

ILLEGAL WILD BOAR ACTIVITY IN LITHUANIA

What it's all about

Wild boars are causing problems for farmers in many areas across Europe. In Lithuania, boars had recently been destroying farmers' yields, however, evidence is needed by insurance companies and the courts to prove who is ultimately liable for the damage. In this case, a farmer suspected wild boars had been driven into his corn fields by a local hunting club, resulting in the loss of his crops. In court, the prosecution used Copernicus Sentinel imagery to help build their case. Comparing

maps of the affected corn fields to other untouched corn fields nearby, lawyers for the prosecution could prove that it was indeed wild boars which were driven into the locality by the hunters that caused the problem. The farmer won his case and the hunting club were held liable for damages. Being so impressed with the clarity and objectivity of the Copernicus Sentinel imagery used, the judge in this case recommended it be used in all future cases involving crop damage!



What we found

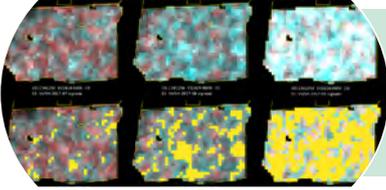
- The service provider, GEOMATRIX, can compare maps of damaged fields to maps of a similar field nearby in order to help understand the cause of the disturbance. This type of analysis can help prove that something such as localised animal activity caused the damage in question, as opposed to more macro level variables such as high winds, which should have affected the entire region uniformly.
- The clear-cut, transparent and objective comparisons of damaged fields make it easy for judges to better understand the facts of cases and rule accordingly. In fact, the use of Sentinel data in these cases in Lithuania has led to swift and irrefutable judgements on several occasions.
- Society as a whole benefit from the fact that a fairer, more efficient judiciary is upholding the law of the land.

ILLEGAL WILD BOAR ACTIVITY IN LITHUANIA



The Satellite Data

Copernicus Sentinel-1 provides free-of-charge frequent, all-weather, day-and-night C-band radar images.



The Service Provider

GEOMATRIX UAB, a small Lithuanian-based company undertake extensive Sentinel imagery analysis in order to understand the likely cause of the crop damage. The viability of GEOMATRIX's business model is directly tied to the availability of world-class Sentinel data in a free, full and open manner.



The Primary User

The Vilkaviškis Municipality Department of Agriculture, who represented the farmer in court, used Copernicus Sentinel imagery to build their case. Traditionally, independent assessors would have to physically visit the area to undertake the time-consuming analysis. Thanks to Sentinel data, a cheaper, more objective option is now available.



Other Direct Users

Farmers and plaintiffs involved in cases of liability and compensation receive fairer trials and swifter reimbursement payments.



End User Beneficiary

Society benefits from the fact that the judiciary can make fairer and more objective decisions as a result of the use of Copernicus Sentinel imagery.

About the project

Through a series of case studies, EARSC aims to gather quantitative evidence that the usage of Copernicus Sentinel data provides an effective and convenient support to various market applications. These studies are undertaken in the frame of the project "Showcasing the benefits brought by

the usage of Sentinels data to society, environment and economy: a bottom-up assessment based on traceable impacts along selected value chains", under an assignment from the European Space Agency (ESA) funded by the European Union as part of the Copernicus Programme.

Download the full report from the project website



<http://ears.org/sebs>

