

**Atlas Challenge: Call for participation in ISPRS-sponsored competition
Global land cover in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Background:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 27th September 2015, contains a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>). Geoinformatics can make a powerful contribution to the Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is therefore timely for the creation of an Atlas that describes contributions of remote sensing and the spatial information sciences towards helping achieve the 17 UN SDGs.

Competition:

With the support of a current **ISPRS Scientific Initiatives Project**, we are pleased to announce the “Atlas Challenge”. Participants are invited to demonstrate the applicability of geoinformatics towards addressing the SDGs using data drawn from three different sources: global land cover (e.g. GlobeLand30), additional geospatial information and socio-economic data. Participants should submit research, together with a short report, that uses global land cover, with other geospatial and socio-economic datasets as deemed appropriate, to measure, monitor and manage the progress of any aspect of sustainable development, as defined by one or more of the UN’s 17 SDGs.

Submissions:

All submissions will be evaluated by an independent panel and excellent entries to the “Atlas Challenge” competition will be selected for demonstration using a dynamic atlas. Submissions should satisfy the following conditions:

- Each submission should have a clear theme which is related to the application of land cover for the SDGs.
- The research results should be expressed graphically in the form of an atlas or web map service, that can be published online and be publicly accessible via the Internet.
- Authors of selected submissions should then provide the original datasets used in the work to facilitate the dissemination of their results using a dynamic map atlas.

The required format for submitted reports is shown in the following table:

	Contents	Report Requirements	Explanation
1	Aim / SDG addressed	100 words max	Description and understanding of relevant SDG indicators
2	Datasets used	200 words max	High quality, accessible, timely and reliable data (land cover and other statistical data) need to be supplied in raster or vector format.
3	Methods	300 words max	Formulas and calculation methods, models, etc.
4	Results	200 words max	Provided in graphical and/or tabular form.
5	Implications	200 words max	The impact of the work should be explained in relation to the SDGs

Prize:

A First Place prize of 2000 Swiss Francs and a Second Place prize of 1000 Swiss Francs will be awarded, with the winning entries demonstrated at the 2018 Commission IV Symposium in the Netherlands (see <http://www.isprs.org/tc4-symposium2018/>). Additional selected submissions, at the discretion of the organizers, may also be demonstrated. We hope all researchers who have an interest in contributing to the atlas will develop and submit an entry for this competition by the deadline below.

Important dates:

Deadline for submissions: 30 April, 2018

Notification of winning entries: 31 May, 2018

Demonstration of winning entries at the ISPRS Commission IV Symposium: 1-5 October, 2018

Submissions should be sent to:

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