Metadata Sheet Template

Dataset Title:	Country Outlines
Description:	Country outlines shapefile. The Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL) is an initiative implemented by FAO within the CountrySTAT and Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) projects.
Computation:	.
Data Source/provider:	FAO GAUL http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/srv/en/metadata.show?id=12691
Spatial Extent:	Global
Spatial Resolution:	
Year of Publication:	2014
Time Period:	Relevant data from 2013? i.e. fits 2010 baselin.
Unit:	Transboundary river basin.
Additional Notes:	The GAUL compiles and disseminates the best available information on administrative units for all the countries in the world, providing a contribution to the standardization of the spatial dataset representing administrative units. The GAUL always maintains global layers with a unified coding system at country, first (e.g. departments) and second administrative levels (e.g. districts). Where data is available, it provides layers on a country by country basis down to third, fourth and lowers levels. The overall methodology consists in a) collecting the best available data from most reliable sources, b) establishing validation periods of the geographic features (when possible), c) adding selected data to the global layer based on the last country boundaries map provided by the UN Cartographic Unit (UNCS), d) generating codes using GAUL Coding System and e) distribute data to the users (see TechnicalArticleG2014.pdf). Because GAUL works at global level, unsettled territories are reported. The approach of GAUL is to deal with these areas in such a way to preserve national integrity for all disputing countries (see TechnicalArticleG2014.pdf and G2014_DisputedAreas.dbf). GAUL is released once a year and the target beneficiary of GAUL data is the UN community and other authorized international and national partners. Data might not be officially validated by authoritative national sources and cannot be distributed to the general public. A disclaimer should always accompany any use of GAUL data. About 49 countries or other special areas have been updated respect to the previous release. Moreover, the coastline of 92 countries or other special areas have been updated using Open Street Map (see ReleaseNoteGAUL2014.pdf). GAUL keeps track of administrative units that has been changed, added or dismissed in the past for political causes. Changes implemented in different years are recorded in GAUL on different layers. For this reason the GAUL product is not a single layer but a group of layers, named "GAUL Set" (see ReleaseNoteGAUL2014.pdf).
Date:	18/2/2014
Format:	.SHP files with associated files, in zipped folder. ArcGIS compatible.
File Name:	GAUL_countries_20131201.zip
Contact person:	Will Darwall, IUCN
Contact details:	William.DARWALL@iucn.org