

## Participant Information Sheet

Project title:	Visualisation Atlas Data User Interaction Logging
Principal investigator:	Dr. Benjamin Bach
Researcher collecting data:	Gwennan Drouillet (student), Jinrui Wang, Dr. Alexis Pister
Funder (if applicable):	/

### Who are the researchers?

Gwennan Drouillet is an MSc student supervised by Dr. Benjamin Bach from the School of Informatics. Jinrui Wang and Alexis Pister are researchers who will also have access to the data, as they are involved in the design and testing of the atlas. Jinrui Wang holds a separate ethics approval for user-centred workshops (application number #591184). This project is a new submission, but its relation to Jinrui's work may be relevant for context.

### What is the purpose of the study?

Visualisation atlases are an emerging phenomenon in visualisation practice that makes complex data and topics accessible to a wide range of audience. A visualisation atlas, as we define it, is a compendium of (web) pages aimed at explaining and supporting exploration of data about a dedicated topic through data, visualisations and narration.

This research intends to inform the design of visualisation atlases by involving users in the assessment and refinement of the beta version of the UK Co-Benefits Atlas, a collaborative project between us and the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute. In this project, we aim to gather anonymous interaction data from users with the Atlas platform to understand how users use the UK Co-Benefits Atlas and its interactive features.

### Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been asked to participate in this study because you are using the UK Co-Benefits Visualisation Atlas.



### **Do I have to take part?**

No – participation in this study is entirely up to you. You can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. We will stop using your data in any publications or presentations submitted after you have withdrawn consent.

### **What will happen if I decide to take part?**

You will be asked to provide consent upon your entering the atlas landing page through a pop-up box where we state the logging protocol and append a link for downloading the PIS.

You will have the option to provide your email address. This is entirely voluntary. If you choose to provide it, your email will be linked to your interaction data. This linkage is used only to contact you if we have questions about your usage patterns; the goal being to complement the log analysis with qualitative findings. Your email will not be used for any other purpose and will be treated with the same confidentiality and security as the rest of your data.

You can:

- Opt in to logging at any time via the About page.
- Opt out of logging at any time via the About page. When doing so, you will be offered the option to delete all previously collected interaction data.
- Unlink your email address from the tracking, if you previously provided it. Your email will then be deleted from our servers.

If you agree to proceed with our logging protocol, then the atlas will log your interactive activity (e.g., session duration, page navigation, and interaction history with the visualizations). You can freely explore the atlas at your own pace. You will be able to ask questions at any time during the study by emailing the team, and the Atlas team will be available to help you use the Atlas if you encounter problems. If your email has not been provided, all events will only be stored with an anonymous, generated ID.



Each logged event, will store:

- Event name (e.g., Page view, clicking a button, scroll depth, etc.) and event properties (e.g. Referrer URL, Browser, Session ID, etc.)
- Time and date of the event
- An anonymous ID, generated as a randomly generated UUID, independent from your IP or other specific user data. The ID persists across sessions if cookies are enabled. You can reset that ID by clearing cookies. From this ID, we are not able to identify any of our users.
- Your email if you have provided it

The logged events will be saved on a secure server which is accessible only by the researchers (Gwennan Drouillet, Jinrui Wang, Alexis Pister) and principal investigator (Benjamin Bach). They help us to understand which features in Atlas are most used, which ones are not used, and help us to improve these features as well as our explanations and tutorials.

#### What we are logging

We log features such as:

- Which pages you visit
- How far down you scroll
- Which visualization features you use (e.g., search, filter, zoom, etc.)
- How long you stay on each page
- How often you visit the Atlas (provided you do clear cookies).

#### What we are NOT logging

- We do not access your camera, keyboard or any other device.
- We do not log any other open tabs or windows in your browser or computer
- We do not store or install any software, cookies, or other files or programs on your computer. The UK Co-Benefits Atlas runs entirely in your browser.

In addition to logging interaction data, we may occasionally present pop-up questions or short questionnaires while you are using the UK Co-Benefits Atlas.



These questions are designed to better understand your intentions, decision-making, and interpretation while using the interactive features of the Atlas. Participation in these pop-up questions is entirely optional, and you may choose to ignore or close them without any consequences. Responses to these questions will be treated with the same level of confidentiality and security as the interaction data.

**Are there any risks associated with taking part?**

No there's no obvious risk related. We will strictly follow rules to protect privacy and store the metadata securely within the University of Edinburgh.

**Are there any benefits associated with taking part?**

The benefits that may reasonably be expected to result from this study are a better user experience and more useful Atlas features, as well as better information visualization techniques. We do not provide financial compensation to participants. We have multiple channels for user support and community building with the UK Co-Benefits Atlas, including contact emails and training sessions.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The results of this study may be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. With your explicit consent, we would like to include the atlas project name in the publications as a case study, and include that in the acknowledgement section. With your consent, data collected from this study can also be used for future research. Your data may be archived for a maximum of four years. All potentially identifiable data will be deleted within this timeframe if it has not already been deleted as part of anonymization.

**Data protection and confidentiality.**

Your data will be processed in accordance with Data Protection Law. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your data cannot be referred to as no personal data is recorded as its unidentifiable. Your data will be stored on a



secure server, only accessible by the researchers (Gwennan Drouillet, Jinrui Wang, Alexis Pister) and principal investigator (Benjamin Bach). All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected encrypted computer, on the School of Informatics' secure file servers, or on the University's secure encrypted cloud storage services (DataShare, ownCloud, or Sharepoint) and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the PI's office. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses to minimise risk. All research will be conducted in the UK and there will not be any targeted dissemination of the data collected from your participation.

No personal information will be collected or saved within the Log data. The Log data will be saved on a secure server which is accessible only by the UK Co-Benefits team.

### **What are my data protection rights?**

The University of Edinburgh is a Data Controller for the information you provide. You have the right to access information held about you. Your right of access can be exercised in accordance Data Protection Law. You also have other rights including rights of correction, erasure and objection. For more details, including the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office, please visit [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Questions, comments and requests about your personal data can also be sent to the University Data Protection Officer at [dpo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:dpo@ed.ac.uk).

### **Who can I contact?**

If you have any further questions about the study, please contact the lead researcher, Gwennan Drouillet, [s2747627@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s2747627@ed.ac.uk).

If you wish to make a complaint about the study, please contact [inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:inf-ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk). When you contact us, please provide the study title and detail the nature of your complaint.

### **Updated information.**

If the research project changes in any way, an updated Participant Information Sheet will be made available on <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/study-updates>.



**Alternative formats.**

To request this document in an alternative format, such as large print or on coloured paper, please contact Gwennan Drouillet, [s2747627@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s2747627@ed.ac.uk).

**General information.**

For general information about how we use your data, go to: [edin.ac/privacy-research](http://edin.ac/privacy-research)

