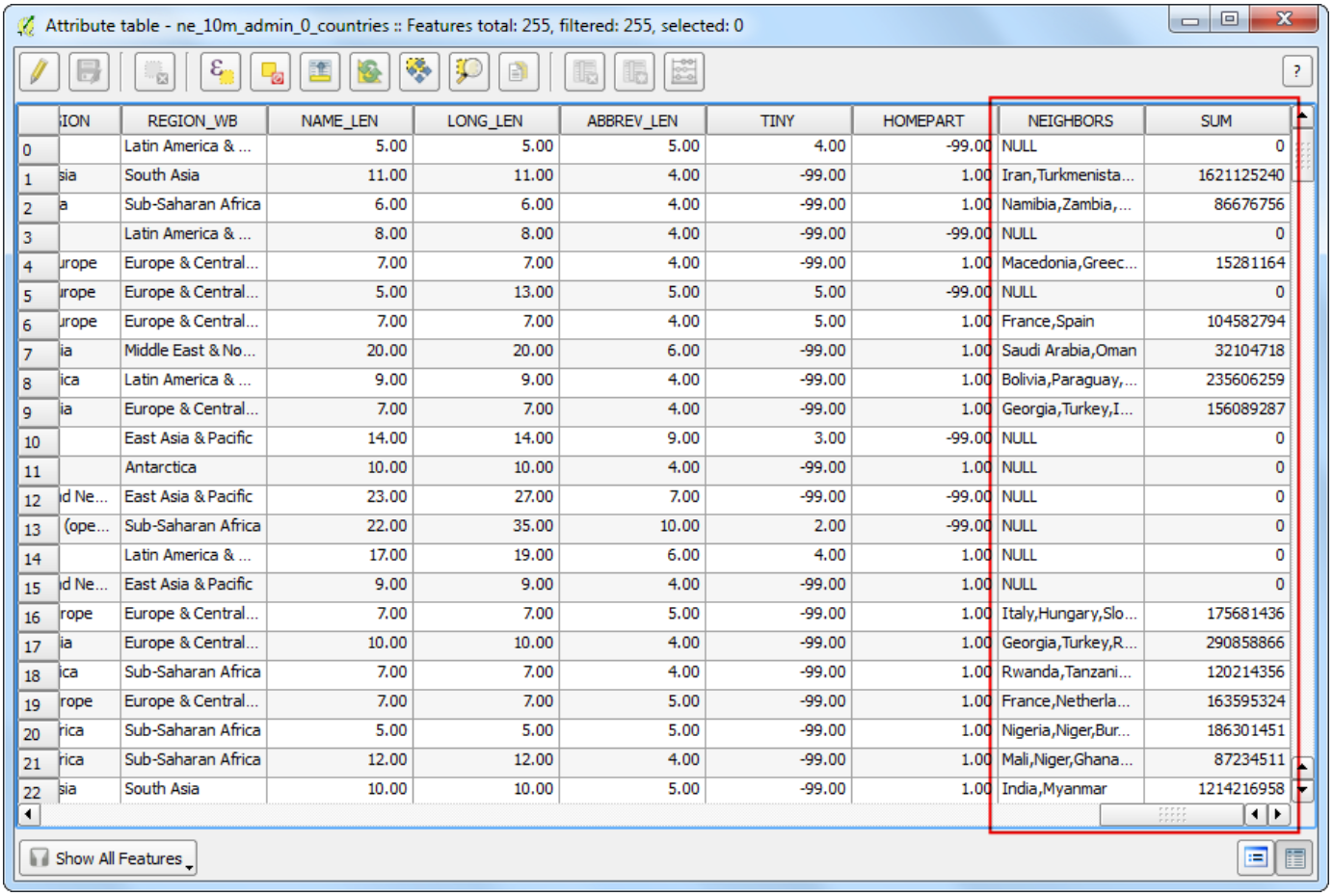
6. Once the script is loaded, you may want to change the `_NAME_FIELD` and `_SUM_FIELD` values to match the attributes from your own layer. If you are working with the `ne_10m_admin_0_countries` layer, you can leave those as they are. Click the Save button in the Editor panel if you made any changes. Now click the Run script button to execute the script.



7. Once the script finishes, right-click the `ne_10m_admin_0_countries` layer and select Open Attribute Table.



8. You will notice 2 new attributes called `NEIGHBORS` and `SUM`. These were added by the script.



	ION	REGION_WB	NAME_LEN	LONG_LEN	ABBREV_LEN	TINY	HOMEPART	NEIGHBORS	SUM
0		Latin America & ...	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	-99.00	NULL	0
1	sia	South Asia	11.00	11.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Iran,Turkmenista...	1621125240
2	a	Sub-Saharan Africa	6.00	6.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Namibia,Zambia,...	86676756
3		Latin America & ...	8.00	8.00	4.00	-99.00	-99.00	NULL	0
4	urope	Europe & Central...	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Macedonia,Greec...	15281164
5	urope	Europe & Central...	5.00	13.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	NULL	0
6	urope	Europe & Central...	7.00	7.00	4.00	5.00	1.00	France,Spain	104582794
7	ia	Middle East & No...	20.00	20.00	6.00	-99.00	1.00	Saudi Arabia,Oman	32104718
8	ica	Latin America & ...	9.00	9.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Bolivia,Paraguay,...	235606259
9	ia	Europe & Central...	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Georgia,Turkey,I...	156089287
10		East Asia & Pacific	14.00	14.00	9.00	3.00	-99.00	NULL	0
11		Antarctica	10.00	10.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	NULL	0
12	d Ne...	East Asia & Pacific	23.00	27.00	7.00	-99.00	-99.00	NULL	0
13	(ope...	Sub-Saharan Africa	22.00	35.00	10.00	2.00	-99.00	NULL	0
14		Latin America & ...	17.00	19.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	NULL	0
15	d Ne...	East Asia & Pacific	9.00	9.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	NULL	0
16	rope	Europe & Central...	7.00	7.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	Italy,Hungary,Slo...	175681436
17	ia	Europe & Central...	10.00	10.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Georgia,Turkey,R...	290858866
18	ica	Sub-Saharan Africa	7.00	7.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Rwanda,Tanzani...	120214356
19	rope	Europe & Central...	7.00	7.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	France,Netherla...	163595324
20	rica	Sub-Saharan Africa	5.00	5.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	Nigeria,Niger,Bur...	186301451
21	rica	Sub-Saharan Africa	12.00	12.00	4.00	-99.00	1.00	Mali,Niger,Ghana...	87234511
22	sia	South Asia	10.00	10.00	5.00	-99.00	1.00	India,Myanmar	1214216958

Below is the complete script for reference. You may modify it to suit your needs.

```
##############################################################################
# Copyright 2014 Ujaval Gandhi
#
#This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or
#modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License
#as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2
#of the License, or (at your option) any later version.
#
#This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
#but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
#MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.  See the
#GNU General Public License for more details.
#
#You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
#along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software
#Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA  02110-1301, USA.
#
##############################################################################
from qgis.utils import iface
from PyQt4.QtCore import QVariant

# Replace the values below with values from your layer.
# For example, if your identifier field is called 'XYZ', then change the line
# below to _NAME_FIELD = 'XYZ'
_NAME_FIELD = 'NAME'
# Replace the value below with the field name that you want to sum up.
# For example, if the # field that you want to sum up is called 'VALUES', then
# change the line below to _SUM_FIELD = 'VALUES'
_SUM_FIELD = 'POP_EST'
```

```
# Names of the new fields to be added to the layer
_NEW_NEIGHBORS_FIELD = 'NEIGHBORS'
_NEW_SUM_FIELD = 'SUM'

layer = iface.activeLayer()

# Create 2 new fields in the layer that will hold the list of neighbors and sum
# of the chosen field.
layer.startEditing()
layer.dataProvider().addAttributes(
        [QgsField(_NEW_NEIGHBORS_FIELD, QVariant.String),
         QgsField(_NEW_SUM_FIELD, QVariant.Int)])
layer.updateFields()
# Create a dictionary of all features
feature_dict = {f.id(): f for f in layer.getFeatures()}

# Build a spatial index
index = QgsSpatialIndex()
for f in feature_dict.values():
    index.insertFeature(f)

# Loop through all features and find features that touch each feature
for f in feature_dict.values():
    print 'Working on %s' % f[_NAME_FIELD]
    geom = f.geometry()
    # Find all features that intersect the bounding box of the current feature.
    # We use spatial index to find the features intersecting the bounding box
    # of the current feature. This will narrow down the features that we need
    # to check neighboring features.
    intersecting_ids = index.intersects(geom.boundingBox())
    # Initalize neighbors list and sum
    neighbors = []
    neighbors_sum = 0
    for intersecting_id in intersecting_ids:
        # Look up the feature from the dictionary
        intersecting_f = feature_dict[intersecting_id]

        # For our purpose we consider a feature as 'neighbor' if it touches or
        # intersects a feature. We use the 'disjoint' predicate to satisfy
        # these conditions. So if a feature is not disjoint, it is a neighbor.
        if (f != intersecting_f and
            not intersecting_f.geometry().disjoint(geom)):
            neighbors.append(intersecting_f[_NAME_FIELD])
            neighbors_sum += intersecting_f[_SUM_FIELD]
    f[_NEW_NEIGHBORS_FIELD] = ','.join(neighbors)
    f[_NEW_SUM_FIELD] = neighbors_sum
    # Update the layer with new attribute values.
    layer.updateFeature(f)

layer.commitChanges()
print 'Processing complete.'
```