

# Earth observation

## Overview:

Spot the difference: Can you see how the Earth is changing?

Technology is used to study and monitor a wide range of factors affecting our planet. Using satellite and/or drone imagery, participants can see how Earth observation images can be used to monitor the planet and identify changes. This can include monitoring such topics as water levels in lakes, increases in population and sizes of cities, and land ice cover.



## Equipment:

- Magnifying glasses
- A3 laminated set of Aral Lake change images
- A3 laminated set of Alaskan ice cover
- A3 laminated set of land use change in Borneo
- Information sheet

## How it works?

1. Set up laminated print outs on the table.
2. Ask participants to compare the images (essentially a spot the difference activity).
3. Ask participants what the change could be and what could be causing the changes.

## How does this relate to NERC science?

Environmental scientists use Earth observation to help study the whole planet. This technology allows us to see the impacts we are having on the planet as we have never seen them before. It also allows us to monitor illegal activity such as logging in remote areas.

## Key take home messages:

- Using satellite images, we can monitor how the planet is changing and devise methods of limiting any negative impacts.
- There is a role for everyone in environmental science.
- Space technology is important in helping us understand our planet.

