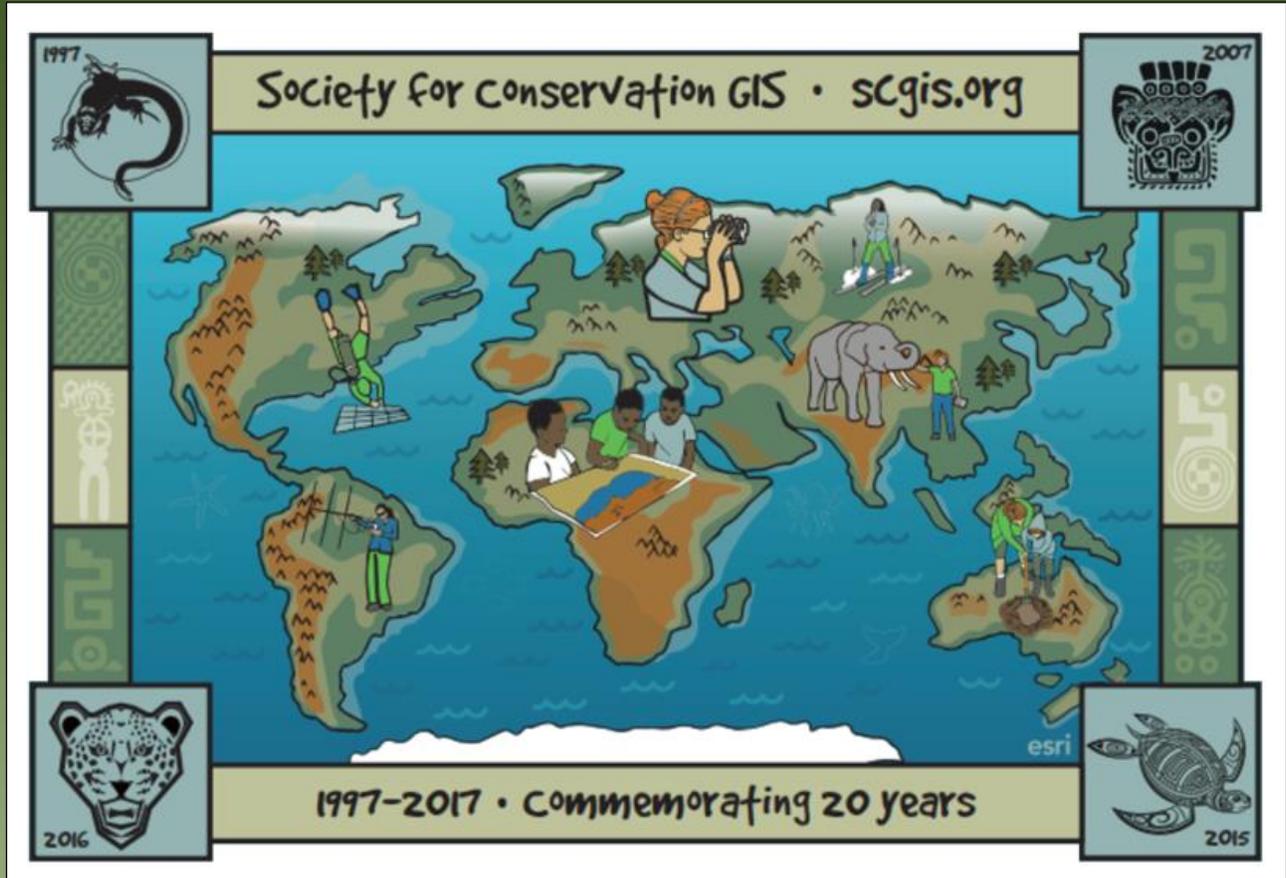


Annual Report



Society for Conservation GIS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society for Conservation GIS was founded in 1993, and incorporated 20 years ago, in 1997. For over two decades, SCGIS has worked to connect, strengthen, and empower conservation geographers through communications, meetings, scholarships, and training. SCGIS is now a large and growing community of conservation professionals who believe in sharing data, seeking knowledge, and embracing innovative approaches that leverage GIS tools toward a more just, transparent, and sustainable world for humans and nature. As SCGIS reflects on its past accomplishments and looks toward its next decade, we will intensify our commitment to our core mission: to build and strengthen a global network of conservation GIS practitioners, develop international conservation GIS capacity, and advance the application of rapidly developing spatial analysis tools to science-based conservation actions. As we embark on our third decade, the conservation of our natural and cultural heritage faces unprecedented, complex, and interacting threats. The need for an effective network of conservation geographers is only increasing, and SCGIS aspires to further support and expand the network we have successfully built together.

SCGIS is an all-volunteer, U.S. based 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The SCGIS Board of Directors, SCGIS Advisory Council members, and the members of our eight programmatic committees are all very pleased to share with you this report describing our recent activities and accomplishments. If you are a past member of SCGIS, we invite you to become reacquainted and reconnected. If you are a current member, we hope this report will inspire you to become an even more involved and active part of our community. If you are new to SCGIS, we invite you to learn more about what we have been doing and where we are headed, and to join our effort to support and connect conservation GIS users around the world.



Healy Hamilton, Ph.D.

President, Society for Conservation GIS

Chief Scientist, NatureServe

www.scgis.org

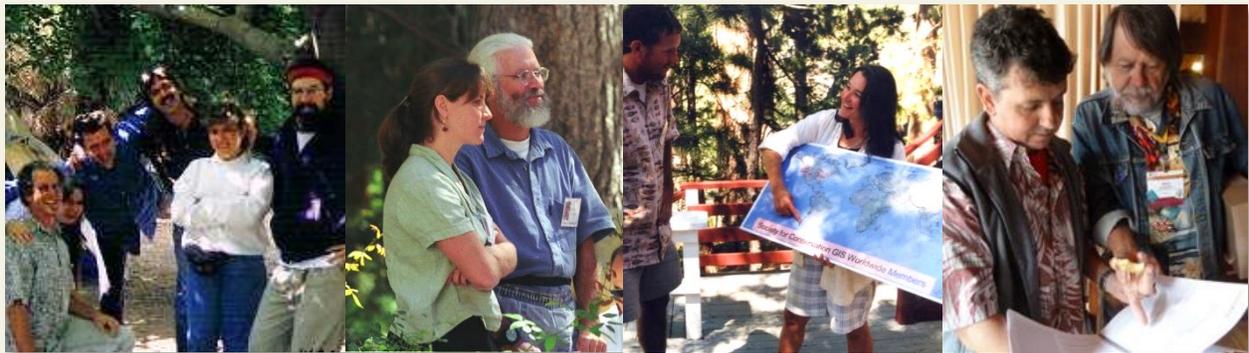
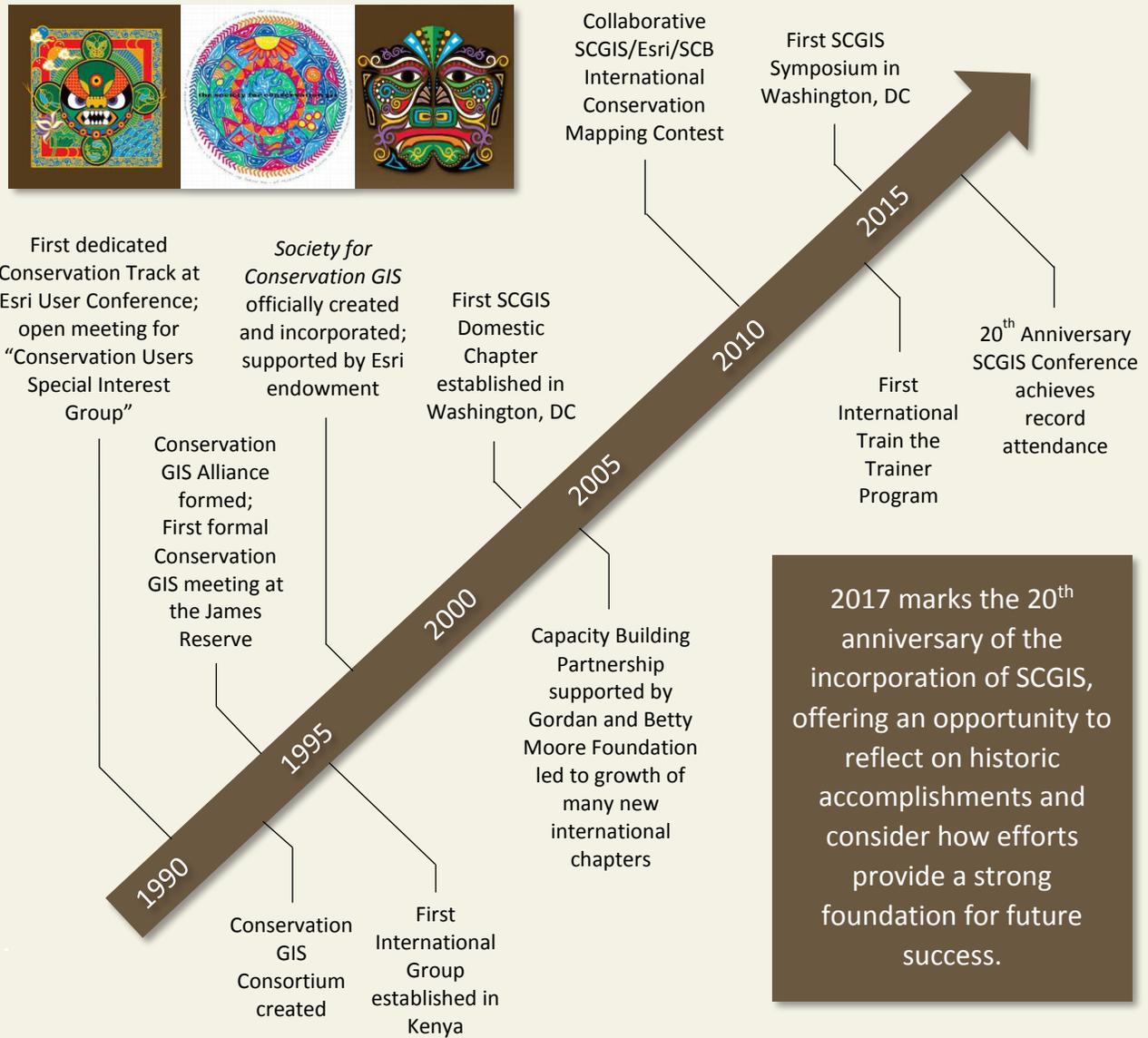
ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW

The Society for Conservation GIS is pleased to share news of the past year's successes in the 2017 Annual Report. This report features activities beginning in July 2016 and continuing through to this year's 20th Anniversary SCGIS Conference, highlighting information about the important work that our Board, Advisory Council, and committees do to support our mission and advance the Society. We encourage current and prospective members, donors, sponsors, domestic and international chapters, and other members of the community to read this report. Topics include:

- Reflection on 20 Years of the Society for Conservation GIS
- Annual Highlights
- Annual Goals and Accomplishments
 - Communications Committee
 - Conference Committee
 - Domestic Chapters Committee
 - Executive Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - International Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Website Committee
- Membership Summary
- Financial Summary
- Donors and Sponsorships
- SCGIS Board of Directors and Advisory Council

The mission of the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS) is to build community, provide knowledge, and support individuals using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage.

REFLECTION ON 20 YEARS OF THE SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION GIS



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Board members, Advisory Council members, and committees have worked hard in 2016–2017 to increase the value of SCGIS to its members, to grow and diversify membership, to expand member participation in Society activities, and to strengthen the operational foundation of SCGIS. We hosted a series of 9 webinars on various conservation GIS topics, increased member engagement with activities and social networking, expanded membership with value-added member benefits, added two new domestic chapters, and improved the financial framework for the organization. In addition, our annual signature programs for International Scholars and the SCGIS Conference were among the best in our history.

SCGIS supported 19 **International Scholars** from Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Gabon, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, and Zambia. Scholars attended a 4-week training workshop in conservation GIS that was hosted by SCGIS and based at the University of California-Davis campus and in Redlands, California. After training, Scholars attended both the Esri International User's Conference and the SCGIS Conference.



The **20th Anniversary SCGIS Conference** achieved record attendance of nearly 250 attendees, including 61 students, to *Look at the Past, Present, and Future of Conservation GIS*. As the premier international event for conservation GIS practitioners, the conference featured technical workshops, more than 80 papers, a new special panel discussion on Using Maps for Advocacy, a student competition, and many opportunities to network among the SCGIS community.



ANNUAL GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2016–2017 provided an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments over our 20-year history, and to build a strong foundation for the next 20 years. With support from our Advisory Council and eight programmatic committees, the board identified a series of strategic goals for 2016–2017 to support our mission. Working together, we have achieved exceptional accomplishments to increase the value of SCGIS to its members, to grow and diversify membership, to expand member participation in Society activities, and to strengthen the operation foundation of SCGIS. Annual SCGIS goals and accomplishments are shown below, and the following pages provide more details of activity for each committee over the past year.

Goals and Accomplishments for 2016–2017		
Goal	Status	Accomplishments
Improve engagement with SCGIS members and the public	Success	Hosted 9 webinars, built new SCGIS Facebook page, expanded Twitter presence
Highlight 20 th Anniversary Conference	Success	Highest attendance ever with nearly 250 attendees; new Maps for Advocacy showcase; new conference sponsorships
Increase SCGIS membership	Success	12% increase in paid annual members as of July 31; highest number of members in at least five years
Improve member retention	Success	9.4% increase in member retention rate; highest member retention rate in at least five years
Identify/share membership value	Partial Success	Strong membership value for current and potential members (webinars, technical videos, community, listserv); documentation/communication is ongoing
Add new domestic chapters	Success	New domestic chapters formally established in Portland and New York/New Jersey
Improve financial framework	Success	First ever SCGIS budget established; migration to online financial management platform completed
Revise SCGIS bylaws	Partial Success	Revised bylaw 12.01 for improved revision standards; ongoing discussion of additional revisions

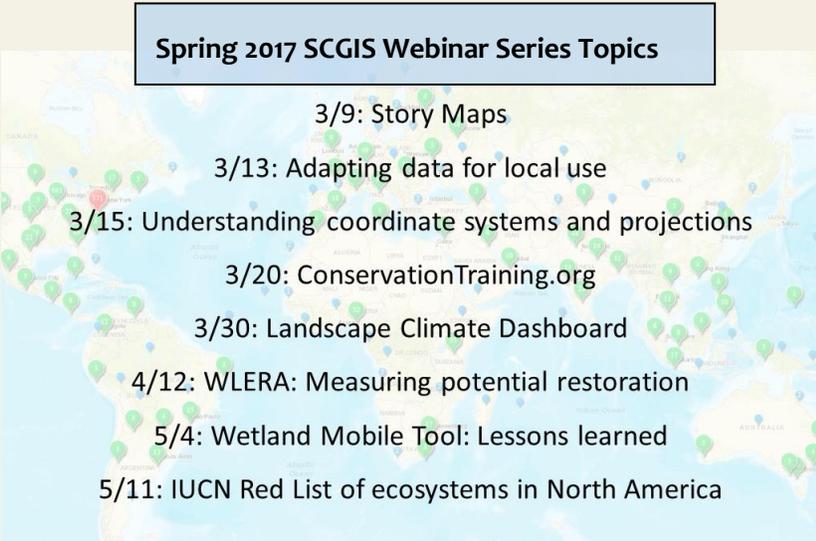
Communications Committee		
The SCGIS Communications Committee works to share the story of SCGIS with current and prospective members and the greater conservation GIS community to promote awareness of and engagement in Society activities, events, and initiatives.	Jocelyn Tutak (chair)	Ecotrust
	Tosha Comendant	Conservation Biology Institute
	Meg Southee	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
	Rebecca Degagne	Conservation Biology Institute
	Laura Roll	Catalina Island Conservancy
	Li Ling Choo	Wildlife Conservation Society
	Jessica Forrest	Independent consultant

The Communications Committee worked hard in 2016–2017 to engage current and potential members throughout the year. Highlights include:

- Hosted a webinar series with 9 webinars that garnered 1,361 total registrants.
- Built a new [SCGIS Facebook page](#) from scratch after many years of a limited presence:

- Gained 398 followers, and each post organically receives an average of 175 views.
- Our highest achieving post, an International Scholar Profile, reached 4,754 people with 446 clicks, likes, reactions, comments, or shares.

- Created Twitter posts averaging 75 views per day, and engagement continues to grow.
- Organized a well-attended webinar for the SCGIS Board, Advisory Council, and committee members for how to edit the website.
- Performed multiple website updates for the Board, committees, chapters, etc. to better reflect changes as they happen in real time.



Conference Committee		
The mission of the SCGIS Conference Committee is to plan, organize, and carry out the SCGIS Annual Conference. The SCGIS Annual Conference is the central gathering event hosted by SCGIS for its board, members and conservation GIS community.	Sandra Coveny (co-chair)	SWCA Environmental Consultants
	Vivienne Sclater (co-chair)	Archbold Biological Station
	Bart Butterfield (co-chair)	Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
	Charles Convis	Esri
	Melissa Kralik	Esri
	Meg Southee	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
	Janice Thomson	The Wilderness Society
	Dean Walton	University of Oregon
	Stu Weiss	Creekside Center for Earth Observation

In coordination with the board and other committees, the Conference Committee organizes the programmatic and logistical aspects of creating a successful SCGIS Annual Conference. For 2016–2017, our committee worked to: decide on a conference theme, develop a conference program, obtain keynote speakers, negotiate finances and logistics with Asilomar Conference Center, organize pre-conference workshops, process abstract submissions, market and outreach, process registrations, and engage a large network of volunteers to lead conference activities.

The 2017 20th Anniversary SCGIS Conference achieved milestone success with record attendance of nearly 250 participants. We highlighted a new Maps for Advocacy session that was extremely popular with participants, and we successfully planned 2 keynote speakers, 4 technical workshops, more than 80 speaker sessions, a map competition, a map gallery, and our signature auction. With the help of the Finance Committee, we secured new conference sponsorships in 2017 and developed a financial budgeting and reporting systems to better plan for and track conference income and expenses.

The SCGIS Annual Conference has traditionally been held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, CA, and we have reserved Asilomar again for 2018. The Conference Committee began to research other potential sites, with several options identified, but no decision on a venue beyond 2018 has yet been made. The Conference Committee will continue to work toward developing affordable, informative, and educational conferences for the conservation GIS community.



Conference Committee at 2016 SCGIS Conference

Domestic Chapters Committee		
The SCGIS Domestic Chapters Committee facilitates the creation of local SCGIS chapters in the United States that support the mission of SCGIS.	Lori Pelech (chair)	Esri
	Janet Nackoney	University of Maryland
	Elizabeth Goldman	World Resources Institute

Over the past year, our Domestic Chapters Committee has helped to facilitate and welcome brand-new domestic chapters in Portland, Oregon and New York-New Jersey. Other SCGIS domestic chapters include San Francisco, California; northern Ohio; and Washington, DC. The SCGIS community is consistently identified as one of the most appreciated benefits of SCGIS membership, and efforts to build community through domestic chapters expand those benefits to a larger network of current and potential members.

Domestic chapters have hosted regional symposiums, showcased conservation GIS work through local seminars, and have hosted networking events like happy hours. The Domestic Chapters Committee continues to provide support for existing chapters and helps to establish chapters in other regions of the US according to interest within the SCGIS membership.

All
Chapters ▾



✉ chapters@scgis.org

The Portland SCGIS Chapter holds a monthly happy hour meet-up on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at about 5:30 PM. Contact [Tommy Albo](#) to subscribe to the monthly email for details.

The Portland, Oregon SCGIS Chapter’s SCGIS.org page.

Executive Committee		
The SCGIS Executive Committee, comprised of the board-elected officers of SCGIS, is the group of individuals that has accepted the highest level of responsibility for the governance of SCGIS.	Healy Hamilton (chair)	NatureServe
	Janet Nackoney	University of Maryland
	Jason Winner	Marstel-Day
	Monica Noon	Conservation International

The SCGIS Executive Committee is comprised of the four officers of the Board: the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who are the volunteers with the most responsibility for the Society. This committee was founded in 2015 to enhance the leadership capacity of the organization. The Executive Committee serves to advance the activities established and prioritized by the SCGIS Board, and provides general organizational leadership and governance.

The primary task of this committee is to provide support for follow through on activities identified at the monthly SCGIS board meetings, and help set board meeting agendas. With the Board and most committees meeting once a month, the Executive Committee seeks to improve the efficiency and expand the scope of what can be accomplished both during and in the time between board meetings.

Over the last several years it has been operating, the Executive Committee has increased the opportunity for communication among the board officers, and has resulted in greater accountability for advancing the goals of the Board and the SCGIS committees. This committee also serves as a point of cultivation for a ladder of leadership from within the ranks of the Society.



SCGIS President Healy Hamilton and SCGIS Vice President Janet Nackoney

Finance Committee

<p>The mission of the Finance Committee is to improve understanding of the diversity and amount of SCGIS income assets and income sources, assess SCGIS expenses and costs, and build sustainable financial structures to support existing Society activities that ensure full compliance with all Society reporting obligations as a 501(c)3 organization.</p>	Janet Nackoney (chair)	University of Maryland
	Jason Winner	Marstel-Day
	Karen Beardsley	University of California-Davis
	Sandra Coveny	SWCA Environmental Consultants
	Vivienne Sclater	Archbold Biological Station

The SCGIS Finance Committee seeks to increase transparency and Board engagement for SCGIS fiscal management and planning. Major achievements of the Finance Committee for FY 2016–17 include:

- Developed a first-ever comprehensive SCGIS annual budget, including income and expenses for each of SCGIS’s organizational committees.
- Provided enhanced information and transparency to the Board with improved and regular reporting of current and historic financial data.
- Migrated SCGIS accounting to an online system for better real-time tracking of fiscal activity.
- Began development of an organizational Financial Handbook to establish protocols for SCGIS fiscal management.



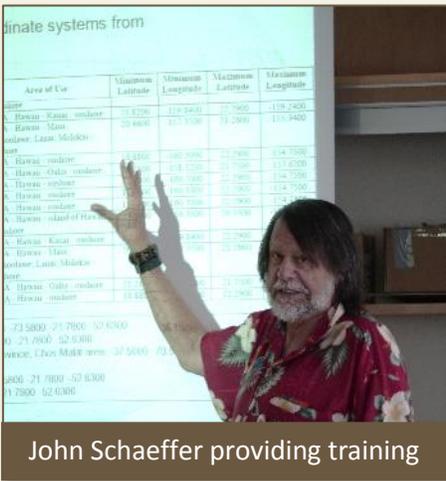
Financial planning for International Scholars

International Committee		
The SCGIS International Committee fosters communication and networking among conservation GIS professionals and students through a well-defined annual scholarship program, the development and support of regional and national groups, the creation and funding of scholarship programs, training and technical support programs, and a number of other activities.	Charles Convis (chair)	Esri
	Karen Beardsley	University of California-Davis
	John Schaeffer	Juniper GIS
	Mervin Lotter	Mpumalama Wildlife Agency, South Africa
	M Abdullah Abu Diyan	Bangladesh
	Carlos De Angelo	Instituto de Biología Subtropical, Argentina
	Lata Iyer	Auroville, India
	Leslie Backus	Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan
	Steven Blum	Davis, CA
	Bettina Convis	Tri-County Conservation League
	Stefan Stamenov	SRTI-BAS, Bulgaria
	Vanya Stamenova	SRTI-BAS, Bulgaria
	Lucy Waruingi	Africa Conservation Center, Kenya
Adnane Labbaci	Morocco Forestry Division	

This was an important transition year for SCGIS international and scholarship programs starting with the loss of long-time scholar coordinator Sasha Yumakaev, who had been supported in the position full-time by Esri for the past 12 years. The scholarship program adapted into a volunteer-led collaborative task including the SCGIS train the trainer (TTT) program. This change has highlighted the importance of international SCGIS chapters in organizing conservation GIS training in their home countries, with our TTT program providing needed local instructors.

2016–17 highlights include a significant increase in in-kind support from our leadership team; the addition of science faculty for advanced conservation research applications; a new course in conservation imagery analysis; increase in scholar program size by four to 19 scholars, including first-ever participants from Liberia, Pakistan, Gabon and Bolivia; doubling the TTT candidate program to two TTT candidates, including trainers Angela Tarimy and Tatenda Muchopa; and the addition of a new training assistant position filled by Dr. Adnane Labbaci, head of GIS for the Morocco Forestry Department. We are strategically developing TTT training capacity to support every global region.

Our eastern European chapters including Bulgaria, Slovenia and Russia successfully held their *Third European SCGIS Conference* in 2016, organized by an academic panel of dozens of distinguished researchers and attended by special delegations of local youth. A delegate from SCGIS Russia attended the SCGIS 2017 international conference and gave the first-ever international chapters report.



John Schaeffer providing training

Membership Committee		
The SCGIS Membership Committee administers membership, provides support for membership questions and payments, and supports membership recruitment and renewal activities of SCGIS.	Miriam Schmidts (chair)	Esri
	Mervyn Lotter	Mpumalama Wildlife Agency, South Africa
	Sandra Coveny	SWCA Environmental Consultants
	John Cannon	Marstel-Day
	Kellee Koenig	Conservation International

Our Membership Committee has been busy with efforts to inspire current and potential members to join and renew membership in the Society. We hosted a successful membership drive that added 115 inspired conservationists to join SCGIS or to renew their membership. SCGIS currently has more than 600 active, paying members from 48 different countries.

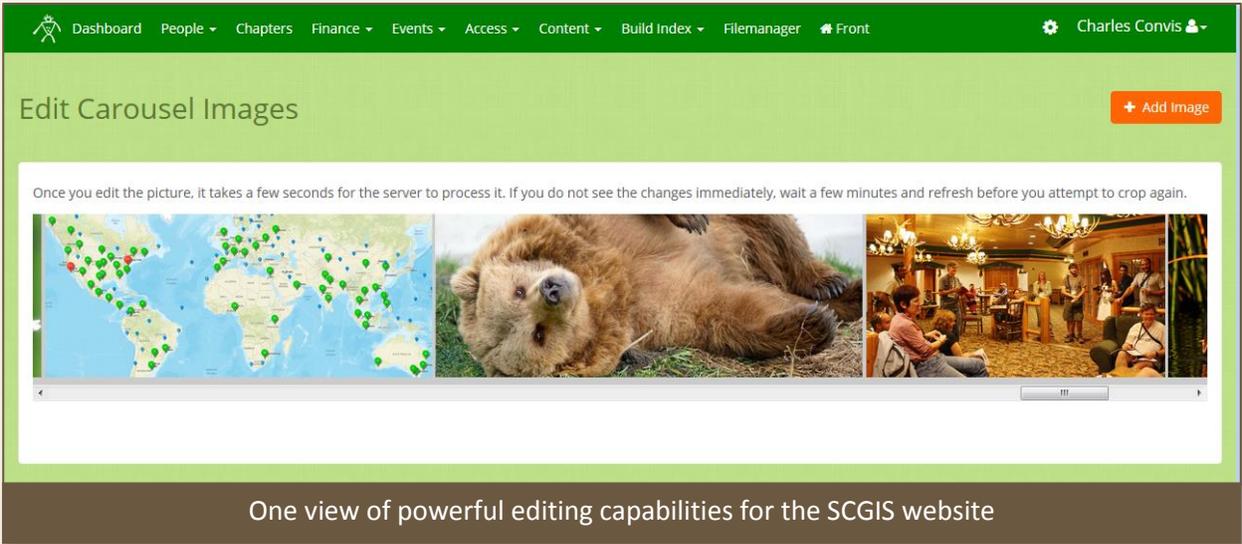
We implemented PayPal as a new payment method this year, which offers a viable alternative to credit card payments, especially for international members. The Membership Committee organized SCGIS outreach at the Esri Federal UC in Washington, DC and at the Esri International User Conference in San Diego. The committee continues to support the active SCGIS membership and works with other committees to reach out to former and potential members.



SCGIS booth at Esri International Users Conference

Website Committee		
<p>The purpose of the Website Committee is to establish and implement the SCGIS web presence by coordinating the design, development and maintenance of the public SCGIS website and any other web channels.</p>	Charles Convis (chair)	Esri
	Nasser Olwero	World Wildlife Fund
	Vanya Stamenova	SRTI-BAS Bulgaria
	Stefan Stamenov	SRTI-BAS Bulgaria

The Website Committee facilitates direct contribution, discussion, learning, and sharing of conservation and GIS-related content by practitioners worldwide, including SCGIS members and non-members alike. The committee has a particularly close relationship with the SCGIS Communications Committee and their task of curating content for SCGIS media including the website. In this relationship, the Website Committee acts as a facilitator for Communications Committee tasks, ensuring that web capabilities and functionalities are created and maintained as needed, and to provide supplementary authorship and content creation for communications. The Website Committee coordinates content through the public-facing www.scgis.org website with additional support and materials at www.conservationgis.org.



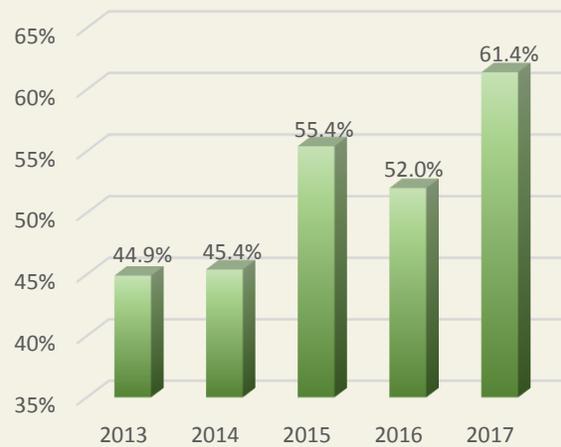
MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

SCGIS has records for more than 6,600 historical members, but improving member retention has been a consistent challenge. We have met goals this year to increase membership and secure higher retention for existing members. Numbers as of July 31, 2017 include a 11.7% year-over-year increase in memberships, including significant improvement in member retention.

SCGIS Membership



SCGIS Member Retention Rate

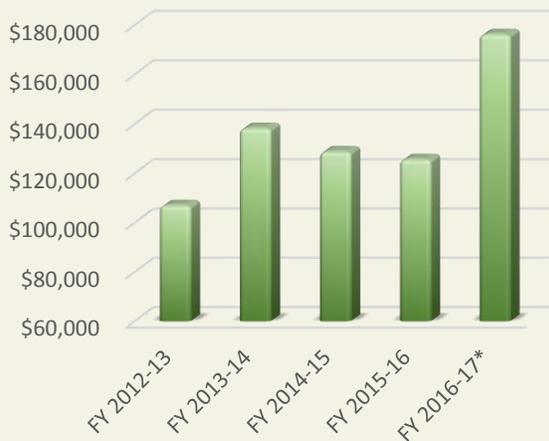


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

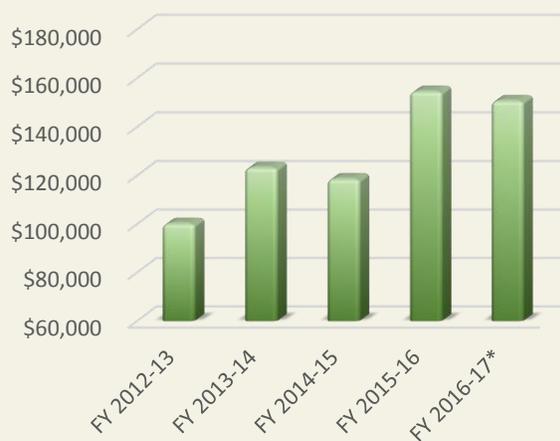
SCGIS had total net assets of \$126,080 as of September 30, 2016. For the fiscal year of October 2016 through September 2017, we have significantly strengthened organizational finances. Five-year income and expense trends are shown in tables below, based on data available as of August 31, 2017.¹ Slight changes are expected during the final month of the fiscal year.

- Income has increased significantly in FY2016–17 to \$176,185 (estimated) as of August 31, 2017. The Society is supported by income from an endowment, donors, membership fees, and event fees.
- Growth in income has enabled expansion of programming for more members, a larger international scholarship program, new domestic chapters, and more attendees at our annual conference.
- After an increase in expenses in our previous fiscal year, efforts were made this past year to improve expense planning for multiple programs. Expenses have stabilized this year to \$150,688 (estimated) as of August 31, 2017.

Annual Income



Annual Expenses



¹FY2016–17 numbers include available information as of August 31, 2017 and will be updated to final reflect numbers after the completion of the fiscal year. For consistency of recurring operations, expense tables specifically exclude one-time expense for strategic planning.

DONORS AND SPONSORSHIPS

In 2016–2017, SCGIS programming has expanded membership and programming to reach more members and conservation GIS practitioners. This is only possible through the generous support from our donors and sponsors. We offer special gratitude to Esri for being a key SCGIS donor including sponsoring the International Scholarship Program, providing in-kind staff support for SCGIS activities, and for providing materials, tools, and equipment for SCGIS events. We offer deep appreciation to the following donors and sponsors that have provided support for SCGIS, the international scholarship program, and the SCGIS Annual Conference:

- Organizational Donor



- International Scholarship Program Sponsors



- SCGIS Conference Sponsors



**SCGIS–Portland OR
Chapter**



SCGIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCGIS Board of Directors 2016-2017	
Healy Hamilton (President)	NatureServe
Janet Nackoney (Vice President)	University of Maryland
Jason Winner (Treasurer)	Marstel-Day
Monica Noon (Secretary)	Conservation International
Karen Beardsley	University of California-Davis
Mervyn Lotter	Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (South Africa)
Tosha Comendant	Conservation Biology Institute
Lori Pelech	Esri
Jocelyn Tutak	Ecotrust
Bart Butterfield	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
M Abdullah Abu Diyan	Bangladesh
Miguel Fernandez	United Nations Development Programme
Julia Clark	GHD
Kellee Koenig	Conservation International

SCGIS Advisory Council 2016-2017	
Charles Convis	Esri
Leslie Backus	Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan
Lata Iyer	Auroville, India
Lisa Pierce	City of Riverside, CA
John Schaeffer	Juniper GIS
Susan Miller	State of Georgia
Eric Sandoval	Sandoval and Associates
Rob Rose	College of William and Mary
Lucy Chege-Waruingi	Africa Conservation Center, Kenya
Mike Hamilton	UC Blue Oaks Research Reserve
Sandra Coveny	SWCA Environmental Consultants
Miriam Schmidts	Esri

2017 Annual Report

PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.SCGIS.ORG

 [scgisintl](https://www.facebook.com/scgisintl)

 [@SCGIS](https://twitter.com/SCGIS)



Society for
Conservation GIS