



Remote Sensing & GIS for Planning Studies

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Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies together serve as an integrated technology that provides solutions to problems such as urban planning and land use planning, the mapping of up-to-date regional and sub-regional road networks, the determination of the most suitable regions for agriculture, industry, residential, etc., and regions to be protected due to environmental concerns. Several years ago, MOMRA (Saudi Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs) - DMTP (Deputy Ministry of Town Planning) General Directorate of Urban Planning launched a national project to convert structural and local plans of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia into digital geo-format, and established a Planning Information System (PIS). The main purpose of the project is to keep the data up-to-date in order to perform planning studies. The best way to achieve this is to use the integration of Remote Sensing & GIS capabilities for the establishment of data, which will then be used for the planning studies in the Ministry. Remote Sensing satellite imagery has been in use since 1972. The first remote sensing satellite was LANDSAT-1 MSS (Multi Spectral Scanner). The sensor technology has improved tremendously since then. Nowadays, a great deal of information covering large areas of land, such as land cover and land use, can be extracted from the satellite data. This presentation illustrates in detail various aspects of this huge project.