



# Inter-organisational Collaboration in the Management of Geo-information

## Towards an Appropriate Institutional Arrangement

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### Introduction

Access to reliable and affordable spatial information is a critical component of a country's future economic, environmental and social development. However, this information which is mainly about the tenure, values, use and condition of land are normally collected and kept in separate databases and controlled by separate agencies. In Ghana, there appears to be a lack of cooperation among the various agencies and organisations involved in the management of land.

### Theoretical Findings

- Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is an attempt to use the advances made in the field of technology to reduce duplication of efforts and expense in the use of spatial data.
- The constraints to inter-organisational relationship are related to fear of an organisation losing autonomy (in terms of decision making), control over information sources, independence and organisational power.

### Empirical Findings

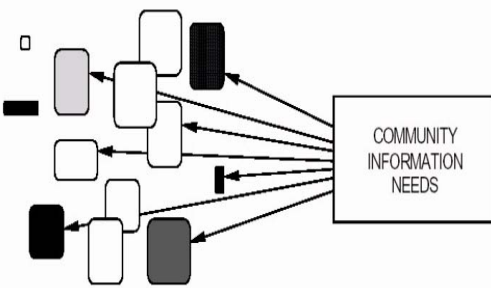
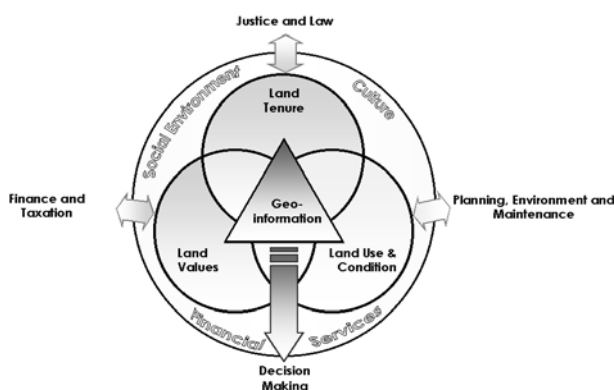
- The main purpose of the process is to ensure security of tenure for socio-economic development.
- Key stakeholders in the management of geo-information were varied and six were identified and examined for the purpose of the study.
- The overall interest of the stakeholders was not singular.
- The regulatory framework for land management was ineffective.
- Parochial interests of organisations and certain persons seem to override any effort to comply with laws which seek to ensure cooperation.
- The existing framework for the geo-information management is ineffective.
- There is also no policy on data standards and exchange procedures. Data storage was mainly manual as depicted below.



### Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

- The core processes involved in land management should be targeted for improvement.
- Land management services should be decentralised to the local level.
- The country's ICT policy should include provisions for data exchange, standardisation and general management of geo-information.
- The Survey Department is proposed as the lead agency in the effort to improve the management of geo-information.
- A comprehensive training policy aimed at ensuring that all categories of staff members are exposed to modern trends of information handling is also proposed.



### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine the institutional setting for land management with a view to proposing an appropriate framework that maps the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders as well as the rules and regulations to facilitate effective collection, storage, analysis and exchange of geoinformation.

To address this objective, the following research question is raised: What contingencies/factors contribute to successful collaboration among stakeholders involved in geoinformation management?

### Approach

A case study of the concurrence (certification of customary land transaction) and land registration process in Ghana was made. Semi-structured interviews with key persons, observations of key processes and extensive review of relevant documents were carried out.