

Geographic Information Systems for Urban Planning and Management in the Caribbean: Finding the Right Approach

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ABSTRACT

While the tools offered by geographic information systems are increasingly used to support urban planning and management in developing countries, experience has shown that, one size does not fit all” and that implementation policies and strategies must be tailored to the local context if they are to be effective. This paper focuses on GIS experience in the Caribbean Basin. Campbell and Masser’s distinction between implementation approaches - technological determinism, managerial rationalism and social interactionism are used in this assessment of GIS experiences. The paper concludes with policy recommendations to support more effective use of GIS tools for urban planning and management in the region.