

www.scgis.org



### Message from the President

The SCGIS Board of Directors, SCGIS Advisory Council members, and the members of our eight programmatic committees are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Society for Conservation GIS (SCGIS), which details our activities and accomplishments for 2017–2018. We encourage current and prospective members, donors, sponsors, members of our domestic and international chapters, and other members of the conservation and geospatial community to read this report and learn about the ongoing efforts of SCGIS.

This was an exciting year for SCGIS: we grew our board of directors and leadership in many of our committees, added two new domestic and two new international chapters, completed a successful 2018 Annual Conference, and secured a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with our primary donor, Esri, among many other accomplishments! Since 1997, we have proudly served the conservation GIS community by connecting, strengthening, and empowering conservation GIS practitioners with scholarships, training, networking events, and knowledge sharing opportunities. SCGIS continues to build capacity for members and practitioners to protect and enhance our natural and cultural heritage in the 21st century.

As a 100% volunteer-led 501(c)3 non-profit organization, SCGIS depends heavily upon membership revenue and donor support to continue our activities and mission. We hope that this report will inspire you to become an involved and active part of our community through membership or a tax-deductible donation. Thank you for your participation in connecting and supporting conservation GIS users around the world!



Janet Nackoney
President, Society for Conservation GIS
Associate Research Professor, University of Maryland
www.scgis.org

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.

### IN MEMORIAM



# Bart Butterfield, 1956-2017

This year, SCGIS very sadly lost a member of the SCGIS Board of Directors, Bart Butterfield, who passed away on November 15, 2017. Bart had been a SCGIS board member since 2016. He became a member of the SCGIS Conference Committee in 2015 and co-chair of the committee in 2017. During those years, Bart worked very hard to help ensure that our annual conferences were successful.

Bart was Manager of the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Information System and served as treasurer of the Northwest GIS User Group. Bart earned a Masters in Wildlife Resources with a thesis on avian biology from the University of Idaho. For the past 25 years, he was committed to leading the GIS and Information Systems department of Idaho's Department of Fish and Game. He was a passionate birder, lover of nature, and was fond of travel. Bart leaves behind a legacy of dedicated work within the conservation GIS community. SCGIS will miss Bart's quiet generosity and his inspiration and enthusiasm for SCGIS.

At his passing, his colleagues shared the following message with SCGIS, "Bart was very proud of his involvement with the Society for Conservation GIS, and it put a sparkle in his eye that I hadn't seen in quite some time. He was very passionate about SCGIS and the efforts that bridged GIS with conservation."

# 2017-2018 SCGIS ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hosted a webinar series that shared the latest in conservation GIS practices with over 1,000 practitioners



Formally established new SCGIS international chapters in India and the Ukraine



Formally established new SCGIS domestic chapters in Colorado and Western/Central Massachusetts Supported 17 International Scholars from Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Romania, Rwanda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zambia, and Zimbabwe! 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

Completed a SCGIS training event in Bali and successfully expanded worldwide Train-the-Trainer capacity



Developed the framework for an Esri-SCGIS
Memorandum of Understanding around a set of mutual goals, objectives, and funding requirements



2017-2018

Engaged the conservation GIS community to share SCGIS messages through social media posts and SCGIS networking events. Expanded our social media network to more than 2,000 followers



Developed geographic and timebased membership tools to identify membership growth opportunities



Strengthened our financial foundation by starting to draft a Financial Handbook and establishing a reserves fund The 21st Annual SCGIS Conference brought together conservation practitioners from around the world around spatial technology applications for Local Communication and Traditional Knowledge. As the premier international event for conservation GIS practitioners, the conference featured 10 technical workshops, more than 75 papers, a special panel discussion on Using Maps for Advocacy, a student competition, a map gallery, and many opportunities to network among the SCGIS community



Strengthened our administrative foundation by establishing a formal business address and reporting protocols



Began efforts to overhaul the SCGIS website for a significantly improved user experience

#### **Communications Committee**

The 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.

Rebecca Degagne (co-chair) Conservation Biology Institute

Meg Southee (co-chair) Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Li Ling Choo Wildlife Conservation Society

Elizabeth Goldman World Resources Institute

Patrick Grady U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Eric Jensen Colorado State University
Ellie Linden NatureServe
Ellen Strobel Austin Peay State University

Jocelyn Tutak Ecotrust

The Communications Committee had a very productive 2017-18 year with activities centered on engaging both current and potential Society members. SCGIS and the Conservation Biology Institute sponsored a spring webinar series with including species distribution modeling, regional conservation planning in the Bay area of California, applications for marine conservation, and using drones for conserving rare plant species in Hawaii. The Communications Committee created a new Story Map in preparation for the 2018 Annual Conference to highlight SCGIS member projects around the theme of Local Communities and Traditional Knowledge,



Communications Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference

which was featured on the SCGIS website and social media platforms. Committee members led social media outreach during the 2018 Annual Conference that included live-streaming the plenary presentation, sharing updates during the conference, amplifying attendee tweets, and actively responding to questions about the conference on our various platforms.

The Communications Committee promoted many features on the SCGIS website including the 2017 Annual Conference video proceedings, SCGIS member projects, and member profiles. SCGIS launched new social media efforts on <u>LinkedIn</u> and <u>GeoNet</u> while increasing presence across all SCGIS social media platforms (<u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, and <u>GeoNet</u>. In addition, the committee supported and promoted the 2017 SCGIS Membership Drive and produced a Story Map version of the <u>2016–17 Annual</u> Report.

#### **Conference Committee**

The SCGIS Conference
Committee plans, organizes,
and carries 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.

Vivienne Sclater (chair) Archbold Biological Station

Charles Convis Esri

Sandra Coveny Sandra Coveny LLC

Saskia Fagan NPS Melissa Kralik Esri Andy Lyons UCANR

Meg Southee Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Janice Thomson The Wilderness Society
Dean Walton University of Oregon

In coordination with the board and other committees, the Conference Committee organizes the programmatic and logistical aspects of creating a successful SCGIS Annual Conference. Our 2018 conference was based around the theme of Local Communities and Traditional Knowledge. The conference featured plenary speakers Dr. Lilian Pintea of the Jane Goodall Institute and Jaime Pinkham of the USA-based Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, who spoke about the importance of geospatial data and information in preserving place-based knowledge among local communities in Africa and among Native American tribes.



Conference Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference

The SCGIS conference hosted nearly 200 attendees and featured over 75 speaker sessions covering topics such as habitat modeling, change detection using remote sensing, participatory land use planning with local communities, UAVs, and forest conservation. Several Technical Workshops focused on a range of topics including Story Maps and mobile field data collection using Survey 123. The conference continued a Maps for Advocacy session that first debuted last year to highlight map design and storytelling, with an open panel discussion on Tribal and Indigenous Community Conservation GIS. The conference also featured a student paper competition, a Map Gallery and reception, and our signature auction which helps raise support for the International Scholars Program.

The SCGIS Annual Conference has traditionally been held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, CA, and Asilomar is reserved again for 2019. The Conference Committee will continue to work toward developing affordable, informative, and educational conferences for the conservation GIS community.

## **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.

Derek Masaki (chair) USGS Nathan Walker USFS Tommy Albo (Portland, OR chapter lead) OregonMetro

Connor Bailey (Colorado chapter lead) The Wilderness Society Francis Hourigan (San Francisco chapter co-lead) Jackson Family Wines Janet Nackoney (Washington, DC chapter co-lead) Whitney Newcomb (San Francisco chapter co-lead) Lettis Consultants Florencia Sangermano (Western & Central Clark University Massachusetts chapter lead)

University of Maryland

Alina Tarmu (New York/New Jersey chapter lead) NYC Dept. of Env. Protection Max Wright (Washington, DC chapter co-lead) Conservation International

The Domestic Chapters Committee provides support to help existing chapters and helps establish chapters in other regions of the U.S. In 2017-2018, SCGIS added two new domestic chapters: the Colorado chapter and the Western and Central Massachusetts chapter. The very active Colorado chapter was founded during the GIS in the Rockies Conference in Denver in September 2017. The chapter then met two more times for networking events in both Denver and Broomfield, which included an event as part of the Southwest Esri User Conference. The Washington DC domestic chapter held three networking and training events for conservation GIS professionals, including one in conjunction with the Esri Federal GIS Conference in early The New York/New Jersey domestic chapter also held three networking events and is seeing increased engagement of new members at their events, including those from Columbia University and Stony Brook University. The Portland domestic chapter met regularly with monthly networking happy hours.



Domestic Chapters Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference

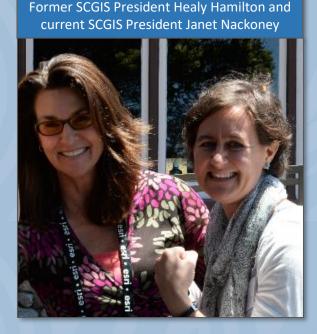


#### **Executive Committee**

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 board-elected officers including the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who work to enhance the leadership capacity of SCGIS by ensuring coordination among multiple committees, advancing activities that have been proposed and prioritized by the board, and providing general governance. The Executive Committee meets once per month to discuss updates on goals and accomplishments and to collaboratively plan the agenda for the monthly meetings of the board of directors. With recurring monthly meetings for the board and most committees, the Executive Committee seeks to improve efficiency in the time between meetings and to provide accountability for board directives. The committee also serves as a point of cultivation for emerging leaders from within the ranks of the Society.



In 2017–18, the Executive Committee helped to ensure continuity among multiple committees that experienced changes in leadership and provided input for improved coordination among many efforts throughout the Society. The Executive Committee, in partnership with the International Committee, led efforts to develop the framework for a five-year Esri–SCGIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) around a set of mutual goals, objectives, and funding requirements. This MOU, expected to be executed by January 2019, will provide a foundation to enable continued Esri training support, funding, and programming for the International Scholars Program, which will allow more significant long-term planning to strengthen the Society. The Executive Committee also engaged with SCGIS membership in early 2018 to successfully change two SCGIS bylaws to improve the structural foundation of the Society and support continuing growth of programming efforts.

#### **Finance Committee**

The SCGIS Finance Committee improves understanding of the diversity and amount of SCGIS income assets and sources, assesses SCGIS expenses and costs, and builds sustainable financial structures to support activities that ensure full compliance with all Society reporting obligations as a 501(c)3 organization.

Janet Nackoney (chair) University of Maryland
Jason Winner (Treasurer) Marstel-Day
Karen Beardsley University of California-Davis
Sandra Coveny Sandra Coveny, LLC
Kellee Koenig Conservation International
Vivienne Sclater Archbold Biological Station

The SCGIS Finance Committee seeks to increase transparency and board engagement for SCGIS fiscal management and planning by delivering routine financial reporting at monthly board meetings and by managing legal tax and business reporting requirements.

In 2017–18, the Finance Committee coordinated the creation of the first-ever SCGIS Annual Report (2016-2017). The committee engaged with all committees to develop a comprehensive SCGIS annual budget, which for the first time included customized details of income and expenses for each committee. Within the budget, the Finance Committee initiated a dedicated reserves fund to provide improved long-term financial security. The committee also transitioned Society finances to an upgraded bank account with nationwide access and secured a formal Montana business address for SCGIS to meet legal reporting requirements. In partnership with the Conference Committee, the Finance Committee developed a 2018 SCGIS Conference sponsor program with exhibit booth opportunities that successfully secured the highest-ever level of conference sponsorships. The committee also began to develop an organizational Financial Handbook to establish consistent protocols for SCGIS fiscal management.



Finance Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference

#### **International Committee**

The SCGIS International Committee fosters communication and networking among conservation GIS professionals and students through a well-defined annual scholarship program, development and support of regional and national groups, creation and funding of scholarship programs, training and technical support programs, and other activities.

Karen Beardsley (chair) University of California-Davis

Mervyn Lotter (vice chair) Mpumalanga Tourism/Parks Agency, South Africa

Leslie Backus Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan

Steven Blum Davis, CA

Sandra Coveny, LLC

Charles Convis Esri

Carlos De Angelo Instituto de Biología Subtropical, Argentina

M Abdullah Abu Diyan Bangladesh

Prashant Hedao Asian Nature Conservation Foundation

Lata Iyer Auroville, India

Michelle Kinzel Southwestern College

Adnane Labbaci Ibn Zohr University

Lisa Pierce Redlands Conservancy

John Schaeffer Juniper GIS

Miriam Schmidts Esri

Stefan Stamenova SRTI-BAS, Bulgaria

Vanya Stamenova SRTI-BAS, Bulgaria

The SCGIS International Committee led a very successful year for both the SCGIS Scholars Program and the Train the Trainer (TTT) Program. This year, 17 International Scholars from Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Romania, Rwanda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Zambia, and Zimbabwe participated in several weeks of cutting-edge conservation GIS training at both the University of California-Davis and at Esri offices in Redlands, California. The Scholars also presented at both the SCGIS Conference and the International Esri User Conference, receiving

exceptional feedback on their work. The committee also began migrating scholarship and TTT curriculum to ArcGIS Pro in 2018 to be completed in 2019. SCGIS is grateful for very generous support from Esri and World Wildlife Fund's Russell E. Train Education for Nature fund, which allowed us to host the International Scholars Program.



SCGIS expanded its capacity for international conservation GIS during 2017-2018. The committee coordinated a TTT program in Bali. Also, four new conservation GIS trainers were certified for expansion of worldwide training efforts: Aaria Dobson-Waitere from New Zealand, Andina Anastasia Krey from Indonesia, Lucy Liew from Malaysia, and Mervyn Lotter (as a Master Trainer) from South Africa. The International Committee also facilitated the formation of new international chapters in India and the Ukraine. SCGIS continues to expand efforts to develop a worldwide footprint of conservation GIS training capacity and community support.





## **Membership Committee**

The SCGIS Membership Committee administers membership, provides support for membership questions and payments, confirms memberships, and supports membership recruitment and renewal activities of SCGIS.

Miriam Schmidts (chair) Esri

John Cannon Marstel-Day

Sandra Coveny, LLC

Kellee Koenig Conservation International

Mervyn Lotter Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency,

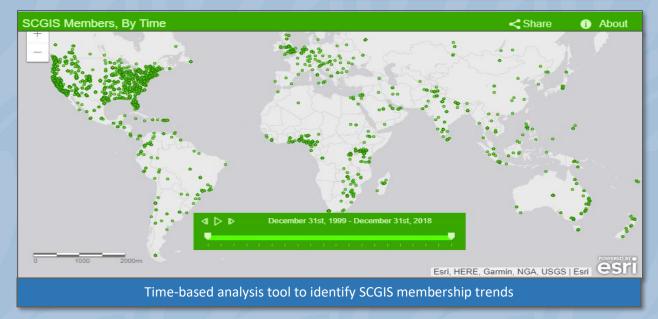
South Africa

Nathan Walker USFS

Membership Committee efforts inspire current and potential members to join and renew SCGIS membership. In 2017-18, SCGIS promoted a membership drive to encourage conservation GIS practitioners to join SCGIS or to renew their membership, and the committee also organized SCGIS outreach activities at the Esri International and Federal User Conferences. The committee promotes membership benefits, like availability of all Esri User Conference technical workshop videos on the SCGIS website. To illustrate SCGIS membership trends, the committee developed geographic and time-based tools identify gaps and opportunities for membership growth. The committee supports active SCGIS members and works with other committees to reach out to former and potential members.



Membership Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference



#### **Website Committee**

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.

Meg Southee (chair) Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Li Ling Choo Wildlife Conservation Society

Charles Convis Esri

Max Cook The Nature Conservancy

Miguel Fernandez NatureServe

Camera Ford American Museum of Natural History

Nasser Olwero World Wildlife Fund
Connor Shank The Nature Conservancy
Matt Silveira The Nature Conservancy

Nathan Walker USFS

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 collaborates on 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 are created and maintained as needed to support Communications Committee tasks and provides supplementary authorship and content creation for communications as needed. The Website Committee coordinates content through the public-facing <a href="https://www.scgis.org">www.scgis.org</a> website.

In 2017–18, the Website Committee led efforts to record sessions at the Annual Conference and upload proceedings to the SCGIS website. The Committee began efforts to overhaul the SCGIS website for a significantly improved user experience and engaged with other committees to better understand how

their needs can be met with new website capabilities or by improving existing website elements. A sub-committee was formed to design a new layout and user experience for the SCGIS website which led to hiring a contractor for web development to redesign features and improve the user interface. Collaborative efforts led to development and approval of a layout and color palette for the new website, and designs were presented at the annual membership meeting for review by the SCGIS community. Website improvements are expected to be completed and launched in 2019.

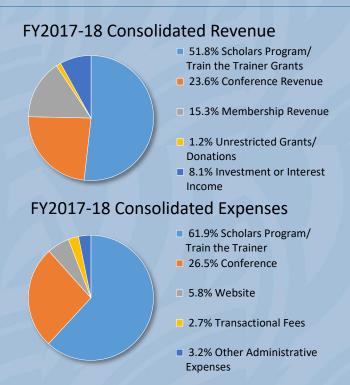


Website Committee at 2018 SCGIS Conference

# FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Financial Summary: SCGIS had total net assets of \$172,076 as of September 30, 2018 including endowment assets of \$109,676. Net assets increased by \$18,936 compared to September 30, 2017. The Society is supported by revenue from investment income, donors and grants, membership fees, and event fees. Over the past two years, strong budgeting efforts, detailed expense planning, and revenue growth has enabled expansion of programming, a larger international scholarship program, new domestic chapters, and more training opportunities at the SCGIS annual conference. Net income for the fiscal year of October 2017 through September 2018 was \$26,262.1

Membership Summary: SCGIS had 565 members on September 30, 2018, which reflects a slight decrease compared to one year prior. SCGIS membership in 2017 had increased significantly due to specialized outreach efforts for the 2017 SCGIS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, which set an all-time attendance record and attracted many new members. Current numbers over a longer period show moderate growth.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>FY2017–18 financial information estimated from available data as of September 30, 2018.

# **DONORS AND SPONSORS**

In 2017–2018, SCGIS benefitted from many generous donors and sponsors. We offer special gratitude to Esri for being a key SCGIS donor. This year, Esri helped fund our International Scholarship Program and provided in-kind staff support, technical training, printed materials, and equipment for our Annual Conference. We offer deep appreciation to the following donors and sponsors that have provided support to SCGIS, the International Scholars Program, and the SCGIS Annual Conference.

#### **Premier Donor**



**SCGIS or International Scholarship Program Sponsors** 







#### **SCGIS Annual Conference Sponsors**

Ocelot Level:









Elegant Trogon Level:





Star Tortoise Level:









# **SCGIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL**

#### SCGIS Board of Directors 2017–2018

Healy Hamilton (President) NatureServe, USA

Janet Nackoney (Vice President) University of Maryland, USA

Jason Winner (Treasurer) Marstel-Day, USA

Monica Noon (Secretary) Conservation International, USA

Karen Beardsley University of California-Davis, USA

Bart Butterfield Idaho Department of Fish and Game, USA

Tosha Comendant Conservation Biology Institute, USA

M Abdullah Abu Diyan US Agency for International Development, Bangladesh

Miguel Fernandez United Nations Development Programme

Kellee Koenig Conservation International, USA

Mervyn Lotter Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency, South Africa

Derek Masaki US Geological Survey, USA

Vivienne Sclater Archbold Biological Station, USA

Meg Southee Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Jocelyn Tutak Ecotrust, USA

### SCGIS Advisory Council 2017–2018

Leslie Backus Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan

Charles Convis Esri, USA

Lucy Chege-Waruingi Africa Conservation Center, Kenya

Sandra Coveny LLC, USA

Mike Hamilton UC Blue Oaks Research Reserve, USA

Prashant Hedao Asian Nature Conservation Foundation, USA

Lata lyer Auroville, India

Susan Miller The Nature Conservancy, USA

Lisa Pierce Redlands Conservancy, USA

Rob Rose College of William and Mary, USA

Eric Sandoval City of Salinas, USA

John Schaeffer Juniper GIS, USA

Miriam Schmidts Esri, USA

Drew Stephens Esri, USA

## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR

SCGIS looks forward to having a productive 2018–2019 year! As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our growth as an international Society and we seek new ways to engage our community of conservation GIS practitioners in support of the SCGIS mission.

The SCGIS Board of Directors, SCGIS Advisory Council members, and committee members are well-poised to lead and implement activities that will help expand the reach of SCGIS. At next year's 2019 Annual Conference, we will provide training opportunities in geospatial tools and conservation themes to further engage our members and conference attendees. We will continue to promote international conservation through our International Scholars Program and Train-the-Trainer Program, offering training as well as professional development and networking opportunities for participants from countries around the world. We seek to facilitate the development of new international and domestic chapters for SCGIS, including efforts to harness new participation from universities. We also plan to host an east-coast SCGIS symposium in partnership with the New York / New Jersey SCGIS domestic chapter.

In the coming year, SCGIS plans to invest to upgrade the SCGIS website to become a modern and mobile-friendly hub with capacity for dynamic mapping, better management of organizational databases, and a significantly improved user experience for the SCGIS community. Finally, we hope to expand SCGIS membership with a dedicated Membership Drive and other activities to demonstrate the value of SCGIS membership. We hope that current members will take this opportunity to renew their memberships and will also take the time to share SCGIS's mission and exciting activities with others within their professional networks.

Please follow our progress in 2018–19 at www.scgis.org as we engage the conservation GIS community to promote the use of GIS and science for the conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage!

Society for Conservation GIS (www.scgis.org)



SCGIS members at the 2018 SCGIS Conference



2017–2018 Annual Report

PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.SCGIS.ORG

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**■**@SCGIS

in **SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION GIS** 

Annual Report content provided by SCGIS Board of Directors and SCGIS Committees. Report compiled and edited by Jason Winner with support from Janet Nackoney, Kellee Koenig, and Nathan Walker.