



YEARLY REPORT: “Partnering with Higher Education to Enhance Environmental Management through the use of GIS”

Eddie Ellis, UQROO

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For more information contact: Pamela Rubinoff, Coastal Resources Center, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island. 220 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882
Telephone: 401.874.6224 Fax: 401.789.4670 Email: rubi@gso.uri.edu

This five year project aims to conserve critical coastal resources in Mexico by building capacity of NGOs, Universities, communities and other key public and private stakeholders to promote an integrated approach to participatory coastal management and enhanced decision-making. This publication was made possible through support provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Environment and Natural Resources Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. PCE-A-00-95-0030-05.



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“Partnering with Higher Education to Enhance Environmental Management through the use of GIS”

Edward A. Ellis, Project Director
University of Quintana Roo
Chetumal, Mexico

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.