

G. Gray Tappan

Title: Geographer, Land Cover Applications and Global Change
U.S. Geological Survey, Earth Resources Observation and Science Center (EROS)

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Education and/or Training

B.A. 1978 University of Kansas, Geography

B.A. 1978 University of Kansas, French

M.A. 1981 University of Kansas, Geography

Professional Experience

1979 – 1980 Research Asst., Kansas Applied Remote Sensing Program, Lawrence, KS

1981 – 1982 Rem. Sens. Analyst, Lockheed, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston

1982 – 1987 Env. Scientist, Remote Sensing Institute, South Dakota State University

1987 – 2008 Geographer, USGS Contract Staff, EROS Center, Sioux Falls, SD

2008 - Geographer, USGS Land Cover Applications, EROS Center, Sioux Falls

Areas of Specialization and Research/Support Responsibilities

I have more than twenty-eight years experience in physical geography, remote sensing and land resource assessments. For the past two decades I have worked at the USGS EROS Center on international remote sensing applications and research. Applications and research have included work in vegetation ecology, vegetation mapping, land use and land cover mapping and monitoring, West African regional geography and ecology, biodiversity assessments, time-series remote sensing for trends analysis, remote sensing training and capacity building, assessments of land productivity, desert locust ecology, socioeconomic studies of land management and drivers of landscape change, crop area mapping and agricultural production estimation, aerial survey planning and aerial photography, carbon sequestration research, and cartographic design and map production. I have acted as team leader on EROS international projects since 1989. I am fluent in Spanish and French, and have a fair command of two African languages.

Significant Recent Publications

Tappan, G., and M. McGahuey, 2007 “Tracking Environmental Dynamics and Agricultural Intensification in Southern Mali”, *Agricultural Systems*, Vol 93, No. 3.

Reij, C., G. Tappan, and A. Belemvire, 2005. “Changing Land Management Practices and Vegetation on the Central Plateau of Burkina Faso (1968-2002)”, *Journal of Arid Environments*, 63, 642-659.

- Tappan, G., M. Sall, E. Wood, and M. Cushing, 2004. "Ecoregions and Land Cover Trends in Senegal", Journal of Arid Environments, No. 59, pp. 427-462.
- Tieszen, L., G. Tappan, and A. Touré 2004. "Sequestration of Carbon in Soil Organic Matter in Senegal: An Overview", Journal of Arid Environments, No. 59, pp. 409-425
- Tappan, G.G., A. Hadj, E.C. Wood, and R.W. Lietzow, 2000, "Use of Argon, Corona, and Landsat Imagery to Assess 30 Years of Resource Changes in West-Central Senegal", Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing, Vol. 66, No. 6, pp. 727-735.