



G-ECO-MON

GEOGRAPHIC ECOSYSTEM MONITORING & ASSESSMENT SERVICE

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ABOUT

The G-ECO-MON – Geographic Ecosystem Monitoring & Assessment Service project is intended to show that Earth Observation (EO) applications are neither costly nor complex and are globally accessible; they are therefore ideally suited for ecosystem service monitoring and assessment. By supporting better understanding of ecosystem services, EO applications support the management of natural capital and the wider environment. EO can therefore make an important contribution to both organisations as well as society at large.

This project, funded by the European Space Agency, is being delivered through an international project consortium. The team brings together world-class expertise in EO services customised for land, coastal and marine ecosystems together with in-depth knowledge on the needs of corporate, investor, NGO and governmental users.

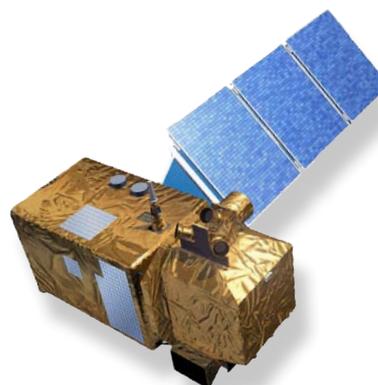
THE AIM

The project aims to extend the use of EO based information for multiple applications. These could include impact assessments, supply chain management, ecosystem management, payment for ecosystem services, natural wealth accounting, emergency management or public policy.

This will be achieved through an assessment of the market for EO applications; preparing a portfolio of potential products and services and increasing the awareness and engagement of user organisations and stakeholders in the use of EO based information.

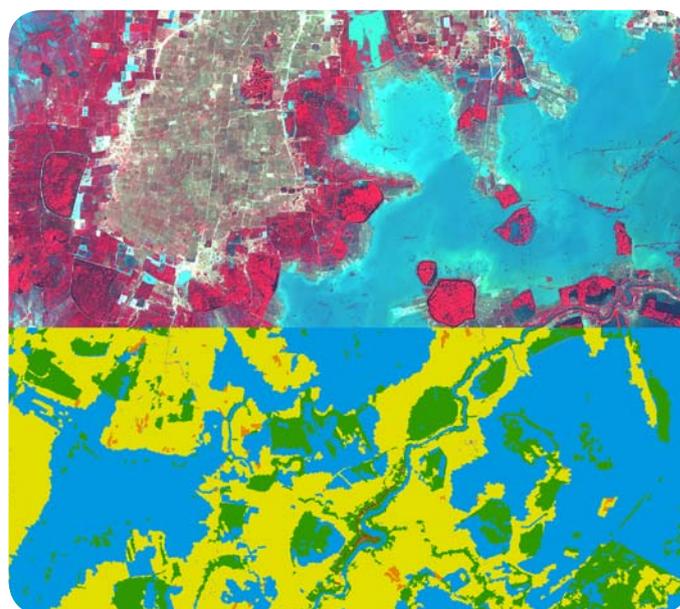
We will also support the integration of EO based information in standardised models and evaluation protocols for ecosystem service assessment.

The project will demonstrate through case studies, how stakeholders can receive customised, best-practice EO services that meet their operational needs and conditions; these services will be assessed in terms of their impact, benefits and utility.



The forthcoming ESA Sentinel-2 mission will provide high-resolution optical information for land cover and land cover change mapping.

Image source: SPOT
Image Data processing:
GeoVille





UNDERSTANDING USER NEEDS

A process of user engagement took place at the beginning of project phase 1 between January and May 2013. A review of needs and potential applications of EO products was conducted through individual interviews and two invitation-only workshops. The international user workshops were hosted by Linklaters in London and the World Bank in Washington, DC. This was a large scale international exercise bringing together more than 120 international stakeholders from commercial, technical and academic organisations. The aim was to identify current and future Earth Observation products for ecosystem service assessments and valuations.

A further objective of this process has been to engage stakeholders in a series of full scale demonstration projects to start later in 2013.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Sharing findings – we started establishing a representative group of interested individuals and organisations, which include developers of ecosystem service standards and the verification community; financial institutions or funds with an interest in this emerging approach; corporate investors and market makers; as well as the environmental research community, NGOs and trade associations involved in this evolving market. Representatives were invited to participate in the workshops in London and Washington, DC where they got valuable information on EO technology and products.

Engagement through demonstration projects – ESA will support the inclusion of a minimum of five demonstration projects between September 2013 and August 2014. EO products and services will be specifically customised and generated for the selected projects. The utility and benefit of the EO product portfolio will then be assessed. Project partners will therefore gain a significant amount of mapping support and understanding on the current and future potential of EO as a data source for the Ecosystem Assessment sector.

If you are interested to submit a demonstration project study please got to:

<http://www.space4ecosystems.com/projects/apply-for-a-demonstration-study/announcement/>

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information on the demonstration project studies and the overall project, please contact:

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