

# Building a Global Conservation GIS Community

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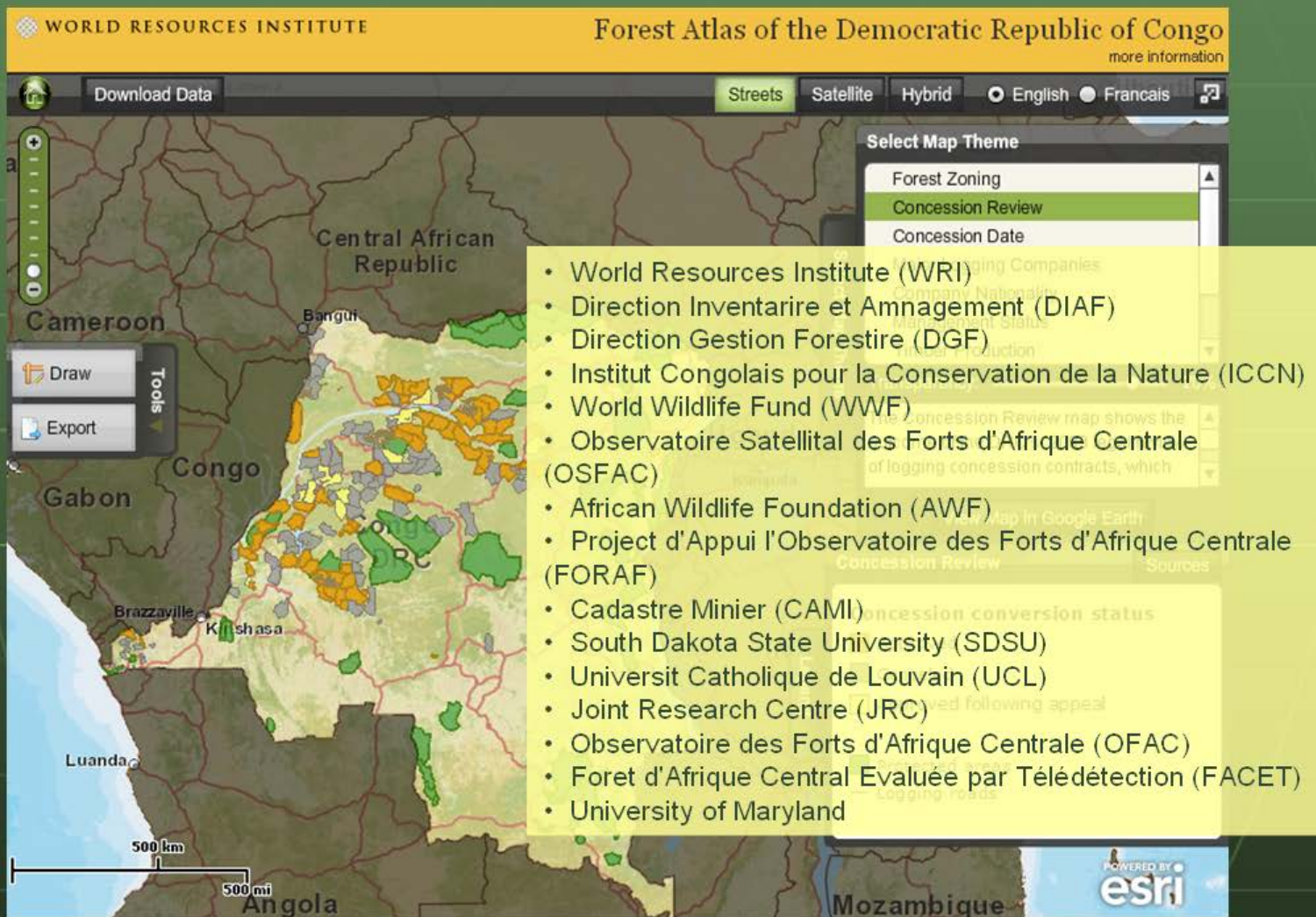
European SCGIS Conference  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
May 21-23, 2010

# Location is an integral property of any subject of conservation research





# In conservation GIS, organizations are partners, not competitors



The Society for Conservation  
Geographic Information Systems  
(SCGIS) was created in 1997 to  
address the challenges common to all  
conservation GIS users...



...but its foundation was being laid for a decade before that, as conservationists using GIS were meeting and spending time together before the annual ESRI User Conference.





# Society for Conservation GIS

- SCGIS works to assist conservationists worldwide in using GIS through communication, networking, scholarships, and training.
- Membership is open to any individual seeking assistance in the achievement of personal or organizational conservation goals.
- As a non-profit, SCGIS uses a fee-based membership to provide services directly to members.
- No individual will be turned away for lack of funds. Individuals may elect to sponsor others with little or no budget.



# Current activities of the Society for Conservation GIS

## Communication:

- **Email listserv** used by members to maintain discussions, ask questions and give answers
- **Web-site** [WWW.SCGIS.ORG](http://WWW.SCGIS.ORG) provides general information about the Society and updates about current events



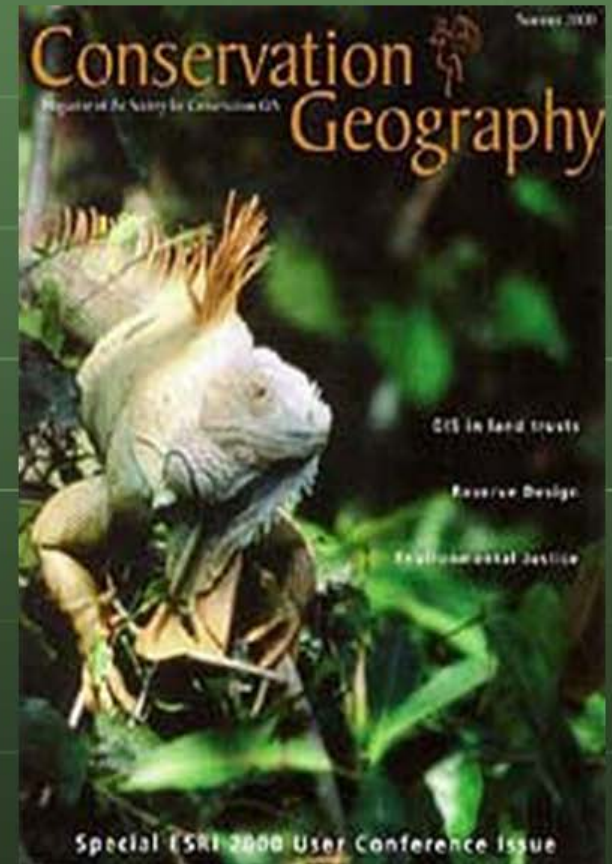


# Current activities of the Society for Conservation GIS

Periodical publications:

- Publish a **peer reviewed journal and hard-copy newsletter** to promote the exchange of ideas and methodologies relevant to conservation GIS
- Bi-annual (or quarterly, when possible) **electronic newsletter**, available at the web-site

Currently inactive, due to lack of volunteer time...



**The Society for Conservation GIS**



# Current activities of the Society for Conservation GIS



- The **Annual SCGIS International Conference** brings together 150-200 conservation GIS professionals from all over the world, providing a unique opportunity to meet, network and share ideas

Traditionally, the conference is coordinated in time with the annual ESRI User Conference.



# Current activities of the Society for Conservation GIS



- Members with well-established GIS capacity **help others obtain ESRI Conservation Program GIS grants**

Grants include ESRI products – software, books, training, and more.

All conservationists are welcome to apply for a grant!  
Grant application forms can be found at the ECP web site  
<http://www.conservationgis.org/grant>





# Current activities of the Society for Conservation GIS

- **Scholarship Program** provides financial support to conservation GIS activists from all over the world, to enable their travel to the USA to attend GIS training course, the Annual SCGIS Conference, and ESRI User Conference



SCGIS scholars receive two weeks of free GIS training, and are provided registration fee waiver at the conferences they attend





# SCGIS International Chapters

- In 1999, it was announced that SCGIS chapter is created in **Germany**...

...but we haven't heard any news from them since then





# SCGIS International Chapters

In **Russia**, various community-building efforts have been in place:

- 1-3 GIS trainings for conservationists are conducted each year since 1995
- Two Conservation GIS Conferences were organized in 2000 and 2002
- A GIS technology web-site, with a strong focus on conservation and action to promote more liberal access to GIS data, is up and running (<http://gis-lab.info>)



# SCGIS International Chapters

- Conservation GIS Conference was organized in 2001 in **Chile**, but there were no follow-up activities for a few years.
- A new kind of chapter gradually emerged that connects conservation GIS activists in Spanish speaking **Latin America**, in countries ranging from Argentina to Mexico.





# SCGIS International Chapters

- **SCGIS Madagascar** has a real office – the only SCGIS office in the world!



- In 2003, they organized a conference that was attended by 80 Malagasy conservation GIS users and guests from India, Kenya, and Russia.



# SCGIS International Chapters

**SCGIS Slovenia** provides GIS training, hosts a GIS web-site, and server for non-profit GIS projects



The screenshot shows the SCGIS Slovenia website. The header features a green background with water droplets on a leaf and the text 'Društvo SCGIS Slovenija' with three white maple leaves. A navigation bar includes 'Glavna stran | Main > slovenščina > Projekti'. The main content area is titled 'Projekti' and lists 'interni projekti'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with 'slovenščina' and 'Projekti' (with sub-items: Rezultati (podatki), Storitve, Podpora, Iskalnik, Kontakt, english). The main text describes the society's projects and lists four specific initiatives for 2005-2006, each with a '[več ...]' link.

Društvo SCGIS Slovenija

Glavna stran | Main > slovenščina > Projekti

**Projekti**

\*\*\* interni projekti

Na spletni strani najdete informacije o preteklih, tekočih in planiranih projektih Društva za varovanje okolja in geografske informacijske sisteme SCGIS Slovenija.

Planirani za leto 2005-2006:

- e-izobraževanje na področju GIS-ov, vodenje projektov in finančno planiranje projektov, varovanje okolja, podpora študentov v visokem šolstvu [\[več ...\]](#)
- vzpostavitev tehnične infrastrukture društva, ponudba nacionalnih digitalnih prostorskih podatkov [\[več ...\]](#)
- vzpostavitev fundacije za napredek mladih GIS [\[več ...\]](#)
- informacijski spletni portal GISS.si [\[več ...\]](#)

**slovenščina**

- Predstavitve
- Članstvo
- Dokumentacija

**Projekti**

- Rezultati (podatki)
- Storitve
- Podpora
- Iskalnik
- Kontakt
- english





# SCGIS International Chapters

In February 2006, **SCGIS Kenya** was officially launched, and in July 2007 they organized the first conference in Nairobi attended by over 200 people. This was followed by another successful conference in 2009.





# SCGIS International Chapters

In June 2006,  
**SCGIS Pilipinas**  
was officially launched in the Philippines!





# SCGIS International Chapters



In **Brazil**, SCGIS members have been organizing meetings since 2006, and in 2009 this culminated in the official chapter launch conference.

Since then, the chapter has been working on preparing a book on Conservation GIS in Brazil. This book will be published this summer, and presented at the next chapter conference held in cooperation with the Brazilian Congress for Landscape Ecology in September 2012.



**II CONGRESSO  
BRASILEIRO  
DE ECOLOGIA  
DE PAISAGENS**

10 A 12 DE SETEMBRO  
HOTEL VILA GALÉ SALVADOR



**II SIMPÓSIO  
SCGIS-BR**

SIG para conservação da biodiversidade:  
apoando o planejamento e gestão de  
paisagens sustentáveis



**The Society for Conservation GIS**

# SCGIS International Chapters

**SCGIS Cameroon** members hold regular meetings and organize workshops on GIS and GPS use for protection of remaining intact forests.





# SCGIS International Chapters

The growing **SCGIS Nepal** organizes regular workshops to strengthen community based applications of GIS with the goal to better manage protected areas and traditional use areas.





# SCGIS International Chapters



**SCGIS Indonesia** chapter was created in 2009, and had its inaugural conference in 2010. The chapter periodically organizes GIS trainings for conservation organizations.



**The Society for Conservation GIS**



# SCGIS International Chapters

- SCGIS chapters are also working in Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa as a region
- SCGIS Japan was created in 2011, and is now in the process of defining its directions.



# SCGIS International Chapters





# A Message from The Board

May 21-23, 2012  
Sofia, Bulgaria



The•Society•for•Conservation•GIS

[www.scgis.org](http://www.scgis.org)

# SCGIS Board of Directors



President - Rob Rose  
Wildlife Conservation Society



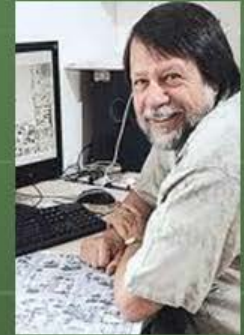
Vice President - Mike Engels  
International Crane Foundation



Treasurer – Gillian Woolmer  
Wildlife Conservation Society



Secretary – Eric Sandoval  
Sandoval and Associates



John Schaeffer  
Juniper GIS



Lata Iyer  
Auroville, India



Karen Beardsley, University of  
California Davis



Sandra Coveny  
PC Track and Associates



Lucy Chege-Waruingi  
African Conservation Centre,  
Kenya



Paul Angelino  
The Nature Conservancy



# Society for Conservation GIS





# Thank you!

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