

SOCIOECONOMIC ATLAS OF SAN JUAN PROVINCE

Num 200

Interdisciplinary group of the National University of San Juan-Argentine

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The development and welfare of the countries requires a proper planning policy whose success depends on quality of the basic information used.

The interdisciplinary group of professionals jointed forces and perspectives to achieve this purpose, thus the socioeconomic Atlas of San Juan Province was created. Its content was chosen taking into account two main aims: to give a more extense and systematized information so as to interpret the regional socioeconomic reality from its more important variables and, to design representation systems capable of showing the interaction existing between man and his territory.

New thematic charts completing and updating the curricula have been incorporated.

The source of information used was thw data given by state departamentos and well known professionals. Then, by prcesing and designing these data, an easy to read model was obtained.

This project complies with the necessary transference from the University to the community it belongs it.

The effectiveness of the cartographic analysis and locational studies has been proved in Space Research Centers and Planning Institutions all over the world. However, San Juan Province, had not a book with the necessary information about it.

In order to solve this problem, a group of professionals of the Photogrammetry, Cartography and catastral Institute of the Engineering Faculty, National University of San Juan, worked together in the creation of the research project "Socioeconomic Atlas of San Juan Province" aimed at a mid term production of a whole dynamic and statistical cartographic system.

After discussing about the general scale and design guidelines, a tentative plan divided into progressive implementation steps was elaborated. The Atlas has two types of charts: those made by well known professionals of each specific subject considered and those which required a complete elaboration from the available data.

The geographic and socioeconomic themes were carefully selected. They show the physical, human and economic variables of San Juan Province. This methodology allows us to transmit a kind of information that is difficult to communicate by other means. The thematic charts are grouped in five areas: locational, physiographical, demographic, economic and functional.

Each thematic chart has a technical card as a complement which facilitates its interpretation.

The search of new themes to be incorporated in the work was a challenge the technical and scientific group had to face because they only had basic statistical information to elaborate them. It implied data processing, variable interpretation and interrelation as well as graphic representation tests showing the result.

At the same time, other statistical works were published namely: Agriculture, Mining and Demography of San Juan Province. These were received by both state and private Institutions.

From the success of such works the "School Atlas: a way to the map" aroused in the educational area. It tries to incorporate new didactic resources for the map interpretation. As regards the statistical area, The "Socioeconomic Data Base of Jachal District" is, at present, being elaborated.

Taking into account that the topography of San Juan Province is arid, mountainous and wild, we focused our study on the **OASIS** (places with human settlements). The most important ones because of the number of inhabitants and the economic aspect are Tulum and Ullum-Zonda oasis.

The necessity of quickly obtaining information made it necessary to generate digital information in Geographic Information System. In this way, the Digital Socioeconomic Atlas of Tulum and Ullum-Zonda Oasis" was born.

In this frame it is essential the incorporation the new scientific contributions the reevaluation of the regional problem, the availability of the new technologies and the constant improvement of human resources through the exchange of experiences between researchers of similar regional environments.

The achievement of the mentioned aims will allow the immediate and complete transference of the results to those Institutions that gave us the primary information as well as to the educational community, municipal, provincial and national organizations, professionals of different fields and to all the people of San Juan Province. This information is useful for future political, social and economic decisions.