Geo-Wiki.org Newsletter - January 2014

Happy New Year! In our first newsletter of 2014, we outline the newest features in our Cropland Capture game and we report on research by one of the Geo-Wiki team, who presented it at the annual AGU conference in December. Some upcoming events that may be of interest are provided at the end.

Cropland Capture

Let's keep on capturing! The race is far from over! We are only in week 8... 17 weeks to go! Every week you not only have a chance to enter into the draw to win one of 3 prizes: An Amazon Kindle, a Smartphone or a tablet, but there are new features being added to the game too to make it even more fun: contest button and pictures. So go on... keep on clicking!

Update on the Game
We have almost 2,500 people playing the game who have classified just under 2.5 million pixels! This is an impressive dataset and you should be really proud of your collective contributions! Congratulations to our weekly winners so far:

Week 3 Kübraaaahoiiiii, burkhard, Annamirl
Week 4 burkhard, Kübraaaahoiiiii, Jajabar
Week 5 burkhard, JoeM, bcarpenter
Week 6 Kübraaaahoiiiii, JoeM, Jajabar
Week 7 burkhard, JoeM, slassagne

New Features
Many of you have asked us questions about the game. We hope we have answered all your emails but for commonly asked questions, we have added an FAQ. Please contact us if you have a query!

You can now challenge an answer in the browser version 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). A few of you have emailed us about this idea and we hope you like this addition.

We have added geo-tagged photos from the Degree Confluence Project to the game. These photos can be used as additional pieces of information to help you decide if there is cropland present.

We have continued to fix small bugs and made other smaller improvements in the background. Please contact us if you have any further suggestions.

Future Developments
During the next month we will add the same 'challenge' functionality to the mobile versions of Cropland Capture. Some of you have asked us to make the mobile versions smaller and to allow you to listen to your music while playing the game. We are currently working on making these changes. We are also trying to optimize the performance of the game as we realize that it is slowing down, e.g. when opening the statistics page. This is because of the huge amount of data we have already collected with your help.

Remember to follow us on Twitter (@CropCapture) for regular updates on the game! It's not too late to get involved and help us to improve global cropland.

Geo-Wiki and Crowdsourcing at the AGU

Dr Dmitry Schepaschenko presented his ongoing work on developing a global hybrid forest mask, which is a map that indicates where forest cover is located. Although you may think this information is well known, you only need to compare all the different products that are available (from national to regional to global) and you will see large spatial disagreements between them. You can see this for yourself on Biomass Geo-Wiki. However, we also know that these products are right in some places so by combining the different available sources of information into a single hybrid product, we can produce a more accurate forest mask. Dmitry has done exactly this by using Geo-Wiki to develop a comprehensive training data set of more than 20,000 points, which have then been used in combination with geographically weighted regression to determine which maps represent

forest cover most accurately and at which locations. By building up a picture on a pixel-by-pixel basis, Dmitry has produced a single hybrid product. Dmitry presented the first version of this product for the year 2000 at the AGU. This product is currently under validation and is available from http://www.geo-wiki.org/newsletterlinks/d58d8f14c696d634970b2c79b8533b70. Once the product for 2000 is completed, the same exercise will be undertaken to produce a map for 2010. If you have any questions about this work, feel free to email Dmitry .

Upcoming Events

19–21 March 2014, Berlin at the 2nd Global Land Project Open Science Meeting
Dr Steffen Fritz will be 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. 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. We hope to see you there!

27 April – 2 May 2014, Vienna at the EGU
We also hope to present some Geo-Wiki work in a special session on crowdsourcing at the annual European Geosciences Union meeting. More information to follow once the session is finalized!

More from us again next month!

The Geo-Wiki Team