



Project Title: ECOPOTENTIAL: IMPROVING FUTURE ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS THROUGH EARTH OBSERVATIONS

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Abstract	Brief report on the ECOPOTENTIAL photo exhibition “Spaced: Using Earth Observations to Protect Natural Landscapes” held on 8-12 January 2018 at the European Parliament in Brussels.
Keywords	Photo exhibition



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1. Executive summary

The present document contains a brief description of the Public photo exhibition “SPACED – Using Earth Observation to Protect Natural Landscapes”, held at the European Parliament. The aim of the event was to showcase some of the results of the ECOPotential activities. The exhibit has been organized by UNEP jointly with CNR and with the contribution of CREA, University of Bayreuth, other ECOPotential partners and 23 Protected Areas associated with the project. The Bavarian Research Alliance (BAYFOR) also contributed to make the event a success.



2. The SPACED exhibition

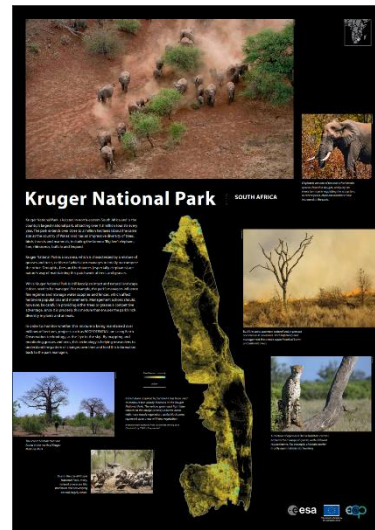
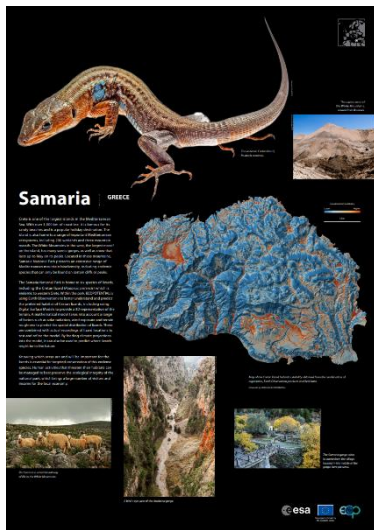
The ECOPOTENTIAL photo exhibit, entitled "Spaced: Using Earth Observations to Protect Natural Landscapes" was developed to showcase Earth observation products derived from US and European satellites, stunning photos and accompanying stories that explore how protected area managers and scientists from the ECOPOTENTIAL project are working together to study the ecosystems of some of Europe's most iconic protected areas. The Exhibition places particular emphasis on the practical use of Earth observation products for management purposes, and the societal benefit of such technology.

The Exhibit was developed by UN Environment, by its collaborating centre GRID-Arendal, CREAM and CNR, in cooperation with all the partners of ECOPOTENTIAL. The exhibit has been structured as follows: one panel for each protected area has been produced, aimed to describe its characteristics, the ecological threats and the research done within the project. To introduce the project and the use of remote sensing data, two additional general panels have been produced. Protected areas' panels have all a similar structure, consisting in one iconic picture, one remote sensing product developed in the frame of the research work (WP4), a narrative text and other accompanying pictures describing the main features highlighted in the text.

Initial drafts were developed for each panel, which were subsequently reviewed and refined by the production team in collaboration with ECOPOTENTIAL partners who took responsibility for each of the Protected Areas. In total, 25 panels were produced in A0 format, which were printed on high quality material. 23 of the panels displayed 23 protected areas of ECOPOTENTIAL, and an additional 2 panels provided an introduction to the topic and the project.

SPACED Exhibition panels overview Click here to see all panels			
Mountain Pas	Arid/semi-arid Pas	Coastal and marine PAs	Other panels
Abisko	Har Ha Negev	Camargue	ECOPOTENTIAL in a nutshell
Bavarian Forest	Kruger	Curonian Lagoon	New perspective from space
Gran Paradiso	Montado	Danube Delta	
Hardangervidda	Peneda Geres	Doñana	
Kalkalpen		Mediterranean LME	
La Palma		Pelagos Sanctuary	
Réunion		Wadden Sea	
Lake Ohrid and Prespa			
Samaria			
Sierra Nevada			
Swiss National Park			
Tatra Mountains			

Two examples of the exhibition panels produced:



2.1 Exhibition at the European Parliament

The SPACED exhibition was featured at the European Parliament from 8-12 of January 2018. The exhibition was launched with great acclaim and attendance (approximately 150 people) on the 9th of January 2018 at the European Parliament in Brussels, with the kind assistance of BAYFOR and hosted by Bavarian MEP Monika Hohlmeier. The launch event also included catering of food and drinks for the participants. MEP Hohlmeier opened the exhibition with a speech together with the following speakers:

- Kurt Vandenberghe, Director of Policy Development and Coordination, DG Research and Innovation
- Antonello Provenzale, Coordinator of ECO POTENTIAL, CNR
- Carl Beierkuhnlein, ECO POTENTIAL, University of Bayreuth
- Felix Medina, Consellor of Environment, Cabildo de la Palma

More details about the event are available on the [EASME website](#). See below for some reactions during the exhibition launch event:



3. Additional features of the exhibition so far

3.1 ECOPOTENTIAL workshop “Spaced: Using Earth Observations to Protect Natural Landscapes”

On Jan 10, as side event of the photo exhibition, a scientific workshop on the use of Earth Observation for the study of natural ecosystems has been organised by CREAM and CNR in Bruxelles (kindly hosted by Espay Cataluña) as side event of the Exhibition.

The programme included three sessions:

- General views on the use of Remote Sensing to protect ecosystems and landscapes
- How EU projects and infrastructure use or would like to use Remote Sensing
- Results from the ECOPOTENTIAL project

It hosted 14 presentations and has been attended by about 70 people.

3.2 EU Committee of Regions

After the exhibition at the European Parliament, a subsequent venue for displaying SPACED was organized at the European Union Committee of Regions building from 1-27 February 2018. Planning is underway to move the Exhibition to other locations around Europe through the year. This exhibition offered good visibility in particular during the conference around the 20th of February at the Committee of Regions regarding future funding and planning for Horizon and other programs for environmental research in Europe.



The ECOPOTENTIAL photo exhibition displayed at the Committee of Regions in Bruxelles.