

EuroGEOSS Web Seminar

The Earth's Environment, Observations and Benefits

Join us via the web for presentations by a team from IIASA.

Wednesday, September 21, 14:00 UTC

Seminar web address will be announced; see www.eurogeoss.eu after September 15

The benefits of improved Earth Observation have been the subject of decades of research and discussion. The benefits come from better decision making at home and more globally. How can we observe and measure this? EuroGEOSS, a European Commission large-scale project, looks at these issues. A web seminar by Steffen Fritz, Sabine Fuss and Ian McCallum will present approaches and results of their ongoing work.

The hour-long seminar will have presentations for 50 minutes followed by time for questions. The seminar is divided in 4 parts. The first part gives an overview of current methods and tools for socio-economic benefit assessment studies of Earth Observation. In particular, it illustrates how EO provides socioeconomic benefits, introduces the benefit chain concept, provides examples and examines selected methodologies for analyses of socioeconomic benefits of Earth Observation and Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI). The second part shows how ordinary citizens interested in Earth Observation and land cover can help to reduce uncertainties in global land cover and help to contribute to the discussion on the biofuel debate trying to determine availability of land for biofuels, visit humanimpact.geo-wiki.org. **Steffen Fritz** presents the first and second parts. The third part of the seminar by **Sabine Fuss** shows how the benefit of reducing those uncertainties can be accessed within the context of policy making. A brief introduction to Value of Information is given. The fourth part of the seminar, presented by **Ian McCallum**, focuses on a systems dynamics model which has been built to analyze the benefit of the Global Earth Observation System of System (GEOSS) in the EuroGEOSS specific themes of forest, droughts and biodiversity.

Steffen Fritz



Ian McCallum



Sabine Fuss



Bios:

Steffen Fritz studied physics and geography at the University of Tübingen and received his Master of Science degree from the University of Durham in 1996. He received his PhD from the University of Leeds, UK in 2001. During a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Joint Research Centre in 2002 where his tasks were to mosaic, harmonize, and produce the Global Land Cover 2000. Currently, Dr. Fritz is Work Package leader of the EC-funded EUROGEOSS projects and continues to work on EO related benefit studies. Dr. Fritz has been the initiator and coordinator of Geo-Wiki.org a global land cover validation tool based on crowd sourcing.

Ian McCallum spent five years at Olympic Resource Management, an international forestry-consulting firm located in western Canada and the United States prior to coming to IIASA. Ian received his MSc in forestry in 1993 from Lakehead University, on a scholarship from Wildlife Habitat Canada. His current research interests at IIASA include the use of geographic information and Earth observation systems in terrestrial biosphere studies. In particular, issues related to greenhouse gases, the Kyoto Protocol, land cover and boreal forest ecosystems.

Sabine Fuss graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Maastricht in 2003 and completed her PhD at the same university and UNU-MERIT in 2007. Her research interests are in economic modeling, especially with respect to decision making under uncertainty, and with particular focus on energy planning and climate change.

This is the first in a series of lectures on developments in Earth Observation sponsored by The European Commission funded EuroGEOSS project. The next lecture, on October 6 2011 at 14:00 UTC, will address advanced information systems for cross discipline research and operations.