Geospatial Intelligence for Environmental Compliance Assurance

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40/0 OF THE EUROPEANS SAY THAT **PROTECTING THE** ENVIRONMENT IS **IMPORTANT TO THEM PERSONALLY**





EUROPEANS WANT **MORE TO BE DONE** TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

The majority think that **not enough is being done** by:



and industry 80%



their national government **72%**



the European Union **68%**



"OFTEN, WHEN ISSUES COME TO THE FORE -CAR EMISSION TESTING, WATER POLLUTION, ILLEGAL LANDFILLS [...]-



COM 2017/C 18/02 EU law: Better results through better application



"OFTEN, WHEN ISSUES COME TO THE FORE -CAR EMISSION TESTING, WATER POLLUTION, ILLEGAL LANDFILLS [...]-

THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE LACK OF EU LEGISLATION

BUT RATHER THAT

EU LAW IS NOT APPLIED EFFECTIVELY

COM 2017/C 18/02 EU law: Better results through better application





"IN ADDITION TO LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVES...



European Commission

"...THE COMMISSION WILL WORK [...] TO **STEP UP** [...] **EFFORTS** TO **ENSURE THAT CURRENT LEGISLATION AND POLICIES** RELEVANT TO THE GREEN DEAL ARE ENFORCED AND **EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTED.**"

The European Green Deal

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE (ECA)



PROMOTION

MONITORING

ENFORCEMENT

Analyzing officially reported geospatial data

Providing detail beyond official reports

Monitoring between official reports

Validating information sources



What is Geospatial Intelligence?

ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE

CREATED BY IDENTIFYING, COLLECTING, AND CRITICALLY ANALYZING GEOSPATIAL DATA,

AND PRESENTING IT TO THE DECISION-MAKING ENVIRONMENT





Latest News



Update on Potential of Biofuels for Shipping

06.10.2022



Potential of Ammonia as Fuel in Shipping

06.10.2022



EMSA sniffer drone supports French authorities to monitor ship emissions on Mediterranean Sea coast

06.10.2022



Special Report EU funding for biodiversity and climate change in EU forests:

positive but limited results



EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

Recommendation 2 – Strengthening the fight against illegal logging

The Commission should:

- (a) assess the potential for making legislative proposals with the aim of strengthening its review of Member State checks on the Timber Regulation;
- (b) extend the Commission's use of, and promote Member States' use of, geospatial intelligence including remote sensing techniques to better assure compliance with EU requirements concerning forest management and illegal logging.



EN 21 2021

A golden age for Remote Sensing



Adapted from Zhu *et al.* 2019 Rem. Sens. Env.





photo: ESA-M. Pedoussaut P. Zarco-Tejada







https://esa-worldcover.org/en

Handling uncertainty

- Geospatial data are not perfect
- Depending on the degree of modelling involved and the underlying assumptions, uncertainty may be considerable



ECA in an Environmental Risk Analysis Framework

Hazard detection

Early warning based on monitoring

Risk assessment

Alerts for hazards that may threaten compliance

Risk evaluation

Quantifying potential impacts to respond proportionally

Risk management

Decide on actions in regulatory context

Risk communication

with duty holders, authorities responsible for verification or enforcement





Systematically assessing compliance with GEOINT



Concluding notes

- We live in a golden age for remote sensing (satellite and drone data, geotagged photos etc). Like all data, they come with varying degrees of uncertainty
- Developing GEOINT in a risk analysis framework facilitates its use for compliance promotion, monitoring, and enforcement
- Generating GEOINT from geodata to support environmental compliance assurance requires that technical expertise is applied in a specific legal setting. Having legal and technical experts at the same table is critical!
- Not all environmental legislation is equally suited to leverage GEOINT



Thank you



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