

CHILEAN EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING THE NATIONAL LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

Generating tools for decision makers about land management

Alvaro Medina

Technical Secretary, National Land Information System

Ministry of National Property

Juan Antonio Ríos # 6, Santiago de Chile

Phone (56-2) 351 24 00, Fax (56-2) 351 21 03

Amedina@mbienes.cl

In Chile there are many public organisms involved in the generation, use and management of land information. In general, these institutions produce and manage data bases by using modern and highly automatized technologies. However, this process has been developed with lack of coordination among mentioned organisms. Our traditional usages in the capture and management of land information indicate that different sectors develop the process responding to their particular needs, without considering what happens in the neighbour organism related to these matters. Likewise, even the number of institutions that built land information systems is increasing (supported in GIS technologies) they are not able to dialogue between themselves.

In order to face these problems, chilean government is developing the project "Sistema Nacional de Información Territorial" –SNIT- National Land Information System (www.snit.gob.cl) which pretend to establish the well known concept of National Spatial Data Infraestructure. By means of a mandate dictated on september 2001, the President of the Republic set specific guidelines to create the SNIT, asigning directive tasks in a technical and executive secretariat settled in the Ministry of National Property. This secretariat coordinates a large number of State agencies, whose main efforts are focused in formulating a national policy for the management of land information, sustained in the advances provided by information and communication technologies in these topics.

The SNIT aims to modernize the current land information's way of management (capture, use, maintenance, transferring) by the side of State agencies, starting from an unshared and individualistic scheme to reach a coordinated and cooperative one. Its development implies to get a stage which is posterior to the incorporation of new technologies, that is to modify management procedures. This results in an interinstitutional arrangement that foster the joint work related to the capture and use of land information, enhancing celerity and accuracy for: access, processing, verifying, certificating, transferring and layer overlapping.

All of the just exposed is based on three technological foundations: the accurate location of spatial data, their management in the web and on line, and the use of GIS.

Therefore, the SNIT is a cooperative and transversal management model, sustained on the the right profit of information and communication technologies, enabling a qualitative jump respect to availability and access to land information for government authorities as well as common citizens.

At the present time, we have a national plan for land information capturing and standardizing, which has been formulated for the period 2003-2005. This plan was built as the result of a strong work of multisectorial coordination, where every participating organism contributed with experience and knowledge from their particular field of action.

In this plan several activities have been programmed in order to fulfill the following objectives:

- Standardize and normalize land information existing in the country.
- Build the standard geographic base formed by the core data of our national territory.
- Adopt international standards refered to geographic information.
- Establish regional commitees for descentralizing land information management.
- Elaborate the land information portal for discovering, evaluating and accessing to geospatial data.
- Formulate projects for capturing lacking information in the country.
- Establish the SNIT advisory committee, in order to involve all the national geographic community in formulating a policy for land information management.

- Participate actively in the international community of Geospatial Data Infrastructures.
- Give legal sustainability to SNIT by means of a national policy.

At this time, based on a Second Mandate of the President, signed on april 2003, we are working in the elaboration of a Basic National Policy, as a proposal, for the management of Land Information, and the implementation of our national plan of land information. The policy proposal have to be done on december.