

Managing and Preserving Geospatial Electronic Records

**Project Funded by the National Historical
Publications and Records Commission
(NHPRC) of the National Archives and Records
Administration (NARA)**

Director: Dr. Robert S. Chen

Co-Director: Dr. Robert R. Downs

CIESIN and the Earth Institute

Jeffrey Sachs
Director, EI



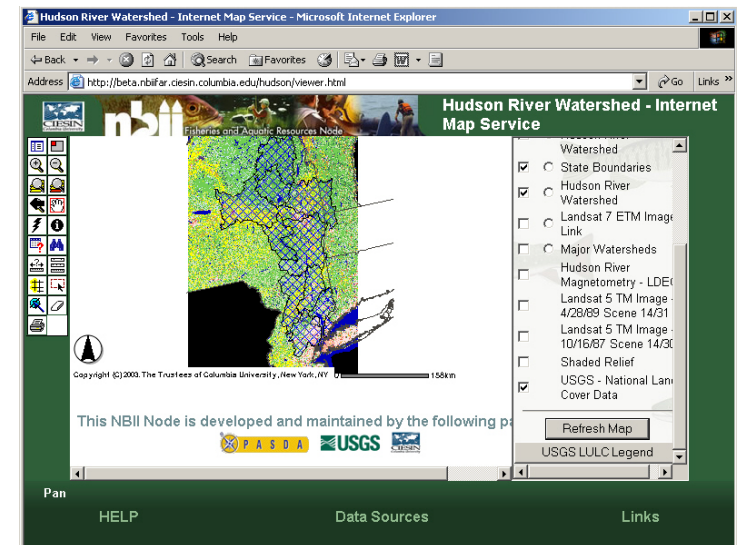
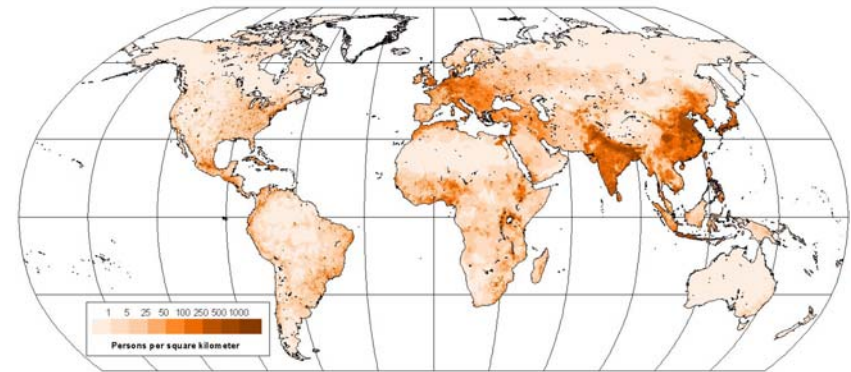
- **CIESIN is a center within the Earth Institute at Columbia University focused on the intersection between the natural & social sciences and the application of information management and information technology to scientific and applied problems**
- **More than 35 professional staff from the social and natural sciences and information technology and data management fields**



Roberta Balstad Miller
Director, CIESIN

Example CIESIN Activities

- NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)
- USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) northeast node
- Environmental Sustainability Index
- Last of the Wild/Human Footprint
- Member, Open GIS Consortium, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, NSGIC



<http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu>

CIRESIN Project Team

- Robert S. Chen, Deputy Director
- Robert R. Downs, Senior Digital Archivist
- Mark Becker, GIS Specialist
- Branko Djapic, Database Specialist
- Annie Gerard, Web Developer
- John Mickelson, GIS Specialist
- John Scialdone, Senior Metadata Specialist

Project Advisory Board

- Cheryl Benjamin, NY State CyberSecurity & Critical Infrastructure Coordination
- Kevin Glick, Yale Univ. Sterling Memorial Library
- Bill Guthe, Princeton University
- Geoffrey Huth, NY State Education Department, Archives
- Sally Johnson, State of Rhode Island
- Patrick McGlamery, University of Connecticut
- Jennifer O'Neill, NY State Education Department, Archives
- Theresa Pardo, Center for Technology in Government
- Robert Sandev, United Nations Secretariat
- Doug Schuetz, Rockland County Planning
- Bridget Sisk, United Nations Secretariat
- Terry Spies, Bureau of Water Supply, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Larry Thornton, NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- Sam Wear, Westchester County

Overall Purpose

- Investigate the requirements for state and local government archivists, records managers, and other institutional record-keepers to manage and preserve electronic records with significant geospatial components, especially those records generated by Geographic Information System (GIS) software.
- Identify and recommend practical and appropriate policies, techniques, standards, and practices
 - to manage geospatial electronic records (GERs)
 - to support their long-term retention and dissemination; and
 - to facilitate their usability and utility as important information resources of significant historical interest.

Products and Publications

- Geospatial Electronic Records Web Portal
- GIS Recordkeeping Data Model
- Workshop on Managing GERs and Report
- Guide to Managing GERs
- Research Paper on Managing GERs

<http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/ger/>

Workshop Purpose

- Review findings to date on issues, needs, possible solutions
- Obtain input from both archiving and geospatial communities in the region on relative importance of issues, missing issues, and new approaches
- Identify key examples of successes and problems in long-term management of GERs

Workshop Design 1

- Three plenary talks:
 - GIS perspective
 - Archiving perspective
 - Requirements study results
 - *Discussion*
- Small group exercise 1
 - Brainstorm key policy, technique, standards, resource, organizational and practice issues
 - Rank in importance
 - Identify barriers and enablers for top issues

Workshop Design 2

- Small group exercise 2
 - Identify possible approaches to solving or avoiding the issues, existing information resources, and new ideal resources
 - Develop recommendations for practitioners in terms of management, policy, and technology changes necessary to increase capability to effectively manage and preserve GERs
- Closing plenary
 - Present top 10 recommendations in each group
 - Discuss!
- Reception with CIRESIN staff