UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S PROGRAM IN GIS FOR SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT (PMP-GIS)

GEOG 569 | GIS WORKSHOP
SUMMER 2013

A CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE

The GEOG 569 GIS Workshop is designed as a capstone field experience in the improvement, redesign, or reengineering of sustainability management workflows involving the use of GIS. Each group scoped out an organization's existing workflows and core processes; identified best practices; and finally, prepared a business case for an improvement, redesign, or reengineering of that existing workflow for sustainability management problem-solving using GIS. The results of 2013 GIS Workshop are presented in their entirety at the end of this document.

THE PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT

Herbert Simon, in a well-known turn of phrase, suggested that everyone designs who aims at changing an existing situation into a preferred one. Anyone can imagine a preferred situation. If the preferred situation is a resilient social-ecological system capable of satisfying present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, then we say that is a preferred situation for purposes of sustainability management.

Typically only public, non-profit, and private organizations of people can actually *do* assessments and interventions aimed at changing an existing public situation into a more preferred and sustainable one. Organizations are levers capable of assessing and intervening in existing situations, but they often do things in particular ways. We call an organization's repertoire for doing things its business process. Our graduate student working groups realized that redesign and reengineering of a business process starts by deciphering an organization's core business processes and understanding what makes things tick.

Any business process is full of sub-processes and other activities that operate based on people following certain workflows and rules. Thus our challenge in the Professional Master's Program in GIS for Sustainability Management is not merely to train practitioners in how to design and test a resilient social-ecological system by integrating GIS and other computational methods; but also to train practitioners in how to make a business case to an organization of people to change some specific way they generate and use information products. This is what constitutes mastery in the practice of sustainability information science for sustainability management, something we hope that the Professional Master's Program in GIS for Sustainability Management at the University of Washington can provide to current and future generations of sustainability management practitioners working in the field.

Seattle, WA

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