

First Meeting of the Working Group on the Geographic Information System and Website of COSIPLAN

(WG GIS/WEB COSIPLAN)

May 20, 2014
Montevideo, Uruguay

Report of the meeting

On May 20, 2014, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay, Ministry of Public Works and Services, took place the First Meeting of the Working Group on the Geographic Information System and Website of COSIPLAN. The meeting was attended by delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The meeting agenda and list of participants is attached as Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

The objectives of this meeting were:

- Make an assessment of the progress of the development of Geographic Information System COSIPLAN, and ongoing activities.
- Review and set update guidelines of the Work Plan for the development of GIS COSIPLAN.
- Initiate a debate that will aim to establish the basic guidelines for the development of Web Site COSIPLAN.

The work session began with the words of Uruguay's Secretary of Transportation Mr. Pablo Genta, who among other aspects welcomed all attendees. For his part, Mr. Rigoberto Garcia, representing of the Presidency Pro Tempore of COSIPLAN, highlighted the progress and results achieved in the development of GIS COSIPLAN. Finally Mrs. Graciela Oporto, responsible for the Coordination of this Working Group, emphasized the unprecedented experience of this collaborative work for the creation of a tool, the Geographic Information System, which will improve not only the quality of work in which it is applied, but it also is going to become a way of integration of knowledge. She also said that these advances were possible because these were based on the agreements reached between the UNASUR Member States.

The activities were developed according to the Agenda of the Meeting, contemplating two sessions, the first of it during the morning, based on the GIS COSIPLAN and the second one in the afternoon dedicated to COSIPLAN Website.

GIS - COSIPLAN Session

The Working Group Coordination, in charge of Argentina, began activities stating the background and objectives from the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 and its relationship with the Working Group, as well as the goals of the day. Referring to GIS COSIPLAN it was highlighted the need to develop the Geographic Information of each country, and adapt it to the agreed rules as an essential requirement

for the integration of the information and to form a consistent database for UNASUR under the Work Plan. About the development of a Website for COSIPLAN, it is highlighted the need to establish on its treatment, the agreement on basic guidelines that mark the way forward. The presentation is attached as Annex 3. –

Afterwards proceeded to describe the progress of GIS COSIPLAN, standing out the following:

- Basic guidelines for the development of GIS COSIPLAN: led to the formulation of the poll / survey on availability of geographic information in each country.
- Object Catalog: is in a final stage of consolidation by the Data Dictionary, and constitute the basic documents for the standardization of geographic information;
- Rules and Topological Relations: highlighting the agreement that will apply those which are vital in the use of GIS.
- Geographic Information Metadata: agreement on the application of Latin American metadata profile (LAMP), and the need to prioritize the completion of the items that it considers.

The presentation is attached as Annex 4.

Subsequently, the Work Plan and activities that address the next steps and actions in development for the implementation of the Assistance of UNASUR Common Initiatives Found, was presented. As part of the implementation of these funds is expected to hire the services of a professional team that will, among other goals, integrate information and GIS COSIPLAN metadata; support countries in the methodologies to reach agreed interoperability standards, and have the information for its publication and use under protocols “wms” and “wfs” type and under format files that can be downloaded from the Website COSIPLAN (shapefile). Work Plan and presentation as Exhibits 5 and 6 are attached.

Finishing the morning session, and in order to move forward in the next phases of the Work Plan, thematic layers of information to be included were presented and a review of what was available in each country, in each case being evaluated needs of Geographic Information treatment for consolidation and the time required for the execution of these tasks. Each representative inscribed the following:

-Argentina:

Geographic information can be ready in two months and there are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Brazil:

Geographic information can be ready in two to three months and there are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Chile:

The thematic layer railway stations could be available in about three months. The information will be supplied by the Military Geographic Institute of Chile. There are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Ecuador:

Geographic information is available and would be needed two months to have it ready: No information available at border crossings. Internal boundaries were updated in 2013. There are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Paraguay:

The geographic information is ready and there are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Peru:

Geographic information can be ready in two months, require generalization because it is higher than the agreed scale (1:250,000), and there are no restrictions for using it on GIS COSIPLAN.

-Uruguay:

The layer of border crossings and limits will not be available by the time.

-Venezuela:

Confirm that all Geographic Information is available without any restrictions. This changes the status situation, in which some layers were missing. They need two months of work to get the information ready. It was said that the rail network is in full swing.

The presentation is attached as Annex 7.

In Session dedicated to GIS COSIPLAN was agreed:

- That in the survey on data availability, when the information requested is not available because the geographical feature is non-existent in the country, the color red is changed by another, like yellow, to enter it.
- To have the information ready in accordance with the standards of the Object Catalogue and Data Dictionary, it takes three months of work from the date, with the considerations made by each country.
- Identify a Technical Manager who will be responsible for gathering the information into the country and interact with the consultant team into the adaptation tasks required. Coordination will submit a desirable profile requesting the corresponding nomination.

COSIPLAN WEBSITE session

The Afternoon session aimed to website COSIPLAN, began with a presentation by the expert invited, Mr. Jorge Alba Posse. In this opportunity, he referred to communication and technology tools offered on the web and on mobile systems. This part of the session served as an introduction to the subject, and the presentation is attached as Annex 8.

Secondly, regarding the availability of the Center for Communications and Information of the UNASUR (CCI), was presented by the representative of the General Secretariat of UNASUR, who noted that a Communication Plan is in full consolidation; that the CCI has spaces of communication for all UNASUR council and a significant portfolio of services including the already mentioned communication services, hosting for websites, video conference rooms, security systems information, ability to load geoservices modules, internal collaborative work spaces tools of UNASUR.

Afterwards an intense exchange of questions and comments from all representatives was developed. Among other things, the decision to make maximum use of the capabilities of the CCI it was determined so that Website COSIPLAN accommodation was ratified on it. The need to define a site architecture, where the will of the countries to be actively involved in the administration is expressed, was highlighted.

In Session dedicated to WEB Site COSIPLAN it was agreed that:

- Working Group Coordination will prepare a survey on Website COSIPLAN, to provide the basic elements for the formulation of guidelines for its development.
- The survey will be distributed no later than June 13 and countries sent replies up to July 4. Working Group Coordination will consolidate the results to be presented in the proposed Videoconference.

Upcoming Activities:

Towards the end of the day, the Working Group Coordination, in charge of Argentina, made a summary of the agreement and the upcoming activities to be carried out.

The following are highlighted:

- The Argentinean National Coordination will consolidate the final version of the Object Catalogue GIS COSIPLAN, which will be sent to the countries as soon as possible.
- The Delegations of Peru and Argentina agreed to prepare a core proposal according to LAMP Metadata profile.
- Communication of Technical Manager: Working Group Coordination will promptly send a desirable profile requesting the corresponding nomination.
- Working Group Coordination will advance on the procedures for changing over to the application in the Work Plan to implement the GIS COSIPLAN, resource assistance of Common Initiatives Fund UNASUR.
- A videoconference will be held during the second half of July in order to evaluate the progress on information treatment in each country, as well as the implementation of the Assistance of Common Initiatives Fund.
- Working Group Coordination will make a Web survey to be used as input for the development of the "Basic Guidelines for COSIPLAN WEB Site."

ANNEXES

- Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting
- Annex 2: List of participating delegations
- Annex 3: Introduction: Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting
- Annex 4: Presentation: Review of progress of the project GIS-COSIPLAN
- Annex 5: Work plan.
- Annex 6: Presentation: Roadmap for next stage. Developing actions for the implementation of the assistance of the Common Initiatives Fund of UNASUR
- Annex 7: Presentation: Evaluation of the next steps: Consolidation procedures of geo-spatial information in each country (responsible, estimated, restrictions)
- Annex 8: Introductory presentation on communication and WEB services.