enviroLENS webinar

Data for environmental law compliance monitoring

30 March 2021, 14:00-15:30 CET, Zoom

About the webinar

Environmental law is only effective if it is translated into practice. Reliable, accurate and timely data is needed to ensure environmental law compliance. However, monitoring efforts are often hampered by a lack of human resources, time and the remoteness of areas that require monitoring. As a result violations frequently remain undetected or are discovered too late, thereby preventing prosecution.

Satellite imagery and other Earth Observation technology can fill critical data and information gaps, ease access to such data and serve as a powerful tool for the prevention of environmental crimes, for instance by providing evidence of violations in a timely manner. Opportunities for utilising innovative technological solutions is vast, but remain underexplored in the legal domain, especially in the area of environmental law.

Easy access to Earth Observation data and information linked to different regions and scales is imperative to trigger local action. Recent advances in technology will make it possible for non-Earth Observation experts to use satellite imagery to search for and detect possible environmental incidences and legal violations, reconstruct events based on historical data or identify locations where intervention or further investigation is necessary.

This webinar will explore how Earth Observation technology supports data-driven decision-making in the environmental domain and demonstrate the vast potential for the prevention of environmental crimes and thus the protection of habitats, biodiversity and the achievement of conservation objectives. Tools, such as eLENS and Global Forest Watch will be presented to illustrate how Earth Observation can be utilised for environmental law compliance monitoring and how such technologies have started to break down the barriers related to access to remote sensing data by non-EO experts.

The webinar is organised in the frame of enviroLENS, a Horizon 2020 research and innovation project funded by the European Union that aims to demonstrate and promote the use of Earth Observation as direct evidence for environmental law enforcement and compliance monitoring. By using European satellite capacities, such as those provided by Copernicus, enviroLENS responds to the demands of the environmental legal sector for ready-to-access evidence and scenario information on incidences and violations in the environmental domain. It addresses both the pro-active monitoring perspective to prevent damage to the environment, as well as the assessment of environmental violations for the enforcement of environmental law. Coordinated by GeoVille, the project combines the competence and expertise of Sinergise, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, IUCN and DLA Piper

Objectives

- Provide an overview of legal issues and the potential of Earth Observation data for environmental law compliance monitoring
- Demonstrate recent innovations that increase accessibility to Earth Observation data and information for non-EO experts
- Strengthen the links between technology and the legal sector, identify opportunities and limitations
- Showcase existing initiatives, especially enviroLENS

Speakers

Moderator

Dr. Alejandro Iza, Head of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme

Introductory Remarks

Prof. Louis J. Kotzé, Research Professor of Law at North-West University

Presentations

- Evidence from Space: Overview of Legal Issues, *Professor Sa'id Mosteshar, Director of the London Institute of Space Policy and Law*
- enviroLENS: Increasing Access to Earth Observation Services for Environmental Law Enforcement and Compliance, *Kristin Meyer, IUCN Environmental Law Centre and Alexander Schultmeyer, DLA Piper*
- Information into Action: Experiences in Using Global Forest Watch Data and Tools to Support Compliance, *Ruth Noguerón, World Resources Institute*

Q&A

Register for the webinar here

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