2021 ANNUAL REPORT
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Introduction

The United States of America National Section (USNS) of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) is pleased to submit this report of USNS activities for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Included are reports from the Geography, Cartography, Geophysics, and History Commission Representatives from within the USNS, summaries of significant activities and meetings, and the USNS roster.

The USNS leadership team members are Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, USNS President and US Census Bureau Geography Division Chief; Paul Cooper, USNS Vice President; Lynda Liptrap, USNS Executive Secretary; and Ben Barron, Department of State Liaison and Political Officer for Hemispheric Security with the US Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS).

USNS Leadership, Participation, and Promotion of PAIGH Activities

USNS Leadership

Two USNS members have been serving in leadership positions within PAIGH. Dr. Patricia Solís, as President of the Geography Commission and Jean Wintemute, serving as Vice President who are concluding their terms at the end of calendar year 2021. The USNS recognizes the vision of both leaders while serving as Authorities and providing leadership and direction for the Geography Commission and PAIGH. Their significant accomplishments include:

- Focusing on strategic and cross-cutting actions, such as gender inclusion, technical capacity development, institutional strengthening, and resource management.
- Improving and modernizing communication between members.
- Continuing the work of the editor of the *Geographical Journal* aimed at content quality improvement.
- Reinforcing the importance of teaching and learning of geography and strengthening the training of geographers and geography educators.

The US Department of State nominated Patricia Solís as a candidate for President of PAIGH for the 2022 – 2025 term and the elections of Authorities will occur at the 22nd General Assembly on October 27, 2021.

The USNS participated in the process led by the PAIGH Secretariat to revise the Organic Statutes. Deirdre Bishop, Paul Cooper, Lynda Liptrap, and Ben Barron along with Department of State (DOS) representatives coordinated in collaboration with the PAIGH Secretariat to propose and discuss changes to the statutes. The DOS provided input, guidance, and oversight to make sure that the standard of the organization as well as the US commitment to the organization was maintained. The goal to provide statutes reflective of the modern era was achieved. The final proposed Organic Statutes was delivered to the Member States on June 26, 2021 and will be presented for approval at the 22nd General Assembly of PAIGH on October 27, 2021.
USNS Participation

50th PAIGH Directing Council Meeting

Deirdre Bishop, Paul Cooper, and Lynda Liptrap attended the Directing Council Meeting held virtually on October 7, 2020. Topics and actions at the meeting involved the 2021 budget, the 150th Anniversary of the National Geographic Institute of Spain, and ratification of memorandums of understanding and their equivalents between entities and PAIGH.

22nd General Assembly of PAIGH and Statutory Meetings

The 22nd General Assembly of PAIGH is scheduled to occur in a virtual format on October 27, 2021. It was originally planned to take place in person in Lima, Peru, however the National Geographic Institute of Peru announced that the General Assembly must be held virtually due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Agenda items for the General Assembly include the election of the Authorities of the PAIGH for the period of 2022-2025, the budget for the year 2022, and the approval of the new Organic Statutes.

A Joint Installation of the Consultation Meetings of the four PAIGH Commissions, also virtual, will be held on October 18, 2021, for the election of the authorities of each Commission. In addition, separate Commission Consultation meetings will be held October 19 – 22, 2021. The President of the USNS, USNS Commission Leads, and USNS Commission members and observers are planning to attend the meetings. Deirdre Bishop has been designated as the USNS voting representative.

2022 Technical Assistance Program

A member of the USNS and Geophysics Commission, Christopher Castro, was part of a team that submitted a proposal for 2022 Technical Assistance Program funding to conduct a workshop. More detail is provided in the Geophysics Commission section of this report.

PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting and Monthly Teleconference Meetings

The 2021 PAIGH USNS Annual Meeting was held virtually as several two-to-three-hour meetings over the course of March 3, 5, 9, and 12, 2021. It was coordinated by the US Census Bureau. Deirdre Bishop and Paul Cooper provided opening remarks thanking members for their continual work and support of the PAIGH USNS.

The meeting had many invited presentations, including the “Pan American Institute for Geography and History Introduction and Engagement” by César Rodríguez Tomeo, PAIGH Secretary General and “Update: Western Hemisphere Affairs” by Ben Barron from the US Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS). Patricia Solís provided an update on the PAIGH Geography Commission, and there were many presentations and discussion segments on approved projects and items of interest. Reports from USNS Commission representatives were presented as well. For a full listing of presentations provided, see Appendix 1 for the 2021 USNS Annual Meeting agenda.

Secretary General César Rodríguez, whose term as a PAIGH Authority ends in December 2021, was recognized and thanked for his leadership, innovation, and results during his term of service.

Outgoing President of the PAIGH Geography Commission, Patricia Solís and Vice President Jean Wintemute were also recognized for their many accomplishments and commitment to the organization.

Nadxely Andrews, PAIGH Head of Projects, participated in the USNS Annual meeting to provide an overview of the 2022 Technical Assistance Program.

Additionally, the members of the USNS continue to participate in monthly teleconferences to discuss ongoing business of the National Section.
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) promotes international collaboration in global information management and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council Statistics Division. The USNS, PAIGH, and some of its member states have representation as observers, delegates, and contributors.

The 11th Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts was convened virtually on August 23, 24, and 27, 2021.

The following topics were the focus of this formal gathering:

1. Strengthening of geospatial information management
2. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda
3. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
4. Global geodetic reference frame
5. Geospatial information for sustainable development
6. Integration of geospatial, statistical, and other related information
7. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management
8. Geospatial information and services for disasters
9. Marine geospatial information
10. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data
11. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community
12. Collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

USNS Member John Nyberg is Co-Chair of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information. The key work program goal is to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable geospatial information including for the marine environment in support of national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Members of the UN-GGIM US Delegation are also active leaders and participants in the UN-GGIM: Americas Regional Committee helping to guide programs being conducted in the Americas region.

USNS Promotion of PAIGH Activities – Highlight on Seabed 2030

The USNS members continue to support the goals and objectives of the organization through their promotion of PAIGH activities. The work of Paul Cooper this year to have PAIGH involved in Seabed 2030 is a good example.

Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan, the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), and the International Hydrographic Organization.
(IHO). It aims to bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.

The depth and shape of the seafloor (bathymetry) is fundamental for understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing resources, sediment transport, environmental change, underwater geo-hazards, infrastructure construction and maintenance, cable, and pipeline routing, and much more. Despite many years of effort, less than 20 percent of the world ocean's seafloor has been mapped.

In addition to the Nippon Foundation of Japan, GEBCO, and IHO, the project is also supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Seabed 2030 was launched at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017 and is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

With 13 common members between the IHO and PAIGH, and oceans encompassing four continents, PAIGH is a natural participant and contributor to Seabed 2030. In May 2021, discussions and meetings within PAIGH and between PAIGH and Seabed 2030 began. The results of those meetings have resulted in the initial designation of PAIGH Seabed 2030 national Points of Contact, a technical meeting and webinar presentation by Seabed 2030 and a proposed Seabed 2030/PAIGH Memorandum of Understanding which is being drafted by PAIGH.

Commission Reports

The USNS continues to benefit from the expertise of the USNS Commission Representatives who reliably serve as active members. The USNS is grateful that each Commission Representative faithfully maintains the positions they have held in previous years. Dr. Erick Langer, Georgetown University, is Principal US Representative to the Commission on History; Eric van Praag, Esri, serves in the role of Principal US Representative to the Commission on Cartography; Dr. David Salisbury, University of Richmond, is the Principal US Representative to the Commission on Geography; and Dr. Christopher Castro, Arizona State University, serves in the role as Principal US Representative to the Commission on Geophysics. Their reports follow.

Cartography Commission
Prepared by Eric van Praag, USNS Representative to the Cartography Commission

The mission of the Cartography Commission is to promote the exchange of technical knowledge in cartography and to develop collaborative partnerships among member countries and between the PAIGH and other multi-national institutions. During 2021, several members of the USNS Cartography Commission supported activities in the Americas aimed at increasing data sharing, improving data interoperability, strengthening regional and national Spatial Data Infrastructure
(SDI) initiatives, and supporting the work of geospatial agencies in the region. An overview of these activities follows.

**PAIGH Hydrospatial Working Group**

To help support Seabed 2030 activities, several Cartography Commission members have taken part in discussions to form a PAIGH Hydrospatial Working Group. These conversations have been led by Max Lobo (PAIGH Cartography Commission President), Paul Cooper (USNS Vice President), and Rafael Ponce (Esri).

**Geographical Names Training Program**

USNS member Roger Payne was asked by the PAIGH Cartography Commission President to give a presentation at the upcoming joint meeting between PAIGH and the Republic of Korea National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) scheduled for November 10, 2021.

**Integrated Map of North America (IMNA)**

Work progressed in 2021 on the Integrated Map of North America. An update of the waterways data such as ferry routes of Mexico, Canada, and United States is now complete. A complete update of place names, settlements, and hydrography is required, owing to the presence of offensive names in the data and a request to remove them. The team is working to secure tools developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency to generalize high-resolution hydrography. These tools will accelerate the replacement of offensive names for hydrographic objects. The IMNA will plan to use the Randolph Glacier Inventory, which is free to use but requires a citation. The team will coordinate as necessary with PAIGH to accommodate any associated metadata requirements. The IMNA team will continue to update the road network, integrating hydrography, and creating urban areas in Hawaii and the Pacific territories over the next year.

The progress on completing the IMNA by theme (left). An example of work done to fill in gaps of railroad features (right).
The Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative - CARIGEO

Members of the USNS continue to support CARIGEO with ongoing participation in the CARIGEO Steering Group and by providing subject matter expertise for key components such as the Caribbean GeoPortal. CARIGEO offers PAIGH Member States opportunities for sharing geospatial data and strengthening spatial data infrastructures.

A series of webinars were conducted in 2021, three of which were focused on the Caribbean GeoPortal. The first webinar was focused on educating users of the value of the GeoPortal. The second webinar was focused specifically on disaster management and response. The third, which is scheduled for September 21, 2021, is focused on data publishing and best practices for sharing of data.


CARIGEO coordinators are now in the planning stages of launching a student competition in early 2022 for utilizing the Caribbean GeoPortal. This student competition is designed to drive awareness and capacity across the region and includes partnering with Sandra Turner, a National Geographic Certified Educator, as well as Rosario Casanova of UN-GGIM: Americas Academic Network and other key stakeholders (Valrie Grant, Bheshem Ramlal, and Simone Lloyd).

PAIGH ArcGIS Online Regional Account

The ArcGIS Online (AGOL) account was donated to PAIGH under the Esri – PAIGH Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established in June 2019. During 2021, Eric van Praag and Secretary General César Rodríguez explored different avenues to promote the use of this ArcGIS online account for sharing spatial data, especially by agencies that lack the GIS skills or the resources to host data in the cloud. There are ongoing discussions with the OAS Office in the Adjacency Zone of Guatemala and Belize, the Disaster Management Agency of Ecuador (SNGRE), and other stakeholders to benefit from this account. Esri obtained permission from the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and PAIGH to host the Latin American flood map series, developed by the GeoSUR Program and the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, on the PAIGH AGOL account. Esri created the metadata for it and uploaded the data to the AGOL. The data will be registered with Esri’s Living Atlas to enhance visibility and promote greater use of this dataset.

GeoSUR

Several regional entities, including PAIGH, CAF, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), agreed to move the operation of the GeoSUR platform to ECLAC in early 2021. Moving forward, ECLAC will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of this regional platform. The USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center was responsible for providing all the GeoSUR datasets and tools to ECLAC for hosting.
Inter-American GeoPortal


Esri has made great progress to get the initial infrastructure in place to support this new Inter-American GeoPortal. And, in working together with Paul Riley and Emily Carson of the US Census Bureau, Esri stood up a private group to allow for the needed collaboration and hosting of data/methods/documents for the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America Project of PAIGH and UN-GGIM: Americas. Esri is working now with the team to document lessons learned that can be made available also via the Inter-American GeoPortal on vulnerability indexes to help aid other countries in this work.

Collaborative discussions have been held across groups including UN-GGIM: Americas leadership, ECLAC leadership, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and PAIGH leadership to share progress on the Inter-American GeoPortal.

Geography Commission
Prepared by Dr. David Salisbury, USNS Representative to the Geography Commission

The role of the USNS Geography Commission is to help foster collaboration among geographers of the Americas through its member activities and its participation in PAIGH programs. The USNS Geography Commission is strengthened by two members who lead PAIGH’s Geography Commission as the President, Dr. Patricia Solís, and Vice President, Jean Wintemute. Their leadership ensures an active representation of the USNS commission at the highest level, particularly now that Dr. Solís has been nominated for the Presidency of PAIGH.

Recent and Active Projects (Presented individually at the Annual Meeting)

- Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America – Paul Riley and US Census Bureau staff. A good model for the Americas for bringing countries to a common level of data.
- Pan American-Geography/Online (GeoPanAm), 2018-2020 – Dr. Osvaldo Muniz. Objective is to develop an international online geography program (GeoPanAm) for teachers who do not have experience in online teaching and learning in their universities of the Region.
- Integrating Crowdsource Geographic Data into Official Geographies - Jean Wintemute. Jean provided creative ideas of how to fund projects indirectly while also sharing experiences on Youth Mappers working with Crowdsource Geographic Data. Great potential to train future geographers and geospatial analysts.
- Infrastructure Expansion and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Borderlands: A NASA SERVIR collaborative project - David Salisbury, Stephanie Spera, Y. Reygadas, and V. Galati. Project boosted by the PAIGH funded GTASO Transboundary Workshops of 2019, 2013, and 2012.
• Integrated Map of North America - Mike Tischler and Elaine Guidero. Provided opportunities to work closely with Mexico and Canada on a shared regional map.

Recent and Active Projects (Presented at PAIGH’s 93rd Anniversary in February)
• Climate Change Atlas of the Americas - Nancy Aguirre, Fernando López, Fabiola Barrenechea, David Salisbury, Daniel Lipp, Patricia Snaider, among others.

• Climate Change of the Americas Research Network (RICCA) - Luis O. Pyszczek, Patricia Snaider, among others.


Conferences and Meetings

The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting
The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting was held on April 7-11, 2021, virtually, as result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 2,952 papers and posters (2,648 papers; 304 posters) were scheduled to be presented at the AAG virtual annual meeting
• 2022 AAG annual meeting is February 25 - March 1, 2022, New York, NY.

Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)
The 2021 Conference of Latin American Geography was held as Virtual Panel Discussions through a series of live webinars called LIVE CLAG:
• LIVE CLAG: https://clagsscholar.org/conferences/2021-live-clag/.
• LIVE CLAG was organized by USNS Geography Commission contributor Dr. Jim Biles and included eight sessions.
• The last session, organized by USNS Geography Commission representative Dr. David Salisbury included Indigenous leaders, conservation scientists, academics, and NGO field directors sharing their Perspectives on Roads: Roads in Amazonia: Perspectives from the Brazilian and Peruvian borderlands.
• 2022 CLAG meeting in Tucson, Arizona January 3-6, 2022.

Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management in the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas)
• Ethics in the Use of Geographic Information in the Americas, March 22, 2021.

PAIGH Projects with Significant USNS Geography Commission Participation

Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information in Central America Technical Project (Central America Project)

Led by Paul Riley, the purpose of the project was to integrate statistical and geospatial information in Central America, building upon the regional efforts of the:
• Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).
• United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
• United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).
• Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas).
• United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

A detailed webpage for the Central America Project can be found here: https://centralcollaboration.interamericangeoportal.org/.

More detail about the project follows.
This Hub/Portal site allowed for a centralized location to store the data using the data structure/schema, allowed us the ability to do some data cleansing – correcting, fixing, or moving inaccurate data, thus normalizing the data for use, and conduct data analysis and visualization.

The project was supported by the PAIGH Secretary General, the US, and other National Sections of PAIGH. National agencies also provided support: National Institute of Statistics and Geography; UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; National Administrative Department of Statistics; US Census Bureau.

A few attendees of the virtual workshops held in July of 2020.
With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the technical project team made the decision to focus on how they could assist decision makers in Central America with their response to the pandemic. Building on the development of a Vulnerability Index for Colombia by the National Administrative Department of Statistics, the technical project team began work on the development of a Vulnerability Index. Vulnerability reflects conditions of age and health that result in a greater susceptibility to contracting COVID-19 and encompass sociodemographic characteristics and health conditions.

Results page for the Central American Vulnerability Index on the data hub

This project has three high level objectives:
1. Coordinate and develop collaboration between the seven countries of Central America.
2. Identify some problems and priorities in the region and conduct some technical workshops.
3. Look into new modern and innovative ways that they may be able to analyze and display integrated data.
Examples of results visualizations utilizing Esri Portal webpages, StoryMaps, web maps and dashboards.

These links on the website provide the visitor with the opportunity to explore the results of the technical project through a variety of visualizations such as StoryMaps, dashboards, and web maps and provide the opportunity to review each countries’ final technical project report.
In addition, through PAIGH funding, the UN-GGIM: Americas developed a course on the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). The goal was to develop a tool to help people better understand and learn about the GSGF by transforming it from a text document to a more user-friendly tool. A private company that helped with the Central America workshops created an interactive e-learning course about the GSGF. It will be made publicly available via PAIGH over the coming months.

Pan American Geography Online (GeoPanAm)

Led by USNS Geography Commission member Osvaldo Muniz, the project objective is to prepare senior university students from Pan America, who are pre-service geography teachers, to conduct online training. The online program is the practical activity of the project that will allow selected senior students to engage in full online international learning and generate capabilities for future networking.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was difficult to contact universities to identify students for the project. Universities began to respond, and several students were selected. They developed a platform where they control all the community practices. This is where all the teachers would work together, they would use meetings rooms and modules. The students submitted their final project which ended up being about vulnerability in Latin America and problems of inequality between regions.

After this program pre-service teachers were prepared to develop and replicate online education in secondary schools. Pre-service teachers learned a new approach in geography education to develop powerful geography. Participants have continued their work in collaboration by using social media. Participants have developed new applications from the Geo Pan Am experience and transmitted the learning process to their peers.
Infrastructure Expansion and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Borderlands: A NASA SERVIR Collaboration Project

Led by Principal Investigator Stephanie Spera along with Co-Investigator David Salisbury, NASA SERVIR is a joint venture between NASA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that provides state of the art satellite-based Earth monitoring data, geospatial information, and tools to help improve environmental decision making among developing nations throughout the world. The University of Richmond project has four objectives:

1. Map changes in forest cover.
2. Analyze the relation between ecosystem services and particularly the water cycle.
3. Identify, map, and predict regions vulnerable to a loss or weakening of ecosystem services.
4. Disseminate their results and develop capacities.

The project is approaching the end of the second year but due to the COVID-19 pandemic they have not been able to complete on the ground field work.

There have been other advances in the Roads Research Group focused on the socio-environmental impacts of roads.

**Transboundary Mapping in the Southwestern Amazon Borderlands**

This project came out of PAIGH in 2012, with the Workshop to Integrate Data and Develop Technical Capacity to Mitigate Environmental Challenges in the Peruvian and Brazilian Amazon. Several publications were published after these workshops.
This workshop updated the Geográfico Transfronterizo de la Amazonía Sud Occidental (GTASO) transboundary database and produced a suite of transboundary maps. A book chapter on GTASO is currently under revision while posters on the 2019 workshop and related research were presented at AGS, CLAG, and PAIGH conferences:


presentation for the Technical Meetings of the Commissions of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The GTASO projects currently provide useful base data for a number of projects in Peru and Brazil, including the University of Richmond Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team’s (ABSAT) NASA SERVIR 2020-2022 AST project, Quantifying the Effects of Forest Cover Changes on Provisioning and Regulating Ecosystem Services in the Southwestern Amazon.

University of Richmond ABSAT NASA SERVIR Map of the impact zone of a proposed road being opened in the Peruvian Amazon. Requested by State agency and Indigenous Federation partners.

**Integrating Crowdsourcing Geographic Data - Jean Wintemute**

This project is not funded by PAIGH but does build on overlapping relationships already developed with a National Geography Institute, the Presidents of the Geography Commissions, or the National Leads. The project is focused on understanding barriers, opportunities, and impact of volunteered spatial data on official cartographies. It also connects student mappers and national agencies in Central America.
Three Principal Investigators, Patricia Solís, Nancy Aguirre, and Jean Wintemute worked with eight student interns from eight Universities in the US representing seven countries: Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic.

The process involved a Roundtable Forum in July 2019 and a Dominican Republic Bilingual Online Survey on awareness of Volunteer Geographic Information. There were also case studies where student interns were matched with National Geography Institutes in Central America and Caribbean and conducted virtual meetings with National Geography Institutes and PAIGH National Section Presidents. Interviews were conducted with government officials, OpenStreetMap, and YouthMappers volunteers.

A Roundtable Forum was launched during the Joint Technical Conference of the PAIGH Geography Commission to roll out the National Science Foundation research project to participant countries. The 19 geographers from participant countries expressed their perceived barriers and opportunities for integrating Volunteer Geographic Information data into the official geographic databases of their countries.
There were many products that differed based on the institutes and National Sections. There were specific deliverables for the US National Science Foundation (NSF) as a sponsor of the project.

In the coming year, the USNS Geography Commission will continue to pursue appropriate activities within these priority areas. These activities will continue to add value to and support both the USNS work and the direction of PAIGH in terms of geographic research, geographic education, and the strengthening of institutions of geography in academic, public, and private sectors.

**History Commission**
Prepared by Dr. Erick D. Langer, USNS Representative to the History Commission

The US Section of the History Commission is composed mostly of members who work in the academic sector. Last year was a difficult one for its members because of the extra effort that had to go into retooling for virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this year looks to be much better and has let the Commission focus on using the internet tools to forge greater relationships with History Commissions and their members in other countries within the hemisphere.

This has been especially the case with the *History of the Americas* project, which in many ways is parallel to the successfully completed *Atlas histórico de América: Época colonial*, Vol. 2, published this year by PAIGH, organized by members from the Dominican Republic. Over the past few months, Dr. André Figueiredo Rodrigues (Brazil) and Dr. Erick Langer have been meeting every week to design the content of each chapter of the *History of the Americas* and selecting co-authors of this one-volume history of the Western Hemisphere. They have contacted potential co-authors to write sections of the book, which will be published by Oxford University Press – first in English and then in the other official languages of PAIGH. Dr. James Siekmeier, one of the US Commission members, has already contributed to the volume. The principal authors hope to have the manuscript ready in about a year or so and then have it sent off to the press.

On another matter, Dr. Langer has worked to add the Academia Boliviana de Historia to the Bolivian National Section of PAIGH, which at present only has a member from that country’s Instituto de Geografía Militar. USNS President Deirdre Bishop and PAIGH Secretary General César Rodriguez facilitated the process. It is hoped that this will fortify the History Commission with a strong representation by one of our other member countries.

The US Commission members have been active in many endeavors. Dr. Evan Ward is directing Brigham Young University’s Washington Seminar at the Barlow Center in Washington, DC.

Congratulations to Thomas Field who won the 2021 Robert W. Cherny Award for the following article: “Union Busting as Development: Transnationalism, Empire and Kennedy's Secret Labour Programme for Bolivia.” *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 52:1, (February 2020), pp. 27 – 51.

Dr. Erick Langer had a busy year. In October 2020, he appeared with the Chilean PAIGH member Fernando Castillo Opazo at an event organized by the Universidad Andrés Bello, on US-Chilean relations in the aftermath of the War of the Pacific. He also delivered a talk at the Taller de Estudios e Investigaciones Andino-Amazónicos (Universitat de Barcelona) on the survival of Ava-Guaraní communities in 19th century Bolivia in December 2020. In June 2021, he gave a presentation to the Academia Boliviana de Historia on credit systems in the south-central Andes during the 19th century, as well as in July 2021 a presentation on US-Bolivian relations to the Diplomatic Academy of Bolivia. Lastly, in August he presented a talk to the Montevideo Rotary Club on Uruguay and its relation with Latin America and the world. All of these events were virtual; he would have preferred to have traveled to those places.

Dr. Langer was also a frequent contributor as news analyst on the *Club de Prensa* program at the NTN24 TV channel as well as on other TV programs in Spain and elsewhere. In addition, he published a chapter, “Os franciscanos no sudeste da Bolívia no século XIX: Religão e planos de missão,” in André Figueiredo Rodrigues and Charles Nascimento de Sá, eds., *O sagrado no tempo: Ensaios sobre história e práticas de religiosidades* (São Paulo: História Diversa, 2021).
The leadership of the Geophysics Commission of the US National Section transitioned to Christopher Castro in 2020. Dr. Castro reassumed this position after the resignation of Dr. Jorge Bajo as the Chair.

During the year 2021, the Geophysics Commission endorsed the submission of one Technical Assistance Project proposal to PAIGH entitled “Organization of the Sixth Convective-Permitting Climate Modeling Workshop.” The US is a designated participant country on this proposal. This proposal was submitted with Argentina as the lead participant country, by Dr. Lluis Fita Borrell from the Centro de Investigaciones del Mar y la ATMósfera (CIMA), Buenos Aires Argentina. Other participant countries in this proposal include Colombia and Chile.

The objective of this project is to help support the Sixth Convective-Permitting Climate Modeling workshop that is scheduled to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in the Fall 2022. The overall theme of the workshop is high resolution climate modeling, at the kilometer scale. The use of this type of modeling results in important step improvements in the model representation of precipitation, for example with respect to timing, amount, and intensity. In recognition of the rapidly increasing use of high-resolution modeling, there has been an annual workshop devoted to the topic for the past five years, excluding 2020 when the workshop was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These workshops have taken place throughout the world, including Europe, the United States, and Japan. The sixth workshop would be the first to take place in a Latin American Country.

The principal motivation to host the meeting in South America is that a new collaborative research effort to develop high resolution modeling capability on that continent has emerged in the last several years. Under the auspices of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Research Applications Laboratory (RAL), the South American Affinity Group (SAAG) has formed to encourage this activity. This group now has over 50 participating scientists throughout Latin America and the United States and meets bi-monthly virtually. SAAG is providing oversight guidance to NCAR-RAL in the generation of a new 20-year convective-permitting climate change projection simulation for the South American continent, so the product will best inform the needs of users for purposes of basic scientific investigation and climate change impacts assessment. Hosting the workshop in South America will finally provide an opportunity for the SAAG community to meet and exchange ideas in-person, after meeting virtually for nearly two years. With PAIGH support, it will also be possible to include potential various stakeholder users of high-resolution climate model data, within the meeting as invited participants.

The specific objectives of the proposal are:

1. Establish travel funding support to guarantee attendance of the greatest number of researchers in climate change and climate change impacts.
2. Support invited talks of prestigious international researchers.
3. Foment and strengthen scientific networks and existing institutional entities.
4. Establish relationships between the scientific community in high resolution climate modeling and climate change impacted communities and decision makers in South America.
5. Identify needs and requirements of decision makers with respect to climate change impacts, to incorporate their input into research activities in high resolution climate modeling, especially within the SAAG community.

A total of $28,000 of support from the PAIGH Technical Assistance Program was requested for this project.
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Committee on Institutional Strengthening and Technical Cooperation
Principal Member – Rigoberto Magana Chavarria – El Salvador
No US Representation
Cartography Journal Editor Committee
Principal Member – Maria Ester Gonzalez - Chile
No US Representation

Network and Academic Cooperation Committee
Principal Member – Carlos Lopez - Uruguay
No US Representation

Technical Committees and Working Groups

Geographic Information Rules and Standards
Principal Member – Freddy Gutierrez - Colombia
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**Trends in Geographic Information (Working Group)**
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Appendix 1

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States
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UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECTION

2021 Meeting of the US National Section
Pan American Institute of Geography and History
Virtual Meeting Format

Session 1 - Wednesday, March 3, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm EST
Session 2 - Friday, March 5, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm EST
Session 3 - Tuesday, March 9, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm EST
Session 4 - Friday, March 12, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm EST

Agenda

Session 1 - Wednesday, March 3, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

8:45 – 9:00 Optional Work-From-Home Mingling (BYO morning refreshments)

9:00 – 9:10 Welcoming Remarks & New Member Welcome

□ Deirdre Bishop, USNS President

9:10 – 9:20 Opening Remarks

□ Paul Cooper, USNS Vice-President

9:20 – 9:30 USNS Discussion Items

□ USNS Annual Report Instructions – Paul Cooper
□ USNS Roster – Paul Cooper
□ USNS Annual Meeting Action Item Follow-up – Lynda Liptrap

9:30 – 9:55 US Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States,
State Department
Benjamin Barron, Department of State Liaison

9:55 – 10:35 Invited Presentations by USNS Guests

- Introduction and Engagement, César Rodríguez Tomeo, PAIGH Secretary General
- Recognition of César

10:35 - 10:50 Break

10:50 – 11:20 USNS Commission Lead Reports

- History – Erick Langer
- Cartography – Eric Van Praag

11:20 – 11:40 PAIGH Geography Commission Summary and Accomplishments

- Patricia Solís, President
- Jean Wintemute, Vice President

11:40 – 11:55 PAIGH 22nd General Assembly Meeting – Deirdre Bishop

11:55 – 12:00 Action Item Review and Adjournment of Session 1 – Lynda Liptrap

Session 2 Projects Day - Friday, March 5, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm EST

1:00 – 1:20 Projects Part 1

- Pan American-Geography/Online (GeoPanAm) – 2018-2020 (Objective - to develop an international online geography program (GeoPanAm) for teachers who do not have experience in online teaching and learning in their universities of the Region.) – Osvaldo Muniz

1:20 – 2:05 Status of Approved 2021 Projects

- Infrastructure Expansion and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Borderlands: A NASA SERVIR collaborative project - David Salisbury, Stephanie Spera, Y. Reygadas, V. Galati
- Integrated Map of North America - Mike Tischler
- Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in Central America – Paul Riley and Census Bureau staff

2:05 - 2:20 Invited Presentations

- Integrating Crowdsourced Geographic Data into Official Geographies - Jean Wintemute

2:20– 2:35 Break
2:35 – 2:55  Integrated Map of the Americas  
Eric van Praag, Matt Cushing, Roberto Lugo, Antonio Rodríguez, Mike Tischler

Head of Projects

3:10 – 3:45  Technical Assistance Program - Project Proposal Best Practices
   □ Past and present Technical Project leaders

3:45– 4:00  Action item review and Adjournment of Session 2

**Session 3** - Tuesday, March 9, from 2:00 - 4:00 pm EST

2:00 – 2:30  USNS Commission Lead and Working Group Reports Continued
   □ USNS Geography Commission Lead – David Salisbury
   □ Geographic Names Working Group – Roger Payne

2:30– 3:00  USNS Strategic Planning – Deirdre Bishop, Paul Cooper, Lynda Liptrap

3:00 – 3:10  Break

3:10 – 3:25  Invited Presentations by USNS Members Continued
   □ Irish aristocrat adventurer O’Connor vs. Bolivar - Erick Langer

3:25 – 3:55  Discussions led by USNS Members
   □ NGA - Lidia Lopez, Corry Shaffer
   □ IHO Meso American-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC) Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MMSDIWG) Update - Jim Rogers

3:55 – 4:00  Action item review and Adjournment of Session 3 – Lynda Liptrap

**Session 4** - Friday, March 12, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm EST

1:00 - 1:15  GeoSUR
   Matt Cushing

1:15 – 1:30  CARIGEO
   Simone Lloyd, GIS Manager and Trainer at Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Jamaica
Linda Peters, Esri

1:30 – 2:30 United Nations Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management - Topics of Interest
- UN-GGIM: Americas Working Group 4 Geodetic Reference Frame Americas (GRFA) – Dana Cacamise
- Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) – Tim Trainor

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:30 Walk On Items

3:30 – 4:00 Review Action Items and Adjourn Annual Meeting - Lynda Liptrap
Appendix 2

USNS Member Conference Participations, Significant Accomplishments and Published Works
Grouped by Commission

Geography Commission Individual Accomplishments related to PAIGH objectives

☐ Research Committee (Principal David Salisbury)
  ○ Tim Trainor
    ☐ President of the International Cartographic Association (elected July 2019 for 4-year term). ICA has 12 Latin American countries who are current members.
    ☐ Regular column for ArcNews on various topics including the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and the importance of governance and institutions.


☐ Contributions to UN on the development of an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

○ Dr. David Salisbury
  ☐ Vice Chair Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwriBZXL8AM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwriBZXL8AM


Dr. Andrew Sluyter

- Board Member Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG)
- Honors Awards Committee American Association of Geographers

Dr. Patricia Solís

- Executive Director, Knowledge Exchange for Resilience, Arizona State University
- YouthMappers

History Commission Individual Accomplishments related to PAIGH objectives

Dr. Erick Langer

- Contributor as news analyst on the Club de Prensa program at the NTN24 TV channel as well as on other TV programs in Spain and elsewhere

Dr. Timothy Schultz

- Dr. Thomas Field


**Geophysics Commission Individual Accomplishments related to PAIGH objectives**

- Dr. Christopher Castro

- The Geophysics Commission endorsed the submission of a Technical Assistance Project proposal to PAIGH entitled “Organization of the Sixth Convective-Permitting Climate Modeling Workshop.” The US is a designated participant country on this proposal.