SHARING A PHOTO (AND GEOTAGGING IT)

A photo taken in the field is an easy way to share meaningful information with other project actors. A « geotag » is a marker that adds geographical information or, more specifically, the location to a photo.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

A geotagged photo can help to show partners (on a map) infrastructure that is under construction or to analyse (on a map) damage following a catastrophe. Geotagged photos can also facilitate remote mapping with OpenStreetMap (OSM) and all types of planning and coordination based on maps.

• A photo can say a lot about a situation and, if it is easy to share, it can be even more effective
• A « geotag » allows you to pinpoint the location where a photo was taken on a map
• A geotagged photo released under a Creative Commons licence can be reused by anyone wishing to complete the OSM map.

• Need for an internet or phone network to share the photo

Prerequisites

To take a geotagged photo, activate GPS tracking in your smartphone « camera » app:
- Start the smartphone camera and open the settings,
- Select « geotagging », « location tags », « GPS location info » or « save location » (instructions will vary depending on your phone).

Enable smartphone GPS tracking.

HOW CAN WE DO IT?

1. Take a photo.
2. In the photo gallery, select the photo and then the sharing icon.
3. Choose the application you want to use to send the photo, such as: Skype, WhatsApp, email (or by MMS if your device has a SIM card).
4. To see where the photo was taken when using a mobile device, go to the photo gallery, look for the photo options and choose « Show on a Map » to see the location on a Google map.
5. To retrieve a photo from a smartphone when using a computer with no internet connection, connect the smartphone to the computer with a USB cable and find the photo in the photo folder associated with your phone.
6. To find the geographical coordinates for the photo when looking at it on a computer, open the properties.

The majority of sharing apps, as well as standard messaging (SMS/MMS), do not include the photo location information. It is preferable to send geotagged photos by email.

If you want your photo to be used for mapping in OpenStreetMap, don’t forget to mention to your counterparts that it has an open, or Creative Commons, licence.