

Why Rescue Data? Starvation Prevention

A Starving World

According to the *Bread for the World Institute*, over 850 million people are hungry. Many are infants and young children, who are at increased risk for illness and death when their diets lack necessary calories, vitamins and minerals.

Nearly 16,000 children die from malnourishment every day.

Proactive, Not Reactive, Solutions

A quick glance at the *International Crop and Weather Highlights* published by the USDA/WAOB Joint Agricultural Weather Facility indicates that the international agriculture industry reacts to the weather. Unexpected wet, dry, hot or cold seasons can ruin entire crops and reduce the food supply -- especially in countries that need it the most.

Being able to predict the weather means planting crops with the best chance of survival. Understanding cyclical insect patterns means developing resistant varieties and getting pesticides to farmers before their harvest is ruined.

Better preparation can lead to increased agricultural yields and help reduce suffering, illness and death due to hunger.

And it all begins with the right information.

Save a Record, Save a Life

Rescuing historical environmental records is a crucial step toward building better weather forecasting. Without your help, fragile, potentially lifesaving data may be lost forever.

By supporting IEDRO, you are helping the farmers of tomorrow feed the world.



A child stands beside a rice thresher in Sierra Leone. Photo courtesy of the Center for Disease Control.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Profile: Michael Walker

Originally from Torrance, California, IEDRO's newest volunteer Michael Walker is now a Transaction Process Specialist in Phoenix. Michael's academic backgrounds includes undergraduate work in multimedia and virtual reality programming. While earning his MBA, he focused on international business administration.

Michael enjoys playing the guitar, exploring other cultures and reading. He began studying guitar as a child and now focuses on learning classical and flamenco pieces, although he does play the occasional pop tune.

Michael found IEDRO through a volunteer matching program with his employer.

"What interests me about data rescue is the opportunity to leverage technology towards real world application in a global environment," explains Michael.

An Easy Way to Help

By using GoodSearch.com as your internet search engine, you can help support IEDRO's mission with just the click of a mouse.

Simply enter "IEDRO" in the charity box and verify that you mean the *International Environmental Data Rescue Organization*, and every search you perform will earn money to help save and digitize historical weather information.

You only need to choose and verify IEDRO as your choose charity on your first visit to GoodSearch.com. If all of our volunteers used the service on a regular basis for their searches, the money will really start to add up.

Conference Calls

Please plan to participate in our Monday Coordination Calls. Held at 11:00 am and 7:30 pm EST to accommodate different schedules and time zones, these meetings give our volunteers a chance to get to know each other, discuss ideas and coordinate efforts.

You will need the telephone number and access code to participate. For more information, contact Rick Crouthamel at r.crouthamel@iedro.org.

IEDRO Headquarters Overhaul

IEDRO is getting a facelift! With new paint, hardwood floors and a world map to chart data rescue efforts, the headquarters in Deale, Maryland will be available to area or visiting volunteers to discuss or work on IEDRO-related projects. Executive Director Rick Crouthamel, D.Sc., is paying for the updates at no cost to IEDRO.

Data Rescue in Action:

The Strip Chart Project

Until recently, technology, cost and accessibility concerns made digital media inappropriate for storing large amounts of weather data. Instead, records of environmental readings such as wind gusts, rainfall, and barograph readings were recorded and stored on paper.

IEDRO estimates that there are 800 million paper charts containing valuable environmental observations -- data that could help scientists answer questions,

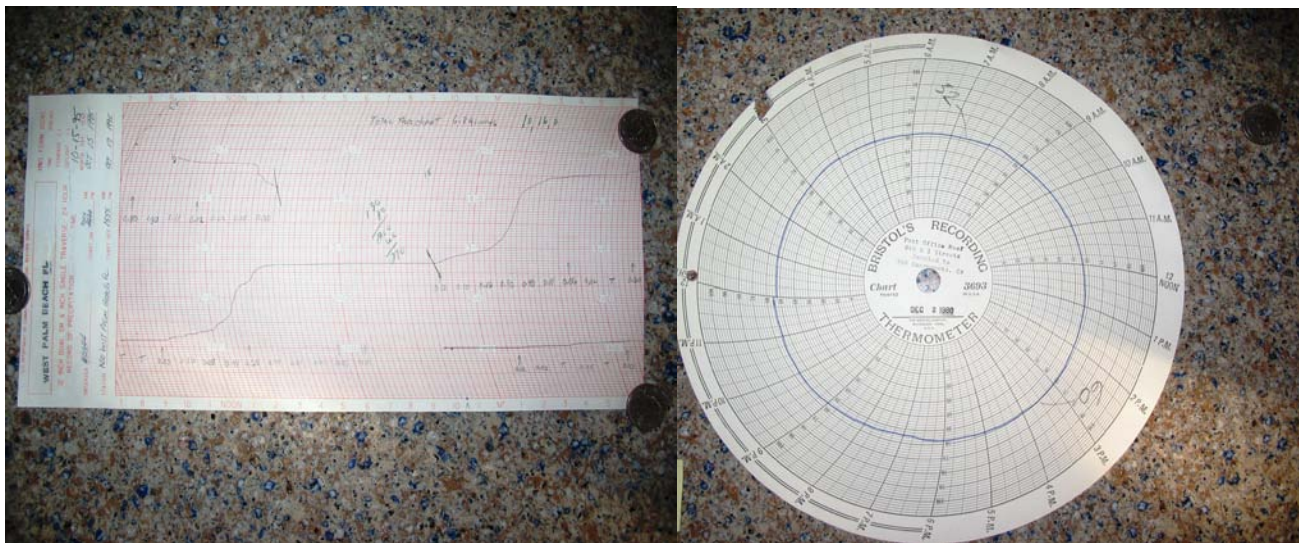
predict future trends and plan for worldwide needs in areas such as agriculture, medicine and engineering. This information may be key in planning for natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, maximizing crop production, and preparing for pandemics.

This data could save lives, but on paper it is useless. IEDRO is committed to digitizing these records and making the information they hold available to the worldwide scientific community.

Led by Dr. Ed Root, the IEDRO strip chart program is developing techniques to digitize entire charts in just seconds. The current process is labor intensive and requires 15-20 minutes per chart. Once complete, this program will allow rescuers to save data more accurately and economically.

With your help, we can rescue this life-saving data before it is too late.

Examples of graphed hydrometeorological data from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. Data stored on paper are fragile. Water, fire, rodents, fungi and sunlight can damage the media and cause the information to be lost forever.



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New Equipment for Rescue Sites

Funds from the National Climatic Data Center are still being processed at the National Weather Service, but once they are available IEDRO will be purchasing and shipping replacement equipment to sites in Niger, Senegal and Zambia.

Country Liaisons Project

A liaison program is being developed to improve the flow of information between

IEDRO headquarters and the on-site data rescuers.

Although more volunteers are needed in order to represent each country where IEDRO is involved with rescue activity, we are happy to introduce the following liaisons: Ms. Judy Soh (Zambia), Dr. Bakhshish Singh (Kenya), Ms. Cheryl Solomon (Senegal), Mr. Miguel Valez (Niger), Mr. Martin Munkhondya (Malawi), Ms. Annie Hareau (Uruguay).

About IEDRO

The mission of the International Environmental Data Rescue Organization is to assist the scientific and educational communities of mainly developing countries locate, rescue and digitize all environmental data currently at risk on perishable media, and to make those digitized data freely and openly available to the world scientific and educational communities before it is too late.

IEDRO is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

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About *IDRN*

The *International Data Rescue News* is published monthly by IEDRO.

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Email submissions to j.Engle@iedro.org