Learn more about our progress in Picture Pile, our Landsense citizen observatory, the Cap-Ban project, and an update on LACO-Wiki.

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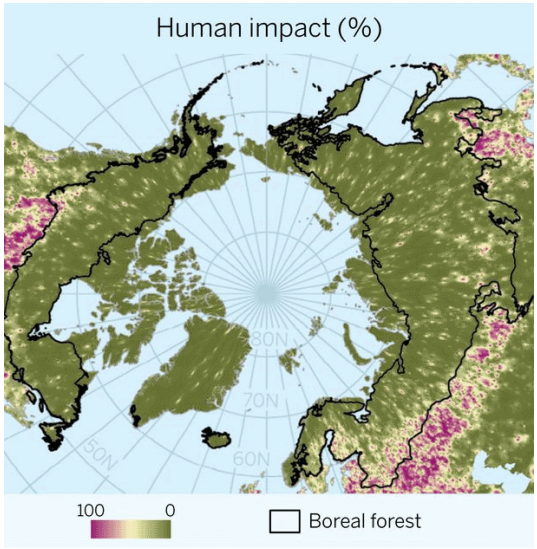
Welcome to our Winter Edition of Geo-Wiki News!

To kick off 2016, we report on the continuing efforts of Geo-Wiki players to map deforestation through our Picture Pile game, tell you our exciting news about LandSense, describe our recent Brazilian activities, and report on the latest developments in the LACO-Wiki validation platform. Finally, we update you on past and upcoming events in which the Geo-Wiki team is participating.

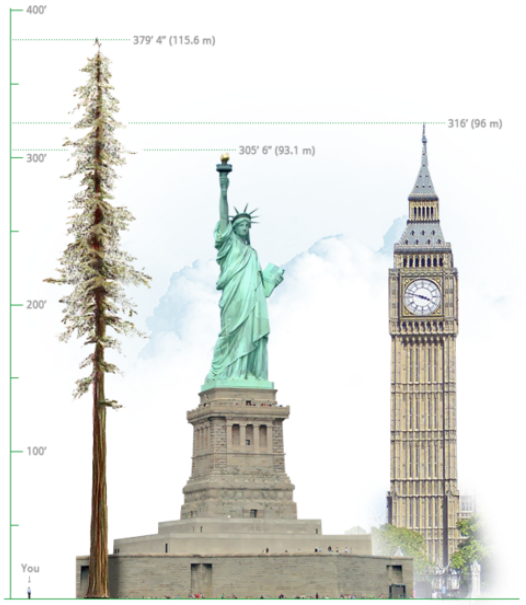
Recent Science Publication

A map of human impact based on data collected via the Geo-Wiki community has recently featured in Science:
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/349/6250/819



The human impact index reflects the overall low but locally important impact due to harvesting, agriculture, human settlements, natural resource exploration and exploitation, mining, or roads, as well as their cumulative importance.

Picture Pile Developments



We would like to thank all the Picture Pile players who have sorted over 1.63 million pictures over the last 18 weeks. This pile would reach 163 meters in height, which exceeds the Statue of Liberty (93.1m), Big Ben (96 meters) and the highest tree in the world - the Hyperion (115.55 meters).
Well done to all of you!

Over the past few weeks we have made some additions to our Game. We have marked up a set of training images to help newcomers recognize tree loss. We also improved the stability and performance of the iOS App. So please update the iOS App if you have not already done so. We added a profile page where you can provide us with additional information about yourself so that we can get to know you better. Perhaps your profession has an influence on how you sort the pictures, or your incentive to play Picture Pile is because of the prizes or maybe you simply want to help science to solve important problems! All of this information helps us when we use the data in further research. Note that we will always treat this information confidently. Thank you for your cooperation.

In the next couple of days we will remove some cloudy pictures from the deforestation pile and replace them with some images from Indonesia, which will bring some more variety to the pile!

By playing Picture Pile, you are sorting picture piles to help us raise awareness of global issues like deforestation. You can play Picture Pile in a browser (www.geo-wiki.org/games/picturepile) or on your smartphone (iPhone, Android) or tablet (iPad, Android).

Landsense

The Geo-Wiki team has recently been awarded one of the four new citizen science observatories funded by the European Commission. LandSense, which will be

coordinated by IIASA and run for four years, has 18 partners and a total budget of 5 M Euros. The aim of LandSense is to build an engagement platform for many different stakeholders involved in Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) monitoring, which will also function as a technology innovation marketplace. LandSense will deploy advanced tools, services and resources to mobilize and engage citizens to collect in-situ observations (i.e. ground-based data and visual interpretation of EO imagery). We are also part of a second citizen observatory called GROW, in which the Grower's Nation app will play a fundamental role.

CAP-BAN project

Geo-Wiki goes to Brazil! We have just completed the CAP-BAN project, which allows farmers and ministries in Brazil to monitor crop development and issue warnings (e.g. occurrence of diseases). Funded by the National Institute of Science and Technology (INCT) in partnership with the National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warnings System (CEMADEN), the Geo-Wiki team built a mobile and server application to improve the prediction of crop losses. The mobile application is called **Agri-Support GeoWiki** and works on Android devices. More information (in portuguese) can be found at: http://agri-support.geo-wiki.org.

LACO-Wiki

The LACO-Wiki land cover validation platform is now available for testing, including training materials (link). We would greatly appreciate your feedback. In the next few weeks we will be releasing a new version with lots of added features, e.g. ability to login using your Geo-Wiki account, sharing functionality so that you can distribute the validation task amongst your colleagues and friends, stratified sampling and support for other languages. Register for the newsletter to stay updated.

Recent Past and Upcoming Events

- **Ian McCallum** is now an active member of the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) working group on Data and Service Infrastructure. The working group met at the JRC on 26-27 January 2016 to discuss a new citizen science data model and a continuation of efforts from the first round of citizen observatories.
- **Tobias Sturn** is attending the 2nd Austrian citizen science conference in February to present Picture Pile.
- **Steffen Fritz** will deliver a keynote on Geo-Wiki tools and mobile apps at a Land Symposium (11-12 March 2016) in Dresden, Germany, which is focussed on urban sustainable development and issues related to soil sealing
- **Steffen Fritz** is also going to participate in the Global Partnership Workshop for LandPKS-USDA in Boulder, Colorado 7-9th March 2016. The Land-Potential Knowledge System (LandPKS) provides freely available technology and tools for inventory, assessment and monitoring, sustainable land use planning, and connecting people across the globe
- **Juan-Carlos Laso-Bayas** will present a paper on the quality of crowdsourced data from FotoQuest at the EGU in Vienna (17-22 April 2016). A second paper will be presented by Artem Baklanov on improving the quality of data from the Cropland Capture game.