



The Society for Conservation GIS

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Message to SCGIS Bulgaria Conference Participants
May 21-23, 2012
Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear All,

As the board of SCGIS we are happy to be able to share a message with you at this wonderful event in Sofia, Bulgaria. As one of the newest international SCGIS Chapters you have come a long way since your beginnings in 2009 to the present where you are holding your first international conference. Sharing, community building and supporting each other are at the foundation of what SCGIS is all about, and so it is very exciting for us to know that you are all here at this conference to share your knowledge, provide support to each other, and build your SCGIS community in Europe.

Each of us has our own story about how we have come to be board members of the Society for Conservation GIS, but a common theme for all of us is the importance of the support and community SCGIS gives us every day, and our desire to support that work and give back to the SCGIS community both in the U.S. and Internationally.

In 2012 we are continuing our efforts to provide programs that support our members and spread the work of conservation GIS and the Society. This July, at our International Conference in Monterey California, we will launch a new SCGIS web site that will be truly in Web2.0 mode, allowing SCGIS members to contribute content and network with each other more effectively – we want to provide tools that help members support each other better. This summer we are also supporting a new group of 15 International Scholars from around the world to come to California, to receive GIS training and attend both the ESRI International User Conference and the SCGIS International Conference. We want to take this opportunity to thank Charles Convis at ESRI, Sasha, and ESRI Redlands for all their support that makes the International Scholarship Program and our annual SCGIS conference possible. Charles is very much the founder

SCGIS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

The Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) builds community, provides knowledge, and supports individuals using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage.



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of SCGIS and without his dedication and support we would not be the strong and vibrant society we are today.

Joining this year's group of International Scholars will be a returning scholar as part of our new Train-the-Trainer program, designed to train a graduating scholar to become a Conservation GIS trainer. This program was the brain child of board member John Schaffer of Juniper GIS who for 5 years has donated 3 weeks of his time every year to provide training to our International Scholars and run workshops at our annual conference.

If you are not already a member of SCGIS, we encourage you to sign up and join our international SCGIS membership community. If you are concerned about membership fees or making international payment, hold tight. When the new SCGIS website is launched there will be an effective way to work with our Membership Team on how best to obtain your membership. We feel this new process will help bring down any barriers to membership for our international SCGIS community; this has been a priority for the board over the past year.

Again, we are excited that you are all gathered here and we hope that you are enjoying the conference and being part of the SCGIS international community; hopefully we will get to meet some of you in person at future SCGIS conferences as participants and scholars!

Best wishes to you all,

SCGIS Board

Prepared by: Gillian Woolmer, Mike Engels, Paul Angelino and Eric Sandoval

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