



Welcome to our April edition of Geo-Wiki News!

Cropland Capture

Prizes to be won every week! Read on to find out how.

With only 4 weeks remaining in our Cropland Capture Competition, we have decided to award a prize each week in order to thank you for your help towards Science. We will select one random validation every week. The person who has made this validation will receive a great prize! So the more you validate the higher your chances to win this prize! This week's prize was a Fitbit Flex and was won by gashea. Congratulations!

The next 4 prizes will be announced on Twitter. To date, we have already validated almost 4 million square kilometres land, which is bigger than the size of India. The next biggest country is Australia with 7.7 million square kilometres.

As always, we are proud to announce last month's weekly winners:

Week 16: gashea, Blackburn, nachtfrost

Week 17: Blackburn, karin1, burkhard

Week 18: burkhard, Blackburn, gashea

Week 19: snoozecat, burkhard, nachtfrost

Week 20: gashea, burkhard, MPAUL1770

Week 21: Blackburn, nachtfrost, burkhard

Updates to the game:

A version of Cropland Capture with fantastic new features is now available for iOS and Android. Check it out! For example, we have added a Geography quiz to the game. So you will now learn more by playing Cropland Capture! We have also added a chat channel to the mobile versions, so you can talk with other Cropland Capture players!

ERC Grant – a story from Kenya

You will remember from our announcement in the February edition, that Dr Steffen Fritz and his team were awarded a highly competitive Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council. This grant enables the continuation of research of IASA's Geo-Wiki project. As Kenya is one of the project's pilot areas, Steffen went there in March to meet with the Kenyan partners of the project – International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); Regional Center for Mapping and Regional Development (RCMRC); Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing, Ministry of Mining, Kenya; Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC); World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) – a research centre for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE).

Steffen participated in an ILRI workshop on the development of the Livestock geo-wiki.org and discussed the crowdsourcing plan on land-use data collection with ILRI and ICRAF. He identified potential collaborators for the ERC crowdsourcing project, surveyed existing in-situ data and activities using mobile phones for data collection in order to prevent duplication of efforts and to tap into existing networks and data. He also conducted an interview on a local candidate for Kenya.

Upcoming Events

28 April 2014: Dr Ratislav Skalsky is giving a poster presentation at the EGU annual meeting in Vienna entitled "SOIL Geo-Wiki: A tool for improving soil information".

30 April 2014: Dr Steffen Fritz is also giving a presentation at the EGU on the Cropland Capture game in a special session on crowdsourcing.

Happy Easter!