

# NEWSLETTER

## Colombia Planning Portal Project July 2009

### Dear Reader,

This newsletter presents some highlights up to July 2009 and is primarily intended for people affiliated with the project. Please also note that the newsletter has an informal character and that its content does not imply official endorsement by IGAC, Sida or Swedesurvey. The newsletter and more information about the project can be found in Spanish and English on the homepage. (<http://sigotn.igac.gov.co/sigotn>)

### Visit by the Swedish Ambassador

On June 2 IGAC was visited by a delegation from the Swedish Embassy. The Ambassador, Ms. Lena Nordström, was briefed about the progress by the IGAC General Director, Mr. Ivan Gomez and SIG-OT project representatives and expressed her appreciation about the progress and impact of the project. She especially emphasized the corporate efforts made by the government stakeholders to join forces and develop a useful tool for planning. A fruitful discussion was held about how to further develop SIG-OT and ways to popularize and visualize important data to promote equity, socio-economic development and sound environment. Colombia is one of three countries in South America Sweden through Sida is prioritizing for development support.



### Training the regions

The project training program is continuously being implemented and the time has now come to the Departamentos of Amazonas, Atlántico, Boyacá, Caldas, Cauca, Córdoba, Guaviare, Quindío, Risaralda, Santander and Tolima,. Since latest Newsletter 22

### IGAC has received a 'Special Achievement in GIS'!



*From left: Ms. Judith Salas, Project Leader, IGAC; Mr. Jack Dangermond, President of ESRI; Mr. Christer Kjørneberg, Project Technical Adviser, Swedesurvey;*

The Award was presented at the ESRI's 26th Annual User Conference held July 13-17 in San Diego, and is being given to users around the world in recognition of their outstanding work in the GIS field. It is a significant evidence of IGAC's and the other stakeholder's continuous effort to encourage the governments in Colombia to use effective planning tools such as GIS. The Conference is a massive gathering of GIS practitioners all over the world and was attended by more than 11,000 attendees from more than 180 countries.

During the Conference, the IGAC General Director, Mr. Ivan Gomez read a paper and there was also a display about the Project. A coincidence is that the Project Technical Adviser, Mr. Kjørneberg from Swedesurvey, has assisted not only the award winner this year but also Buffalo City Municipality in South Africa and the Housing and Land-use Regulatory Board in the Philippines that were awarded 2004 and 2006 respectively.



workshops have been conducted which gathered about 375 participants from 152 municipalities and government institutions. The purpose of the training is to familiarize the participants about the portal and explore the usefulness of the system in various planning activities. Please find below pictures from some of the venues:



**SIG-OT**  
El portal en esencia  
<http://sigotr.igac.gov.co/sigotr>

Actualmente, la aplicación piloto del SIG-OT con acceso libre vía Internet, proporciona:

- Indicadores de planeación organizados bajo cinco componentes: ambiental, económico, social, cultural e institucional;
- Metadatos para cada uno de los mapas predeterminados y las capas temáticas;
- Información que abarca cerca de 200 temas de interés para la planeación y el ordenamiento territorial, lo que permite generar cerca de 1.500 mapas con cobertura nacional y 60 Mapas para el piloto regional de los departamentos de Cauca, Valle del Cauca y Nariño;
- Funcionalidades de modelamiento y análisis espacial.
- Consultas a la base de datos y otras.

So far, the pilot application of the SIG-OT with a free access via Internet, provides the following:

- Planning indicators, organized under five components: environmental, economic, social, cultural and institutional;
- Metadata provided for each of the default maps and the thematic layers;
- Information regarding almost 200 topics of interest for planning and land management, which permit to generate about 1.500 maps with national coverage and 60 Maps for the pilot region of Cauca, Valle del Cauca y Nariño;
- Possible to perform modeling and queries for spatial analysis.

Sistema de Información Geográfica para la Planeación y el Ordenamiento Territorial Nacional -SIG-OT- GIS for Planning and Land Management

Extract from the Project display at the International User Conference at San Diego

## Background

SIG-OT aims to organize the production, flow and dissemination of spatial information to support the planning processes at different levels of government in an optimized and effective way.

So far, the pilot application of the SIG-OT with free access via Internet provides the following:

- Planning indicators, organized under five components: environmental, economic, social, cultural and institutional;
- Metadata provided for each of the default maps and the thematic layers;
- Information regarding almost 200 topics of interest for the land use planning, which permit to generate about 1500 maps with national coverage and 100 maps for the pilot region of Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Nariño;
- Possible to perform modeling and queries for spatial analysis.

In its pilot concept, SIG-OT

- Facilitates decision-making and formulation of policies, and strategies for development plans by collecting and providing access to a broad base of land information available in the country into a single Web page.
- Encourages the move from a sector oriented planning process to a cross-sector and integrated approach at municipal, regional and national levels.



The SIG-OT is an inter-institutional initiative by a group of government institutions. In 2005, a technical cooperation partnership arrangement was formed between the Colombian Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation, and the Swedish Agency for International Development (SIDA).

The Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) has been tasked to develop SIG-OT together with key government institutions and Swedesurvey is assisting in project implementation.

For more information about the Project, please contact [sigotr@igac.gov.co](mailto:sigotr@igac.gov.co)