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Geodan's Earthwatchers app. wins GMES Masters

20 October 2011, 8:05pm

On 19 October 2011, Geodan was named the overall winner of the GMES Masters 2011 (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) prize with its Earthwatchers application submission, a product that was developed for the DeforestACTION project. With this application, Geodan aims to help monitor deforestation in Borneo in order to preserve and protect the habitat of the orangutan. In addition to winning the overall prize for the competition, Geodan has also won the 'GMES Ideas Challenge' for the best idea for new uses for earth observation images.

Preserve and protect the rainforest

Director of Geodan Southeast Asia, Eduardo Dias lives and works in Indonesia, where he develops Earthwatchers with the people of the DeforestACTION project. 'Many people are worried about the condition of the rainforest here and would like to make a contribution to finding a solution. With our project, we make it possible for everyone to take action themselves. This way, people are part of the solution and, using the Earthwatchers application, they are able to see for themselves what is happening,' he explains.

Eduardo continues: 'This project also stimulates the development of new research methods. It teaches schoolchildren and students about the possibilities and limitations of geographic information systems and all of the things you can do with earth observation tools (using satellite images).'

Earthwatchers in Borneo

The Earthwatchers application is part of the action plan, DeforestACTION. This is a worldwide action plan designed to help save the rainforest in Borneo, and is a project in which young people all over the world are involved. These 'agents' monitor the rainforest and with the aid of a web GIS environment and current satellite images, publish reports on their findings. The Earthwatchers application provides schoolchildren with a fun way to learn about advanced technology such as social media, GIS and remote sensing. Geodan is responsible for the construction and implementation of the application on the website.

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) GMES is a programme initiated by the European Union, and its objective is to create observations of the earth related to the environment, by monitoring the effects of climate change.

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