Task Group Name / Title: GIS Guidelines for Information Management in Urban Conservation

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Information User representative: **?**

Information Provider representative: **?**

Project Outline:

Urban conservation is a dynamic and a critical process, which aims to achieve integrated planning and management of the built environment by directing its physical, functional, social and economical development. This process composes of documentation, description, analysis and evaluation of the historical resource in its continual development process, as well as its condition in the physical, cultural, social and economic context of the present day.

Within this process, 'information' acquires a significant status. Obtaining comprehensive, correct and utilizable information about the context is crucial to achieve proper conservation decisions and implementations consequently. Thereupon, it becomes very important to collect, structure and process raw data about various aspects of the town with a proper method and tool, which can be defined as an information management process for urban conservation and management.

Data concerning the town is complex and dynamic due to the continuous formations and transformations in the existing structure of the town and the continuous production of information as a result of on-going scientific studies. Hence, both the method and the tool utilized in information management for urban conservation should also be dynamic and flexible in accordance with the context. Therefore, GIS, as systems designed and developed for handling complex, multi-faceted and dynamic spatial data, are contemplated to be the main tool for such a study.

The study will be configured with regard to both the requirements of urban conservation and management process and the tool: GIS. Therefore, in setting up the method, besides the basic data provisions and elemental phases in urban conservation studies, GIS also becomes one of the basic components by supporting the formation of the data models and system of rules in relating and questioning different kinds of data.

For such a study basically three major researches should be carried on:

- current approaches in conservation and management of historic towns: process, concepts, methods, and applications;
- heritage record systems;
- GIS: fields of utilization in general, examples of utilization in conservation of cultural heritage specifically, concepts, properties, and functions;

Purpose and objectives:

The main objective of the project is to provide basic terminological, syntactic and structural standards for information management in urban conservation.

A standard GIS software available in the market cannot fulfill all the requirements of such a study, as, like most of the computer programs, GIS are not developed especially for serving the conservation discipline. Thus, another objective of the study becomes to assess the existing capabilities, advantages and short-comings of GIS and to enhance it accordingly through an interdisciplinary study together with GIS specialists and programmers.

Deliverables:

Guidelines for designing an information system for information management in urban conservation, together with basic terminological, syntactic and structural standards.

Framework of Task Groups

- Category: Information Management Systems (V) / Management Tools (VII) / Guidelines (II) **?**
o level of application: International (A) / Regional (B) **?**
▪ conservation expertise: urban conservation

Project Resources

- **Person-days:**

- **Budget:**

Other Task Group members

Milestones: