

# Rio Tinto: Global GIS Data

Rio Tinto is a world leader in mining and processing of the earth's mineral resources with mine sites situated all over the world. In 2005, information on the size and location of land owned, leased or managed in close proximity to biodiversity-rich habitats was obtained for the first time. Having an understanding of the location of locally, nationally, regionally or internationally identified areas of biodiversity importance assists Rio Tinto with identifying the extent of impact of company operations on biodiversity-rich or sensitive habitats/ecosystems. To ensure a consistent approach across the Group, biodiversity-rich habitats have been identified as:

- National protected areas as defined by IUCN's globally accepted definition, which are registered with the World Conservation Union, and managed in accordance with IUCN protected areas management categories I - IV;
- Globally identified sites of significant international or global value that are recognised by the following key international biodiversity conventions ;
- UNESCO World Heritage Convention;
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar); and
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves Programme.

These large environmental data sets acquired by Rio Tinto created the need for a global Geographic Information System (GIS) that could be accessed from all sites.

WBM built an interactive web based GIS that allowed Rio staff all over the world the opportunity to access and query their data to check it's relevance in their local area.

## Client

Rio Tinto

## Date

2005

## Services & Expertise Provided

Create validate, assess and collate GIS and other data;

Development of data management protocols;

Assess Rio Tinto resource requirements for spatial data systems;

High quality GIS mapping and analysis;

Global interactive web based GIS; and

Query functions of multiple data sets.

