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CARTOGRAPHY CROSSING BORDERS

Section 5 : Cartography for Environmental Monitoring

Abstract:

Mapping Informal Settlements in the Durban Functional Region, Natal

The lack of adequate housing and basic services in urban townships and rural settlements today has reached crisis proportions.

The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), A policy framework.
African National Congress, Republic of South Africa, 1994

In South Africa, and particularly in Natal, the quality of demographic data collected in the 1970s and 1980s for the areas inhabited by blacks has been inadequate. This has been to some degree a reflection of the policies and priorities of dominant groups in the 'apartheid' society.

Apart from ideological and conceptual distortions there was a deterioration in the methods of collection of statistics in the 1980s has deteriorated when centres of state planning changed.

As a result, accessible, reliable and comprehensive data are difficult to obtain. Yet accurate demographic data is critical to the deeper research which is so urgently needed to reinforce and facilitate the implementation of the new South Africa's RDP. Data must be presented accurately and effectively if serious misjudgments of policy and planning are to be avoided.

This paper will explain a methodology developed to improve the accuracy of census data by integrating a detailed hut count census of informal settlements for three epochs with the census data (for several epochs) on informal settlements in the Durban Functional Region, Natal on a GIS. The methodology also links in various social and economic data and produces maps urgently needed by decision makers of the RDP for identifying adequate housing needs and planning requirements.

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