



Closing the Interoperability Gap

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Global Spatial Data and Information User Workshop
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, NY
Plenary Panel #2: Inventories of Global Spatial Data,
Standardization, Search, Portal Development

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Presentation Outline

- EOGEO in 60 seconds
- The interoperability gap

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What is EOGEO

- EOGEO = Earth Observation & GEOspatial
- Offshoot of CEOS WGISS discussions.
- Founded in 2003
- 501(c)(3) public charity in the U.S.
- Organizes EOGEO Workshops
- Bridge the (interoperability) gap between data suppliers, users, standards orgs, FOSS developers
- Provide services to NGOs (web and “traditional”)
- Develop and participate in projects
- Work on Interoperable Civil Society



Photo: US Air Force



Photo: Norman Walsh
http://norman.walsh.name



Maps: USAID

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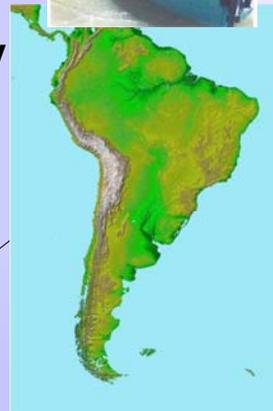
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Malaria Endemic Countries, 2003



Interoperability Gap



Images: NASA, NOAA, USAID

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Interoperability Gap

- There have been great advances in geo standards in the last several years

BUT

- For any given scenario, bringing together geodata, technology, and beneficiaries still is hard



Needed: More than “just” standards...

- Standards
 - OGC, ISO TC211...
- Reference Models
 - FGDC GIRM, GSDI Cookbook
- Software
 - Free & Open Source implementations of standards
- Coordination among Suppliers, NGOs, Beneficiaries
 - GSDI, CEOS WGISS, EOGEO
- Education, training, outreach



From Standards to Infrastructure

- There are enough standards to get started
- Most of the technology needed already exists
- Most of it is implemented in open source
- Need tailoring, customization, how-to documentation, cookbooks, hand-holding, training, education, etc.
- The most important aspect is building reproducible, sustainable, turn-key applications that fit into a greater framework



A side effect

- Interoperability can foster solutions to the data inconsistency issues
 - they become very obvious
 - users demand solutions
 - data and service providers start to work out the inconsistencies



What do we need to do?

- **Testbeds! Prototypes! Pilots!**
- Many organizations are setting up web services (NGOs, Agencies, Commercial)
- We need to weave operating threads through those services to show what can be done
- Make them reproducible, usable in developing countries, usable by non-technical people