

Mapping for Sustainable Development

Measuring aspects of map use effectiveness in scientific communication

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Research group: Environmental Sciences

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Project description

Maps reveal unknowns, maps can act as boundary objects to facilitate discussion and decision making. Well-designed maps help the reader identify pragmatic solutions to complex challenges. The United Nations (UN) have identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to address complex challenges related to access to resources, environmental preservation and economic development and more all at the global scale. Maps can inform decision making help achieve the SDGs. What types of maps work best to communicate decisions to reach sustainable development? Is it possible to make maps that inspire people to discuss a challenge and/or to take action? What are the common features that facilitate this communication?

We will assess what cartographic variables help facilitate sustainable development decision making using maps. The aim of this research to identify which maps meet the intended communication goal? Variables to be tested in the map including user interaction, visual variables like color, basemap choices and more.

This Bright Minds research assistant will help conduct research related to measure if and how maps are or not successful for decision making and communication related to the SDGs. The Bright Mind research assistant will be responsible for co-designing a survey, implementing the survey, collecting and reporting the results. If there is interest, the research assistant will also help with designing or modifying the maps that will be evaluated in this study. Maps that have been made from global open datasets as well as data from satellites and drones.

Job requirements

- This student will be responsible co-designing a map evaluation and survey
- Qualitative research skills
- Design and Implement an online survey
- Student must have interest (not necessarily experience) in visual scientific communication, forest preservation, small islands, mangroves.
- Experience with cartography, design, remote sensing and/or GIS software (or willingness to learn) a plus