



LECLERC 1999F

Tools for disaster mitigation workshop.

Washington, February 2-3, 1999.

Before and after Mitch: the CIAT experience.

Gregoire Leclerc, Andy Nelson, France Iamy, Miguel Ayarza.

February 1999

CGIAR

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research



Before and After Mitch: the CIAT experience

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Washington, February 2-3, 1999

CIAT hillsides project

- CIAT Hillsides project: community management of watershed resources
- Active in CA since 1993
- The model: empowerment of the community through action research and linkages of several decision making levels.
- Information is power: the Honduras Atlas and the Yorito-Sulaco Atlas.

Atlases: a tool for better planning

- People from 25 institutions trained in advanced Arcview with the Honduras atlas 3 weeks before Mitch
- GIS is alive, people are well trained
- but..
- Information exchange is difficult
- Piracy is the norm
- Source rarely acknowledged

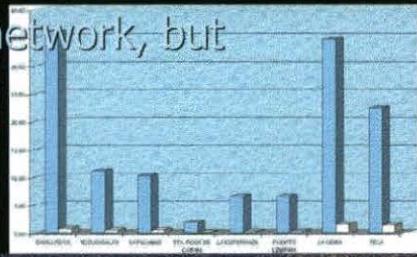
The Honduras data at CIAT

- Standard data
- Biophysical: geology, DEM, climate, land use, etc..
- Socioeconomic: administrative boundaries, selected census data at municipio level
- Other data
- 4 censuses at unit level, stored in Oracle: can be aggregated at any administrative level
- analysis at different scales
- Poverty indices
- 1:50,000 scale topo

Then comes Mitch...

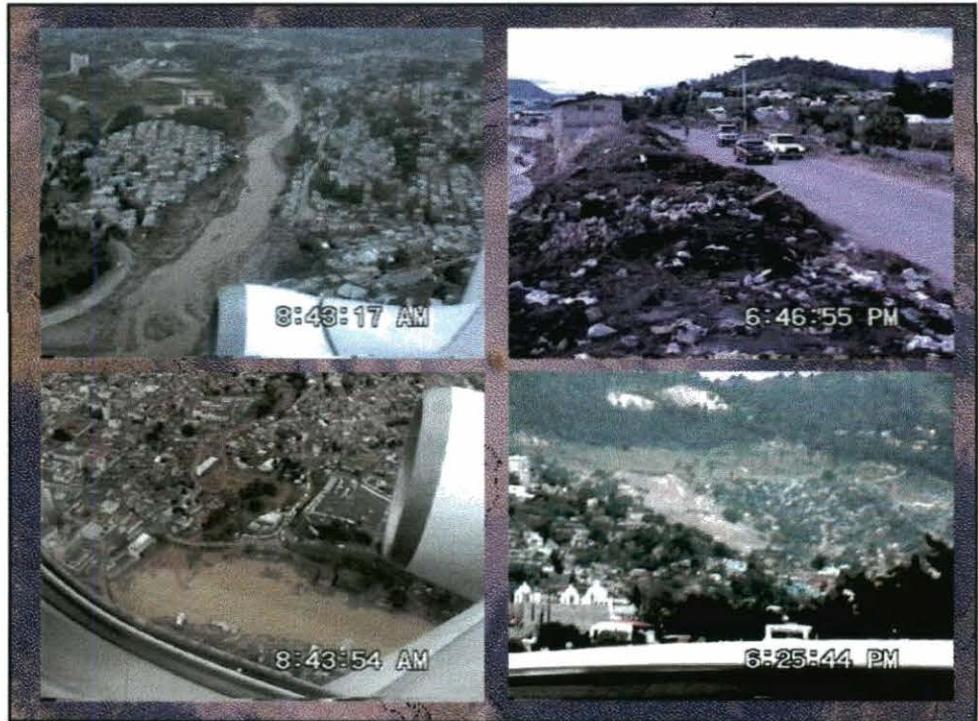
- 350km wide, 300km/hr winds
- one year of rain in 4 days
- landslides, floods, deaths
- panic and distress
- collapse of the road network, but internet OK!

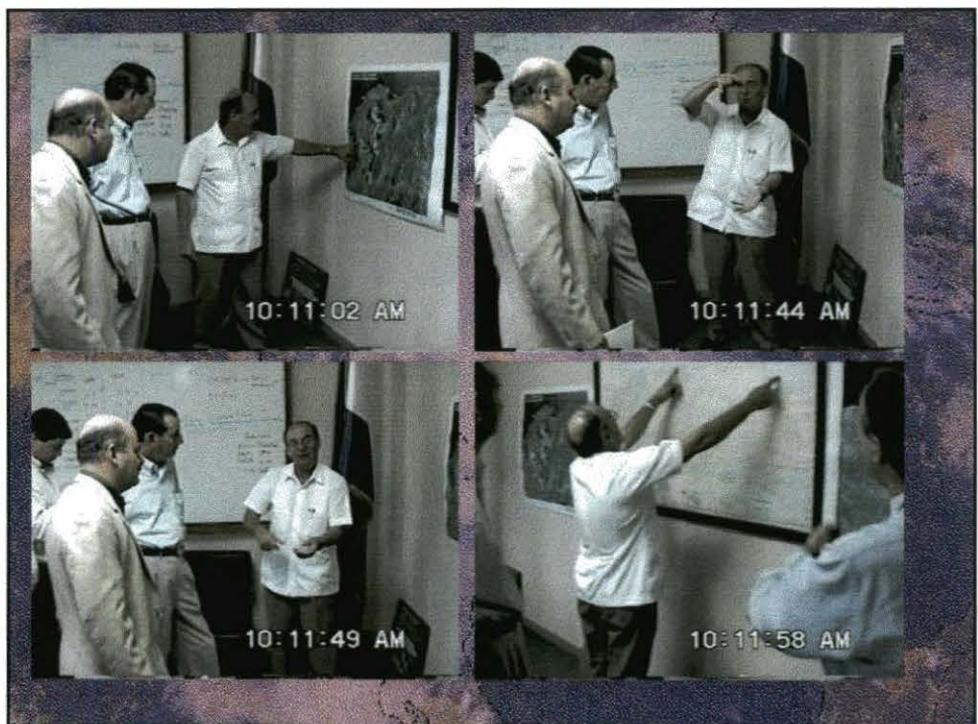
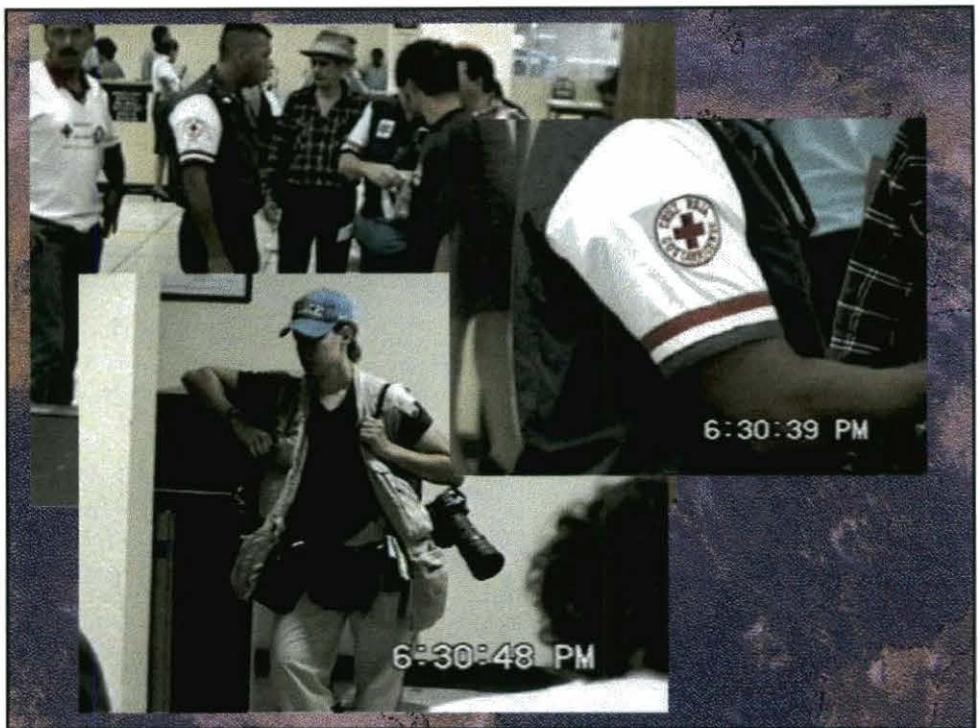
This graphic compares the amount of rain-water (inches) during the Mitch Hurricane-Tropical Storm (Blue) and the normal amounts of rain-water (White)

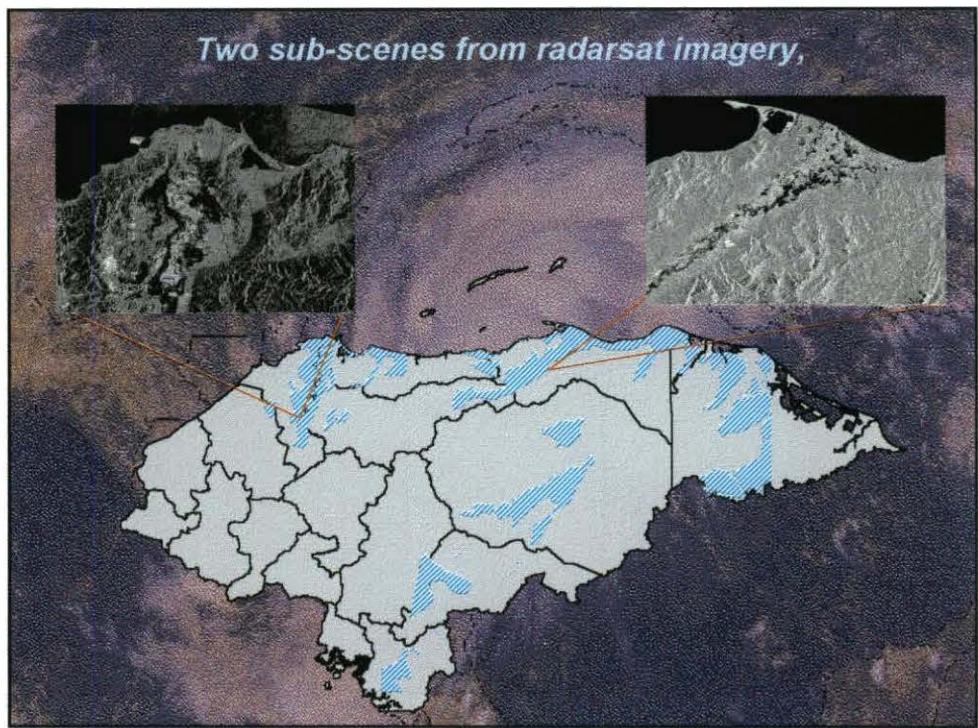


Damage and loss

<i>Destroyed Bridges:</i>	169
<i>Principal Highways Damaged:</i>	15
<i>Secondary Highways Damaged:</i>	30
<i>Damaged Vecinal Roads:</i>	150
<i>Damaged Access Roads:</i>	200
<i>Damaged Cities :</i>	21
<i>Affected Cities:</i>	60
<i>Destroyed municipalities :</i>	Morolica
<i>Partially destroyed municipalities :</i>	15
<i>Physical Infrastructure Damages:</i>	\$1,000 million
<i>Damages to the Capital City:</i>	\$500 million
<i>Banana Industry:</i>	\$800 million
<i>Sugar Industry:</i>	\$5 million
<i>Shrimp Industry:</i>	\$150 million
<i>Agroindustry:</i>	\$200 million



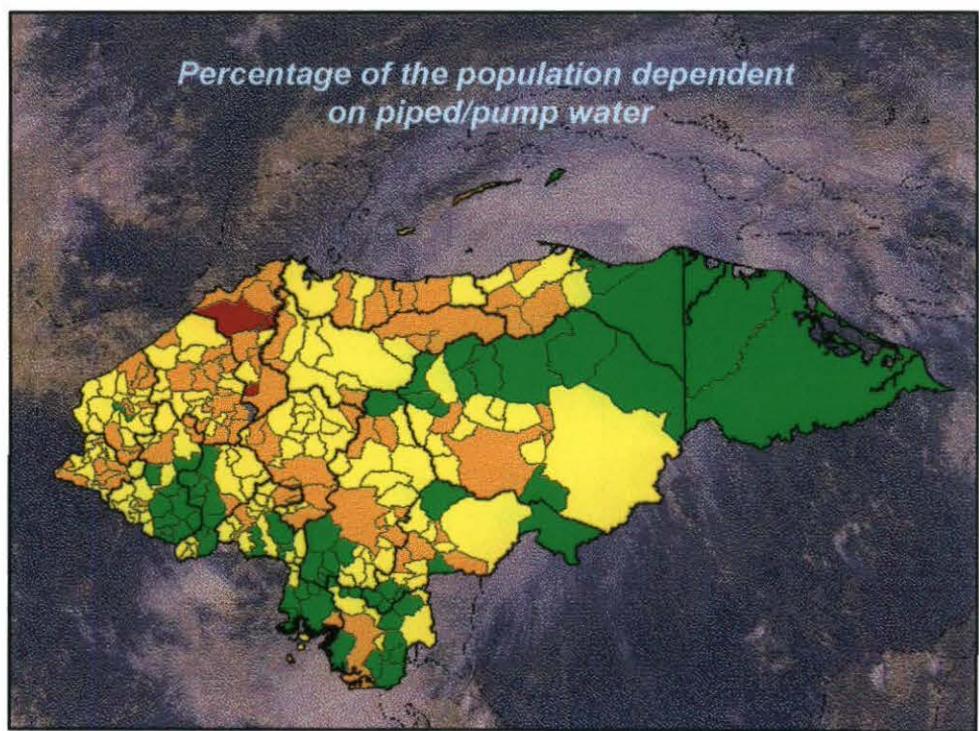
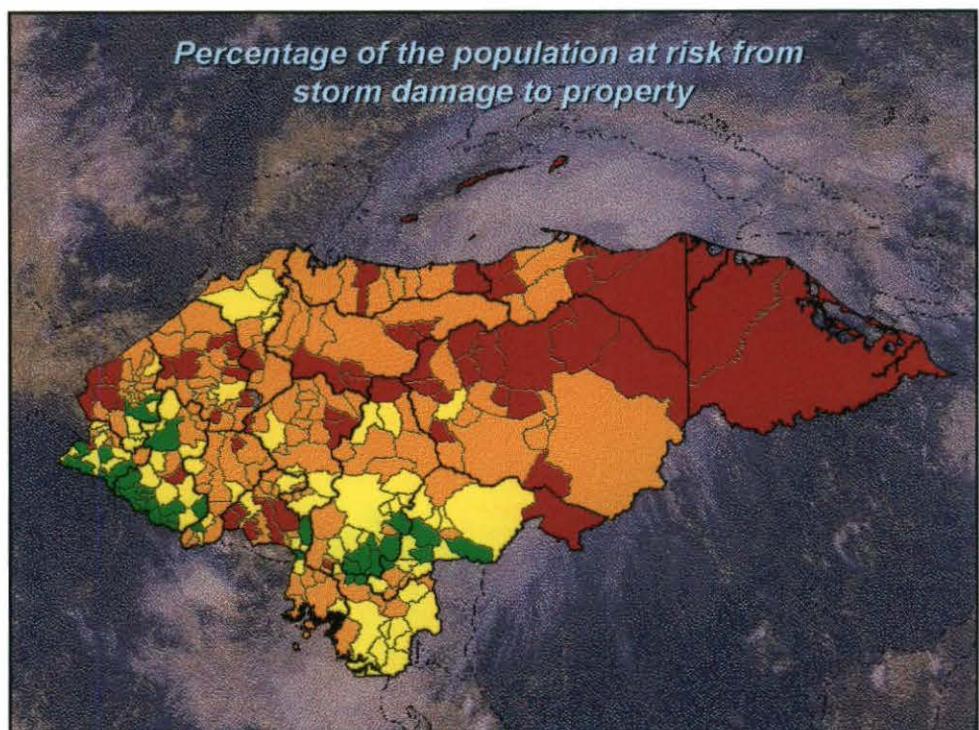






Data that was needed then..

- Radarsat images:
floods
- Damages
- Agriculture: crops,
irrigation, municipio
and village level
- Who/where projects
are working
- Hospitals, etc..
- Any data for
emergency plans
(agricultural and
population
censuses)



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A deluge of information

OVER 100,000 pieces of information about Hurricane Mitch are now available online. The Internet has become a valuable tool for disaster preparedness and response, allowing organisations and individuals to pay a vital role in providing relevant information to those affected by the disaster.

In December 1998, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched its own website, www.unep.org/mitch, which contains over 200 pages of information on all types of emergency management issues, including relief and recovery, food and shelter, health, environment, water and sanitation, communications, and logistic support. The site also features a "virtual library" containing reports from the UN's various agencies, organisations, and NGOs.

Information on capacity is also available on the website, including a section on "Early Warning Systems". This section includes news items, reports, and other resources related to early warning systems and their application in disaster preparedness.

As well as offering a range of products and services, the website also provides links to other organisations involved in disaster preparedness, such as the World Health Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The website is designed to be user-friendly and accessible to all, including people with disabilities and limited computer skills. It is intended to provide a central point of access to information on all aspects of disaster preparedness, including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Science and technology

Scientists have been using remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS) to monitor the impact of Hurricane Mitch. The GIS system, developed by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), has been used to map the extent of damage and to identify areas where relief efforts are needed. The GIS system also allows for real-time monitoring of the situation, providing up-to-date information on the progress of relief efforts.

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Disaster preparedness

Disaster preparedness is a critical component of any emergency management plan. It involves identifying potential hazards, assessing risks, and developing plans to mitigate the impact of disasters. The website provides information on disaster preparedness, including a section on "Early Warning Systems". This section includes news items, reports, and other resources related to early warning systems and their application in disaster preparedness.

Conclusion

Conclusion: The website is a valuable resource for anyone involved in disaster preparedness. It provides a wealth of information on all aspects of disaster preparedness, including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is designed to be user-friendly and accessible to all, including people with disabilities and limited computer skills. It is intended to provide a central point of access to information on all aspects of disaster preparedness, including prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

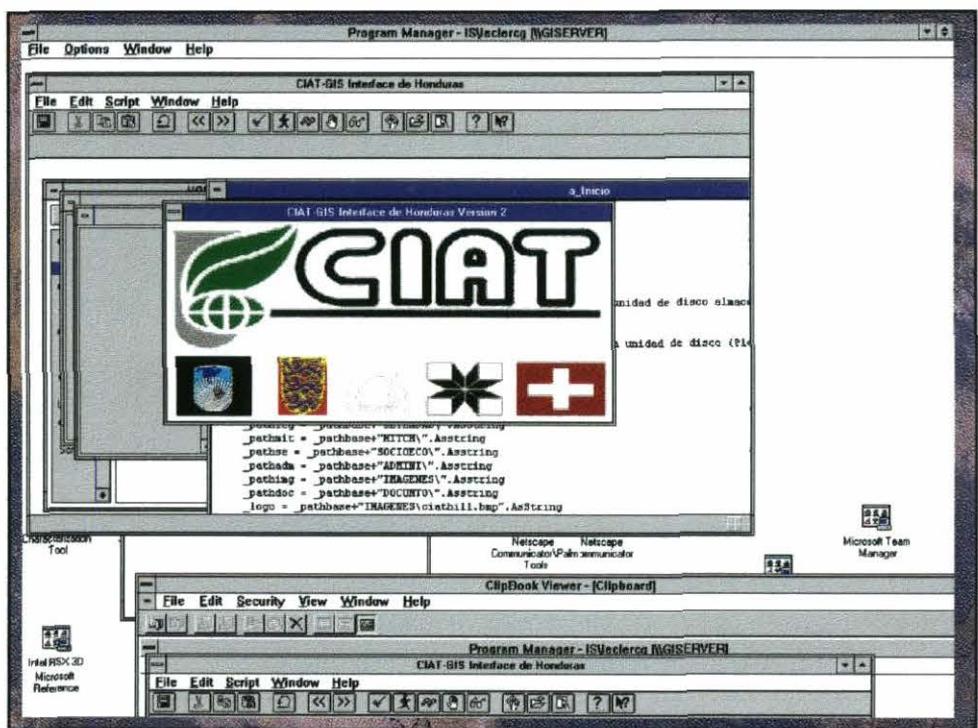
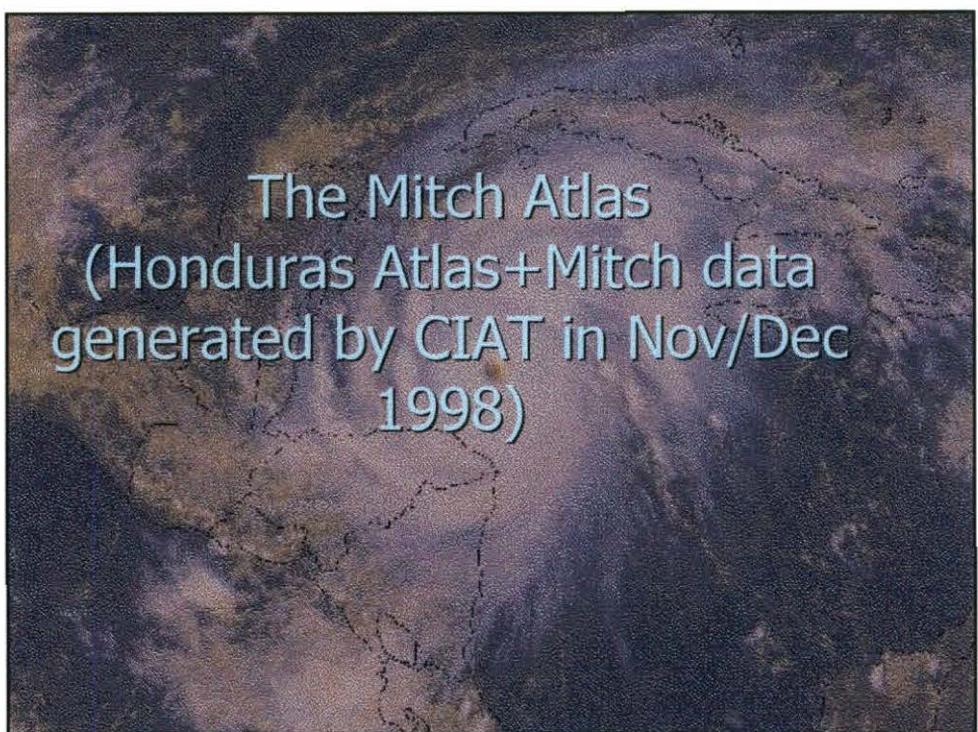
Photo: UNEP

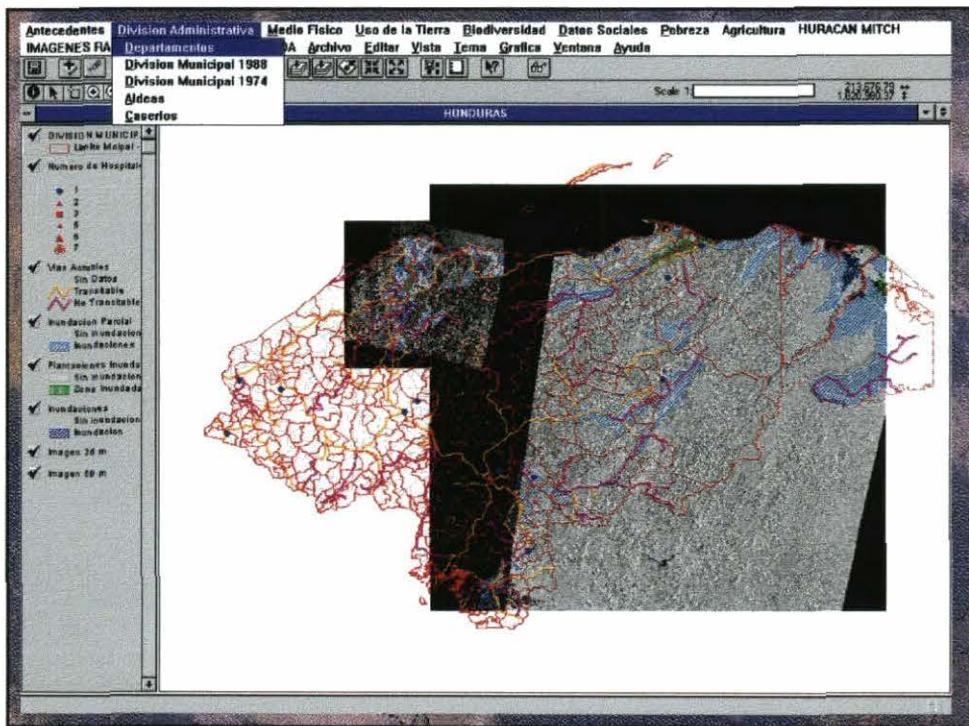
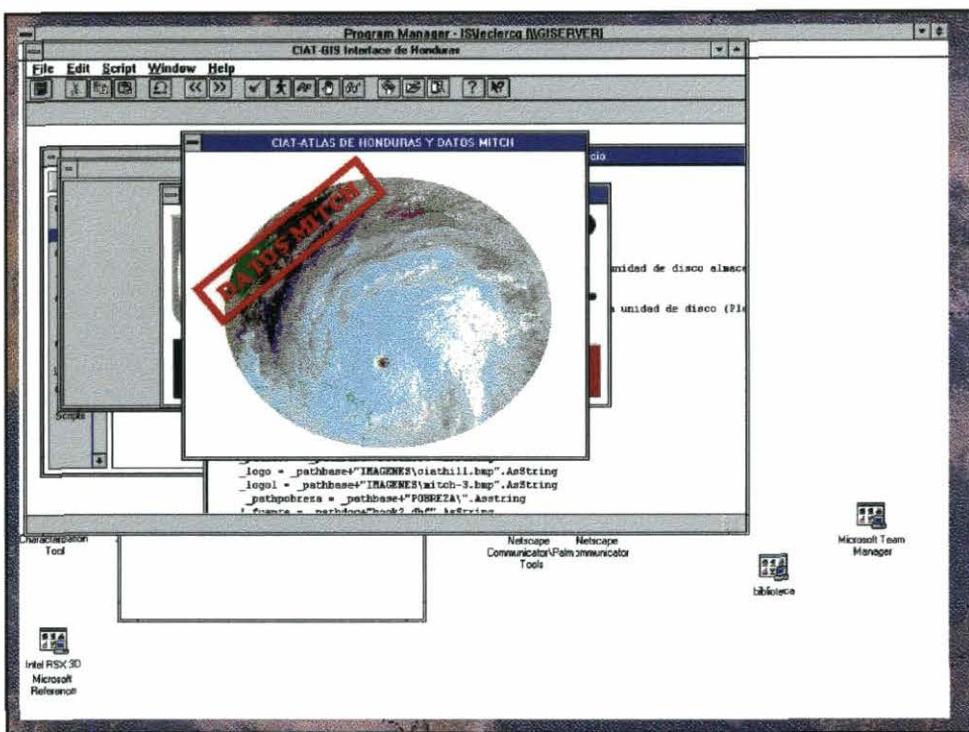
The Economist
Nov 28-December 4
1998

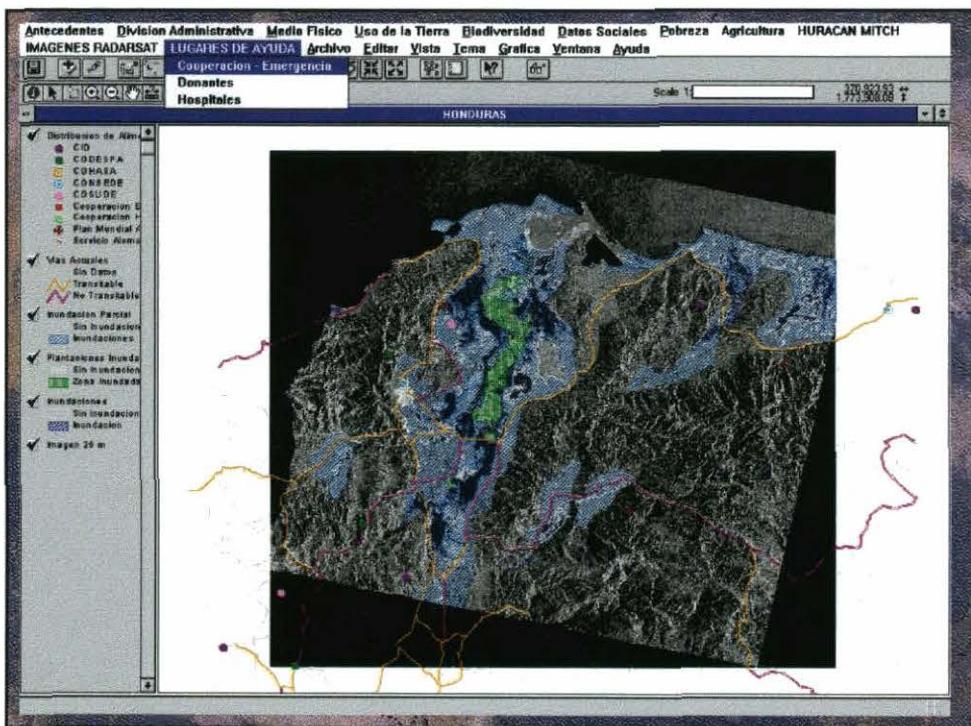
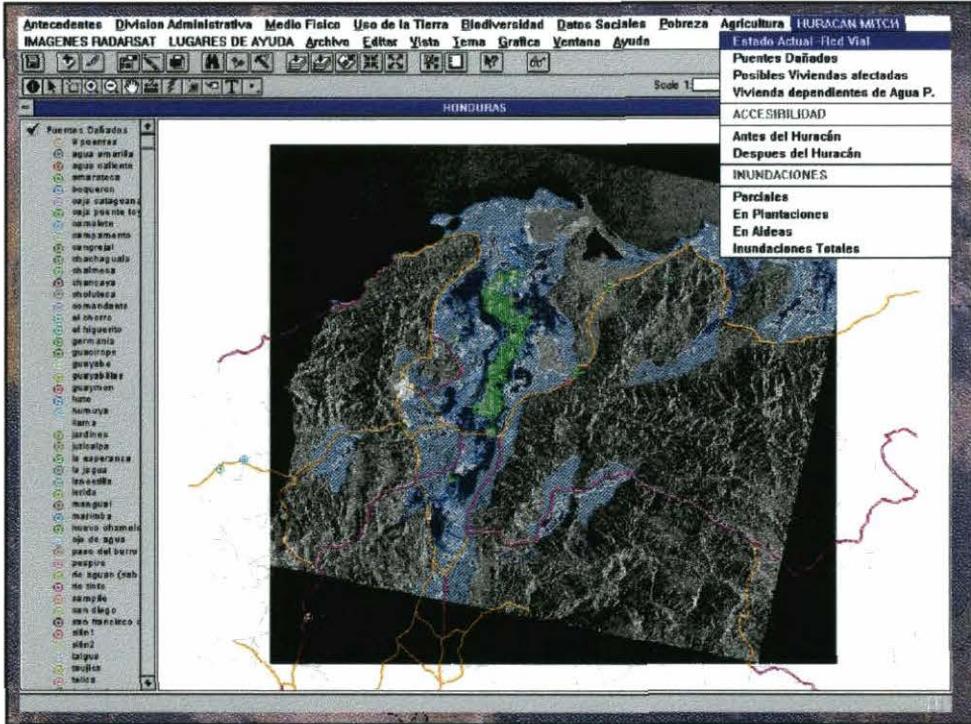
Pass the database

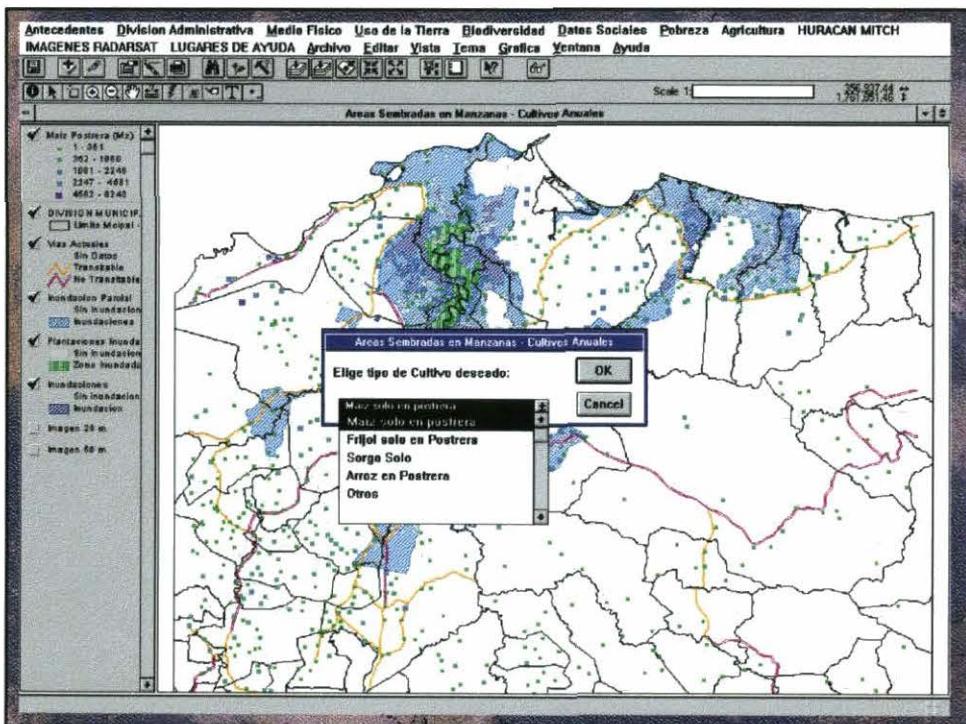
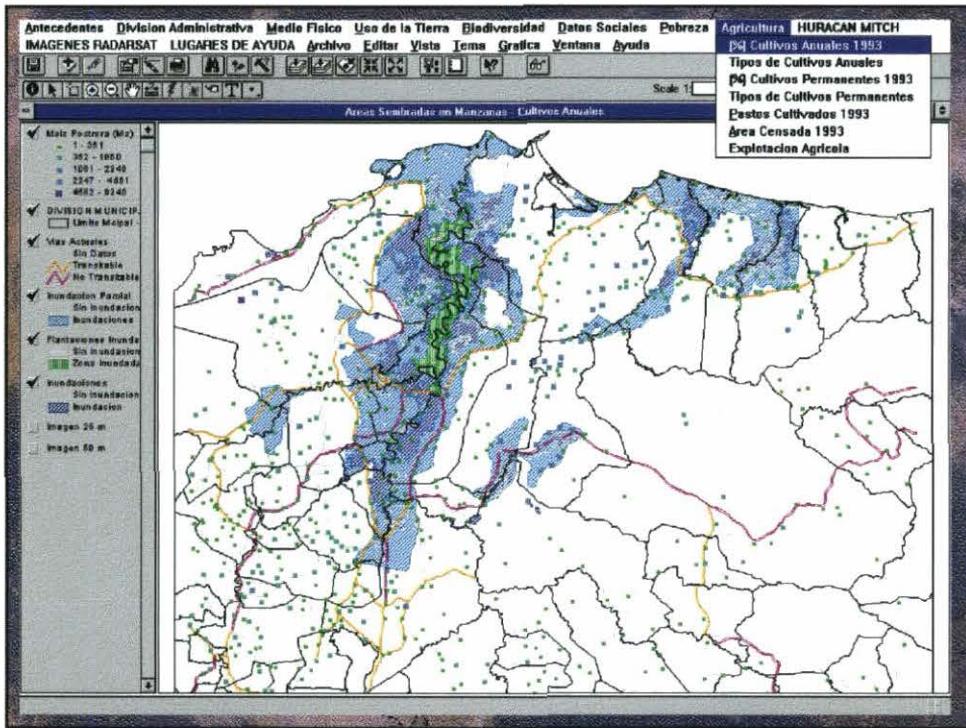
.. And data needed in the future

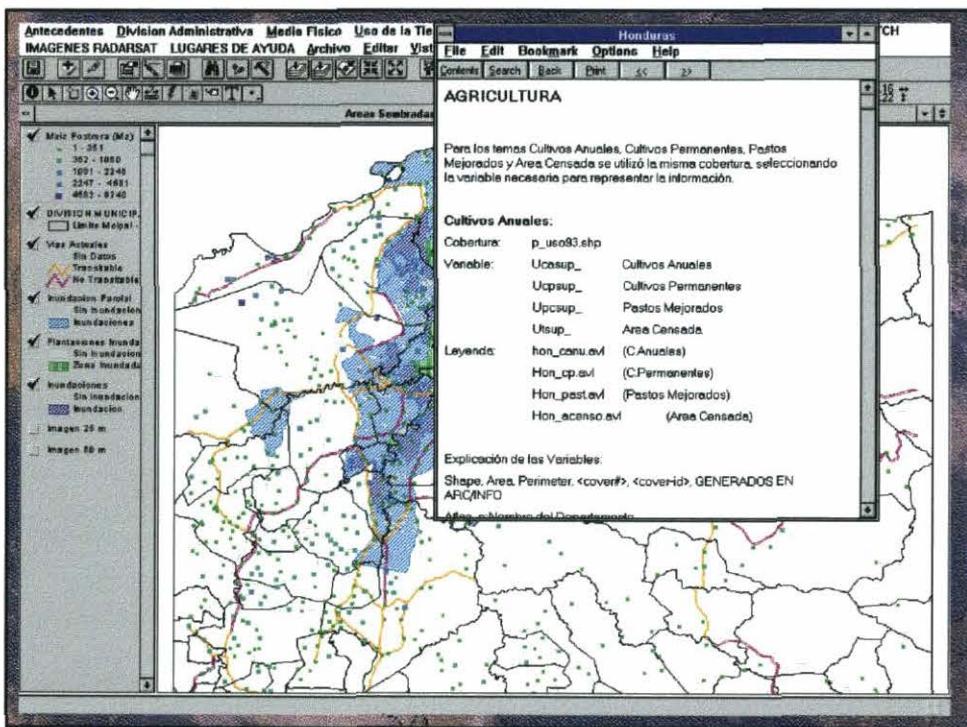
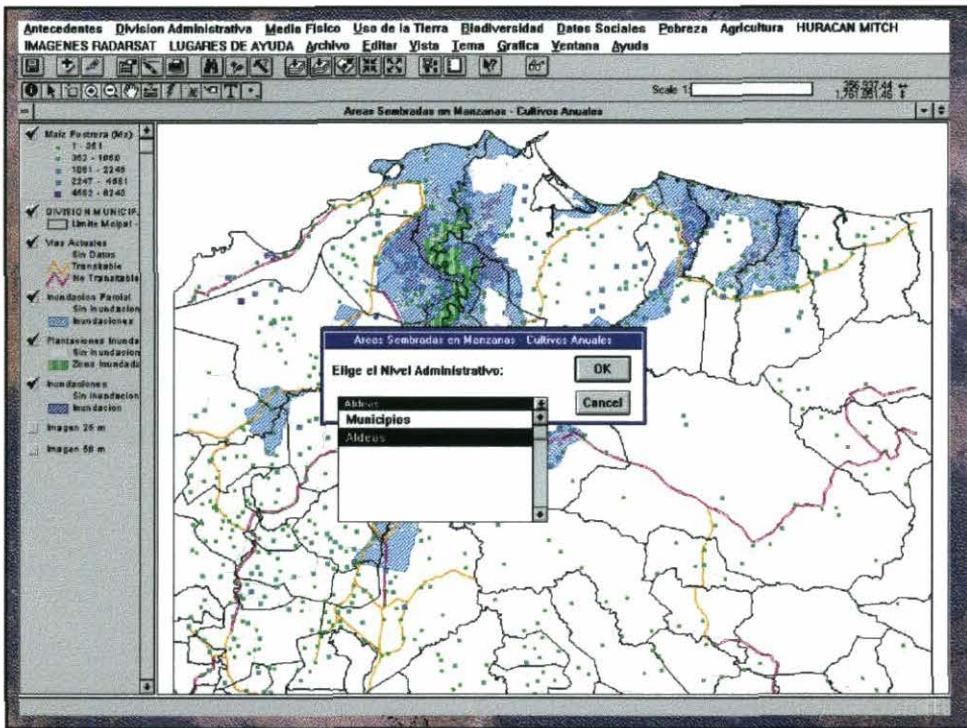
- Production post Mitch
- Impact assessment: socio economic and environment
- Watershed management: its alive! (again)
- Utilities
- Restoration of: infrastructure, agricultural production system,
- Aerial photos are preferred because more potential users
- TOOLS:display, queries, overlays...free

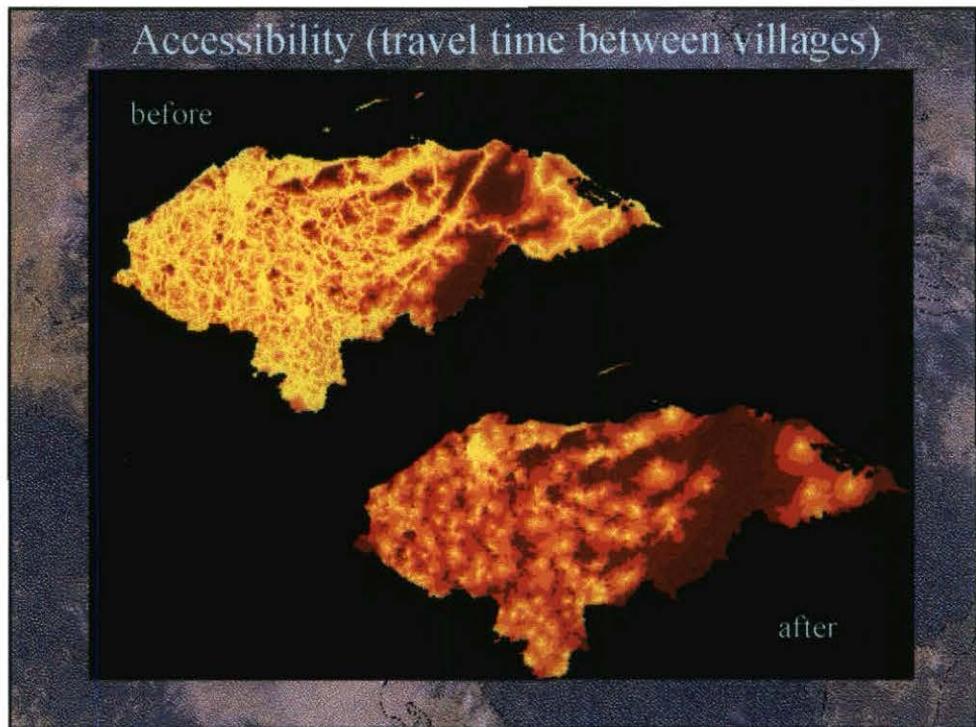












Seeds of Hope project (CIAT, CIMMYT, CIP, IPGRI)

- Restore the seeds system (beans, maize, potato)
- Ensure production is maintained
- Minimize genetic erosion
- GIS is used to find the poor, the forgotten, that will receive seed aid.
- Joint work with other seeds projects: GIS integrates (again)
- \$\$ needed for second year!!! (funding for 1st year obtained from USAID and CIDA: thank you!!)

Lessons learned (1)

- Data is important to make emergency plans
- Informal data channels appear
- data quality is not verified..what is the impact of bad data?
- A lot of demand for maps of any kind!
- Efforts like CIAT's or USGS's are extremely well received
- Atlases work because they integrate
- Constantly Monitor the who/how/where of projects

Lessons learned (2)

- Private sector too new: will give some data but not the software
- Official data is better
- Legal status for the foundation
- Personnel has to have incentives to stay ("consultants" in Nicaragua)
- Open lab will work (we have experienced it!)

A solution that may work

- Creation of a foundation to handle national-level data: the foundation database plus other public data
- Standards, data exchange, updates
- commissioned to provide and integrate data
- Official seal (IGN/Census/Min. Transport, etc..)
- Municipal atlases for larger scale
- Private sector provides value-added products
- User friendly tools for display, query, overlays, ..free

Before we conclude..

- We are not talking about a low-cost solution: this is serious international development business!
- Keep it public: the private sector can do contract work to feed the atlas
- benefits to other sectors are many: impact assessment, education, health,..
- Best implementing structure: a consortium

To give an idea (example of CIAT partners with GIS focus)

- Census Bureau of 6 Central American, 6 Caribbean countries, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia
- Ministries of Agriculture and Environment of most Tropical American Countries
- University of Florida - ICASA modeling; TAMU (tools)
- UNEP
- USGS (just starting)
- ESRI

■ University of Georgia Public/Private Sector Linkages

Decision Support Systems, GIS Infrastructure Management, Multi-participant Large GIS Database Development - 1Terabyte, Disaster Planning - GEMA Group - 140 systems in field, Multi-center, fast response, low-cost Satellite Data-Voice-Video Communications - 2Mbits/sec +, 1.2m dish

- GIS networks: RENASIG, CNG, IGDN, CSI
- National Universities for most LA countries
- CATIE, Costa Rica
- Canadian Center for Remote Sensing
- Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Japanese Space Agency
- Joint Research Center
- European Space Agency...and many more!

Conclusion

- Data is out there; we have to put it together
- CSI is out there too
- National partners are there, but we need commitment and a seal of approval
- Tools such as CA are available NOW.
- Consortium structure is more viable: people do what they do best, and the necessary connections are strong