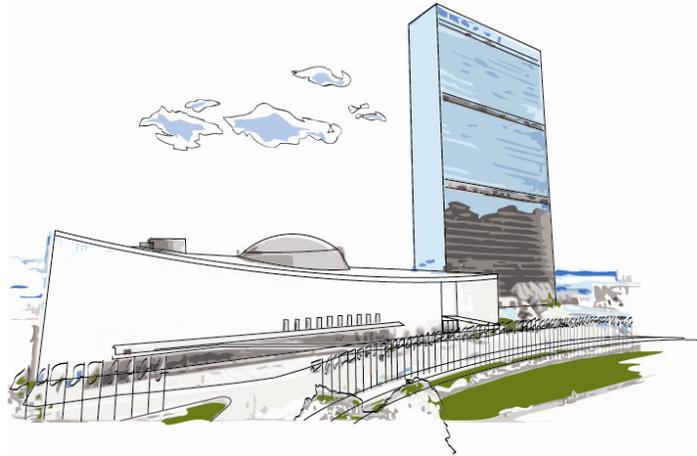




# SALB: Second Administrative Level Boundary Project



**Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
and  
Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support (DFS)**

**United Nations Seminar on Regional Cooperation on GGIM  
Doha, Qatar  
7 February 2013**



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2  
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# Outline

- Background of SALB
- Objectives
- Importance and Benefits of SALB
- Operational Concept
- Some Achievements Current Status
- Challenges
- Next Steps



# Co-ordination of Cartographic Services of Specialized Agencies and International Organizations

Resolution of 19 February 1948

Recommendations of 18 May 1949



*Office of the Director*

*Statistics Division*

*Department of Economic and Social  
Affairs*

Organize United Nations Regional  
Cartographic Conferences

*Cartographic Section*

*Logistics Support Division*

*Department of Field Support*

Provide cartographic / geographic  
services to the UN Secretariat



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# The Project Coordinators

## UN Statistics Division

- Collects, processes and disseminates statistical information;
- standardizes statistical methods, classifications and definitions;
- coordinates international statistical programmes and activities
- Manages the technical cooperation programme and
- coordinates global geospatial information management activities.

## UN Cartographic Section

The UNCS provides cartographic and geographic support to all United Nations operations inclusive of

- Security Council and senior UN management
- UN Secretariat
- UN Peace Operations and

technical assistance on international boundary issues and field mission GIS

## GGIM Secretariat = UNSD and UNCS



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# Background:

- In 2000 at the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) meeting - **international and administrative boundaries are key cross cutting layers**
- The **Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB)** project was initiated in 2001, under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- In 2009 it was agreed that the SALB project would be transferred to the United Nations Secretariat
- On 1 January 2011, the SALB project was transferred from WHO to UN Secretariat, whereby the **coordination** aspects are taken care of by the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the **technical aspects** by the United Nations Cartographic Section UNCS, Department of Field Support (DFS).



# SALB Project Objectives:

## Objective

To provide free access, for non-commercial use, to a platform for the collection, management, visualization and sharing of sub national data/information.

## The SALB Platform:

- Covers all the UN Member States
- Data is freely redistributable (under copyright)
- Validated by the National Mapping Agencies
- Standardized (international border, Metadata, spelling, coding scheme, editing protocols)



# Benefits – Data Integration and Sharing

SALB provides fundamental datasets that supports multiple regional and global developmental activities

- Improved public access to data and information
- Improved public image for all and transparency
- Established scientific, credible and replicable decision making methods
- Growth of resources and knowledge base
- Increased respect and trust among stakeholders.
- Generation of information with high values, creation of value added services and new industries
- Optimization of spatial data servicing cost

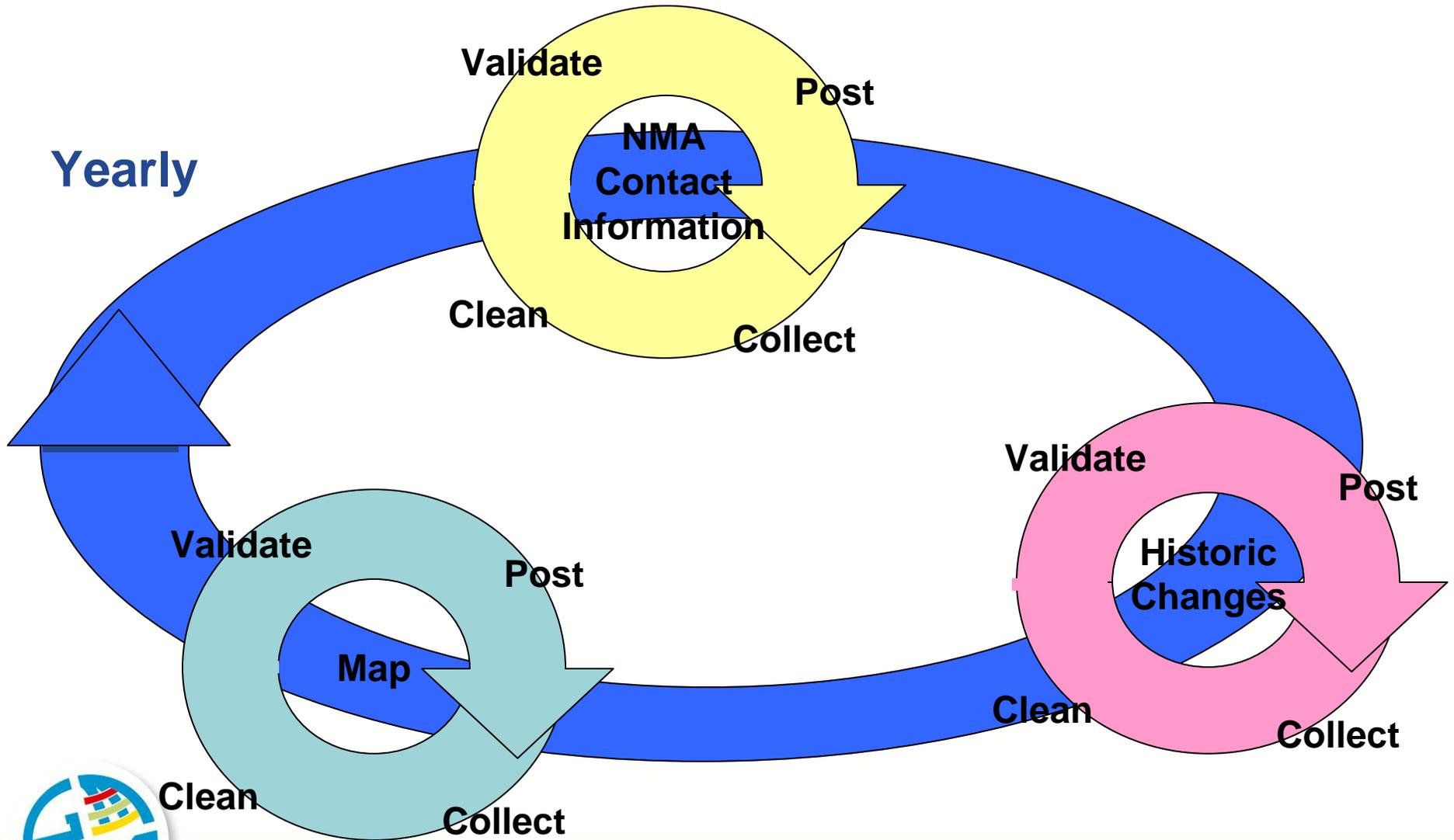


# Importance of SALB to this Region

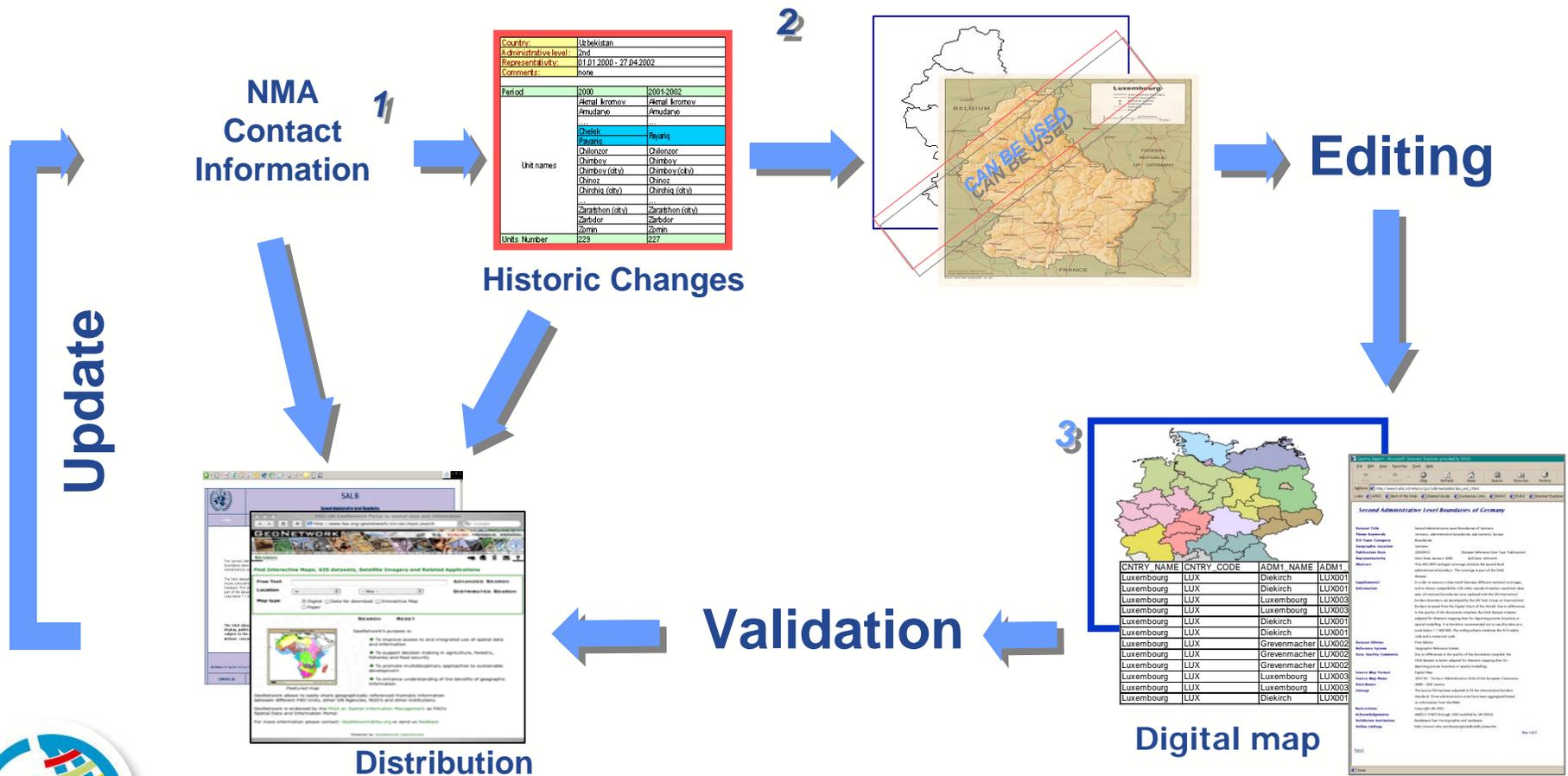
- A good example of successful regional and global cooperation among (Universities, regional organisations, national mapping agencies, GIS vendors, NGO's and development organisations) that works
- Provides a fundamental component of the geospatial base that can be used to support a variety of applications.
- An existing mechanism which allows for collaboration, information sharing and knowledge transfer among regional geospatial entities in the region
- Ownership of the SALB data and information increases the efficiency and effectiveness of data collection, management and dissemination, improves accuracy and authenticity.



# Operational Concept:

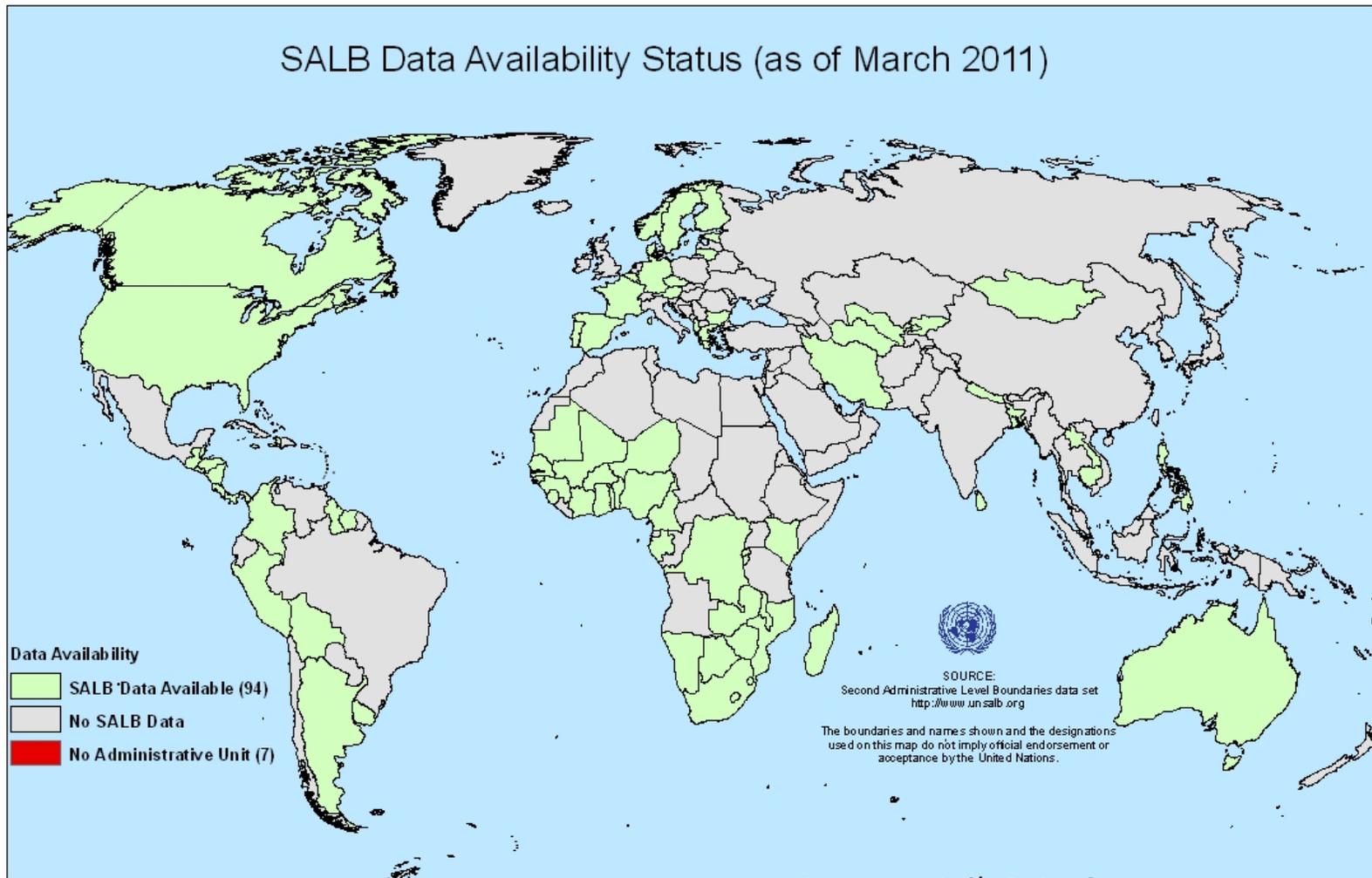


# SALB process (coordination and technical)





# SALB status map



# Some Achievements and Status

- SALB Project institutionalised
- Creation of a geospatial portal
- Register of National Mapping Agencies
- An increasing number of users
- Capacity building and strengthening of contribution of regional nodes

<b>Descriptions</b>	<b>No. of Member States</b>
Contact information of NMAs	179
Coded historic change data	172
Validated data	51
Data under validation	50
SALB registered users	1,670
UN staff who are SALB registered users	200

Data as at January 2013



# SALB Status of Middle East



January 2013

Department of Field Support  
Cartographic Section



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January 2013

Department of Field Support  
Cartographic Section



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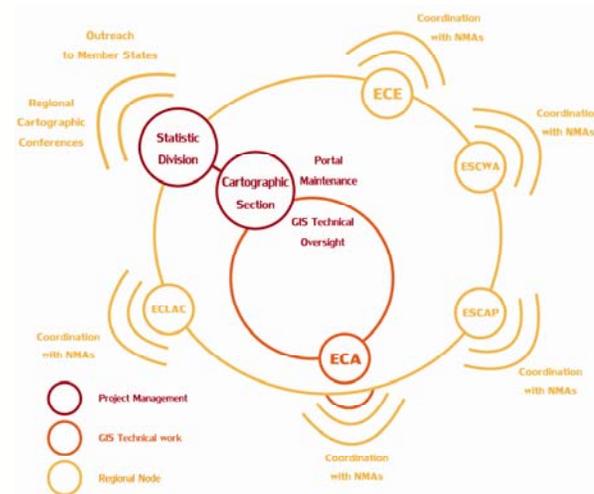
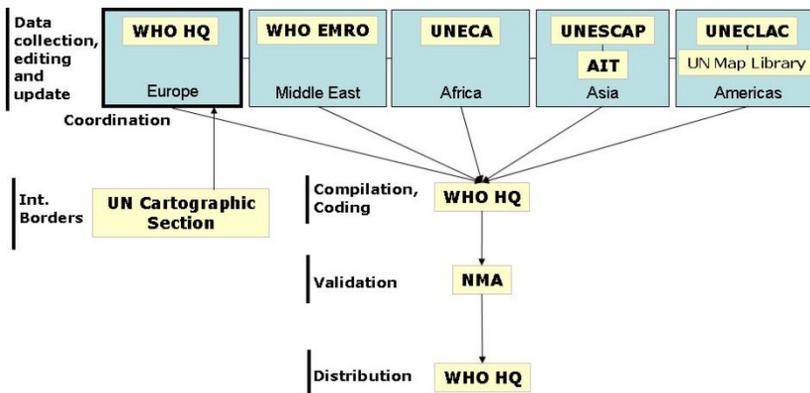
# Challenges

- **Accessing sub-national level boundary data from member states**
- **Maintaining data currency**
- **The harmonisation and validation of SALB data and UN internal datasets.**
- **Scarcity of resources to support maintenance of portal and overall management of the project tasks.**
- **Need for an appropriate data model for SALB that is accepted by all stakeholders.**



# Next Steps

UNSD to liaise with regional commission and contact NMAs  
 UNCS to assist technical oversight



- Active development in the future concerns:
- Expanding the usability of the SALB Portal (giving access to NMAs contact information site to ensure currency of information).
- Strengthening capacity building of the Member States (training workshops on data harmonization, validation, editing through the regional nodes).



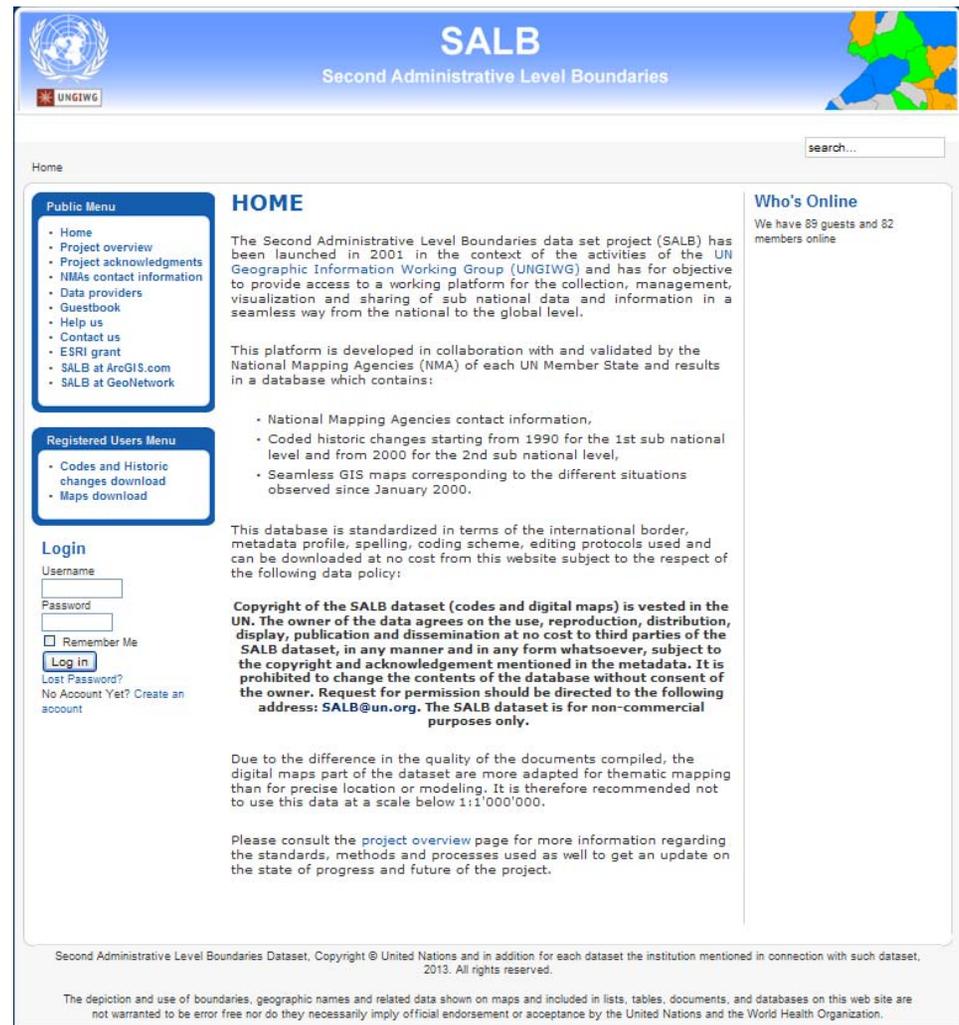
# Participate in SALB

You are invited to register and explore the SALB website and portal

[www.unsalb.org](http://www.unsalb.org)

Available are:

- Seamless administrative boundary maps
- Coded historic changes of administrative boundaries
- Contact information of national mapping agencies



The screenshot shows the SALB (Second Administrative Level Boundaries) website homepage. The header features the UN logo, the text 'SALB Second Administrative Level Boundaries', and a map of the world. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is divided into several sections: a 'Public Menu' with links like 'Home', 'Project overview', and 'NMA contact information'; a 'Registered Users Menu' with 'Codes and Historic changes download' and 'Maps download'; a 'Login' section with input fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a 'Remember Me' checkbox, and a 'Log in' button; and a 'Who's Online' section stating 'We have 89 guests and 82 members online'. The central 'HOME' section contains a detailed introduction to the SALB project, its objectives, and the data it contains, including national mapping agencies contact information, coded historic changes, and seamless GIS maps. It also includes a copyright notice and a disclaimer regarding the quality of the data and the use of boundaries.



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19  
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# Thank you

SALB coordinator

[blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org); [laaribi@un.org](mailto:laaribi@un.org)

SALB technical coordinator

[kagawa@un.org](mailto:kagawa@un.org); [velandria@un.org](mailto:velandria@un.org)

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20  
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