



Welcome to our Spring Edition of Geo-Wiki News!

In our second edition of 2015 we report on where Geo-Wiki is right now making headline news across the globe, we announce a call for a special issue in Remote Sensing related to land cover, invite you to participate in one of our projects online surveys to investigate the usefulness of various datasets for different types of stakeholder groups, look for testers for our new game "Picture Pile", and provide a follow-up report from Geo-Wiki's return to Africa. As always, we wind up by listing upcoming events where you will find our team presenting and participating in a variety of international forums in the forthcoming months.

Making Headlines in the Media

A number of our recently published papers have captured the interests of the world media and as a result Steffen Fritz has answered many calls from the following media institutions:

1. W Radio (Colombia, South America). They were keen to find out more on the paper "Citizen scientists map global forests", written by Dmitry Schepaschenko et al. To listen to this interview, click on this [link](#). For more information about the paper [click here](#).
2. Horizon, the EU Research and Innovation magazine, wished to know more about our "[Crowdland](#)" [project](#). The article can be found [here](#).
3. IIASA News interviewed Steffen on how New global crop data can aid food policy decisions. To find out more click [here](#).

Also, we wish to bring to your attention a paper written by Linda See et al. which reviews recent crowdsourcing activities, entitled "Harnessing the power of volunteers, the internet and Google Earth to collect and validate global spatial information using Geo-Wiki". This paper was published in the Technological Forecasting and Social Change Journal. To learn more about it [click here](#).

Call for Special Issue on Validation and Inter-Comparison of Land Cover and Land Use Data

We have just launched a call for a special issue related to land cover. Check out the website of the journal Remote Sensing for more details if you are interested:

http://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing/special_issues/lulc

We invite you to Participate in a Stakeholder survey!

You will know there are many global monitoring systems initiatives on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals from the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector. Our team are collaborating with the Oeko Institut, Wageningen University, and CIFOR under the EU-funded research project: "Strengthening Independent Monitoring of GHG Emissions from Land Activities for Publishing, Comparing and Reconciling Estimates" to investigate the usefulness of various datasets and the importance and utility of diverse data characteristics for different types of stakeholder groups. Our focus is on user needs.

In order to complete this survey online, please go to the following link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/independent_monitoring. Your input in this survey will help define the different stakeholder views and needs as well as make recommendations for more efficient and effective monitoring systems which often need to be tailored to multiple uses, stakeholders and users.

Game Testers Required!

We are looking for some people to test our new game "Picture Pile". If you would like to become a tester, please get in touch with Tobias at sturn@iiasa.ac.at

Geo-Wiki pictures update for iOS expected

An update to our Geo-Wiki pictures app for iPhones and iPads will be released in the next few days to address the changes on the side of Apple and enable the app to work again on the latest devices. Check [this link](#) and await version 2.1.

Geo-Wiki returns to Africa

In our last edition we informed you about a workshop we hosted in Tanzania to start off a competition to classify land cover using an offline application. The students at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro were asked to provide cropland and woodland extent besides other information from very high resolution satellite imagery. They teamed up in groups to perform the task of completing a wall-to-wall map for the district of Kilosa and a random sample for the rest of the country. At the end of March, Christoph Perger returned to Sokoine University for a final workshop to close the competition and to hand over awards for the winners, which included a tablet, airtime and cash prizes.

Upcoming Events

- Steffen Fritz is presenting two papers at the 36th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment (ISRSE) on May 11–15 2015 in Berlin, Germany. The first is entitled "Improving global land cover via crowd-sourcing and product integration", which he will present at the Trends in Operational Land Cover Mapping session. The second, "Assessment of the added value of openstreetmap for land cover / land use mapping", will be presented at Sourcing the crowd – Earth Observation in partnership with citizens. Linda See will also present a paper at this Airborne and innovative remote sensing platforms and techniques (SENS) session on "A comparison of crowdsourced data from the Cropland Capture game with Degrees of Confluence and remote sensing imagery". For more information: <http://www.isrse36.org/>
- Linda See is attending a meeting of COST Action TD1202 Mapping and Citizen Sensor in Nice, France on 23–24 April 2015. Check out our COST website to learn more about the Action: <http://www.citizensensor-cost.eu/>
- Linda See is co-organizing a workshop entitled "Assessing the fitness of citizens observatories for land cover / land use mapping and validation purposes" at AGILE in Lisbon, Portugal on 9 June 2015 – still time to sign up! For more information: <http://www.agile-online.org/index.php/conference/conference-2015?id=260>
- Tobias Sturn will give a talk about the "Game Design of Cropland Capture" at the Foundations of Digital Games 2015 conference in Pacific Grove, California, USA on 22 June 2015. For more information: <http://www.fdg2015.org/>

Social Media

Don't forget to connect with us on our [Twitter @Geo-Wiki](#) and Facebook pages [facebook.com/GeoWiki](https://www.facebook.com/GeoWiki). Just look us up and see how [#citizenscience](#), [#crowdsourcing](#) are revolutionizing our ways to [#map](#) our world!