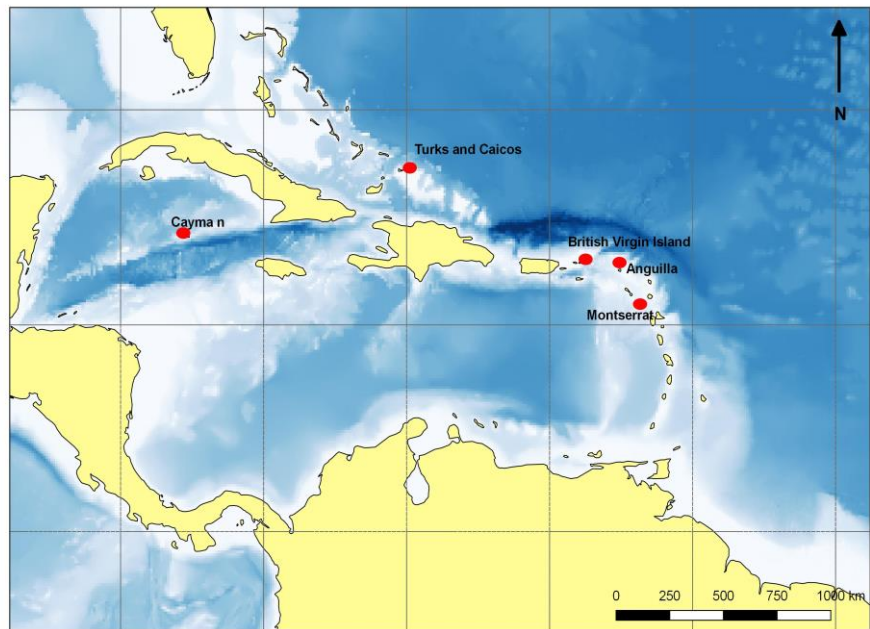
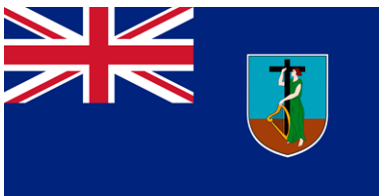


Delivering QGIS training courses (beginner and intermediate levels) in the Caribbean islands of Montserrat



March 2019



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Citation

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1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

SAERI was awarded a contract to deliver QGIS training in Montserrat from the 18th to the 22nd March 2019, as outlined in its QGIS Course proposal submitted to JNCC in November 2018.

This document is the final report on the training implementation.

2 UPDATE OF DELIVERY AGAINST TIMELINE




The following activities and timeline was submitted in the original proposal. After discussions with JNCC, the scope of work was reduced to 4 days training in Montserrat only, and the date of the training course was set at 18th – 22nd March 2019.

Original schedule as outlined in the proposal

Activity	07/01/2019	14/01/2019	21/01/2019	28/01/2019	04/02/2019	11/02/2019	18/02/2019	25/02/2019	04/03/2019	11/03/2019	18/03/2019	25/03/2019	01/04/2019
QGIS beginners training in Montserrat													
QGIS beginners training in Anguilla													
QGIS intermediate training in Anguilla													
Montserrat participants travel to Anguilla													
Montserrat participants travel to Montserrat													
Montserrat training course (in Montserrat)													

Updated schedule based on discussion (which includes travel relating to the wider data management project)

	03/03/2019	04/03/2019	05/03/2019	06/03/2019	07/03/2019	08/03/2019	09/03/2019	10/03/2019	11/03/2019	12/03/2019	13/03/2019	14/03/2019	15/03/2019	16/03/2019	17/03/2019	18/03/2019	19/03/2019	20/03/2019	21/03/2019	22/03/2019	23/03/2019	24/03/2019	25/03/2019	26/03/2019	27/03/2019	28/03/2019	29/03/2019	30/03/2019	31/03/2019	01/04/2019	
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Key	
QGIS conference	
Travel days	
Time in Montserrat	

In addition, following the start-up meeting with JNCC, Government of Montserrat and SAERI, it was agreed that the training course delivery would also provide an opportunity for GOM Lavern Rogers-Ryan to be supported to deliver the beginners QGIS course to enable longer term sustainability of the training deliverable. After this, Lavern will be able to continue to deliver QGIS beginner courses in Montserrat (and beyond if required).

SAERIs trainer is Giovanni Manghi (see proposal for his biography) who is a QGIS specialist and has delivered QGIS training for a number of years.

2.1 TRAINING COURSE

The training course was held from the 18th to the 22nd March 2019 in Montserrat. The first 2 days are the beginners’ course and the final 2 days are the intermediate course.

Attendance was been good with a minimum of 10 people per day from a broad cross sector of government departments, which is a positive step towards increasing the number of spatial data users in Montserrat. The concept and value of low-cost free software was also discussed.

2 days of basic QGIS training was delivered by Lavern Ryan with support from Giovanni Manghi, and 2 days of intermediate QGIS training was delivered by Giovanni Manghi.

Some points that came out of the training

- most people felt the training was too short or just long enough (it was indeed a long program, and the total amount of hours just barely enough to scratch the surface). The main goal of making a strong case for GOM employees to think about using GIS (now they know they can access one at absolutely no charge), was achieved and now also persons that had absolutely no GIS background know what type of results they can achieve.
- There were a number of persons that had already a GIS background and that probably were left wanting more. This could possibly leave a door open to a more advanced training, eventually something that will aim to aid specific technicians/employees solve their very own, very real life use cases.
- Most of the trainees demonstrated interest in the arguments of the training, and questions were asked throughout the course (even if they were quite general, something that is not completely negative as it helps a lot the trainers as they are not being constantly interrupted/distracted by people talking about things not about the training).
- There were no major issues with both the software

CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

Lavern Ryan and Giovanni Manghi presented certificates at the end of the course.

- 16 x 2 training certificates were given to the trainees:
- Natural GIS released one certificate and the QGIS Project (i.e. the official QGIS certificate) released one certificate.
- Note: These certificates had a cost 20 euros which means that 320+ euros were given back to the wider QGIS project, helping its long-term sustainability as well.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participant feedback forms were handed to all participants on the last day of the course, and the full results are outlined in [annex 2](#). A summary of the results are presented graphically below. The majority of participants rated the duration, quality and trainers as 3-5 on a scale of 1-5 i.e. good or above, which is very positive (figure 3). Equally, the majority of the participants said that training course would be useful for the future and the training goals were achieved. There were some negative responses, but these were few and to be expected

in the context of this type of technical course where some participants might not be interested in this level of detailed skill, or might be overly skilled for the level of the course.



Figure 1: Did the course meet expectations, was it long enough, good quality and how were the trainers?

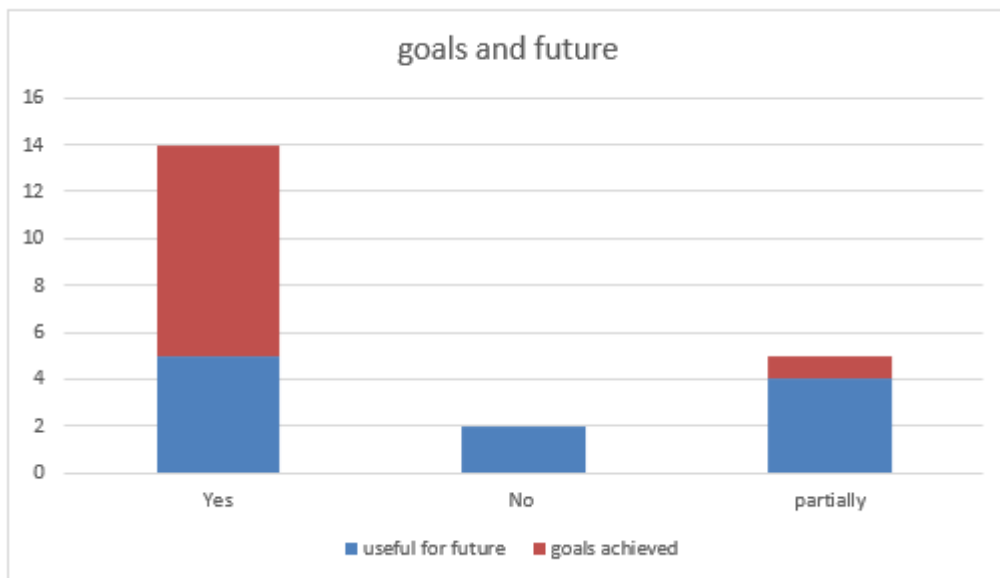


Figure 2: Is the course useful and did it fulfil its goals?

3. PUBLICITY

The Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment provided an update on the training course on their Facebook page:

‘As part of the Data Management Project supported by the JNCC and SAERI a four day training session is being conducted this week in the use of QGIS, an open source software for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This basic and intermediate level training is aimed at increasing the capacity of GIS users, while enhancing the application of GIS across a wide section of disciplines on Montserrat.

Participants in attendance were from The Montserrat Customs & Revenue Service, the Montserrat Port Authority, the Royal Montserrat Police Service, the Environmental Health Department, the Ministry of Communication, Works, Labour and Energy, Montserrat Utilities Limited, the Disaster Management Co-ordination Agency, the Audit Department, the Montserrat Statistics Department, the Department of Environment, the Lands and Survey Department and the Physical Planning Unit.

Mr Giovanni Manghi of Natural GIS and GIS Manager Mrs Lavern Ryan are the trainers for the four-day training session.

There were regular tweets about the course during the week of training and a later one about the certificate award presentation.

REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for the long-term sustainability and use of QGIS following the training course

- The on island trainer Lavern Ryan is confident and competent and is now well positioned to deliver regular basic and intermediate QGIS courses as required. We recommend that there is at least an annual offer of this 4-day QGIS training course on island to enable the continue use and uptake of QGIS across Montserrat.
- The 4-day course did not enable 1-1 demonstrations of solutions to specific tasks for specific departments. Follow up 1-1 on the job task-specific training and trouble-shooting would also be useful to enable and encourage use. This could be delivered by on island trainer Lavern Ryan with additional technical support from SAERI as required.
- Additional ‘call down’ remote technical support would be a low-cost quick win option for solving any specific requests that relate to QGIS that cannot be solved on island.
- To keep people refreshed and enthused it might be an option to have regular workshops – every 6 months – to talk through how to do new things/new tools etc. in QGIS.
- The training course initiated discussions about exploring the potential for reducing GIS licenses.

Good morning everyone!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to this week's training on the use of QGIS. I would particularly like to give a warm welcome to Mr. Giovanni Manghi who travelled all the way from Portugal to assist in conducting this week's training. You have arrived on the island at time when we are celebrating our heritage. I trust that you had the opportunity to experience some of the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. I also hope that your experiences thus far have been inspiring and that you will become a goodwill ambassador, and promote the island and its people.

Our Government is happy to be working with you to train and develop the IT and GIS skills of our people. Training in the use of this free software, QGIS, offers another opportunity for persons in Montserrat to become more involved in the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). We acknowledge that there is great potential to be harnessed through training and development of our people and this initiative helps to create a culture of continuous learning and development while at the same time giving the participants exposure to new technologies.

Today, in our midst, are representatives from many disciplines, whose work can be further enhanced by the use of a tool such as QGIS: The Montserrat Customs & Revenue Service, Department of Environment, The Royal Montserrat Police Service, The Environmental Health Department, Ministry of Communication Works and Labour, The Lands and Survey Department, Montserrat Utilities Limited, Disaster Management Co-ordination Agency, the Physical Planning Unit, Statistics Department and Port Authority.

As many of you are aware, the application of GIS has been used in many areas of development on the island. Just to name a few:

1. Assisting in locating the sites for the Montserrat solar and geothermal projects
2. Useful in the creation of the Physical Development Plan for the north of Montserrat.
3. Mapping critical facilities and shelters to aid in disaster mitigation and recovery
4. Informing environmental impact assessments for a variety of projects
5. Supporting the recently concluded inter-censual count and labour force survey.

After your exposure this week, this list of possible applications will grow by leaps and bounds.

Permit me to also acknowledge the efforts of our partners of this the Data Management Project - the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the South Atlantic Environment Research Institute (SAERI). At the beginning of this Project, it was envisaged that Montserrat would further build its capacity and expertise in the area of data management.

My Ministry, supported the attendance of our GIS Manager, Mrs. Lavern Ryan at a QGIS Workshop and User Conference in A Coruna, Spain last week where Mrs Ryan had the opportunity to meet the developers of the software/project and meet other users and learn how QGIS has enhanced their workflows. The knowledge gained will be shared during this week of training, as a co-trainer, alongside with Mr. Giovanni Manghi who was also in attendance at the meetings in Spain last week and is also a developer of the software.

It is my sincere hope that you do take advantage of this opportunity to learn, grow and develop in this ever emerging field of technology. Learn as much as you can this week, and ask as many questions as you need to. In addition, share the knowledge you have gained with as many of your colleagues as possible.

In closing, I encourage you to learn as much as you can! Channel your creativity to identify how you make the best use of this new information/knowledge! I look forward to seeing how you will apply this new knowledge to improve the services we provide on the island. With that being said, I extend best wishes for a successful training programme.

ANNEX 2 - PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM

The following questions were asked on the participant feedback form:

Questions with scores from 1 (min) and 5 (max):

1. Did the training live up your **expectations**?
2. Was the training long enough? - duration
3. How do you evaluate the overall **quality** of the training?
4. How do you overall evaluate the **trainers**?

evaluation of trainers: for each of the trainers:

1. Was the trainer able to stimulate your interest in the taught arguments?
2. How do you evaluate the ability of the trainer to explain the taught arguments?
3. How do you evaluate the availability of the trainer about helping you to overcome problems and difficulties?

question with answer "yes, "no" or "partially"

1. Do you think that what you learned in the training will be useful for your professional activities?
2. Do you think the goals of the training were achieved?

RESULTS

questions with scores from 1 (min) and 5 (max):

	1	2	3	4	5
Did the training live up your expectations?		3		7	2
Was the training long enough?	1	1	6	1	2
How do you evaluate the overall quality of the training?			3	4	5
How do you overall evaluate the trainers?			1	4	6

evaluation of trainers:

giovanni

	1	2	3	4	5
Was the trainer able to stimulate your interest in the taught arguments?			4	1	1
How do you evaluate the ability of the trainer to explain the taught arguments?				3	3
How do you evaluate the availability of the trainer about helping you to overcome problems and difficulties?			2		4
Was the trainer able to stimulate your interest in the taught arguments?		1	1	1	
How do you evaluate the ability of the trainer to explain the taught arguments?			1	1	1
How do you evaluate the availability of the trainer about helping you to overcome problems and difficulties?			1		2
Was the trainer able to stimulate your interest in the taught arguments?			5		5
How do you evaluate the ability of the trainer to explain the taught arguments?			2	4	3
How do you evaluate the availability of the trainer about helping you to overcome problems and difficulties?			2	3	4
question with answer "yes, "no" or "partially"		Yes	No	partially	
Do you think that what you learned in the training will be useful for your professional activities?			5	2	4
Do you think the goals of the training were achieved?			9	0	1