

Attaining A Balance Between Environmental Protection And Sustainable Development In The Caribbean Using Geoinformatics

S.M.J. Baban

Abstract

The Caribbean region is experiencing a rapid rate of population growth, economic development and urbanisation as well as facing the effects of global climate change and associated sea level rise. These events often lead to continuous degradation of the environment and natural resources, i.e., water, soil, air, natural habitats and biological diversity. This in turn, if not managed, could eventually slow down and threaten the pace of economic development in the region. As a result, there is a real need to understand and attempt to manage these natural and man-made phenomena. This paper argues that the geographical makeup of the Caribbean region and the nature and unavailability of reliable environmental data necessitates the use of Geoinformatics as an effective tool to sensibly utilise and conserve land and marine resources while obtaining production to further the development process. An overview of the environmental problems in the region and the possible usage of Geoinformatics have been discussed.