

# **Settlement Names and Cultural Identity Survey for Development of Multipurpose Geocoded Settlement Register and Database System for Ghana's Growth and Poverty Reduction Planning**

**E. AMAMOO-OTCHERE, F. K. MENSAH and B. AKUETTEH, Ghana**

**Key words:** geocoded settlement register, relational database

## **SUMMARY**

The initial efforts to compile place names register was started through the initiative of the late Professor E. A. Boateng. After him, not much has been done with the result that Ghana is yet to have a formal database in which the various settlement names and spellings are stored with additional cultural identity attributes for identifying them. Ghana is embarking upon community-based development as the basis of the Poverty-Reduction Strategy. Community-based project development is becoming a key feature for ensuring good governance and accountability. It is now necessary to have an up-dated geocoded settlement register in a relational database which can be used by all the planning and development agencies for the community-based project monitoring. The Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS) has embarked upon a countrywide comprehensive or full coverage survey of the settlements for the first ever digital geocoded settlements. Settlement attributes will include data on cultural identity of the settlements, and data on social and economic infrastructure for human resources development of the settlements. The survey is being carried out with the involvement of the district assemblies. The district assembly persons representing the electoral areas of the Area Councils are being trained in the use of hand-held Global Positioning System receivers for recording the location data of the settlements and the facilities such as the schools, health centers and community's water supply sources, etc. The survey is in progress; the initial output is presented in this paper.

## **CONTACTS**

E. Amamoo-Otchere  
Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic  
Information Services (CERSGIS)  
GHANA  
Email: xtie67@yahoo.com