

Navigating connected data & models through semantics for SEEA



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BASQUE CENTRE
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Sustainability, that's it!



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<https://esa-people-ea.org/en>

The challenge

- Global implementation of SEEA EA & spatially explicit SEEA CF
- Incomplete integration of geospatial/Earth Observation (EO) & statistical data
- INCA models meet initial EU SEEA EA needs, but would benefit from:
 - Reduced latency/improved quality offered by EO
 - Better bridging of EU-wide & member state data & models
 - Applications beyond the EU to support global implementation

Wish list based on our experience

1. Flexibly incorporate best-available knowledge
 - From global public to user-provided data
2. Rescale smartly across spatial & temporal scales
 - From local to global & vice versa
3. Open, transparent, well-documented models
 - Simple, modular coding, mandatory encapsulated documentation
 - Individually documented models & computational workflows for collection & processing
4. Data & models alive on the web
 - Non-static
 - Computational workflows for account readiness
 - DOI, peer reviewed, metadata, etc.

PEOPLE-EA components

ARIES-OpenEO-UDP/UDF catalog
(public repository to access INCA functionality & advanced OpenEO functionality)



Data and Processing Engine

Access via k.LAB client API in UDF

OpenEO adapter

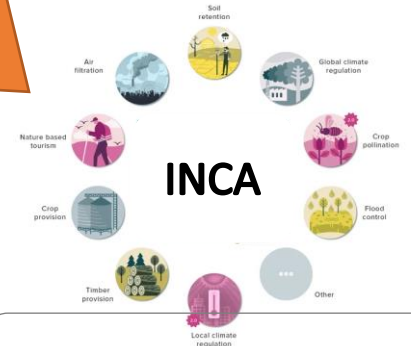
models & methods

data pre-processing

Access via k.LAB client API



Semantic front-end



NCA standard for EU

What you see

esa **ARIES for PEOPLE-EA Explorer** Demonstration version
Pioneering Earth Observation Applications for the Environment - Ecosystem Accounting (PEOPLE-EA). Powered by k.LAB semantic web technology and openEO

Other SEEA-related indicators About ↗

Context selection ⓘ
Andraika, Bizkaia, Euskadi, 48620, España ✕

Map boundaries 🔒 150.0 m ▾
2022 ☐ Until 2023

PEOPLE-EA Condition Indexes ⋮

- Forest condition index (PEOPLE-EA) 🗃️
- Forest condition index (Euclidean Distance) 🗃️
- Forest condition index (Nat. Commun. 14: 3723) 🗃️

PEOPLE-EA Condition Metrics ⋮

Forest Condition Variables (raw values) ▾

- NDWI 🗃️
- Soil Organic Carbon Percentage in Top Soil 🗃️
- Threatened Forest Bird Species Diversity 🗃️
- Above Ground Biomass 🗃️
- Net Primary Productivity 🗃️

Spatial and temporal aggregation ⋮

Key outputs ⓘ

- PEOPLE-EA Forest Condition Index 📄

Maps 🗺️ Tables 🗃️ Comments 💬

Andraika, Bizkaia, Euskadi, 48620, España ▶

Indicator condition ⓘ

- Above ground biomass in t/ha
- Forest connectivity
- Forest type
- Ndw ⓘ
- Net primary productivity in t/ha ⓘ
- Soil organic carbon
- Threatened forest birds species richness

Biogeographic region type

Max threatened forest birds species richness

Min threatened forest birds species richness

Indicator threatened bird species

Max above ground biomass

Min above ground biomass

Indicator above ground biomass

Min forest connectivity

Max forest connectivity

Indicator forest connectivity

Max ndwi

Min ndwi

Map credits © [OSM](#) contributors

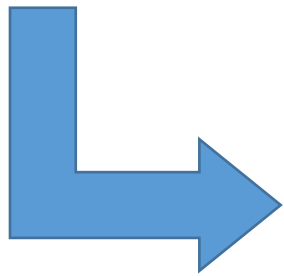
Behind the curtains

1. EO retrieval & processing (e.g., Sentinel, Landsat)
2. Data & models used on the fly on the web
3. Distributed system, two different computational architectures:
 - OpenEO - Terrascope
 - ARIES for SEEA Sector Hub of the UN Global Platform
 - Link to online data services, including OGC-compliant & STAC catalogues
4. Open source, openly documented code
5. API Networked Economy (virtual credits): single authentication point

Machine actionable, semantically annotated data & models

- Resources (data & models) & semantics clearly delineated:
 - Resources: online, unique URNs, metadata
 - Semantics: orchestrator to connect the pieces

```
/**  
 * Global UDP parameters can be set in the URN  
 */  
model 'Local:ferdinando.villa:im.openeo.sandbox:vito.corine.arablemask#output_warp=true'  
  as presence of landcover:ArableLand earth:Region;
```



“observing” the **presence of ArableLand Region** concept triggers execution of UDP/UDF on OpenEO server

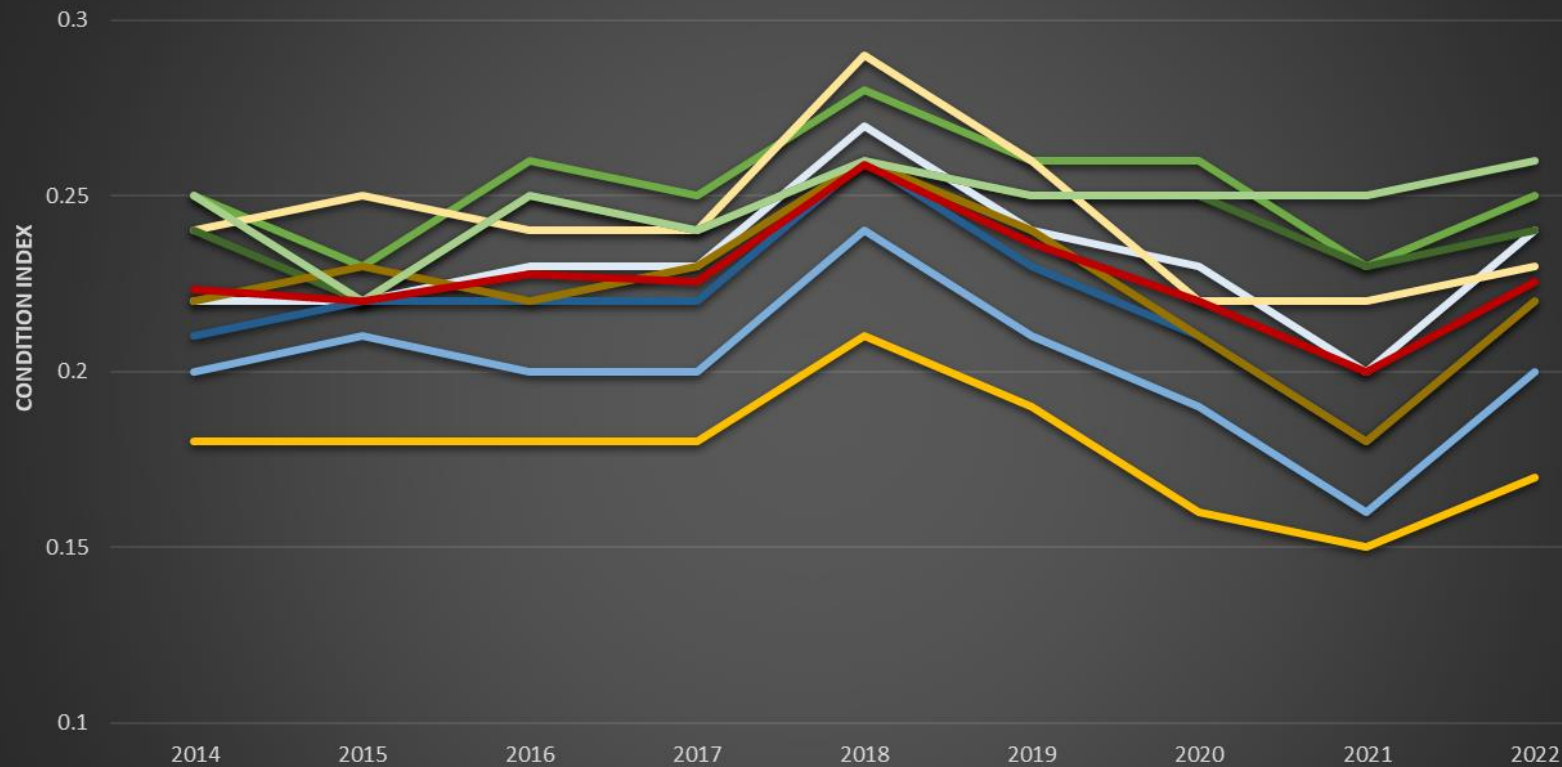
Smart resource prioritization:

Soil erosion control accounting, Central Slovakia, 2020 (KT soil retention)

Land cover/ecosystem type	Global C-factor	INCA/OpenEO C-factor	% difference
Agricultural land with natural vegetation*	3,079.0	5,444.1	76.8%
Annual cropland associated with permanent*	0.4	0.4	0%
Bare rock**	0	2.8	-
Broadleaf forest**	30,635.3	30,011.7	-2.0%
Burned land**	0	60.8	-
Complex cultivation patterned land*	430.8	710.3	64.9%
Coniferous forest**	34,666.5	33,965.6	-2.0%
...	
Transitional woodland scrub**	7,868.0	9,552.0	21.4%
Vineyard*	34.3	15.6	-54.5%
Total	114,245.6	121,832.7	6.6%
All agricultural ecosystem types	12,248.1	20,016.7	63.4%
All non-agricultural ecosystem types	101,997.5	101,816.0	-0.2%

Annual, low-latency accounting: EO for SEEA EA Forest Condition Accounting

Central Slovakia (Yearly observation at 100mt)



- Broadleaf forest, Pannonian
- Mixed forest, Pannonian
- Coniferous forest, Pannonian
- Forest Ecosystems trend
- Broadleaf forest, Alpine
- Mixed forest, Alpine
- Coniferous forest, Alpine
- Broadleaf forest, Continental
- Mixed forest, Continental
- Coniferous forest, Continental

nature communications



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-39434-0>

Accounting for forest condition in Europe based on an international statistical standard

Received: 30 September 2022

Joachim Maes^{1,2}, Adrián G. Bruzón³, José I. Barredo²✉, Sara Vallecillo², Peter Vogt², Inés Mari Rivero² & Fernando Santos-Martin³

Accepted: 12 June 2023

Published online: 22 June 2023

Covering 35% of Europe's land area, forest ecosystems play a crucial role in

Questions for the London Group

1. What **barriers** exist to **using EO & interoperable data/models** by the SEEA community? Could their wider use **imply major changes** in production of accounts? **Is the statistical community ready** for such changes? If not, how could its readiness be improved?
2. How can we make this work **more accessible to & widely used** by NSOs? E.g., demonstration projects:
 - a. Linking public & private data while ensuring **compliance with data privacy requirements**
 - b. Quantifying improvements in accounts, e.g.:
 - i. **Reduced latency**
 - ii. Incorporation of **higher-quality** data & models
 - iii. Reuse of data & models from one country that improve accounts in another - **improving global SEEA uptake**
 - c. Other ideas?

Final considerations

- Time is ripe to build & maintain a common knowledge base for **SEEA & beyond***
 - Good practices, Standards, Datasets, Algorithms, Protocols, Platform APIs
- Precondition for deep integration & interoperability
 - Beyond (just) “open science”
 - Online resources independent of their semantic orchestration
 - Distributed, autonomously produced, peer-reviewed scientific products on the web, especially geospatial & EO products

*ecosystem service assessments, biodiversity monitoring, other global reporting frameworks

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvChjWO5IN8>

Documentation: <https://confluence.integratedmodelling.org/display/AFP>

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