Last Updated: October 2017

EXERCISE 2

Contributing to a Collect Earth Online project as a member

Introduction

In this exercise, you will learn how to create an account on Collect Earth Online (CEO), and contribute to a project as a member by collecting data.

Objectives

- Create a Collect Earth Online account
- Contribute to a project on Collect Earth Online as a photo interpreter by collecting data

Prerequisites

- **You have an email account**
- **You are using Google Chrome**
- **You have an internet connection (preferably wired)**

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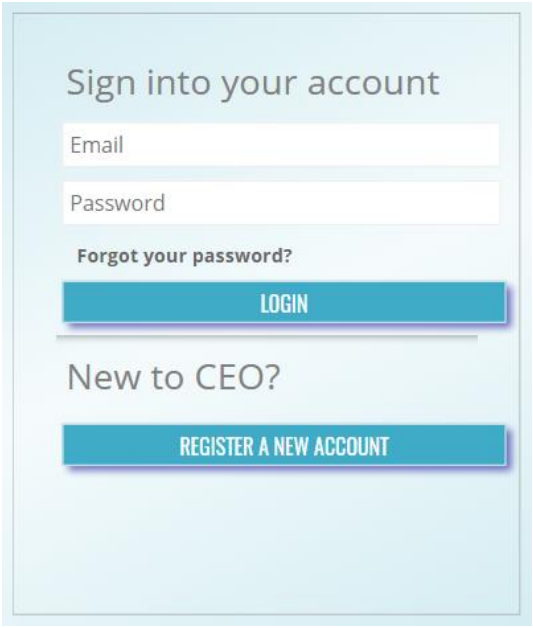
Part 1: Setting up a member account

A. Navigate to the Collect Earth Online (CEO) webpage

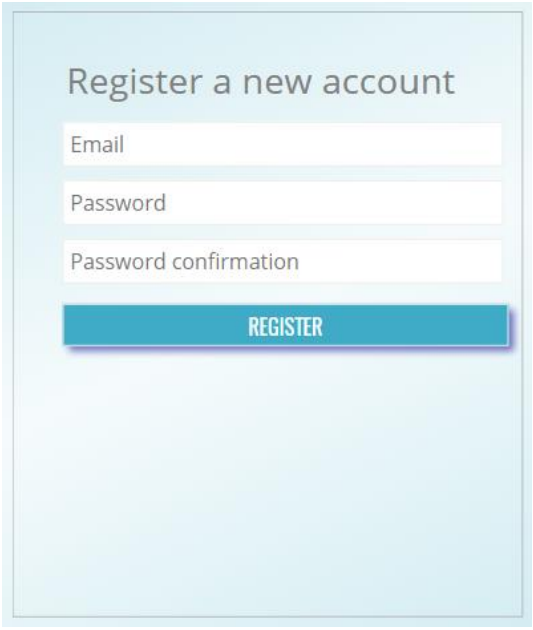
1. Open Google Chrome and navigate to the following webpage: http://ceo.sig-gis.com/home. This is the home page for Collect Earth Online.

Note: As of October 2017, Collect Earth Online is still in active development. As such, the layout and appearance of the website may have changed since the creation of this exercise.

2. Click the **Login/Register** button in the upper-right corner of the page. Click **Register a new account**.



3. Click on the **Register a new account** button. Enter your email address and a password. Consider recording this email and password for later use, because the functionality to reset a password in CEO does not yet exist.

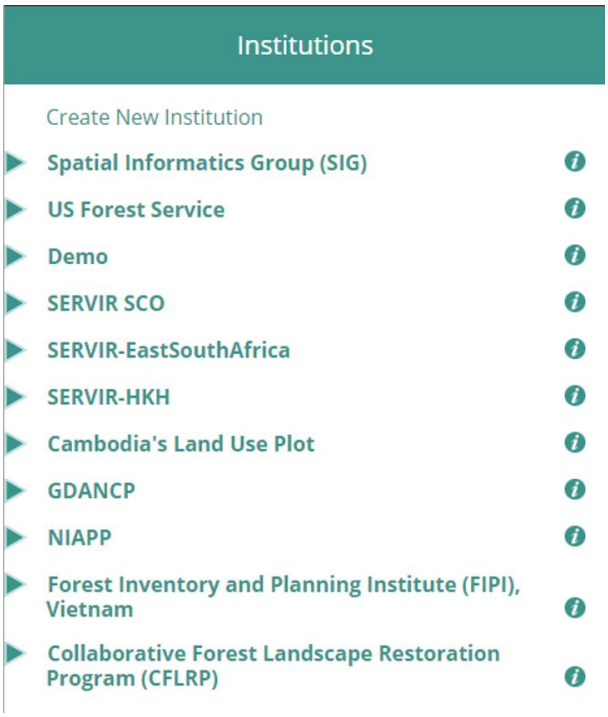


4. You will now be redirected to the home page, but you will be logged in this time.

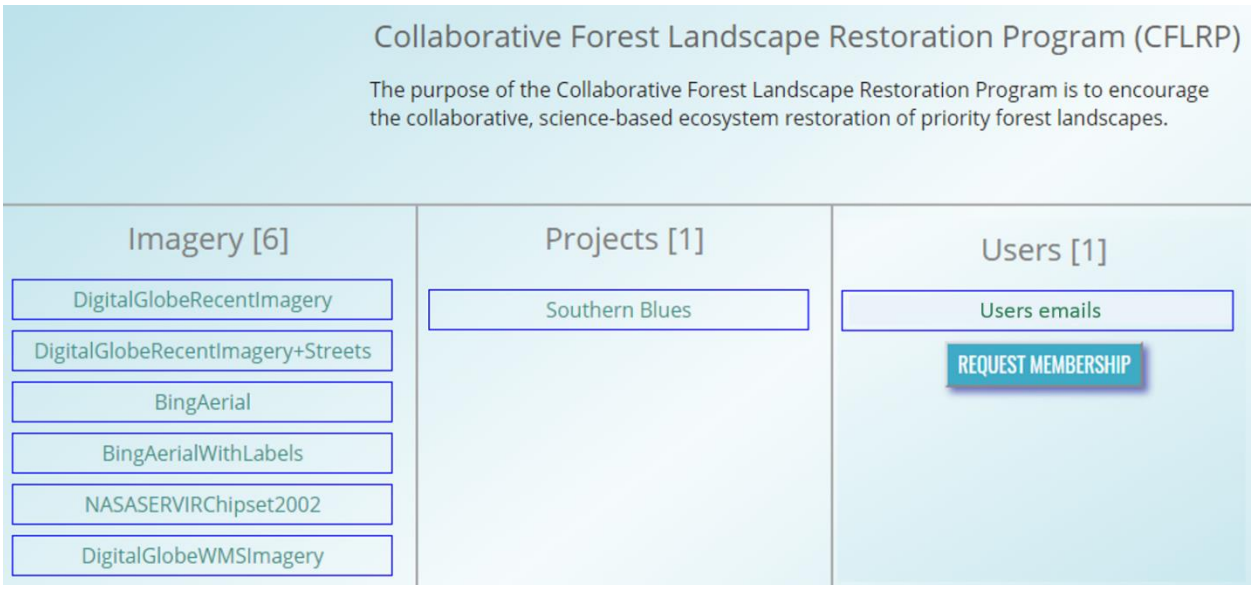
Part 2: Contributing to a project

A. Request membership to an institution

1. Most projects are associated with institutions, so you will need to join an institution on CEO. On the left side of the home page, locate the Institutions panel, and scroll down to find the institution to which you belong. For this exercise, locate the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP)**. Click the circled ***i*** icon to the right of the institution name.



2. You will be redirected to the management page for that institution. This page contains a list of the available imagery, current projects, and users associated with the institution. Below the list of users, click the **Request Membership** button.

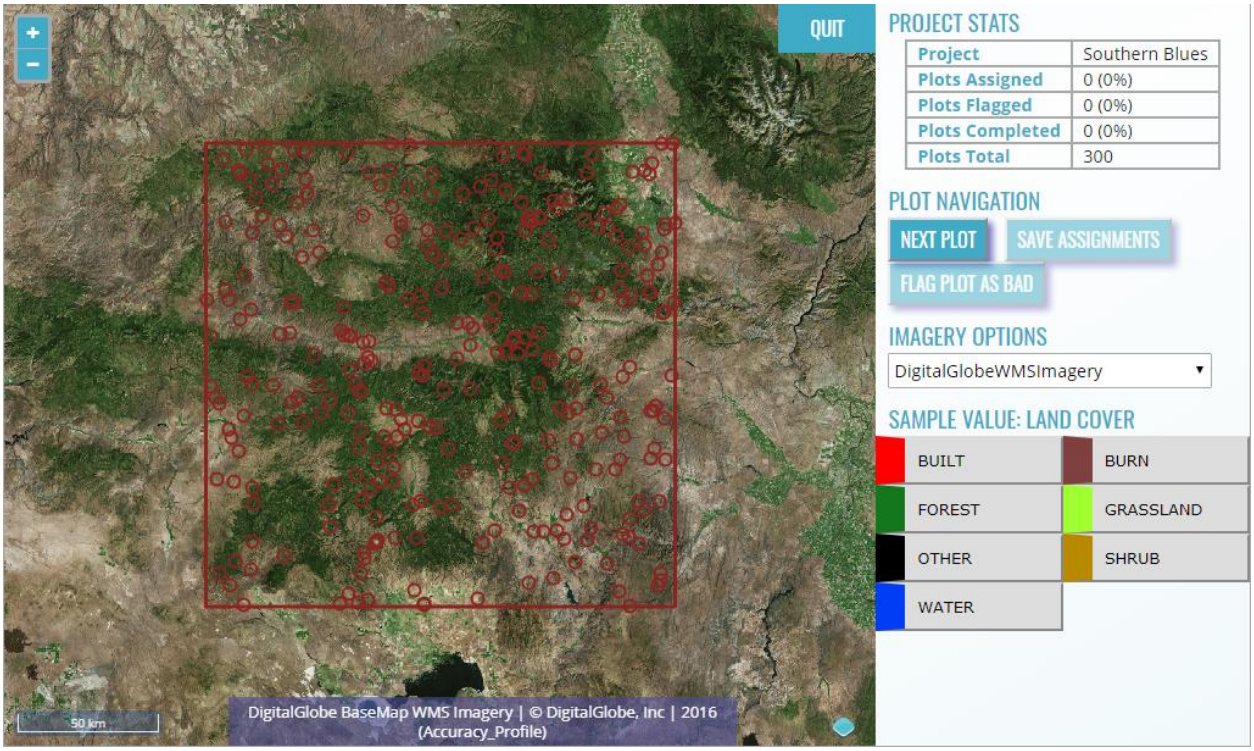


3. An alert may display on your browser indicating that you have requested membership. Click **ok**. A request has been sent to the institution page administrator(s).
4. At the moment there is no way of indicating what kind of account you are requesting (e.g., member or admin). We recommend that you send an email to the admin for the institution (sometimes this information is in the institution description). In the email, explain that you are requesting a "member" account. This will also remind the administrator to approve your request. You will have to wait until that person has approved your request before continuing.

B. Open a project

1. Once you have been approved, **refresh** the webpage. **Log in** again to your account. Navigate to the **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CLFRP)** institution in the Institutions panel, and click the circled ***i*** icon. You will be redirected to an updated version of the management page. On the right side, you should now see your email listed. If you do not see this, contact the administrator to confirm that they have accepted your request and given you member privileges.

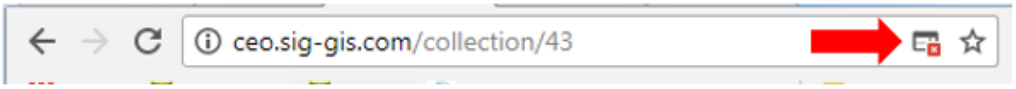
1. Click the **Southern Blues** project to begin collecting data. You should see a display similar to the one below. This will take you to a screen that has a map of the whole study region, a table with the project data collection statistics, and a number of buttons used for recording data on the right hand side of the screen.



2. Select the blue **Next Plot** button to begin collecting information.

C. Enable pop-ups

1. If this is your first time collecting data with Collect Earth Online or you have switched computers, you will likely need to allow pop-ups from the CEO site.
2. Check the address bar. If it is marked with a Pop-up blocked icon (see image below), click on the popup blocked warning.



   i. In the popup window that appears, select **Always allow pop-ups from** http://ceo.sig-gis.com.
   ii. Then select **Done**.
3. Click **Next Plot** to reload the auxiliary plot information in a new tab.

D. Analyze a plot

1. Your sample plot shows up as a red circle or square in the map window. Each sample point is identified with a red circle until it is assigned a label.

2. You can zoom in and out using the blue + and - buttons in the upper left hand corner of the map window, or simply by scrolling your mouse wheel.
3. Select your sample points.
   i. To select a single sample point, click on it with the left mouse key.
   ii. To select several sample points, click on them while keeping the Shift key pressed down.
   iii. To select all or a larger area of sample points, you can draw a rectangle to select them. Press the Ctrl-key and click in the map window and draw your rectangle.
4. When your sample points are marked in blue, you can assign them a sample value by clicking on the suitable value in the legend to the right of the map window. The sample points are then marked in the color of the value class.
   i. In the example below we have selected the sample points located on trees and classified their attribute LAND COVER category as **Forest** (points appear in green color scheme after classification).

5. Continue classifying points until all points have been labeled. Recall that there is an **Other** class you can choose if none of the other available classes are appropriate.

6. When the land cover attributes of all the sample points of your current plot are classified, click on **Save Assignments**. This button is active and appears blue only when all the points have been labeled.
7. A pop-up window shows up confirming that the assignments were saved in the database.
   i. Click **OK**.
   ii. If Save Assignments is still shadowed in light blue, not all sample points are classified yet.
8. The next plot for analysis shows up automatically.
9. When all plots are classified, a pop-up window shows up to inform you that all sample plots of your project are analyzed.

E. Analysis tips

1. You are able to mark plots as bad if the imagery is not good enough to accurately label the plot attributes.
   i. If the background is completely black, the resolution might be too low for the automatically set zoom level. Alternatively, the plot might be in a large waterbody. Zoom out until you see some more map context to confirm whether the issue is imagery resolution or an oceanic plot.
   ii. If the background of a new plot is grey, zoom out a bit to display the imagery.
   iii. If the resolution of a plot is too low to distinguish features and classify your points, click on **Flag plot as bad**. A pop-up window appears informing you that the plot [number] has been flagged.
   iv. Click **OK**.
2. At any time, you can skip a plot for later analysis by clicking **Next Plot**.
3. The **Project Stats** show the number and percent of plots completed, the number and percent of plots flagged as bad, and the total number of plots.

Congratulations! You have completed this exercise on contributing to a Collect Earth Online project as a photo interpreter. You now have all of the information you need to help out by collecting data.