

Geographic Information System and Sustainable Development

Most sustainable development decisions are inherently multidisciplinary or cross-sectoral, because they require trade-offs between conflicting goals of different sectors. However, most natural resource development agencies are single-sector oriented. Geographic Information System (GIS) technology can help establish cross-sectoral communication - by providing not only very powerful tools for storage and analysis of multisectoral spatial and statistical data, but also by integrating databases of different sectors in the same format, structure and map projection in the GIS system. This website (<http://www.fao.org/sd/eidirect/gis/Elgis000.htm>) provides a background to FAO and natural resource data bases, and an overview of concepts and technical aspects of GIS, applications of GIS technology, poverty and food insecurity mapping and global datasets in digital format, as well as examples of hunger and poverty maps.