

Due to the developing of GIS-Agadir Project, Mr. Mohammed Tita, the General Manager of Agadir's Urban Agency, gave an interview to GRAFCAN about the importance of the availability of an excellent Geographic Information System. According to Mr. Mohammed Tita's opinion, this Geographic Information System should not only contain updated data, but also it might become a faithful reproduction of the original land situation. Moreover, the General Manager of Agadir's Urban Agency also emphasized the GIS Agadir Project's benefits and advantages to the different fields, public organisms and the whole citizenship.

1) What are the benefits you hope to achieve with the finalization of this project?

The completion of the SIT-AGADIR project will be a great addition to the IT tools at the disposal of the Urban Agency of Agadir. This is mainly because it will provide an up-to-date database that is managed within an Information System. Furthermore, it will allow the completion of orthophotos and topographic maps on a scale of 1:5000 and 1:1000 in urban and rural areas which are enormously important within our territory of intervention. In addition, this project will allow the implementation of a Geographic Information System, hence offering easy access to data through both spatial and attribute queries. Finally, it will lay a solid foundation for the development of GIS applications.

2) What will be the main sectors (transport, industry...) of the project?

All the sectors that are of relevance to urban studies and the production of urban planning documents such as:

- Housing & real estate
- Industry
- Transport
- Tourism
- Public facilities
- Agriculture
- Fishing
- Health
- Education
- Environment
- etc.

3) What will be the main advantages for the general public and administration?

The main advantages for the general public are:

- Openness and transparency.
- Easy access to information.
- Improved citizen closeness and responsiveness.
- A participatory tool that involves the general public to contribute in the decision making process.

The main advantages for the administration are:

- Better decision making.
- Improved efficiency in the execution of tasks.
- Improved accuracy and precision during data analysis.
- Enhanced respect of deadlines due to task automation.
- Traceability of workflows.

4) What is the goal of this project? With this project are you able to solve various problems such as planning, management, and territorial organization?

Among the goals of this project, is the reinforcement of efficiency, transparency and consistency of the administration's interventions through the integration of a wide range of sectors into a Geographic Information System. Thereby, this project will provide a framework to face many challenges that hinder the processes of urban planning and territorial management such as:

- The lack of updated topographic maps.
- The lack of updated and consistent geographic databases (hence making the development of spatial applications very difficult).
- The redundancy of data.
- The difficulties faced during the investigation of urban and rural growth and change.
- The difficulties faced during the decision making process.
- The lack of tools to perform spatial analysis of high accuracy.

5) What is your overall opinion on the Territorial Information Systems of Canarias?

It's a comprehensive, consistent and easy to manipulate tool. Indeed, it is a source of inspiration to us.

6) What qualities in the system here would you like to use en the System in Agadir?

In many aspects, SIT- Canarias is a great example of a comprehensive and mature Geographic Information System. To cite but a few qualities:

- The rich diversity of the data used.
- The consistency of data despite the differences of scales between urban and rural areas.
- The use of a unified and standardized data model which is adopted by different administrations.
- The publication of the information related to urban planning through a geoportal.
- The frequency at which the data is updated.
- The publication of spatial web services that are OGS (Open Geospatial Consortium) compliant.
- The robust hardware infrastructure, which has the ability to maintain the performance of the system even in instances of incidents.
- The enforced security policy that protects the data on the web.