

# THE INTEGRATION OF DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES IN SMALL SCALE VEGETATION SURVEY FOR LAND USE PLANNING.

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Small scale vegetation survey for land use planning has for many years been focussed on producing a vegetation map with covering report as final product. Such a map can only reflect patterns at one particular moment, of ten many years ago, due to the time gap between the date of collection of the imagery used for the map (aerial photography, and in the last decade satellite imagery) and the date of printing of the map.

It is argued that with new technological means available, (small scale) vegetation survey for land use planning should from now on concentrate on setting up a complete information system for, as far as possible, real time information on the vegetation resource. In such a system not only patterns but also processes should be incorporated, as well as direct communication lines to the user community. A request from the planning or decision-making side could then be answered with data of the actual pattern and actual stage of the process.

Such a system requires a structured integration of the various techniques now available, whereby each technique is used complementary to the others in its optimum capacity of data collection. Against this background six survey techniques are being discussed, viz. (i) optically and (ii) digitally processed satellite imagery, (iii) standard and (iv) special purpose aerial photography, (v) direct observation from low flying aircraft, and (vi) ground truth collection. Each of these techniques is evaluated on its capacity of generating data on patterns and processes, procedures to integrate the

various techniques into one vegetation data information system are outlined and discussed.

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