

URISA's Third Caribbean GIS Conference "Shattering Barriers ... Building Bridges"

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Cayman Islands GIS: A multifaceted resource

ABSTRACT

The foundation of the national GIS for the Cayman Islands is the Torrens based system of land tenure and the resultant compulsory registration of all parcels of land within the country. This system is underpinned by a comprehensive legal cadastre, its component parts being the Land Registers and Registry Maps. The Cayman Islands Government via the Lands & Survey Department has gradually evolved a GIS Data Model to serve as the high-level framework for managing GIS data assets within the context of providing GIS services. The government Financial Management Initiative (FMI) has identified the GIS as an important revenue generation resource. This has enabled ongoing reinvestment and consolidation of the system, with commensurate enhancement of its capabilities and value.

Development of the model was initiated in the late 1980's when the decision was made to convert all paper records into digital form. A strategic plan was devised to achieve a number of goals including to identify, model, and leverage spatial and related data to improve business practices; provide a better way to maintain, manage, and share geographic information throughout government and the private sector; and eliminate redundant copies of data accessed by users and applications, thereby increasing efficiency and quality of data.

Whilst the core functionality of the GIS is centered on land records management, ongoing initiatives at the government level continue to define the terms of reference for the model. These include disaster preparation, mitigation and response – incorporating the TAOS storm modeling facility, 3D visualization, the delivery of web based information services, the support of emergency services and 911, mobile GIS, seismic monitoring, and modeling of hydrographic survey data.

Many of these projects will be examined, and the future path for continued development and enhancement of the Cayman Islands National GIS will be presented.

Alan Jones

Director

Lands & Survey Department
Cayman Islands Government
PO Box 1089GT
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands

Email: Alan.Jones@gov.ky

Garry Green

GIS Systems Development Manager

Lands & Survey Department
Cayman Islands Government
PO Box 1089GT
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands

Email: Garry.Green@gov.ky