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The need to consider *customary ancestral adat land* in the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

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Customary land

- Different types of customary land
- Sabah, Sarawak
- Kelantan, Trengganu, Penang
- Melaka, Negeri Sembilan



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Customary ancestral adat land (tanah pesaka adat)

- Unique to
 - the Malay ethnic group of Negri Sembilan , a state in Peninsula Malaysia
 - the *Adat Perpatih*, an unwritten custom
- Adherence: Kuala Pilah, Tampin, Rembau, Jempol, Jelevu



Adat Perpatih

- A *custom* originated from the *Minangkabaus* of Pagar Ruyong, Sumatra
- Meticulously observed to the smallest detail encompassing *behaviour* and *ceremonies*
- However *adat* is not codified, but stated in the form of *maxims*
- Therefore needs intelligent *interpretation*
- The *adat* is transferred *orally* from one generation to the other



Adat Perpatih

Is symbolised by

- the ***rumah gadang*** or the *adat* house
symbol of the *Adat Perpatih*
- the ***tanah pesaka*** or ancestral land:
provides the communal cohesion necessary to keep the
Adat alive
- the ***Lembaga*** or clan chief :
the upholders of the *Adat*



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Rumah adat



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Tanah pesaka adat – ancestral adat land



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Distribution of *ancestral adat land* in Negeri Sembilan (2002)

district	hectares
Kuala Pilah	6418.37
Tampin	751.09
Rembau	5269.01
Jempol	680.68
Jelebu	157.58



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Lembaga – clan chief





Lembaga – clan chief

- *UNDANG* heads the *Lembagas*
- the *Lembaga* heads the *buapaks*
- the *Buapak* heads a family unit

- *UNDANG* in charge of the *luak* (clan district)
(Sungei Ujong, Rembau, Tampin, Johol)



Customary *ancestral adat land*

- Origin: early *Minangkabau* settlers
- Land use: agriculture ,
- Ownership: clan, female members
may own more than one plot
- Inheritance: matrilineal, female members only
- Dealings: among clan members only
subject to the Lembaga's approval



The senario

- Limited, no new alienation since 1911
- Identified in title but not spatially on the ground
- Multiple owners
- Small uneconomical agricultural plots
- Underutilised, idle or abandoned
- Many landowners are old and poor

Motivation:

- *Ancestral adat land* and thus *Adat Perpatih* need to be conserved
- *Ancestral adat land* need to be revived



Why SDI?

- Access to information: create awareness or educate clan members
- Need to differentiate *tanah pesaka adat* from *harta carian* to avoid conflicts
- Need to identify the owners of *ancestral adat land*
- Information on distribution , location and use of *ancestral adat land*, idle, abandoned or otherwise



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Why SDI ?

- Need information to inform the *Lembagas*
- Need information: water resource, topografi, soil suitability, etc to develop the land



Conclusion

- Revival of the roles and responsibilities of *Lembaga, the Adat land, the Adat Perpatih*
- Improve rural economy
- Independent and self sufficient women
- Reduce or eradicate poverty
- Unambiguous inheritance
- Well informed land administrators, *Lembagas* and clan members



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Terima kasih

Thank You