

GIS-Conversion of the Population and Housing Census Data and Harmonization with Other Government Databases for Use by Planning and Development Agencies

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SUMMARY

The country's demographic data is a key component of the socio-economic planning data sets. In the area of natural resources development and environmental implications, the population data is a fundamental need for assessing the level of human pressure on the land and its associated resources. Ghana has one of the best census data sets over four decades of population head count, however the georeferencing of the data sets has not received maximum attention for various technical and financial reasons. Now that GIS is becoming indispensable tool for spatial planning, and the population and housing data sets are key component of the planning data sets, the census data have to be converted into centrally georeferenced mode for automated uses by all planning and development agencies. Under the European Development Fund (EDF), there is an EU-Government of Ghana project, which has set in motion the conversion of the Census Enumeration Maps from paper to electronic mode and development of a comprehensive geo-database with the census data. The co-operation between the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS) is to help the GSS to build its capacity in the digital mapping technology for sustaining the GIS-culture in the management of the nation's demographic data. This presentation demonstrates the processes of the map conversion, the database development and the various products that could be generated from the use of the database for spatial analysis and geo-visualization in maps.

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