Invitation to be part of the first MAPATHON in Namibia

NUST – 06 and 13th May 2019

What is a Mapathon?

A Mapathon – also called mapping party- is a coordinated mapping event. The public is invited to make online map improvements in their local area to improve coverage. Mapathons use an online site for storing map data. Mapathons are often held inside (armchair mapping) in a room with strong Wi-Fi for simultaneous access, assisted by satellite imagery (Wikipedia).
See also: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAcsCmvG2hs

Who can participate to the Mapathon?

Anybody with GIS skills. The two best skills of a Mapathoner are (i) being smart in high resolution image interpretation and (ii) being meticulous in digitising.

When and Where?

The Mapathon will be held in Lab 14 in the Land Management building on the main campus of NUST. There will be 2 sessions of 4-5 hours. The dates are Monday 6th May and 13th May 2019 starting at 8h00. **It is required that the Mapathoner attends the 2 sessions**.

Why?

The SCIONA project (running from 1 February 2018 – 31 January 2021) aims to strengthen cross-border management and wildlife law enforcement by co-designing and implementing conservation monitoring technologies with communities within the Iona - Skeleton transfrontier conservation area (TFCA) of Namibia and Angola. The study area contains Iona National Park in Angola, Skeleton Coast National Park and the adjacent Namibian communal conservancies. Part of the project involves setting up a GIS database whereby the Mapathon will greatly assist with the creation of this database.

How will it be organised?

During the first session (06 May), there will be an introduction on the exercise and the SCIONA study area, creation of the user's profile, explanation of the digitisation and legend (1 hour). The digitisation will start right after the introduction. The 13th May will start with a brief recap on the work accomplished during the first session then the Mapathoners will start digitising the rest of the SCIONA study area. Both sessions will have a coffee/tee break. There will be a minimum of 4 supervisors for each session.

What is there to gain?

- Experience in using and editing in Open Street Map in a happy and friendly atmosphere
- 20NAD of MTC credit (delivered after the session of 13th May)
- Experience on how works a Mapathon
- Your name is added as an Open Street Map contributor
- An attendance certificate delivered by the Department of Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology

If you want to register:

Please send an email to cdewasseige@nust.na with your Name, email address, cell phone number, a line telling why do you want to be part of the Mapathon and with "Mapathon" in the subject. We can accommodate **only 16 Mapathoners**. The places will be allocated on a first come first served principle.

For more information:

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr Carlos de Wasseige
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