

Indian Local Planning Initiatives



ERDAS APOLLO is being used to support local planning initiatives in Karnataka, India. The Council recognised that inventory and availability of both spatial and non-spatial data would be crucial to the local planning efforts undertaken to achieve this goal, and defined the need for a comprehensive data management system for easy access to data and information. The Karnataka Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS) was to promote using spatial data management and analysis in local area planning.

The state of Karnataka in southern India is composed of 29 districts, with each district broken down into sub-districts (known as 'taluks'), and villages within the taluks. The Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology was created to improve the quality of life for impoverished populations throughout the state.

District NRDMS centres were established in each state district to provide custom applications, value-added information, training and support to planners and administrators in local governments.

Initially, district NRDMS centres provided geospatial services to users through independent systems. This stovepipe method meant that data that could not easily be shared between other systems within the state. Recognising the power of centralisation, the Karnataka State Spatial Data Infrastructure (KSSDI) was planned as a joint project between NRDMS and the government of Karnataka, to be an Internet-based geospatial data directory for the entire state.

The KSSDI project, with OGC-compliant ERDAS APOLLO, manages geospatial data across multiple departments or offices. It serves as a core component of the spatial data infrastructure at KSSDI, and is responsible for securely cataloging all of the state's geospatial data and delivering it over the web via web services, including OGC-compliant WMS, WFS and WCS. Web services are made available to a custom front end, or may also be accessed via Universal Resource Locator (URL) into major geospatial software applications.

In the future, the goal is to extend the site to support online data sales, which will ultimately contribute to state revenue generation.