



Twelfth Session of the United Nations
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

**Geospatial information for landscape monitoring and management:
developing the role of higher education**

Friday, 5 August 2022

2:30 pm - 3:55 pm

Venue: Conference Room 2 (CR-2, Conference Building)
United Nations Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Sustainable development and landscape management requires extensive monitoring. Conservation projects rely on landscape and wildlife monitoring data to plan and implement conservation and management activities. Landscape monitoring techniques need to be used to measure environmental conditions to understand how an area has changed over time and to predict future changes based on past trends. In this regard, higher education can play a key role to raise awareness of the importance of timely and effective fit-for-purpose landscape administration that must be affordable and accessible by all, and particularly due to the global commitments to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to contribute to climate change mitigation.

The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) works at the interface of science, policy, and practice to tackle the global crisis facing nature and support the transition to a sustainable future for people and the planet. They have developed a suite of knowledge and tools to help decision makers with the trade-offs and synergies faced in balancing food security, livelihoods and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In Europe, the European Landscape Convention (ELC) promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. It is a inter-governmental charter that aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. Further, EUROGEO is the European Association of Geographers and it is highly committed to the definition of a set the competences for training geospatial professionals in Europe and beyond. As a partner of GEOLAND, a EU-funded higher education project, EUROGEO seeks to enhance the actions of UNEP-WCMC and ELC by promoting state-of-the-art Digital Educational Geoinformatics Methodologies for Monitoring Landscape. Thus, GEOLAND aims to:

1. Explore and develop educational approaches for the effective participation of higher education students in decision-making for landscape management, planning and protection of NATURA 2000 sites.
2. Enable the uptake of novel ways to engage and empower these students in the use of geospatial technologies in environmental science
3. Stimulate engagement in participatory decision-making and in the definition and implementation of landscape policies related to desirable landscape quality objectives.
4. Encourage the use of innovative pedagogies (citizen science), technologies and state of the art approaches (Landscape Character Assessment) to multidisciplinary subject areas in universities.

“This is an open side event and all Session Attendees are invited”



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The session will present the GEOLAND project and the publication of its geospatial handbook and technical annex for monitoring landscape and developments that focus on the monitoring and management of the network of NATURA 2000 sites across Europe which are core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right.

A research paper on the topic can be found on the geolandproject website:

<https://www.geolandproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/GEOLAND-Handbook-EN.pdf>

Proposed Agenda (times in pm)

2:30 –	Introduction
2:40	<i>Mr Rafael de Miguel González, EUROGEO President and University of Zaragoza, Spain.</i>
2:40 –	Geospatial competences for longlife learning: connecting higher education, government and geospatial industry.
3:00	<i>Mr Rafael de Miguel González, EUROGEO President and University of Zaragoza, Spain.</i>
3:00 –	Geospatial information and open data for landscape monitoring and management: from UNEP to the Council of Europe.
3.20	<i>Mr Karl Donert, EUROGEO VicePresident and Director: European Centre of Excellence: digital-earth.eu</i>
3.20 –	GEOLAND project: Geospatial training for landscape monitoring and management
3.40	<i>Mr Luc Zwartjes, EUROGEO Vice President and University of Gent, Belgium.</i>
3:40 –	Summary and Closing Remarks
3:55	

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