YEARLY REPORT: "Partnering with Higher Education to Enhance Envirnomental Management through the use of GIS

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**¨Partnering with Higher Education to Enhance Environmental Management through
the use of GIS¨**

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During the first year of the project, the director concentrated on tasks concerned
with strengthening and development of the GIS lab at the University of Quintana Roo.
These tasks relate specifically to **Activity 1-5** of the Work Plan. A development plan,
**"Programa para el Desarrollo y Mantenimiento del Laboratorio de Sistemas de
Información Geográfica (SIG)",** was written in August, 2000 stating the GIS lab
functions, its current project workload as well as strategies for data capture, research and
education, and personnel management. Moreover, the first year was pivotal in seeking and
submitting to funding sources to purchase and upgrade hardware and software. The lab
was equipped with ESRI/ERDAS software, and most importantly, the staff was motivated
to learn and use this software instead of older and obsolete GIS and computer assisted
drawing (CAD) software. The improvement of old computers and purchase of new
computers also facilitated the transition of software used and enhanced the capability and
productivity of the lab. Related to the objectives of **Activity 1-5,** was the ArcView
training provided to students in the GIS course. The GIS lab now counts with 3 part-time
students who have a working knowledge of ArcView and ambitions to pursue more
education and experience in GIS. Recently, a new version of the growth plan was written,
"Plan de Crecimiento para el Centro de Información Geográfica 2001-2002" stating the
successes as well as shortfalls in the past year and recommendations to overcome current
development and management obstacles and serve as a guide for the newly hired GIS lab
director.

This yearly report begins with successes achieved in **Activity 1-5**, since it was
crucial in order to proceed with the other activities in the Work Plan. With respect to
Activity 1-1, the deliverables have already been achieved, defining the GIS lab as the
"Centro de Información Geográfica" (CIG) and the regional GIS initiative project as
"Sistema de Información Geográfica Peninsular del Yucatán" (SIGPY). Both logos
for **CIG** and **SIGPY** in addition to their mission statements have already been designed and
formalized. A compilation of available GIS data for the region **(Activity 1-4)** has also been
completed. The deliverables concerning with developing an internet presence (**Activity 1-
2**) are currently underway and facilitated with the recent hire of a web-page builder through
the project. However, until recently, these deliverables were hampered by the lack of
available funds to purchase a server and 2 workstations for web page building tasks and
storing and serving information. Considerable advancements have also been achieved with
respect to deliverables within **Activity 1-3** which includes a list of important "players" and
potential members for the regional GIS governing board. Recent developments in the
project with the hiring of a project administrator, web-page builder, and a new project and
GIS lab director should greatly facilitate the completion of rest of the deliverables related to
Phase I.