European Environment Agency







Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Environmental Protection Agency

Webinar "Mapping habitats by combining satellite and other data »

Co-organised by the EEA, the Danish Environment Agency and Biodiversa+

20th of January 2023 – 10am to 3pm CET







Part 1- EU section

European Environment Agency





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Welcome words and purpose of the meeting

By the EEA, Danish Environmental Protection Agency and Biodiversa+

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Short Introduction to Eionet and the new ways of working

Online Webinar - Mapping habitats by combining satellite & other data

20th January 2023 Ana Tejedor Arceredillo <u>Ana.Tejedor@eea.Europa.eu</u>

Timeline – EEA and Eionet History



European Environment Information & Observation Network - Eionet



Who we are

38 countries

More than 400 institutions

Around 2,000 experts

Organised in 13 Eionet groups

Supported by experts in 8 European Topic Centres

What we do

Delivering data, information and knowledge
The European environment — state and outlook
Support for EU and National policy

Eionet governance



Eionet Groups, Thematic & Working Groups

Eionet Groups

- reflect the EEA Eionet Strategy's five Work Areas, and their integrative /systemic nature,
- better connect the strong country level expertise to the European level,
- facilitate sharing of policy relevant knowledge across EEA member countries, and
- strengthen the network's added value for countries and the EEA.

• Expert **Thematic Groups** - defined within some Eionet groups to assist countries with the transition to a more integrated thematic structure.

• Flexible Working Groups - designed to work on specific joint projects by interested countries.

European Environment Information & Observation Network - Eionet



Roles and Responsibilities within EIONET



Eionet Governance within the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Programme

4 Eionet groups instead of 7 NRC

- Eionet Group B&E #1 Integration of knowledge for policies
- Eionet Group B&E #2 Drivers of change and solutions Biodiversity related:
- Eionet Group Food system
- Eionet Group Land system

4 Eionet Thematic groups under B&E #1 :

- Biodiversity monitoring (former NRC biodiversity Indicators systems, innovation in monitoring, data integration)
- Water (former NRC Water emissions, NRC Water quality, NRC Water quantity Data acquisition beyond environmental acquis)
- Marine/oceans (former NRC Marine marine and transitional waters, ocean protection)
- Forest ecosystems (former NRC Forest Forest information and monitoring)







Modernised Eionet network



- New priorities. EEA-Eionet Strategy: increasing capacities on solutions towards sustainability
- New working methods. Encouraging flexibility, responsiveness, joint learning, innovation, cocreation...

Ensure greater and clearer **added value for the countries** - *develop a more joint/co-led network community*

What is Co-creation?



Building from the previous Eionet meetings



What countries are prioritising ?

What support is needed from the EAA?



What is the role of this group?



Huge interest from the group in many aspects of the **dataflows**.

High interest about involvement in relation to **consultations**, **indicators & assessments**.

Aspects such as **methodological aspects**, sourcing more and better data and **ensuring the application of emerging and leading-edge technology** will need to be in our Agendas.

For a full overview check:

https://eea1.sharepoint.com/:w:/t/106InteractionswithEionet/Edcz7GZd07RPrkD6gCY01vsBTfc0vBccEn9T8SeScjFpDQ?e=h **OsxEn**



Preliminary-Calendar-¶

DATE·¤	Meeting Title ¤	Details ¤
November 2022	Webinar for sharing	Denmark-and-EEA-leading.¶
(tbc)¤	knowledge∙ about∙	Norway, Italy, Spain have interest to present their own case studies
	using· artificial·	
	intelligence, remote∙	
	sensing, machine-	
	learning and similar	
	to monitor habitats	
	in-Q4-2022.¤	
23/11·(tbc).¤	TG· Biodiversity·	Design the TG with 2 modules: overarching (similar to EGs and NFP sessions) and focused/pragmati
	<u>Monitoring</u> ¤	discussion on expert work on restoration. Management of expectation will be needed once the inception
0000 (1.)		done.¤
January-2023-(tbc)¤	Kick-off meeting of €	Main goals are:¶
	TG·W	
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2022 - 2024 Eionet – BES Activities EG1 Overview

Some examples:

DATAFLOWS

WISE SoE dataflows (WISE 1 – emissions to water; WISE 2 – biological data; WISE 3 – water quantity; WISE 5 – spatial data (non-WFD reporting countries); WISE 6 – water quality, etc.

INDICATORS

WAT 001 – Use of freshwater resources in Europe (Water exploitation index plus); CSI 019 - Oxygen-consuming substances in rivers; WAT 009 – Pesticides in rivers, lakes and groundwater;

ASSESSMENTS

Zero Pollution Action Plan Monitoring and Assessment Report (2024) - consultation scheduled Q4, 2023; 3rd river basin management plans;

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

Implementation of Artificial Intelligence in developing water balance in Europe; Developing the country profile on water resources, Antimicrobial resistance in the water environment; Organization of European Sea Forum

Resources considerations

The new concept of "Projects of Eionet Priority (PEPs)"

- Have the potential to bring high added value for the entire Eionet
- Have a cross-cutting nature
- Strongly help to achieve strategic objectives set in EEA/Eionet strategy
- Involve all Eionet countries
- Are considered under SPD

Artificial Intelligence to Monitor Habitats

Three things we would like to achieve today:

Countries:

- Sharing experience on what methods are used for habitat mapping
- Exploring how satellite data & digital methods can be used to enhance current approaches

EU level & Countries:

- Explaining the EU context and activities
- Exploring possibilities for working better together

Next steps:

- Identifying the best ways of working together on this topic in the coming years
- Exploring policy use of habitat data, e.g. in nature restoration

Ana Tejedor | European Environment Agency



Thank you

European Environment Agency

Biodiversa+ membership





www.biodiversa.eu

Portfolio of activities and budget amplitude





www.biodiversa.eu

Workflow between Biodiversa+ tasks











Policy needs for habitat mapping data at EU level (overview and review of key data challenges)

By Jan-Erik Petersen, EEA

European Environment Agency





Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Environmental Protection Agency Policy needs for habitat mapping data at EU level (overview and review of key data challenges)

Jan-Erik Petersen, EEA



1) What is habitat mapping for – an overview of functions

There are a wide range of analytical functions that habitat mapping data can have.

This presentation aims to give an overview of these functions and to discuss the data requirements associated with these different analytical uses. It is meant as a starting point for a further review of data needs, also in the context of EU discussions on future biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring.

Broadly speaking, one can distinguish four main functions:

- a) Input to general environmental monitoring
- b) Support to tracking (biodiversity) policy targets
- c) Planning conservation actions / preventing habitat destruction
- d) Enabling 'ecosystem-based management' / preserving natural capital & ESS



2) What are potential analytical purposes ?

- Measuring trends in habitat extent and habitat condition are these stable, increasing or decreasing => creates signals on the need to act (or not)
- Identifying geographic areas of policy intervention where habitats are at particular risk / decline => helps to direct policy programs + funding to areas of highest need
- 3) Directing concrete conservation and restoration action on the ground to achieve better conservation outcomes in specific locations (in N2000 areas & outside)
- 4) Integrating habitat protection into economic activities to achieve longer term sustainability => connects habitat data to socio-economic analysis / modelling



3) What are important data characteristics ?

- 1) Spatial detail and representativity: European, national, regional, local level?
- 2) Ecological differentiation: EUNIS levels 2,3,4.., correspondence with Annex 1 of EU HD, correspondence with EU typology for ecosystem accounting, etc. ?
- 3) Estimated % accuracy of mapping exercise (for each patch / at NUTS or nat. level) ?
- 4) Regular data collection leading to stable time series ?
- 5) Other important quality criteria ?



4a) Which data characteristics for which analytical purpose ?

1) Signalling trends or threats

- National level summary data can be enough
- Stratified sampling or satellite-based extent mapping with 80-90% accuracy are fine
- Such data are also useful in the context of reporting against policy targets
- Precise ecological identification is important, spatial accuracy much less so (?)

2) Identifying geographic areas for policy intervention

- Requires information at regional scale or below to be able to prioritise certain areas
- Stratified sampling or satellite-based extent mapping of 80-90% accuracy are again ok as long as they enable comparing risk profiles of certain areas or habitat types against each other
- Precise ecological identification is important, spatial accuracy needs to enable comparison between regions / locations (?)



4b) Which data characteristics for which analytical purpose ?

- 3) Directing concrete conservation and restoration action on the ground
 - If habitat patches are small (e.g. up to a few ha) then spatial accuracy needs to match that (ie 10m grid or polygon level accuracy as likely minimum)
 - In case of large ecosystem complexes (such as forest areas or high mountain pastures) then spatial accuracy can be coarser (?)
 - Precise ecological identification is very important, otherwise wrong interventions can occur
 - => low spatial and ecological accuracy bring a high risk of negative conservation outcomes !
- 4) Integrating habitat protection into economic activities
 - In context of building or infrastructure development same standards apply as under 3)
 - In context of building ecosystem accounts the requirements of statistical system apply
 - When aiming to build a greener economy habitat data needs to be able to be linked to units or types of economic activity (eg specific farm & forestry enterprises or 'pig production' versus 'extensive cattle systems')

Thank you for your attention.

Jan-Erik.Petersen@eea.europa.eu







Presentations on current EU level habitat mapping work, combining satellite with vegetation plot and other data

By Stephan Hennekens (WENR, The Netherlands)





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Modelling and Mapping Habitats at European and Regional Scale using AI/ML techniques

EIONET/DK EPA/Biodiversa+ webinar on 'Mapping habitats by combining satellite and other data', 20 January 2023

Sander Mucher¹; Stephan Hennekens¹; Bruno Smets²; Sara Simoussi³; Henk Kramer¹; Rob Knapen¹; Marcel Buchhorn²; Wilfried Thuiller³; Kristof Vantricht²;

Stan Los¹, Yoann Cartier³

1 Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands; 2 VITO, Belgium; 3 CNRS, France











Background & objectives

- Much more effort is needed to reverse current trends and to ensure resilient and healthy nature. The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems.
- Therefore, understanding where habitats occur across Europe is a crucial element for understanding biodiversity conservation and taking specific actions.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques, such as Machine Learning (ML) and Neural Networks (NN) or Deep Learning (DL) methods could enable an improved monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystems with satellite based high-resolution datasets such as Copernicus High Resolution Vegetation Phenology Product (HR-VPP) to better support European policy making.
- Our overall objective is to exploit AI / Deep Learning classification methods for habitat mapping.
- Work performed mainly within EEA & ESA projects



Two approaches:

- **1. European** habitat suitability modelling at 100 meter resolution by using RSenabled EBVs and other bioclimatic layers as predictors in MAXENT (Maximum Entropy) models, trained by exploiting *in situ* vegetation plot data from the European Vegetation Archive (EVA, <u>http://euroveg.org/eva-database</u>)
- **2. Regional** habitat mapping using deep learning techniques at 10 or 20 meter resolution
- In both approaches training data from the EVA database plays a central role



Method 1 European habitat modelling

- Input for the modelling are potentially 1,2M vegetation plot observations (derived from the European Vegetation Archive (EVA database) covering 203 EUNIS habitats.
- A model for each habitat type is executed using a selection of 22 predictors (comprising 5 climate parameters, 7 soil, 2 terrain parameters, 7 <u>RS-EBVs</u> and 1 topography parameter).
- For the habitat modelling open source software <u>Maxent</u> <u>version 3.4.1</u> is used, by applying a machine-learning technique called Maximum Entropy Modelling.
- We ran MAXENT model to create European habitat suitability maps at 100 meter resolution for most EUNIS habitat types at level 3 (203 EUNIS classes).




Flowchart European habitat modelling



Example European habitat modelling: S41 Wet heath



Differences in accuracy models from BIOMOD2



Random Forest performs with best accuracy, but takes too much time to run (> 200 hours for a single model and huge memory consumption). Modelling at European scale at 100m resolution currently only possible using Maxent.

Figure Accuracy assessment for the different methods for habitat suitability modelling with same set of training data and set of predictors at 100 meter resolution. AUC = Accuracy Under the Curve. TSS = True Skill Statistics.

Integration European habitat suitability maps towards wall-to-wall mapping

the Copernicus HR

layer Forest (EEA)



Overlay all habitat suitability maps for a specific habitat group (in this case forests) and extract habitat types with highest suitability (python scripts)

highest suitability per pixel (Max1_Foresttypes)

Forest types with



Forest types with the second best suitability score per pixel (Max2_Foresttypes)



Forest types with the third best suitability score per pixel (Max3_Foresttypes)



Clip the integrated EUNIS Forest habitat map (level 3) with the highest suitability with the Copernicus HR layer



Clipped forest types with the second best suitability score per pixel (Max2_Foresttypes)



EUNIS Forest habitat map (level 3) with the highest suitability score for forest habitats clipped with the Copernicus HR layer Forest.



Method 2 Regional habitat mapping using deep learning techniques

 WENR & VITO are working on exploitation of deep-learning models for habitat mapping at regional and national scale. For example in National Park Veluwe, the Netherlands, using HR-VPP and Sentinel-2 at 10 meter resolution (next to Superview)



Superview 12-08-2020, False colour

WAGENINGEN

RSITY & RESEARCH

Sentinel 31-07-2020, False colour Selected LVD points in Hoge Veluwe test area

Method 2a Deep Learning (U-NET in ArcGIS PRO)

Step 1 Prepare Training Data Train a Model

Step 2

Step 3 Use the Model

Export Training Data For Deep Learning						
Parameters Environm	Parameters Environments					
Input Raster						
20200812_SV_HV_clip	_v2_UTM31N.tif	- 📻				
Additional Input Raste	r					
Dutput Folder		•				
	es\DLtraingsData\SV20200812_DLid					
Input Feature Class Or	Classified Raster Or Table					
LVD_AnnexI_Spec_hal	btype_20220119	-				
Class Value Field						
DLid		-				
Buffer Radius		2				
Input Mask Polygons						
Image Format		-				
TIFF format						
Tile Size X		256				
Tile Size Y		256				
Stride X		64				
Stride Y		64				
Rotation Angle		C				
Reference System						
Map space		•				
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Metadata Format						
Classified Tiles						

In	put Training Data		
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M	ax Epochs		
~ M	lodel Parameters		
M	odel Type		
ι	J-Net (Pixel classification)		
Ba	itch Size		
M	odel Arguments	1	
	ame	Value	
	class_balancing	False	
	mixup	False	
	focal_loss	False	
	ignore_classes	0	
	chip_size	224	
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E	Classify Pixels Using Deep Learning						
Pa	arameters Environments		?				
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1	Output Classified Raster						
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	Arguments						
I	Name	Value					
	padding	56					
	batch_size 4						
	predict_background True						
	tile_size	224					

Deep Learning proces in ArcGIS PRO

Selected training points for Deep Learning process from the Dutch Vegetation Database



			E t. +	ψ		
Symbol	Value		Label	Count		
∽ DLid		13 s	ymbol classes			
0	1		1 Dry sand heaths (light) - sand	19		
0	2		2 Dry sand heaths (dark) - vegetated	16		
0	3		3 Inland dunes (light)	16		
• 4			4 Inland dunes (dark)			
0	5		5 Lakes and ponds	28		
0	o 6		6 Wet heaths	39		
0 7			7 European dry heaths (light) - Pijpenstrootje	35		
0	8		8 European dry heaths (dark) - heide	19		
•	9		9 Species-rich Nardus substrates	37		
•	10		10 Depressions on peat substrates	33		
• 11			11 Birch forests			
•	12	12 Oak woods				
0	13		13 Coniferous forest	21		

AnnexI habitat types Dry sands heaths (2310), Inland dunes (2330) and European dry heaths (4030) were divided into two subclasses each because for these three habitat types both light and dark appearances in the satellite image can be seen.

All training points were checked on their class and geometric validity and edited if necessary. Additional points for Inland dunes (light) were digitized because there were only four points available from the Dutch Vegetation Database.



U-NET deep learning technique



Ground-truth habitat map Result U-Net in ArcGIS Pro Result U-Net in Pytorch

Habitat map



Habitat type

Sentinel 2020 stack 7 images 07-02 07-05 14-09 23-03 26-06 15-04 31-07

Sentinel 2020 stack 7 images Classification in Pytorch

Validation (error or confusion matrix)

	user accuracy	82%	89%	100%	57%	73%	<mark>62%</mark>	78%	97%	91%	100%		81%	overall accuracy
	Grand total	28	47	26	47	55	45	27	35	46	21	377		
coniferous forest	13										21	21	100%	
oak woods	9190						1		1	42		44	95%	
beech forest	9120								34	3		37	92%	
depression on peat substrates	7150				10	2		21				33	64%	
species-rich nardus substrates	6230				3	5	28			1		37	76%	
european dry heaths	4030	1			4	40	9					54	74%	
wet heaths	4010	1			27	7		4				39	69%	
lakes and ponds	3160			26	1			1				28	93%	
inland dunes	2330	3	42		1		2	1				49	86%	
dry sand and heaths	2310	23	5		1	1	5					35	66%	
LDV training points	HABITATTYP	2310	2330	3160	4010	4030	6230	7150	9120	9190	s forest	total	accuracy	
LDV training points		lassificatio	on result										producer	



KB-DDHT-2 AI for Remote Sensing

Upscaling trained DL model subset Hoge Veluwe to classification entire Veluwe using

Sentinel 2020 - 7 images

Deep-learning with U-NET

Habitat type

2310 Dry sand heaths
2330 Inland dunes
3160 Lakes and ponds
4010 Wet heaths
4030 European dry heaths
6230 Species-rich Nardus substrates
7150 Depressions on peat substrates
9120 Beech forests
9190 Oak woods
Coniferous forest

HR-VPP (High Resolution–Vegetation Phenology Product) – Sentinel 2





Sentinel 2020 stack 7 images: 07-02, 23-03, 15-04, 07-05, 26-06, 31-07, 14-09

CATBOOST AI automated, scalable workflow



Extend standard predictors (22 features) with

- Full time-series high-res EO features (140)
- Contextual features (16) through Conventional Neural Networks (CNN)

WAGENINGEN

RSITY & RESEARCH

Regional optimization to train & classify

- Selecting best features per region
- Catboost ML for habitat class probabilities
- Post-processing to select 'final' habitat class

CATBOOST AI workflow results





Tested over 3 area's, wall-2-wall

- NL (43 habitats Annex-I), Austria (45 habitats EUNIS-L3), South-Portugal (16 habitats EUNIS-L2/L3)
- Selection of ~70 predictors per region, trained at ~70% weighted F1 score
- Accompanied with classification confidence layer

Results & conclusions

- Validation of the European EUNIS habitat suitability maps show in general good overall accuracies, but the user accuracy (100% - commission error) needs to be improved. Integration with accurate land cover maps (into habitat probability maps) improves the UA.
- Integration of the individual European habitat suitability maps for wall-to-wall mapping could also be improved by using a multiclass ML approach.
- With deep learning techniques on multi-temporal satellite imagery (e.g. HR-VPP & multi-spectral) & ancillary data, we are able to map European habitats at regional scale. But there is still much room for improvements (sel. features /predictors & screening training data).
- However, upscaling with DL techniques requires much of data infrastructure with sufficient CPU en GPU capacity.
- Habitat mapping with deep learning techniques on remote sensing imagery & contextual layers is most likely the future and needs to be exploited further.
- The amount and quality of training data is crucial. Much time goes in the enhancement of training data.
- Selection of vegetation plot data (from e.g. EVA) for training AI/ML is more difficult than often thought due to inaccuracies in locations.
- Enhancement of the training data is a crucial step that needs much attention !!







Break-out groups

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Split into two groups













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Break-out 1: Policy needs for habitat mapping data - overview

- 1) identify key policies
- 2) discuss ecological detail needed
- 3) Review spatial detail needed

Break-out 1: Policy needs for habitat mapping data – reporting back

- 1) What are key policies biodiversity policies [..], sector policies [...], funding policies [regional funds, LIFE, CAP ... ?], other ? [reseach]
- 2) What ecological detail is needed EUNIS 3, 4, 5? HD Annex 1? Focus on N2000 only?..?
- 3) Review spatial detail needed national or NUTS 2 data? 1 ha grid, 10 m grid? Precise polygons in GIS system ?
- 4) What should be priority eg ecol. or spatial accuracy first?

Break-out 2: Review of methods and progress at EU level

- Which habitats were covered?
- What methods were tested?
- What was accuracy of results?
- What combination of input data, in situ, satellite, and ?

Break-out 2: Reporting on methods and progress at EU level

- Which habitats were covered? any habitat groups that worked better than others when satellite data or AI methods were tested?
- What methods were tested? *lessons learned? Should other methods / models be tested out too ?*
- What was accuracy of results? % accuracy approx., how to improve? Good enough for general national patterns and trends, also good enough for planning of restoration measures ?
- What combination of input data, in situ, satellite, and ? what are key data bottlenecks? Any data processing constraints?
- Other points to review eg better coordination of research and inst. Implementation ?





Feedback to plenary and next steps

Lunch breack

The webinar starts again at 1pm CET







Part 2- Country section

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Presentation on first results of country survey on habitat mapping approaches

By Jan-Erik Petersen, EEA

European Environment Agency





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Habitat mapping survey – first review of country responses (status of 19-01-23)





European Environment Agency

1) Country responses received – initial overview

	Total number	Countries
Responses received	16	IS, NO, DK, SE, FI NL, DE, LV, EE FR, CZ, ES, IT, RS, XK, BG
Of which complete		CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, (FR), IS, (IT), LV, NO, (RS), SE, XK
Other feedback available	2	BE, IE



2) Main data collection methods employed ?

Type of data used	No. of responses	Countries
Field survey	18	BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IS, IT, LV, NL, NO, RS, SE, XK
Satellite data	11	(BE), DK, ES, FI, FR, IS, IT, (LV),NO, SE, (XK)
Other env. variables / data sets	15	BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IS, IT, LV, NO, NL, RS, SE



3) Any particular focus of habitat mapping?

Thematic or geogr. focus	No. of responses	Countries
EUNIS classification	6	ES, (FR), IS, IT, LV, RS
Hab. Dir. Annex I	11	BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, IE, NL, SE, XK
Natura 2000 areas	10	(BE), DE, DK, EE, FI, (FR), LV, NL, SE, (XK)
Other	Satellite used for northern forests	FI



4) Details on use of satellite data / methods

Type of satellite use	No. of responses	Countries	Comments
Active use	6	DK, FI, (FR), IS, IT, SE	
Optical data	11	BE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, IS, IT, LV, NO, SE	
LIDAR data	6	DK, FI, IE, LV, NO, SE	
Regular	2	DK, FI	
Pilots completed	7	BE, ES, FR, IE, IT, LV, NO	
Plans to use	8	DE, EE, ES, FR, (IE), LV, NO, XK	c



Type of bottleneck	No. of responses	Countries
(Training) data	5	DK, ES, FI, NO, XK
Methods	10	CZ, DK, ES, FI, FR, IS, LV, NO, SE, XK
Resources	7	CZ, EE, FR, IS, LV, NO, XK
Other		DE, IT, NO: Combining + availability of different expertise EE, IE: cloud cover FI, LV: further testing needed FR: accessibility of sample areas ES: update of EUNIS still ongoing, crosswalk to Annex I of HD



Thank you for your attention.

Jan-Erik.Petersen@eea.europa.eu







Presentations of ongoing projects and experiences from EEA and Biodiversa+ member countries, focus on technology used, resolution, habitat types – potential and limitations discovered

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Denmark

By Rasmus Fenger-Nielsen, Danish Environmental Protection Agency

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Digital mapping of habitats in Denmark

Based on Artificial intelligence (AI)

and Remote sensing

EEA-webinar

18. January 2022

Natura 2000 (SAC and SPA) in Denmark

- Denmark has 250 Natura 2000areas (covering 9% of the land area).
- Data for the habitats (Annex 1, habitat directive) forms the basis for Natura 2000 planning.



Nature 2000 (SAC and SPA) in Denmark



How we did it – field based method







SPA DK00CX282 og SAC DK00CX037– Borris Moor
Challenges of field-based method

- Field-based mapping is a huge task
- Staffing can be a bottleneck during field season
- Include 'rough' assessments over large areas
- Increasing demand for updated data about nature in the entire country and not only in SACs and SPAs



How we intend to do it in the future

- Wall-to-wall mapping of nature using Remote Sensing data, AI and cloud computing
- Collect field-based data for training algorithms and validation of the digital maps.
- Develop and implement methods to determine vegetation structures and conditions of habitats



Input data to AI-model

Type of data	Description	
Nature type annotation	44 different nature type classes are our "target" in training the AI-model.	Training data, manually collected
Soil type map	GEUS in 1:25:000	
Distance map	Distance to coast	Static data
Aerial imagery (orthophotos)	Orthophotos with country-wide coverage from spring and summer. 12.5 cm pixel resolution.	
Airborne laser scanning data (LIDAR)	Point-cloud and derived products including Digital surface and terrain model, slope, orientation.	Dynamic data
Satellite data	Sentinel-2 data including derived products such as vegetation indices and phenology parameters. Sentinel-1 to come	
Near surface groundwater	Modeled product from GEUS	
Meteorological data	Aggregated data from Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI)	

Methods

- Pixel-based (10 x 10 m) supervised classification
- Algorithm: Microsoft LightGBM
- Cloud Platform: Microsoft Azure, Databricks
- Programming language: Python

Comparison Field-based vs Digital mapping

Fanø, Denmark











Learnings so far

- AI in combination with Remote Sensing is a very powerfull method for habitat mapping at country scale
- Not all nature types can be mapped with this approach
- Challenging to acquire enough training data of sufficient quality
- Evaluation of accuracy is not trivial
- A new digital method gives a new type of mapping result (e.g. scale)
- Cloud computing ensures efficient and flexible data processing









France

By Alexia Aussel, PatriNat

European Environment Agency





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2 MINISTÈRE **DE LA TRANSITION** ÉCOLOGIQUE ET DE LA COHÉSION **DES TERRITOIRES**

CarHab program : Natural and semi-natural habitats mapping

Mapping habitats by combining satellite and other data 20/01/2023

CONSERVATOIRES

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE L'INFORMATION GÉOGRAPHIQUE ET FORESTIÈRE





CarHab programm goals

- The CarHab program aims at locating and identifying natural habitats and in particular Annex I habitats for Natura 2000.
- It identifies biodiversity issues and helps to take them into account to support public policies: NPAS, Green and Blue Infrastructure, Mitigation hierarchy, climate policies, IUCN Red Lists, etc..



These data will be available via an online cartographic viewer on the Natural Heritage Inventory Information System (SINP) and on the Geoportal

> These data can be used alone or compiled with other layers for cross-cutting issues.



CarHab project (2020-2025)

- Project managed and funded by the French Ministry of Environment
- Goal : producing a geographic information system on natural and semi-natural terrestrial habitats
- Production of cartographic models at the scale of 1:25,000 on the potential presence of habitats
- Territories concerned: Metropolitan France and overseas departments
- Methodology: modeling by machine learning + expertise by the National Botanical Conservatories (*Conservatoires Botaniques Nationaux – CBN*)
- Experts involved:











Géosciences pour une Terre durable





1. Data production



Data produced and program organization



- Map crossing information on the potentiality of environments and the stage of vegetation
- Derived in HIC and EUNIS potentiality maps



- > Homogeneous areas : climate, soil, exposure, etc.
- > Same potential for vegetation expression (vegetation series)
- Combination of 8 ecological parameters = 1 biotope
- > National catalog of biotopes by combining the values of each of the 8 parameters



Vegetation levels	Ombroclimat	Continentalité	Variante bioclimatique	Edaphic acidity	Edaphic moisture	Littoralité	Snow cover
planitiaire	sec	hyperocéanique	aucune	très acide	hyperxérophile	façade littorale	nul à court (0 à 4 mois)
collinéen	subhumide	océanique	subméditaréenne	légèrement acide	perxérophile	position intérieure	moyen (5-6 mois) à déneigements hivernaux fréquents et/ou longs
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]		[]

The eight descriptive parameters of the biotopes of Metropolitan France and extract of the modalities by parameter.



Vegetation physiognomies

- > A vegetation types typology organized in 4 nested levels.
- Restitution of the information at level 2 except for the distinction of grazed/lawned meadow and mature deciduous/silver forest (level 4)



D_HAB	LB_CODE	niveau	LB_HAB_FR				
30265	2200	П	Minéral non ou peu végétalisé indéterminé	30290	3200	11	Herbacé haut indéterminé
30264	220	ш	Minéral non ou peu végétalisé	30291	3201	IV	Roselière
30266	2201	IV	Eboulis et écroulement non ou peu végétalisés	30292	3202	IV	Cariçaie
30267	2202	IV	Moraine non ou peu végétalisée	30293	3203	IV	Mégaphorbiaie
30268	2203	IV	Escarpement rocheux et dalle non ou peu végétalisés	30294	3204	IV	Ourlet
30269	2204	IV	Zone sableuse, limoneuse ou argileuse non ou peu végétalisée	30295	3205	IV	Friche herbacée
30270	2205	IV	Banc de graviers et galets non ou peu végétalisé	30296	33		Prairie
30280	3	I	Formation herbacée	30297	330		Prairie
30281	31	11	Pelouse		10000		
30282	310	111	Pelouse indéterminée	30299	3300		Prairie indéterminée
30283	3100	11	Pelouse indéterminée	30298	3301	IV	Prairie fauchée
30284	311	ш	Pelouse permanente	30300	3302	IV	Prairie pâturée
30285	3110	ш	Pelouse permanente indéterminée				
30286	3111	IV	Pelouse permanente vivace				
30287	3112	IV	Pelouse permanente de bas marais et tourbière				

Extract from the vegetation type typology. In **bold**: the classes in the final product



Habitats CarHab

Biotopes





CarHab habitats

- The crossed information of biotope and vegetation physiognomies is defining a habitat for each point of the territory (excluding roads and railroads).
- > Correspondence with the EUNIS habitat typology for natural and semi-natural habitats

talog

> Correspondence with the Annex I habitats for Natura 2000 if applicable, associated with a probability of expression



Planitiary grassland on slightly acidic and mesophilic substratum (oceanic subhumid climate of submediterranean variation) Translating into EUNIS Habitats through a regional catalog E2.2 Low and medium altitude hay meadow

Translating into Annex I Natura 2000 Habitats through a regional

HIC 6510 Lowland hay meadows with low probability



CarHab habitats and transcriptions to EUNIS and HIC



Semiology in progress

EUNIS transcription (Cher – 18)

Natura 2000 transcription (Cher – 18)



2. Production process



Biotopes and vegetation physiognomies maps made with supervised machine learning and the Random Forest algorithm





Models validation

Validity of the models assessed by the National Botanical Conservatories (CBN):

- A field phase to identify what works well and what needs to be improved
- The generation of an improved training data set from the field (DS2)
- Creation of a V2 model based on the improved data set and a possible adjustment of the variables
- Modeling metrics

Final evaluation of the data produced by **experts** (CBN).

- Validation of the departmental map
- More detailed evaluations for certain biotopes and vegetation physiognomies in notes



	Expert validation
Biotope A	Consistent with local knowledge
Biotope B	Underestimated
Physiognomie C	Overestimated
Physiognomie D	Non consistent with local knowledge

93



3. Data strengths and limitations



Biotope and Vegetation physiognomies Maps = Predictive Maps



- → The raw modeling maps give a probable expression of Biotopes and Vegetation physiognomies for each 100 m² pixel
- → This probability depends on the learning of the model and is related to the explanatory variables and the training data
- To help understand the limitations:
- \rightarrow Metrics + **CBN expertise** provide insight into the reliability of the prediction by class
- → The limits of the model and the map will be specified in an accompanying note to be read for any exploitation of the data



4. Next steps



Next steps

Spring 2023:

- Release of about 15 departments
- Opening of the CarHab viewer to the public
- Release of accompanying notices (methodology and scope of use of the data) for each departments



End of 2023 :

- CarHab Methodology guide published
- Annual production of 15-20 departements









Call for expressions of interest



Spring 2023 :

Webinar for the Call for expressions of interest on CarHab data use launch

Land use planning

- Green and Blue Framework
- Mitigation hierarchy

...

• Revision of urban planning documents

Biodiversity

- Species inventory tool
- Natura 2000 areas
- ZNIEFF
- National Protected Areas Strategy
- Ecological restoration

• .

Budget : 200 k€ for app. 8 projects

June 2023 : Candidates selection











MINISTÈRE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET DE LA COHÉSION DES TERRITOIRES

Thank you for your attention

Contacts :

Alexia Aussel alexia.aussel@mnhn.fr

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE L'INFORMATION GÉOGRAPHIQUE ET FORESTIÈRE

CONSERVATOIRES BOTANIQUES NATIONAUX







Spain

By Cristina Moreno Gutierrez, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge

European Environment Agency





Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Environmental Protection Agency









VICEPRESIDENCIA TERCERA DEL GOBIERNO

MINISTERIO PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

Habitat mapping at national level (SPAIN)

Cristina Moreno Gutiérrez

Nature Data Bank

Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge – SPAIN cmgutierrez@miteco.es iepnb

Inventario Español de Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad

Webinar: 'Mapping habitats by combining satellite and other data'. Eionet Group for Biodiversity and Ecosystems. Co-organisers: DK Environmental Protection Agency, EEA and Biodiversa+.

20 January 2023



- Digitalization and knowledge system for natural heritage monitoring – Generation Next fundings
- Regional habitat mapping
- National habitat mapping:
 - ✓ Objectives
 - Legend (from regions to Europe and UUNN)
 - Methodology
 - Challenges and future updates



Digitalization and knowledge system for natural heritage monitoring – Generation Next fundings







Financiado por la Unión Europea NextGenerationEU





Recuperación, Transformació y Resiliencia







Inventario Español de Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad Digitalization and knowledge system for natural heritage monitoring – Data flows



Regional habitat mapping - compilation





Informative but difficulties in their harmonization

- Heterogeneity in the set of habitat cartographies,
- Diversity of scales (autonomous, regional and local),
- Interpretation criteria,
- Typologies used,
- Timely update

✓ Currently, there is no <u>homogeneus</u> and <u>updated</u> habitat mapping at national level



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National habitat mapping - objectives



Financiado por



OBJETIVES:

- Homogeneous habitat mapping throughout the territory, based on pre-existing geographical information, coherent with the Forest Map of Spain and LPIS-CAP;
- Consistent scale: 1: 25,000; UPDATE TIMELY
- Update of national check list of habitats based on EUNIS classification.
- In order to meet national and international information requirements and contribute to the new challenges posed by the European Green Deal.



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🗖 🔵 🔵 National habitat mapping - legend

Double legend

EUNIS (National check list)

- The classification is hierarchical and covers all types of habitats from natural to artificial, from terrestrial to freshwater and marine.
- The review of the terrestrial component of the EUNIS habitat classification was initiated in 2015. The review concerns the groups of coastal habitats, grasslands, heathland, forest, sparsely vegetated and vegetated man-made habitats. The remaining groups will be revised and published at a later stage.



M_Marine_2019
N_Coastal_2021
C_Inland waters_2012
D_Wetlands_2012
R_Grasslands_2021
S_Heathland_2021
T_Forest_2021
U_Sparsely vegetated habitats _2021
V_Vegetated man-made habitats_2021
J_Artificial_2012
X_Habitat complexes_2012

Habitats Directive 92/43/CEE Annex I



EUNIS classification includes cross-walks at level 3 to Habitats Directive Annex I

For this mapping, a

contents will be

conducted

double assignation of

- INTERPRETATION MANUAL OF EUROPEAN UNION HABITATS
- EUR 28 April 2013 EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG ENVIROMMENT Noter ENVIRO



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🗖 🧶 🔵 National habitat mapping - methodology

- Agreed methodology with Regional Governments
- Based on reference geographical information (National Forest Map, LPIS-CAP)

Classification (DOUBLE LEGEND)	National controlled list-EUNIS (level 4 min.) and Habitats Directive Annex I
Туре	Vectorial. Polygons from National Forest Map (based on field monitoring) [polygons modifiable only exceptionally]
More than one habitat per polygon	% of area (up to 100%)
Scale	1:25.000 (exceptions for azonal habitat types)
Minimum Mapping Units	– Riparian vegetation, costal habitats, wetlands: 0,5 ha – Forest, artificial, inland waters, grasslands, heathland: 1 ha – Agricultural: 2 ha
Use of pre-existing reference geographical information and other sources of information	National Forest Map, Habitat mapping of Comunidades Autónomas, compatible with LPIS-CAP, Cadastre

Assignation and revision of habitats by experts per group of habitats:

- Zonal: FORESTS, HEATH AND SCRUB, GRASSLAND



Azonal: COASTAL, STANDING WATER, RUNNING WATER, RAISED BOGS AND MIRES AND FENS, ROCKY HABITATS AND CAVES, RIPARIAN VEGETATION

– Inventario Español de Patrimonio Natural y de la Biodiversidad
Challenges and future updates

COMENO CELERNA

The **Spanish Inventory of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (IEPNB)** needs to strengthen **territorial information** within the Integrated Information System, for this purpose it will develop



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Anomalies and Early Alerts Module





Challenges and future updates- timely update

EIKOS

2 PILOT STUDIES:

- Identification of Posidonia beds in Mediterranean coast, using satellite images from Sentinel-2 combined with AI algorithms. → FIRST RESULTS: Good results at 10m precision. Further learning/training the algorithm is still needed, as it is influenced by environmental factors like turbidity.
- Probability mapping of wetlands. ETC-UMA. Applying SWOS (Satellitebased Wetlands Observation Service) methodology (combination of topographic indexes, soil characteristics and humidity indexes derived from remote sensing). → ONGOING









- Cristina Moreno Gutiérrez
- Nature Data Bank
- G.D. Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification
- Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge Spain
- cmgutierrez@miteco.es



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Slovakia

By Ján Černecký, State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic

European Environment Agency





Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Environmental Protection Agency



Combing of earth observation and field data collection for habitat mapping in Slovakia





Mgr. Ján Černecký, Phd.

Institute of landscape ecology, Slovak academy of science State nature conservancy of the Slovak Republic

<u>1. Map of the ecosystems – combination of EO and field data</u>



Published: Ján Černecký, Peter Gajdoš, Jana Špulerová, Ľuboš Halada, Peter Mederly, Libor Ulrych, Viktória Ďuricová, Juraj Švajda, Ľudmila Černecká, Peter Andráš & Rastislav Rybanič (2020) Ecosystems in Slovakia, Journal of Maps, 16:2, 28-35, DOI: 10.1080/17445647.2019.1689858 Map of the ecosystems 2 1 2 20 3 30 4 45 5 13 6 3 7 1 H2.4 H2.4 H2.0 H2.0 H2.1 H2.1 H2.1 H2.1 H2.1 **Frequency Distribution** 800 000 600 000 400 000 200 000 1:1 138 907 1,0 1,8 2,5 3,3 4,1 4,8 5,6 6,4 1,4 2,1 2,9 3,7 4,4 5,2 6,0 6,7

1. Regional level





<u>1. Map of the ecosystems – combination of EO and field data</u>



- On the basis of the available databases of the comprehensive nature conservation information system (CNCIS), habitats mapping data and other background data were used as a basis for identifying ecosystems. Data on ongoing national monitoring of habitats of European interest and a list of permanent monitoring plots were used, out of which the necessary information on habitats and their quality was extracted (source: <u>www.biomonitoring.sk</u>) The attributes are mainly related to the conservation status assessment.
- The information on non-forest habitats were included from CNCIS into the data on land parcel identification system (LPIS, source:

<u>http://portal.vupop.sk/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=32beed691b01498d9ebe11bf8f9b7b04</u>). LPIS is a geographic information system (GIS), which is a primary record of the use of agricultural land, It mainly contains attributes regarding the crops, but the main added value for the map is the precise spatial border of agricultural land mapped in the scale 1:5000. The attributes transferred were mainly related to identification of the habitat.

- Subsequently, data on spatial distribution of forest ecosystems was added (source: <u>http://gis.nlcsk.org/lgis/</u>). Forest information system is database covering 96% of Slovakia's forests with attributes defining i.e. age, tree composition, habitat identification etc. The level of precision is the scale 1:10 000.
- The information on forest habitats quality were included into the data on forest ecosystems from the list of permanent monitoring plots for forest habitats of European interest. The attributes from monitoring are mainly related to identification/confirmation of habitat type, quality assessment of structure and functions, future prospects and overall conservation status. All the data were subsequently spatially linked to a partial map of ecosystems.
- Corine Land Cover (2012) (source: https://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/corine-land-cover/clc-2012) has been used as the basis for the remaining blank places in a map of ecosystems where there was no more accurate spatial data. (other sources use raster data on grids, which would not be appropriate for the precision of ecosystem spatial borders)
- The data on habitats quality based on field mapping and monitoring data (point 1) were added into the Corine Land Cover (2012). The added data attributes are related mainly to habitat identification and conservation status.
- Based on the Openstreetmap data (2015) (source: <u>http://www.geofabrik.de/data/shapefiles.html</u>), watercourses, road and railway infrastructure, and urban vegetation elements have been incorporated into the map to clarify detail and capture small-scale, but essential ecological and artificial features
- All layers and features were joined together to create a coherent polygonal map of Slovakia (Figure 1)
- National habitat categories were transferred to the EUNIS habitats (2012) habitat category

2. Example of habitat field mapping border precision and EO data (LPIS)





3. Habitat conservation status relation to ecosystem condition



Basic ecosystems	Basic quality parameters for ES evaluation	Retaining the original index value (FV)	Subtraction of one index point (U1)	Subtraction of two index points (U2)
Non-forest habitats	Secondary succession (EO)	0-10 %	10-50 %	Above 50 %
Forest habitats	Interventions in the stands (EO)	0-10 %	10-50 %	Above 50 %
	Age of the stands	100 years and older	50 – 100 years	Up to 50 years
Aquatic habitats	Ecological status of waters	Level 1 and 2	Level 3	Level 4 and 5
Arable land	Soil fertility	66,66 - 100 %	33,33 - 66,66 %	0-33,33 %
Habitats on permanent monitoring sites	Assessment of favorable state at the monitoring site	Favourable	Unfavourable	Bad
Other habitats for which no other data existed	Assessment of the favorable state at the level of the bioregion in the reporting according to Art. 17 of the Habitats Directive	Favourable	Unfavourable	Bad

3. Habitat conservation status relation to ecosystem condition





3. Draft version of significant factors limiting the ES supply based on the monitoring and other data sets





3. EO data - Global forest watch





3. Ecosystem condition data combined with EO data (GFW)

- Tree cover loss





3. Grasslands – level of secondary succession – tree layer gain (EO)





Project implementation – PEOPLE (ESA project in international consortium)







4. Global climate regulation – link to habitat mapping and EO



Global climate regulation	EREQUENCY	Area (ha)
-5	411	27568
-4	147	77849
-3	4676	198008
-2	15122	173980
-1	55086	1395148
Total area of demand (ha)		1872552
1	17745	119181
2	443455	1411462
3	211525	809615
4	257759	643832
5	0	0
Total area of real supply		2984089



Konijisem (alegori)	Mean, index of potential Global climate regulation	Lalus (EUR) of potential global climate regulation	Mean index of supply of global climate regulation	Value (EUR) of supply of global climate regulation	Mean index of demand/supply of Global climate regulation	Value (EUR) of demand supply of Global climate regulation
C - Inland surface scales:	0,27	104 625 459 €	0.25	96 152 855 €	0,98	103 452 414 f
D - Mirss boas and fons	2,13	62 659 500 €	2,00	60 686 115 €	1,94	58 308 046 (
${\rm H}$ - Generalizeds and lands dominated by forms messes of latters	4,71	6 500 372 369 €	4,66	6 446 978 293€	1,58	2 113 797 239 6
F - Meathland- scool; and tundra	1,78	197 137 790 €	1,74	195 282 596 €	0,74	65 810 <mark>64</mark> 1 6
G - Moodland, forest and other wooded land	4,99	12 876 396 746 €	3,92	10 <mark>580 3</mark> 24 938 €	2,92	7 965 948 775 €
H - Joland universitated or spacetic versitated hobitate	0,00	155€	0,00	155€	-0,01	-40 850 (
- Resolution of rescould cultivated autocultural- terricultural and demestic hobitopy	1,03	1 866 192 149 €	1,03	1 866 192 149 €	-0,90	-1 852 447 056 €
¹ - Constructed industrial and other addicial habitate	0.00	0 €	0,00	0 €	-3,16	-1 383 675 766 €
x - Habitat complexes	1.08	228 557 834 €	1,08	228 557 834 €	-0,32	-164 130 165 6
Summary	4,54	21 835 942 003 €	3,71	19 474 174 936 €	2,39	6 907 023 277 E



4. Global climate regulation – local level







Reflections by organisers and next steps to take

European Environment Agency





Ministry of Environment of Denmark

Environmental Protection Agency

Ideas for sharing knowledge about monitoring across borders – vote!

- ✓ More webinars on technical topics (eg models/AI methods, estimating uncertainty etc)
- ✓ More webinars to share country experiences on habitat mapping in general
- ✓ Physical workshop in Copenhagen
- ✓ A web-based knowledge hub on habitat mapping
- ✓ Other [there will be a second question to provide other ideas]

Let us know in Mentimeter: <u>https://www.menti.com/alt1iv6b1xfz</u>



Sign up for network by contacting Ana T...

Future activities needed

etc)

22 17 15 7 0 More webinars More webinars Physical A web-based Other workshop in knowledge on technical to share topics (eg country Copenhagen hub on habitat models/Al experiences mapping methods, on habitat estimating mapping in uncertainty general

M Mentimeter



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Thank you!

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