



## SPECIAL SESSION 11

### Citizen and community science to support forest monitoring

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#### **The goal of the session**

There is a long history of citizen science in the field of biodiversity conservation, e.g., through species observations, where the data collected have directly contributed to scientific research. More recently, there have been citizen projects related to land cover and land use mapping, in which forests are represented. For example, citizens have helped to build online maps through the OpenStreetMap initiative, they have visually interpreted very high resolution satellite imagery to improve land cover and forest maps through Geo-Wiki, they have monitored the forest through the Forest Watcher app, and they have measured forest parameters in situ using the Relasphone app. These are only a few of the ways in which citizens have been involved in forest monitoring, which has been facilitated by technological innovations and the proliferation of smartphones. It is clear that potential for citizen participation in forest monitoring in the future is considerable.

The aim of this session is to present the latest developments in which citizen science have supported forest monitoring, either remotely using visual interpretation of satellite imagery or in situ data collection of forest parameters. We also aim to initiate a discussion of recommendations for key areas in which citizens could be involved in the future.

#### **Potential topics:**

- Engaging citizens and local experts in collecting geographical information
- Mapping land cover and land use
- Mapping tree plantations
- Mapping forest management
- In situ verification of forest change detection algorithms
- Tracking global tree height
- Tracking tree phenology (ground+satellites)
- New low cost technologies/sensors for forest monitoring