



Eric Brown de Colstoun

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Dr. Eric Brown de Colstoun is a Physical Scientist in the Earth Sciences Division, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. Eric has been working at NASA/GSFC for over 15 years.

Dr. Brown de Colstoun's expertise in the field of remote sensing is varied, having used data collected at local to continental and global spatial scales, with a variety of instrumentation (laboratory, field, airborne, satellite), and covering the spectral, temporal, spatial, and bidirectional domains of remote sensing. Currently, his research interests include the study of various aspects of land cover, land use, and land cover/use change from the Landsat satellite, as well as the consequences of these changes on the Earth. He is currently leading a project to map global urbanization from Landsat data for the first time. He was a member of the team selected to develop the Visible/Infrared Imager/Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) sensor onboard the future National Polar Orbiting Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) and Suomi NPOESS Preparatory Project (NPP) satellite platforms and is a former member of the Suomi NPP Science Team. He led the development of operational global land cover classification algorithms for VIIRS, and collaborated in the VIIRS sensor design.

As the former Coordinator of Earth Science Education and Public Engagement at GFSFC his passion is also to effectively communicate to a broader non-scientific community what NASA does, what NASA sensors measure, and the significance of this research for societal needs. It is also to engage and inspire the public/students/educators to actively participate in the NASA Earth

Science experience.

Dr. Brown de Colstoun holds a B.A. degree in Mathematics (1986) from the Colorado College and received his M.A. (1993) and Ph.D. (2001) degrees in Geography from the University of Maryland at College Park.

His personal background is also quite unique, having been born in Brazil and grown up in Venezuela, with a French father and American mother. He is fluent in Spanish, French and English and has a working knowledge of Portuguese.