



CIAT

Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical
International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Tools for disaster mitigation workshop.

Washington, February 2-3, 1999.

Before and after Mitch: the CIAT experience.

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

February 1999

CGIAR

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

Before and After Mitch: the CIAT experience

Grégoire Leclerc
Andy Nelson, France Lamy
Miguel Ayarza



Washington, February 2-3, 1999

CIAT hillsides project

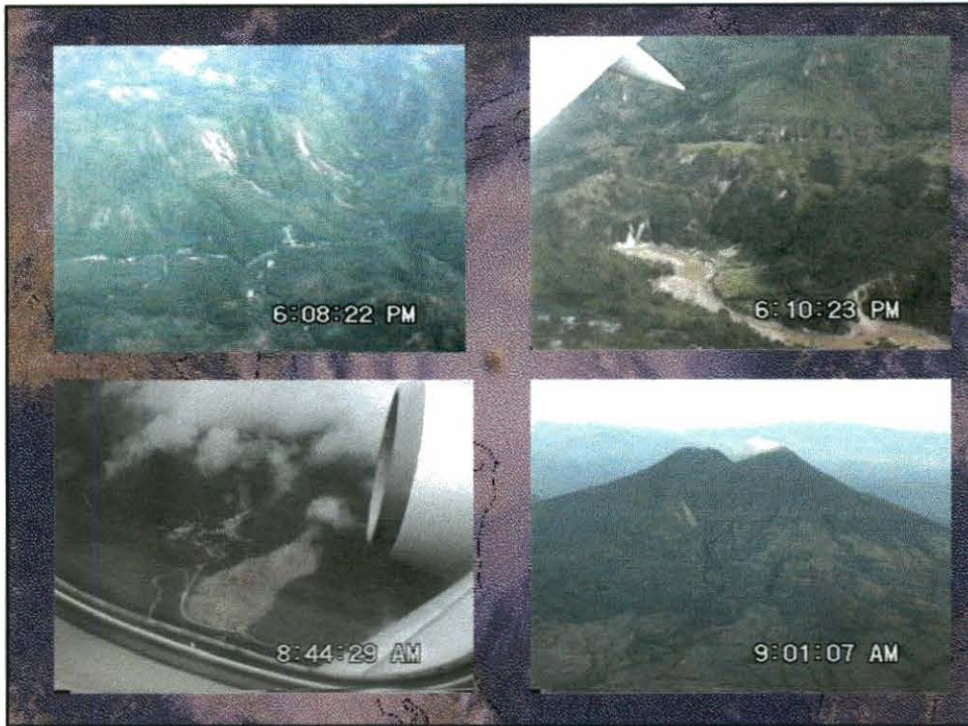
- CIAT Hillsides project: community management of watershed resources
- Active in CA since 1993
- The model: empowerment of the community through action research and linkages of several decision making levels.
- Information is power: the Honduras Atlas and the Yorito-Sulaco Atlas.

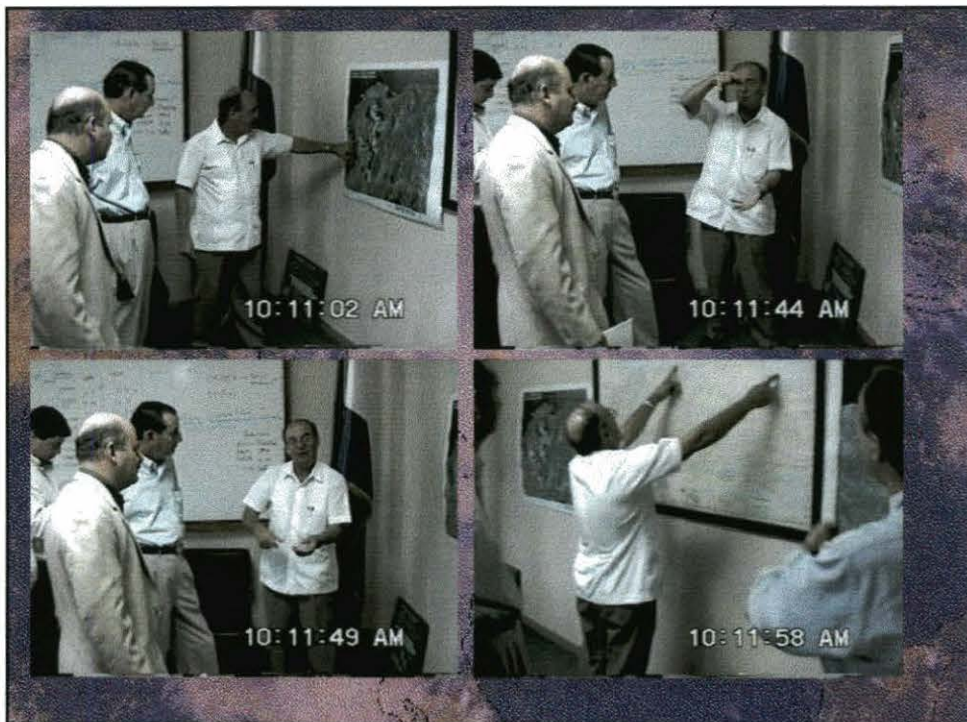
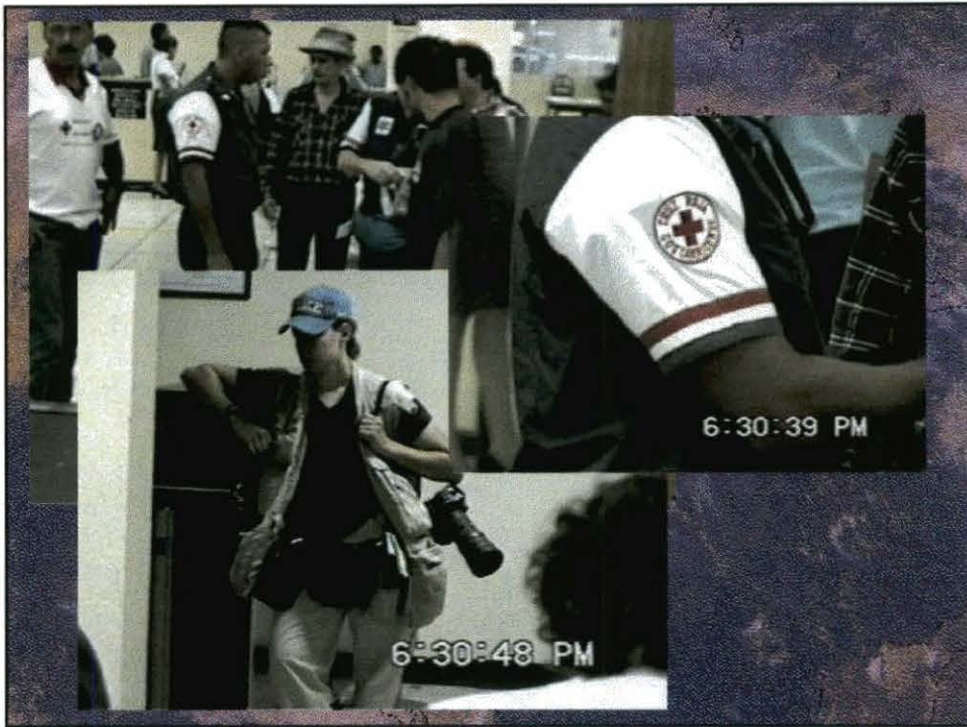
Atlases: a tool for better planning

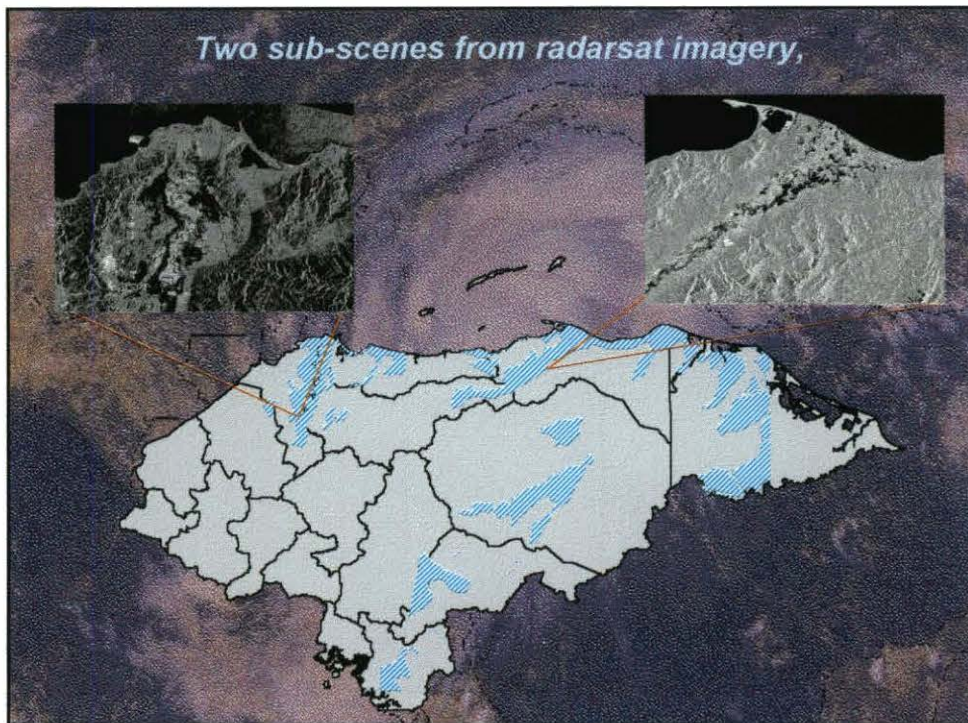
- People from 25 institutions trained in advanced Arcview with the Honduras atlas 3 weeks before Mitch
- GIS is alive, people are well trained
- but..
- Information exchange is difficult
- Piracy is the norm
- Source rarely acknowledged

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





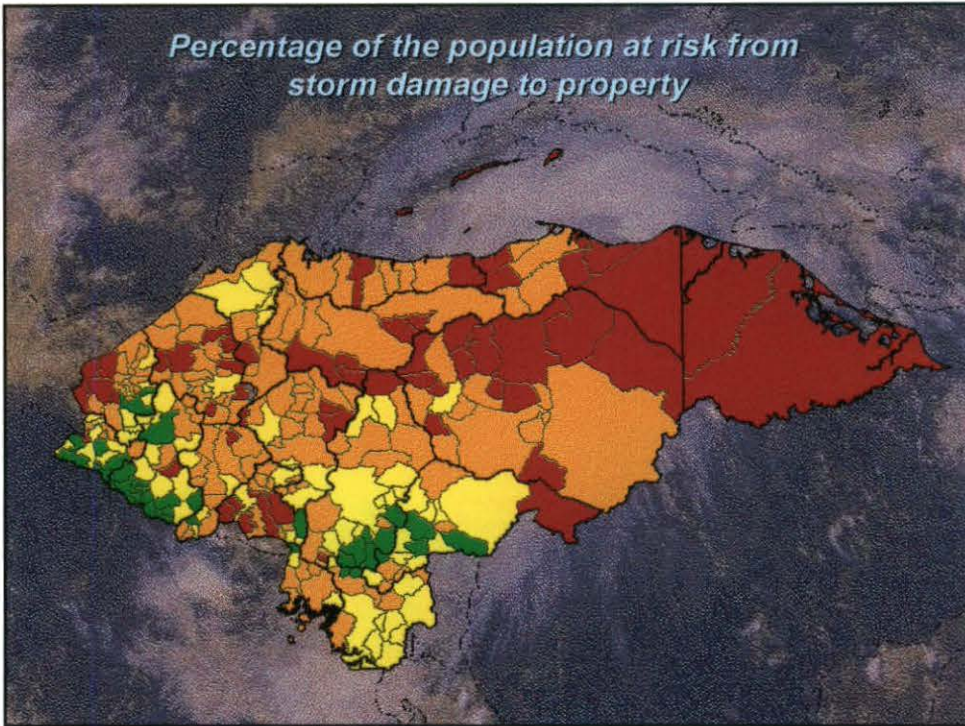




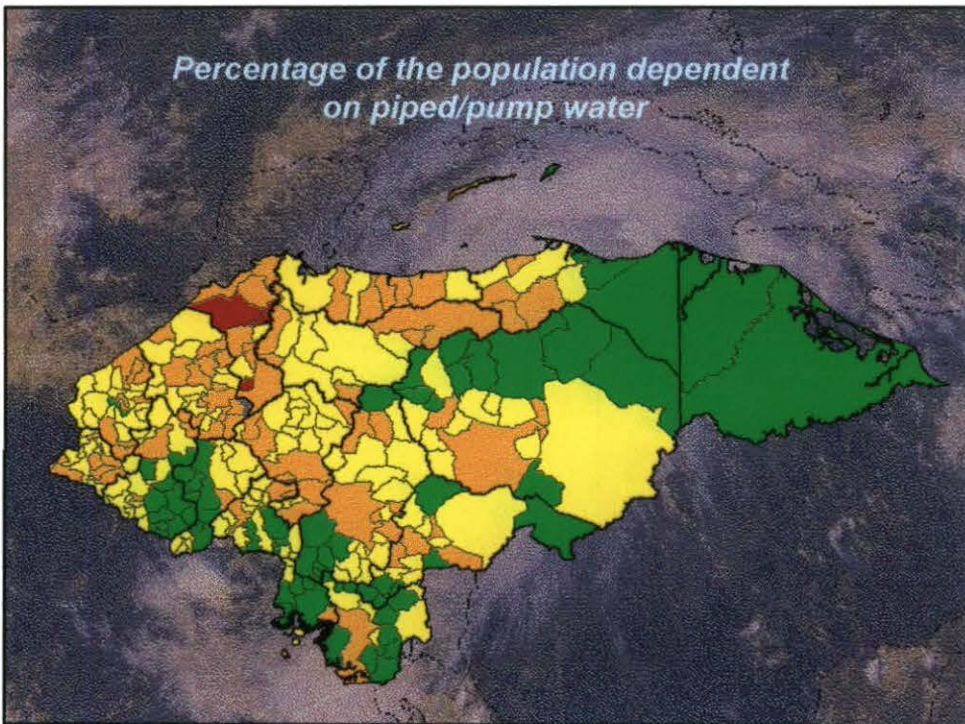
Data that was needed then..

- 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)

Percentage of the population at risk from storm damage to property



Percentage of the population dependent on piped/pump water



A deluge of information

ON THE face of it, computers could increase the amount of information available to decision-makers. But when it comes to the water resources of the world, the picture is not so clear-cut. In many cases, the data available is not only incomplete but also unreliable. This is the case with the water resources of the world, where the data available is not only incomplete but also unreliable. This is the case with the water resources of the world, where the data available is not only incomplete but also unreliable.

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The Economist
Nov 28-December 4
1998



Pass the database

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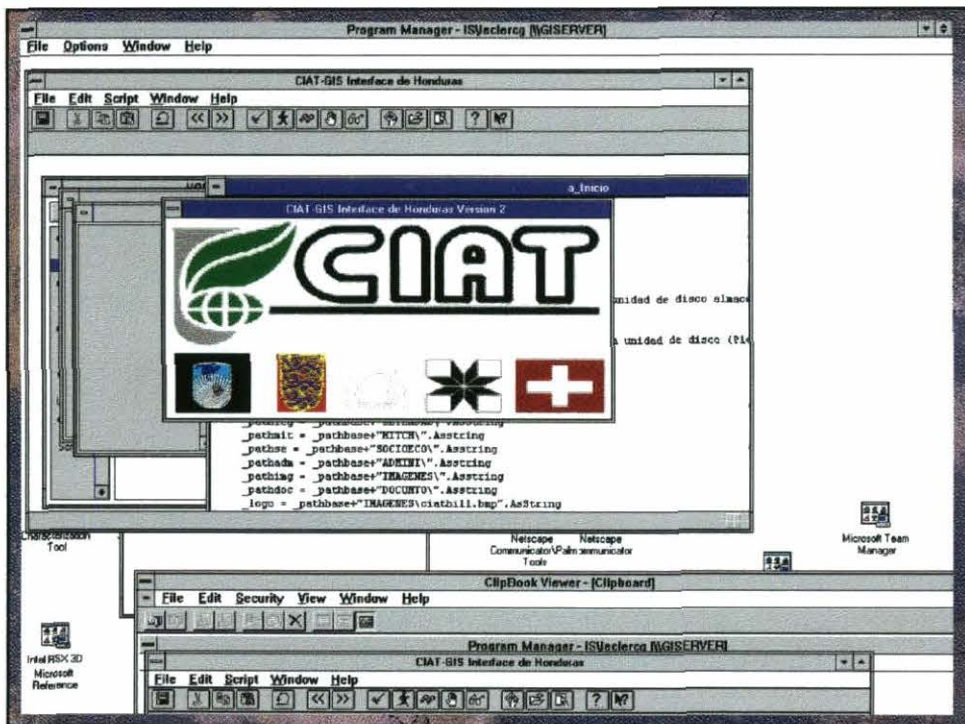
A beauty cor

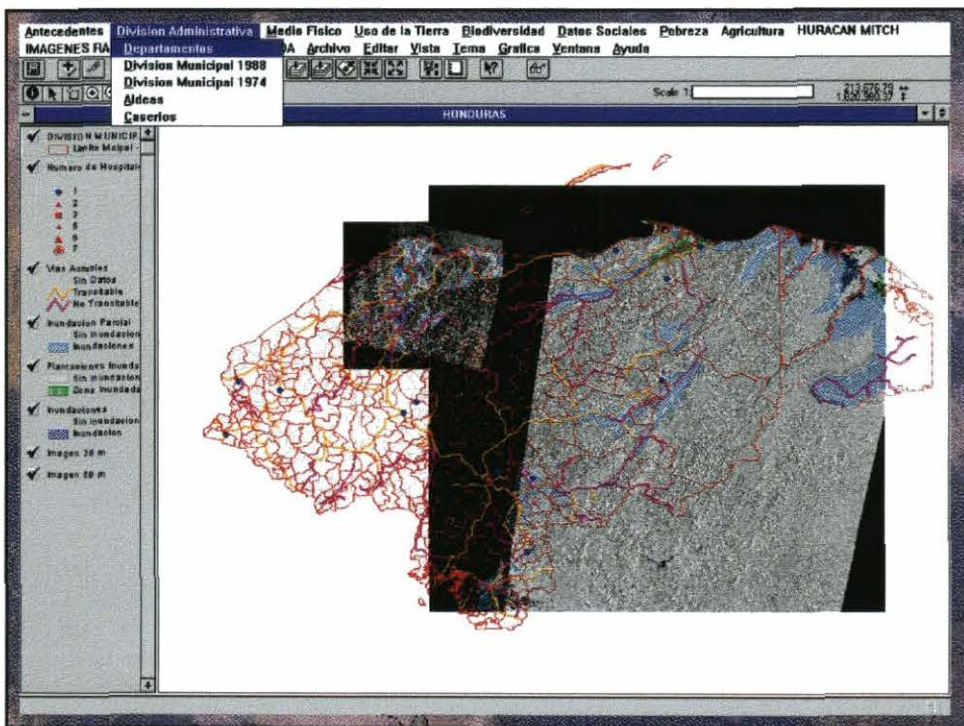
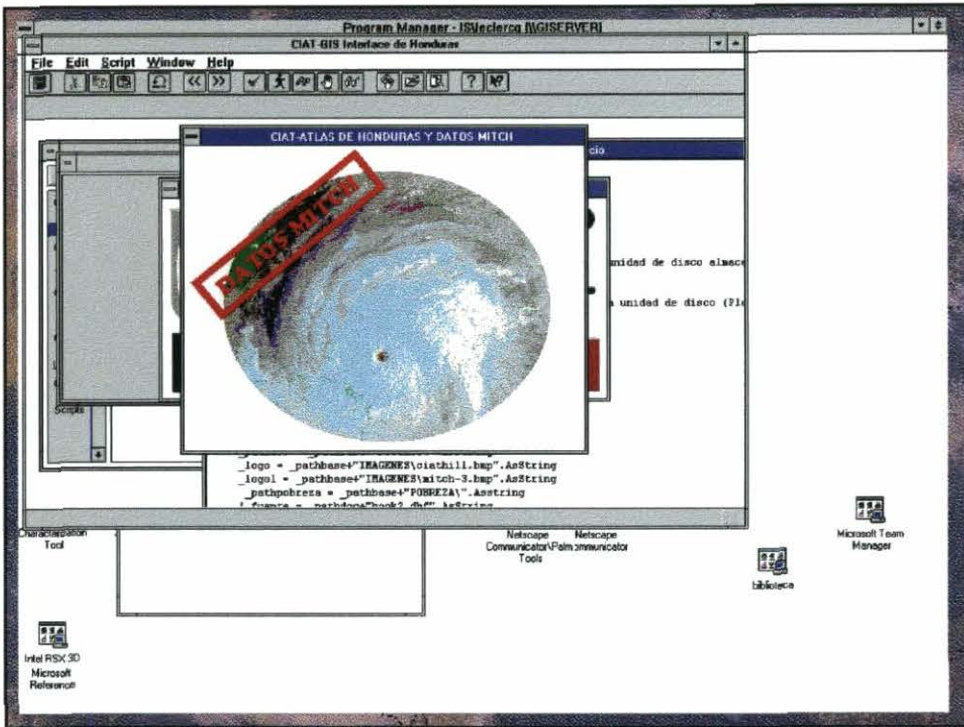
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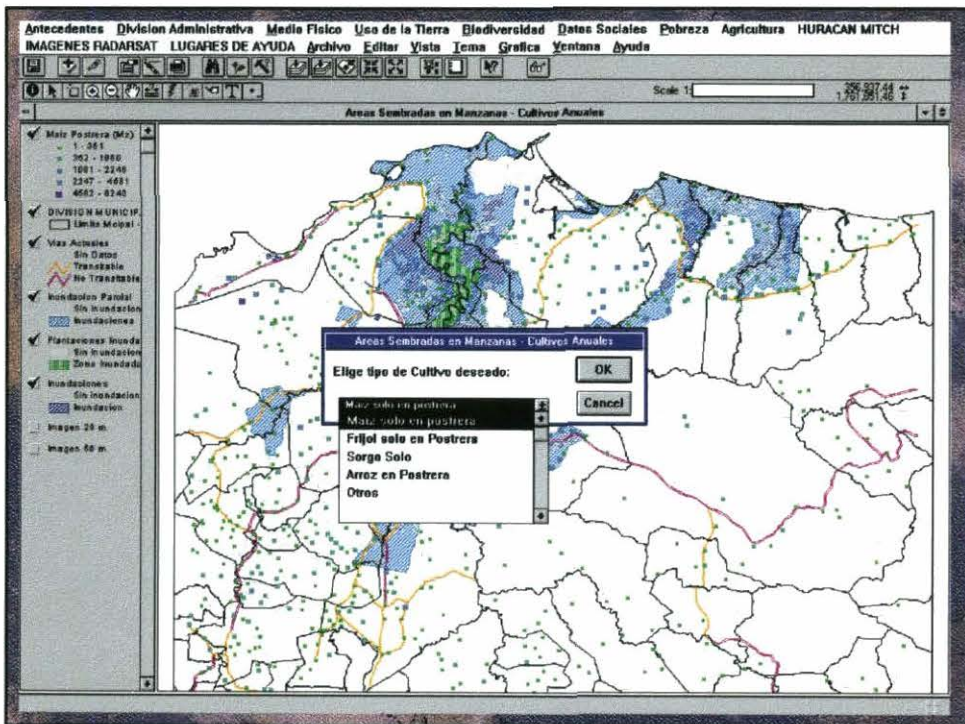
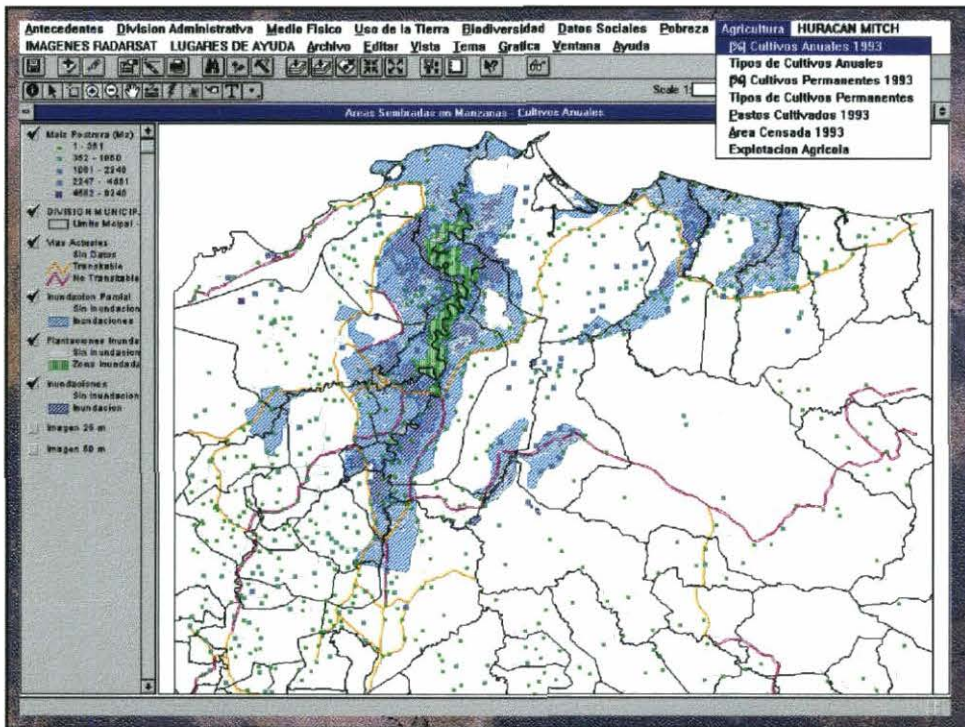
.. And data needed in the future

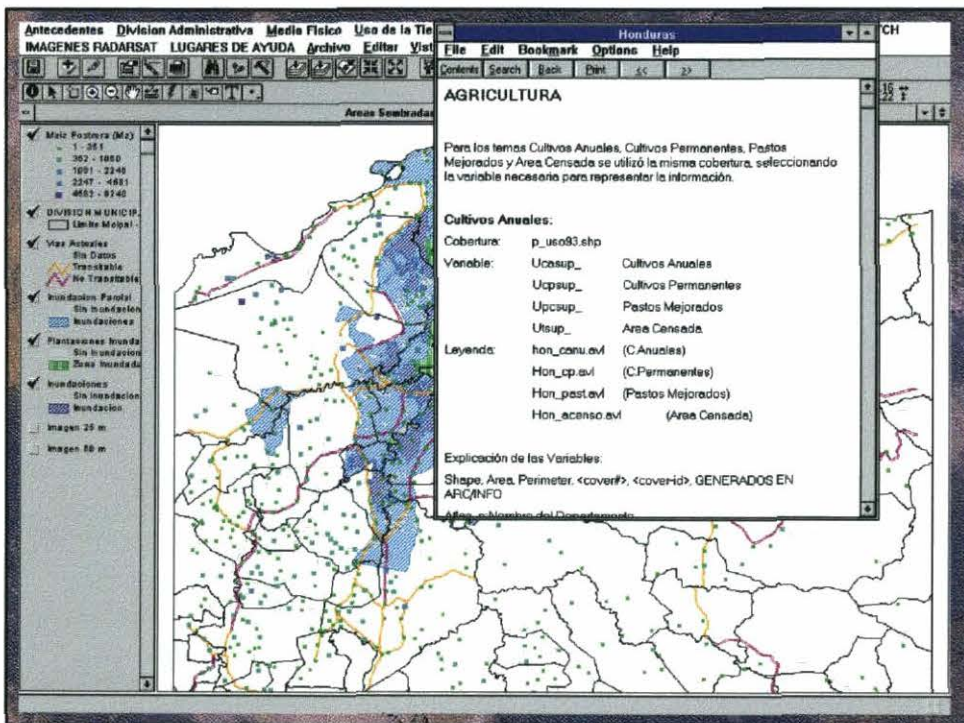
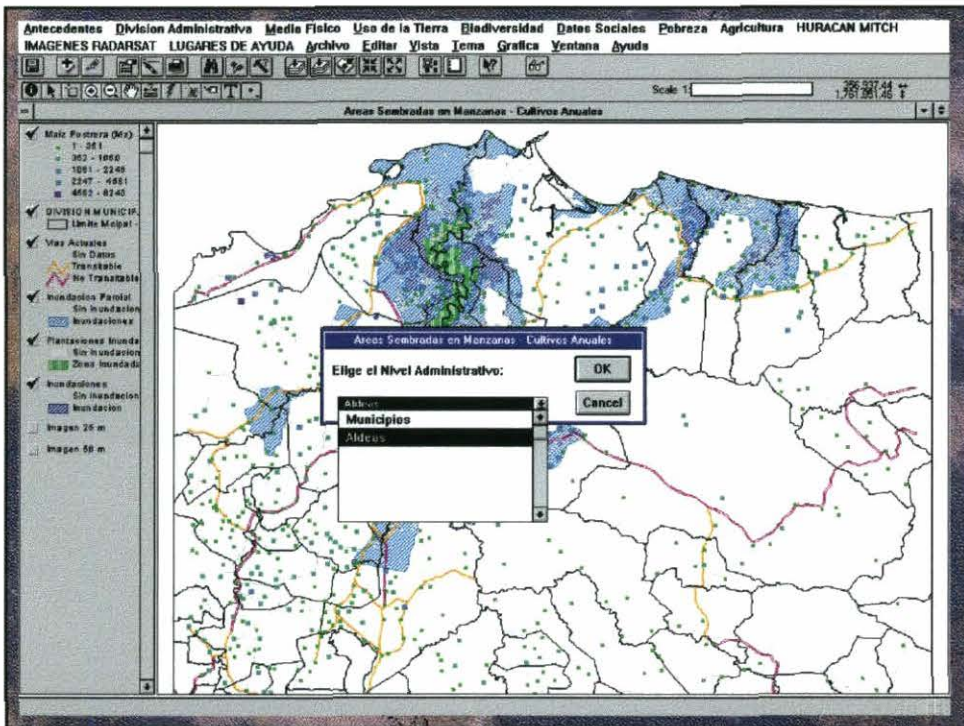
- Production post Mitch
- Impact assessment: socio economic and environment
- Watershed management: its alive! (again)
- Utilities
- Restoration of: infrastructure, agricultural production system,
- Aerial photos are preferred because more potential users
- TOOLS: display, queries, overlays...free

The Mitch Atlas (Honduras Atlas+Mitch data generated by CIAT in Nov/Dec 1998)









Accessibility (travel time between villages)

before



after



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