



GIS Training in Akumal, Mexico

December 9-14, 2013

Working with ArcGIS for Environmental Analysis

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Dates: December 9 -14, 2013

Place: Akumal, Quintana Roo, México

Offered to: Beginners and Intermediate Students working with GIS

Cost: \$500 USD

Travel, lodging, and meals are not included, but Centro Ecológico Akumal will provide dorm rooms for \$10 USD per night or arrange discounts for lodging in the area. You will also get a 10% discount at the Turtle Bay Café and Bakery. The total cost, including airfare, lodging and meals, will be far less than a similar course in the US.

Class will start Monday, December 9 at 8:30 and will finish at noon on Saturday, December 14, after which students will be presented with their certificates. Students should plan on arriving in Akumal Sunday, December 8 as we will have a software loading social in Akumal so you can meet the other students and load ArcGIS onto your laptops.



Juniper GIS is partnering with [Centro Ecológico Akumal](#) (CEA), [Amigos de Sian Ka'an](#) (ASK), and [Global Vision International](#) (GVI) to offer a one-week GIS class for only \$500 USD. This class, [ArcGIS for Environmental Analysis](#), will focus on beginning and intermediate GIS skills for those who want to learn and/or enhance their GIS skills with a focus on conservation and natural resource applications. You will work alongside local conservation staff and students from other parts of the world. Your fees will help provide training to CEA and ASK staff and to further their conservation efforts. Students will need to bring their own laptop capable of running ArcGIS 10.1.

The class will be held at the CEA facilities in Akumal, about 1-1/2 hours from the Cancun airport and about 15 minutes north of Tulum. We are also working with CEA and ASK to arrange a tour of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve and possibly a visit to the Mayan ruins at Coba or Tulum for a small additional fee.

Centro Ecológico Akumal

CEA is working on three main conservation program fronts - marine and coastal protection, sea turtle protection and water quality, and also working on environmental sustainability and education programs.

In addition to its own independent research, CEA hosts visiting researchers and experts in various fields from around the world and has a Volunteer Program for individuals who wish to donate their time and expertise to help this small ecological group meet its goals. Some of this work might be incorporated into the GIS class, so not only will you be learning GIS, you will be helping very important work.



Amigos de Sian Ka'an

Amigos de Sian Ka'an (ASK) is an organization formed by entrepreneurs, scientists, technicians and citizens, working together since 1986 on solutions to environmental issues on Quintana Roo. Since the beginning ASK has worked toward conservation of Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site that contributes to local communities' development. ASK has been the most active organization on conservation area in Quintana Roo through scientific research, public policies, environmental education and corporate and social involvement. ASK has three main programs: Marine, Freshwater and Forest Conservation.

Global Vision International

Global Vision International is a multi-award winning social enterprise that runs conservation and community development programs around the world. Formed in 1997 we have received over 20,000 participants and receive over 2000 participants every year. GVI's mission is to build sustainable projects that achieve long term positive results. These long term projects allow volunteers to make real impactful contributions even on short programs.

Akumal

Akumal, which means “the place of the turtle” in Mayan, started as a yacht club, without a yacht. Fortunately, the owners, realizing that tourism development was growing down the coast, converted the yacht club and four hectares of land into a conservation organization, the Centro Ecológico Akumal (CEA). Thanks to the donation of this land, CEA is able to rent spaces to local businesses, and thus maintain the administrative operations of the organization. Donations to CEA go directly to the conservation programs. This is a unique situation where CEA can manage this property, called [Plaza Ukana](#) for sustainability. However, the Mexican government has plans for large developments in the area. CEA will be able to use GIS to evaluate these proposals and their impact on Akumal.

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve

"Sian Ka'an" is translated from Mayan as "where the sky is born" or "gift from the sky". The Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve was established in January 1986 by presidential decree and became part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program that same year. In 1987 the reserve was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As part of the MAB program, Sian Ka'an faces the greatest challenge of conservation: to find a way to integrate human activities without compromising other forms of life contained within its boundaries. Sian Ka'an is approximately 1.3 million acres in size and spans 120 kilometers from north to south (comprising almost one third of the Caribbean coast of Mexico).



Class Location and Lodging

The class will be held in Plaza Ukana area, where there are several restaurants, markets and stores, the Hotel Club Akumal Caribe, a dive center and the CEA facilities.

CEA has arranged for a special price of \$45 a night in the bungalows at the [Hotel Club Akumal Caribe](#) for this class. Normal rates for this time of year would be \$99 so this is a fantastic rate. You can also stay at [CEA's dorms](#) for \$10 a night. Dorm residents have access to a fully equipped kitchen and Internet.



Technical requirements

The class will be taught using ArcGIS 10.1. Students will need a computer with Window's XP with Service Pack 3, or Window's 7 with at least 2GB of ram, a CPU speed of 2.2 GHz, and an Intel Premium 4 or higher processor. We can provide evaluation copies of ArcGIS 10.1 to use during, and after you have completed the course if you do not already have ArcGIS 10.1 and Spatial Analyst on your laptop. If you want to get the software in advance, you can download an evaluation copy from ESRI at: <http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgis-for-desktop/free-trial>. The evaluation copy will be ArcGIS 10.2, but should work with the class. We will have a software and data loading social on Sunday evening, December 8th.

Payment:

Please contact [Patti](#) at Juniper GIS to verify that seats are available. You can then register at our website: <http://www.junipergis.com/training/registration/>. Juniper GIS can accept payment by Visa, Master Charge, check or Purchase Order. To hold your seat, we will need a credit card number or check, but we will not run this until the class is confirmed. We will confirm the class by November 1 so you will have plenty of time to book a flight. You can also make an online payment directly to CEA at www.ceakumal.org. Please note the name of the course in “comments” and if you will need a tax deductible receipt, please let CEA know before payment.