



Hello E-readers! In our February edition, we describe the latest features of our Cropland Capture Game and we reveal who has been awarded a highly competitive Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council! Upcoming events? These are found at the end.

Cropland Capture

We are in week 12 of the Cropland Capture competition. Nearly at the half way point. There are 13 more weeks left to win the competition!

This month has been really exciting! Cropland Capture has been mentioned beside games like FoldIt or Galaxy Zoo in [the Guardian!](#) We have made many new updates to the mobile versions of the game.

2647 people are now playing Cropland Capture. You have validated in total 2.775280 million square kilometers of land! This is bigger than Argentina; the eighth-largest country in the world!

Congratulations to the past weekly winners:

Week 8: burkhard, karin1, JoeM

Week 9: burkhard, nachtfrost, MPAUL1770

Week 10: Kübraaaahoiiii, burkhard, gashea

Updates of the Game

We have mainly worked on updates for the mobile versions of Cropland Capture:

We added the “Disagree” mechanic to the mobile versions of Cropland Capture. So you can now also challenge an answer in the mobile versions of Cropland Capture, i.e. you can flag those areas where you think the game might be wrong (and for which you were deducted points).

Sound issue: You can now keep listening to your music while playing the game. The game won't interrupt your tunes anymore!

We made the app significantly smaller! This is great for all of you with not so much memory on your phone!

We added a [FAQ](#) page to the game which should answer most of the questions you send us. If you have further questions please don't hesitate to [ask us!](#)

We made some optimizations to the performance of the game as the game began to slow down!

We made some minor graphic user interface layout changes.

Some smaller bugs have been removed.

Future Developments

One idea we have for the next update of Cropland Capture is to allow you to disable the animations so that you can make validations even faster! We are thinking about ways in how to communicate more knowledge in the game so that players may learn more by playing the game!

If you have further suggestions about what you want to see in future versions of Cropland Capture please [let us know!](#)

ERC funds IIASA crowdsourcing project

Congratulations Dr Steffen Fritz! We are delighted to announce that Dr Fritz and his team have recently been awarded a highly competitive Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council! This is the sixth ERC grant awarded to an IIASA researcher, and Fritz is among six Austria-based researchers to receive a Consolidator

grant in this call. The €1.4 million grant will build upon work conducted as part of IIASA's Geo-Wiki project. It will take the team's research from the computer to the real world, building a global network of citizen scientists to provide on-the-ground data such as photographs and land-cover and land-use classifications. The project will focus on two pilot areas in Austria and Kenya. In Austria the researchers will focus on collecting on-the-

ground data along the lines of the Eurostat's Land Use Change Analysis System (LUCAS) surveys, by building and engaging a local network of citizen scientists to collect the data. By using the same protocol and designing smartphone applications, the crowdsourced data collection would produce data that could be compared. The team will engage volunteers by working with existing communities such as OpenStreetMap as well as geocaching groups, local and national governments, and NGOs. In Kenya, the team will follow a similar protocol, but the data would be even more valuable. In order to recruit volunteers in Kenya, the program will offer micropayments to participants who provide data. The team will also recruit volunteers with expertise in land cover, such as university students and surveyors. For more information [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

2–6 February 2014: Dr Jason Ching is presenting a paper, “Facilitating advanced urban canopy modeling for weather, climate and air quality applications”. Details on cities.geo-wiki.org are included. The event is hosted by the American Meteorological Society – 14th Presidential Forum at the Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, Georgia. The theme: Extreme Weather, Climate, and the Built Environment: New Perspectives, Opportunities, and Tools

5–7 February 2014: Dr Linda See will attend the Citizen Science and Smart Cities Summit at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in ISPRA. She will present some of the latest ideas on cities.geo-wiki.org.

20–22 February 2014: Geo-Wiki and citizen science will feature in presentations by Dr Leo Bottrill and Dr Linda See at the [Citizen Science Cybersummit](#) in London. An informal reception with the public will involve hands-on interaction with the Geo-Wiki tools. Mathias Karner will take part in the Hack Day on 22 Feb.

19–21 March 2014: Dr Steffen Fritz is holding a training session with Profs Xiangming Xiao (University of Oklahoma) and Wataru Takeuchi (University of Tokyo) entitled: Community- and Citizen- Science Tools for Global Land Cover Mapping and Monitoring at the [2nd Global Land Project Open Science Meeting](#). Dr Fritz will also present a new branch of Geo-Wiki called Livestock Geo-Wiki in a session entitled: Global Land Use Datasets – Status and Way Forward

Until next month... keep on capturing!

The Geo-Wiki Team