

Welcome to our Summer Edition of Geo-Wiki News!

Geo-Wiki News is back after a 3-month pause. In our summer edition we are going to report on 6 different Geo-wiki led trips to 6 different countries, where 6 different members of our team went to spread the world of Geo-Wiki.org!

1. Dmitry Schepaschenko goes 'Forest Monitoring' in Douala, Cameroon

A workshop on "Data Interoperability for Forest Monitoring" took place in Douala, Cameroon from 2-6 June 2014. This first regional technical GFOI-SilvaCarbon workshop on forest monitoring had the overall aim of supporting participating countries to continue to develop data plans for their country needs in the context of REDD+. Different data sets were presented and the use of different remote sensing data and their interoperability to create biomass estimations was discussed.

Dmitry presented the Biomass branch of Geo-wiki. Demonstrating its use as a platform to visualize, analyze and improve Biomass datasets. He also presented the methodology used to produce a global hybrid forest map based on crowd sourced data.



Participants at the First GFOI Forest Monitoring Workshop in Africa

To find out more go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/gfoiafricacapacitybuilding/home/first-gfoi-forest-monitoring-workshop>

2. Ian McCallum gets 'active' with the GEO in Athens, Greece

The 8th GEO European Projects Workshop (GEPW-8) was held in Athens, Greece on 12 -13 June 2014. The Greek GEO Office was responsible for hosting it and the Mariolopoulos - Kanaginis Foundation for the Environmental Sciences co-organized it.

It brought together those interested in, and actively contributing to, the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS) from all over Europe. They presented their work and discussed how Europe can contribute to this international effort, especially in the wake of the launch of the new EU Framework Programme for Research, Horizon 2020, and renewal of the mandate of GEO for another 10 years through the endorsement of the 2014 Geneva Declaration.

Ian gave a talk entitled "Citizen Science: Geo-Wiki contributing to GEOSS", describing the evolution of Geo-Wiki and how it contributes to GEOSS. It provoked several interesting questions and comments. There was good representation from the European GEO community at this event. It was realised that Citizen Science is increasingly being featured on the GEO agenda and will have a prominent role to play in the future of GEOSS.

The participants were offered an evening sightseeing tour of Athens that culminated at the National Observatory overlooking the city.

To find out more go to: <http://www.gepw8.noa.gr/index.html>



Participants at the 8th GEO European Projects Workshop (GEPW-8) in Athens

3. Linda See builds a census of the ‘form and function of cities’ in Dublin, Ireland

Linda co-organized the first WUDAPT workshop at the University College Dublin, from 7–9 July 2014. This workshop brought together experts in urban climate, energy modeling, architecture, ICT, spatial sciences and urban planning to discuss the development of a World Urban Database and Access Portal Tools (WUDAPT) that will become a future resource built by the urban community and will be accessible by all. During the workshop, Local Climate Zone (LCZs) maps of 16 cities around the world were built, and protocols for data collection of urban features using Geo-Wiki and mobile apps were discussed.

The WUDAPT project will develop and test an urban classification scheme using a combination of remote sensing, locally-based urban experts and crowdsourcing (using Geo-Wiki and other crowdsourcing tools). For more information, see the workshop [report \(PDF\)](#) and [video](#).



Statues outside University College Dublin

4. Steffen Fritz brings Citizen Science to St Andrews University, Scotland

The Centre for GeoInformatics at University of St Andrews ran a ‘GEOCROWD ‘supported summer school in July 2014. The goal of “GEOCROWD – Creating a Geospatial Knowledge World” is to establish a fertile research environment by means of a training network that will promote the GeoWeb 2.0 vision and advance the state of the art in collecting, storing, analyzing, processing, reconciling, and making large amounts of semantically rich user-generated geospatial information available on the Web. Their activities are threefold:

- exploiting user-contributed geospatial data,
- Web-geodata management and
- efficient means for data collection and dissemination, e.g., mobile computing

The summer school was concerned with any aspect of geospatial information science and focused on any aspect of user-contributed geospatial data. Steffen Fritz gave a keynote presentation on "Crowdsourcing, VGI and Gaming for Improving Land Cover".

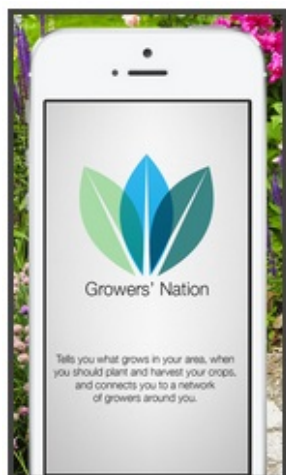
5. Tobias Sturn connects the Nations Growers at the launch of the GEO Appathon 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland

Tobias attended the 6th Geospatial World Forum at the Centre for International Conferences in Geneva, Switzerland from 5–9 May 2014. This event was organised by Geospatial Media and Communications Pvt Ltd.

The conference aimed at enriching the geospatial ecosystem with market intelligence, technology trends, success stories and capacity building. It also launched the 2014 GEO Appathon.

The GEO Appathon is a global App development competition open to any non-commercial individual, team or entity (students, scientists and developers) with a passion for unleashing the power of Earth Observations (EO) to allow us all to make smarter decisions about the planet. The GEO Appathon is hosted by The Group on Earth Observations (GEO). The 2014 competition kicked off on Wednesday 7 May 2014 and will continue until the 26 September 2014.

Tobias developed a mobile app called Growers Nation (www.growers-nation.org) for the GEO Appathon 2014 competition. The Growers' Nation app tells you what grows in your area, when you should plant and harvest your crops and connects you to a network of growers around you. We hope that with the app we help ordinary citizens but also small farmers in developing countries to benefit from the knowledge and experience of both their neighbors and other farmers globally. The app is already available on the [AppStore](#) and on the [Google PlayStore](#).



6. Christoph Perger takes Smartphone apps to the rainforests in South America

The South-South Community based MRV training workshop was held in Guyana, South America from 23–28 of August. The purpose of CMRV is to develop and implement a community-based measuring, reporting and verification process for the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+). The goals of the workshop were for CMRV practitioners to share their know-how by teaching each other how to do relevant CRMV work, sharing tools, and having an honest discussion about what has worked, what has not worked and why.

Christoph gave a presentation and a practical session on [Geo-wiki pictures](#) and [GeoODK](#). Other presentations came from GCP, OSFAC, UCL-ExCiteS, USGS, and WWF.



Participants at the CMRV workshop, Arrowpoint, Guyana

For more information on the workshop, go to:

<http://www.guyanatimesgy.com/2014/08/30/wwf-looking-to-intensify-cmr-in-guyana/>

<http://guyanachronicle.com/independent-auditors-verify-guyanas-deforestation-at-1/>

Upcoming Events

Dmitry Schepaschenko is going to participate and make two Geo-wiki related presentations at the [IUFRO 2014 World Congress](#) in October 5–11, Salt Lake City, USA

The Geo-Wiki Team