SDG Indicator 11.3.1 – EO Support Sheet

March 21, 2022

Indicator	**11.3.1** Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate.		
Target	11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.		
Custodian	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).	Tier	II
Current approach and challenges	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring urban development by comparing the urban expansion rate with the population growth rate on similar temporal and spatial scales. Indicator 11.3.1 measures how efficiently cities utilize land, which is measured as a ratio of the rate at which cities spatially consume land against the rate at which their populations grow. The formula to derive the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate (LCRPGR) can be summarized as follows: $LCPGR = \frac{(Annual\ Land\ Consumption\ rate)}{(Annual\ Populationgrowth\ rate)}$ [eq. 1] Practically, equation 1 is computed in a two-step process involving the data collection and estimation of population growth and land consumption respectively. The land consumption rate is defined as the uptake of land by urban developments including the urbanized open spaces. In essence, the land consumption represents the change in urban extent over time and where urban extent is defined as the total built-up area of the city proper and the urbanized open space in and around it, and where built-up area is the total area of the impervious surfaces in the city proper i.e. roofs, streets, and parking lots, but excluding urbanized open space, both public and private, as well as vacant lands, measured in hectares. **Baseline and Reporting** According to the metadata for this indicator, UN-Habitat and partners have been creating a repository of 11.3.1 data using 1990 as the baseline year. UN Habitat, however, encourages countries to compute the indicator as far as back as data is available and maintain the current/most recent year as the final reporting year. Reporting is repeated at regular intervals of 5 years, allowing for three reporting points until the year 2030. In addition, and for better understanding how the consumption of land by cities contributes to sustainable urbanization – in line with target 11.3 – historical image analysis is highly encouraged for this indicator, with a proposed historical reference year of 2000. The indicator has been classified as TIER-II, meaning that the indicator is conceptually clear, and an established methodology exists but data on many countries is not yet available. UN Habitat suggests the Degree of Urbanization method —endorsed at the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission — to independently delineate cities, urban, and rural areas. This data is created using the population data collected by CIESIN (CIESIN 2016) and built-up area identified in the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL). The GHSL framework provides data and tools developed from EO, census data, and volunteered geographic information that produces global maps of built-up areas, resident population, and settlement typologies for four epochs (1975, 1990, 2000, and 2015). The GHSL global open data is available and will be updated through European Union support and international partnership. The method to compute the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate follows five broad steps: • Deciding on the analysis period/years, • Delimitation of the urban area or city, which will act as the geographical scope for the analysis, • Spatial analysis and computation of the land consumption rate, • Spatial analysis and computation of the population growth rate,		

	• Computation of the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate, and • Computation of recommended secondary indicators (built up area per capita, total change in built up area). Despite being classified as TIER II, the reporting on 11.3.1 is still subject to some challenges. For example, built-up area can be directly measured by EO technology but it requires additional processing and a level of abstraction to convert or agglomerate the built-up area into urban extent. Furthermore, the indicator does not currently take into account the type of consumed land. Weighting land consumption based on the type of land consumed, such as productive land or floodplain, can help assess how efficiently countries or cities are using the land. EO terrain and surface models and data, such as soil moisture, may be used in weighting different types of land consumed. In addition, it may be difficult to measure the urban expansion of two or more urban areas in close proximity, as it may be difficult to judge to which city the urban growth should be attributed. Finally, and since most of the population lives in urban areas, it is often assumed that the residents in urban areas may be represented by the residents in administrative units containing such areas. But a recent UN-Habitat survey revealed the existence of major variations between what is statistically identified as urban (the separation of enumeration areas into urban and rural as implemented by national statistical offices, for census purposes), and what is officially defined or mapped as urban (as per existing municipal or city boundaries in the country). The Degree of Urbanization method can help define the analysis area (e.g, city or urban area) by combining population size and population density thresholds to classify the entire territory of a country along the urban-rural continuum, and capture the full extent of a city, including the dense neighbourhoods beyond the boundary of the central municipality.
Satellite Observations	
EO Contribution	Earth Observation (EO) is recognized as an important data source for measuring this indicator. EO has direct relevance for mapping and monitoring changes in built-up areas and for defining the extent of urban areas. EO can also help generate disaggregated maps of global, regional or national census data. An overview of EO opportunities, limitations and areas for improvement, relating to indicator 11.3.1, is presented below under two thematic areas: surface characterization and population. **<u>Surface Characterization (Land Consumption Rate):</u>** EO data is well equipped for mapping built-up area. As of today, several global datasets are available, such as the Global Human Settlement Built-up (GHS BU) developed by JRC/EC, the Global Urban Footprint (GUF) developed by DLR, and the GMIS and HBASE data sets developed by NASA/University of Maryland, among others. Although impressive in terms of high spatial resolution and global coverage, these data sets come with certain caveats. For example, the GHS BU relies solely on Landsat data and with reported issues related to confusion of bare soil and urban areas. Contrary, the GUF relies solely on radar imagery and the public can only access an aggregated version of the GUF product (i.e. 75 meters vs. the full resolution in 12 meters) and only for the year 2012. The World Settlement Footprint 2015 (WSF-2015), developed by DLR/ESA, is addressing some of the aforementioned issues with GHS BU and GUF by using Landsat 8 and Sentinel 1 radar imagery to provide a global overview of the world's human settlements in 10-meter resolution. The most recent WSF 2019 features data from the Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 missions, while the WSF Evolution is generated by processing seven million images from the Landsat satellites collected between 1985 and 2015 to provide detailed information about the spatiotemporal development for each human settlement identified in the WSF 2015, over the last 30 years. Two other relevant global data sets are the Global Man-made Impervious Surface (GMIS) and the companion Global Human Built-up and Settlement Extent (HBASE), developed by NASA/

	University of Maryland. These data sets are at 30-m spatial resolution and provide sub-pixel estimates of percent (%) man-made imperviousness at the global scale from Landsat. They do not, however, contain multiple epochs. Because the base data used for GMIS are from the Global Land Survey 2010 (GLS) Landsat archive for the epoch 2009-2011, there are still areas with perennial cloud cover (e.g. Indonesia) where there is "no data" over some urban centers. The GMIS and HBASE data is available for open public access through NASA's Socioeconomic Data Applications Center (SEDAC), hosted by Columbia University. The GMIS data set is used as a fundamental component to produce reference data for the Trends.Earth Urban Mapper effort, developed by Conservation International (CI) in collaboration with NASA/GSFC researchers. The Trends.Earth Urban Mapper is an alternative solution for mapping built-up areas using the GMIS data set and archived Landsat imagery (i.e. from 2000 to 2015) within Google Earth Engine. Another dataset, currently in production by Boston University, will include global land cover time series at 30-m spatial resolution with a "developed" class. This dataset will provide a timely, consistent, and accurate calculation of the land consumption rate across the globe. An expected release of the full data set in Spring 2022, covering the time period from 2000-present at annual time steps. While global data sets provide a useful resource for monitoring the 11.3.1 indicator monitoring, they also have limitations in their application to track city level trends or with respect to definitions, available reference years and spatial resolution. For example, the definition of built-up area adopted by GHS BU, GUF and WSF only considers the extent of buildings, i.e. impervious areas with vertical dimension, and hence excludes streets and parking lots that are part of the urban extent definition under SDG 11.3.1. While GMIS does include all types of man-made impervious surfaces and mitigates the limitations of a fixed 30-m spatial resolution by providing sub-pixel proportion estimates, at this time it is only available for 2010. And while Trends.Earth Urban Mapper is better aligned in terms of the built-up area definition, the approach is currently limited to Landsat imagery, having a coarser spatial resolution as compared to Sentinel-2 imagery. Sentinel data, however, are only available from 2015-2017 onwards, while the Landsat archive dates back to 1975. New efforts to produce a Harmonized Landsat Sentinel (HLS) data set show much promise to provide future Landsat-scale data at much improved temporal resolution. Some of the aforementioned issues can be addressed by countries' investing their own resources in mapping built-up areas. For example, Mexico and Colombia are already developing Geospatial Data Cubes to enable processing and analysis of satellite images for mapping built-up areas as well as other critical land surface indicators. The National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) produced by USGS for the U.S. territory, based on Landsat data, is another example of this type of efforts. Such activities may not, however, be feasible for countries without the same level of resources and infrastructure to produce similar, consistent data sets. **Recommendations:** Today, the most realistic and feasible option for national built-up area mapping is to use the freely available datasets provided by the ESA Sentinel-1 (SAR) and Sentinel-2 (multispectral) as well as the USGS/ NASA Landsat (multispectral) and the NASA/NOAA Suomi NPP missions. These open datasets provide systematic multi-sensor acquisitions with a large potential for advancing the mapping of built-up areas. Open source tools such as SNAP, QGIS, and Massive Spatial Automatic Data Analytics can support the mapping of built-up areas from Earth Observations. Users should be aware that significant computing and data storage resources are required when working at the national scale with annual or longer time series of Landsat, Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 data. Links to existing and well-established data infrastructures or cloud platforms with co-located satellite datasets (e.g. Google Earth Engine, DIAS etc.) can be helpful, in this regard. Countries who want to pursue their own mapping are advised to assess and identify their requirements for assistance from a national entity/GIS unit or assistance from a specialized service provider.

	It is also worth mentioning that commercial satellite imagery with meter and sub-meter spatial resolution offers an opportunity to map the built-up area in higher detail compared to the free and open datasets. For national scale mapping, the use of commercial high-resolution imagery can be prohibitively costly for many countries but may be considered in a multi-scale approach, where the national built-up inventory is based on public domain data or from open datasets that are complemented with detailed built-up inventories for selected cities based commercial high-resolution imagery. The NASA Commercial Satellite Data Acquisition Program may partially alleviate this cost issue. However, thus far, there are no consistently processed commercial satellite data sets that could be used for regional or continental urban change mapping. Effective tools and processing algorithms are still needed to produce consistent atmospherically corrected, mosaiced data sets for large regions covering entire large urban areas. Furthermore, we note a need for further advancing three-dimensional methods to capture building volume changes, tracking, thus, vertical growth of urban environments. This is possible through C-band SAR radar data (e.g., Sentinel-1) that can improve the accuracy of the 11.3.1 indicator. Lastly, regardless of the input satellite imagery, users should be aware of the fact that the direct output of EO processing is a map of the built-up area, and post-processing is needed to derive urban extent boundaries and the degree of land consumption to compute this indicator. **Population (Population Growth Rate):** While it is not possible to directly estimate population numbers or density from space, there are, however, established methodologies for generating population maps by obtaining sub-national population statistics (e.g. districts, counties, provinces) and subsequently distributing them geographically using geospatial indicators such as the location of urban centres (cf. Urban extent) and possibly also the main transportation network, i.e. roads, railroads and rivers. By knowing the type and use of the urban fabric, coarse resolution population maps can be disaggregated to obtain a more accurate spatial assignment of the population density. Global population data sets include the GHS-POP by JRC/EC, Gridded Population of the World (GPW) v4 by CIESIN/Columbia U, and WorldPop by WorldPop, among others. These data sets provide information about human population distribution density. Users should be mindful of the reference year, and that population information derived from the census may be outdated. The POPGRID Data Gollaborative, funded by NASA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to advance the use and impact of geospatial population and infrastructure data by bringing together and expanding the international community of data providers, users, and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to accelerate the development and use of high quality, georeferenced data on population, human settlements, and infrastructure. The POPGRID Mapping Tool serves as a functional platform for data users across sectors to compare data, share tools, and report progress on data accessibility, quality, metadata, interoperability, intercomparison, validation, and use. POPGRID also provides a summary of gridded population data set characteristics. Other tools produced by GHSL and WorldPOP allow users to produce population grids for the area of interest.
Satellite Data requirements	

SDG Requirement	Spatial Resolution	Measurement Type	Observation Frequency	Sampling Type	Comments	Mission Classes

SDG 11.3.1 Urban Extent	10-500 m	Optical or Radar	Annual	Land Mask	UN-Habitat is the leading agency, with support from partners/regional commissions. Suggests the Degree of Urbanization method to independently delineate cities, urban, and rural areas. Metadata refer countries to the EO Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements to easily access and assess data of interest to compute indicator 11.3.1.	**1,2,3,4**

Satellite Data availability

There is a range of satellite data sources which could be used within the SDG 11.3.1 indicator monitoring and reporting. Satellite imagery for the mapping of built-up areas can be obtained from public and freely-accessible data collections as well as from commercial distributors. A summary of the available options is provided in the table below:

Sensor	Type	Spatial resolution	Temporal coverage / Revisit time	Data policy	Comment
Sentinel-1	SAR	10 m	From 2014 / At least every 12 days globally	Free and open	Limited historical data but the long-term continuity is secured under the Copernicus program.
Seninel-2	Multi-spectral	10 m	From 2015 / Every 5 days globally	Free and open	Limited historical data but the long-term continuity is secured under the Copernicus program. Sensitive to clouds; useful imagery may be restricted in cloudy regions.
Landsat	Multi-spectral	30 m	Since 1984 / Every 16 days globally	Free and open	Long temporal coverage is invaluable for historic mapping but 30-meter resolution is a drawback compared to the Sentinels. Sensitive to clouds; useful imagery may be

						restricted in cloudy regions.
	Suomi NPP VIIRS	Multi-spectral	500m	2011 -	Free and open	Surface type data from VIIRS onboard the Suomi-NPP (and JPSS in the future) is used widely to detect and monitor stable urban lights around the globe, providing additional information on global land consumption rates beyond that available from day-time observations.
	Commercial	SAR and Multi-spectral	0,5 to 2.5 meters	Since ~2000 / New acquisitions (on demand); Historic imagery (depending on archive)	Proprietary / Cost from 2.5 to 20 €/km^2	Provides the highest level of detail but at expense of cost

EO Data Access	• Landsat data is available via the EarthExplorer (https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/). • Sentinel data can be accessed through the Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) or the Conventional Data Hubs (https://www.copernicus.eu/en/access-data). • The VIIRS/Suomi NPP data set is available via NASA Earthdata (https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/near-real-time/download-nrt-data/viirs-nrt). • Commercial satellite data can be purchased through data providers and their reseller network. • Several urban and population data sets are available from NASA SEDAC. (https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu) and the Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements (https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org). • As an alternative to downloading data, it is possible to find relevant data in various cloud computing frameworks, such as the Amazon Web Services (http://registry.opendata.aws) and Google Earth Engine (https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog). Tools and services can be installed on AWS or the Google Cloud to connect to these data, or tools such as Google Earth Engine can be used for analysis purposes. These options remove the requirement to download data, which is a growing issue for large global datasets.
EO-based global datasets	There is a range of global data products which can be used within the monitoring and reporting on indicator 11.3.1: **Built-up datasets:** • **The Global Human Settlement Built-up** (GHS BU) is developed and maintained by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). It relies on several Landsat image collections to automatically retrieve information about settlement extent for selected time epochs i.e. 1975, 1990, 2000 and 2015: https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data.php

- **The Global Urban Footprint** (GUF) developed by the German Aerospace Center (DLR), based on 2010–2014 X-band SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) imagery acquired by TerraSAR-X and TanDEM—X. It shows urban, non-urban and water areas globally at resolutions up to 12 m (75 meters for public access). (https://www.dlr.de/eoc/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-9628/16557_read-40454/)
- The **World Settlement Footprint 2015 (WSF-2015)** is the first map, using mass collections of Landsat and Sentinel-1 imagery from 2014-15 timeframe, to provide a global overview of the world's human settlements. WSF has been developed by DLR under ESA funds and currently available for viewing on U-TEP: https://urban-tep.eu/puma/tool/?id=574795484&lang=en. An updated version (i.e. WSF-2019) based on Sentinel-1 and sentinel-2 imagery is now available (WSF 2019) and the World Settlement Footprint Evolution generated by processing seven million images from the US Landsat satellite collected between 1985 and 2015 is also available (WSF Evolution).
- The **Atlas of Urban Expansion** is an open-source online resource with maps, satellite images, and data on spatial changes in cities around the world from 1990 to 2015. The atlas is created in partnership by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, UN-Habitat, and New York University (http://www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/)
- **High Resolution Settlement Layer (built-up area)**: A high-resolution settlement extent datasets developed by the Connectivity Lab at Facebook using computer vision techniques to classify blocks of optical satellite data as settled (containing buildings) or not. The settlement layer has been developed for 33 countries: https://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/hrsl/
- **The Global Man-made Impervious Surface (GMIS) Dataset From Landsat:** A 30m spatial resolution dataset that provides sub-pixel estimates of % imperviousness and associated standard error fields. The base Landsat data are from the Global Land Survey (GLS) data for the 2010 target epoch, processed to surface reflectance. The data sets have been generated from a massive reference training set produced from unclassified commercial satellite data using machine learning algorithms. This dataset and its companion dataset, the Human Built-up And Settlement Extent (HBASE) dataset, are available for open public download from NASA SEDAC: https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/ulandsat-gmis-v1/docs
- **The Human Built-up And Settlement Extent (HBASE) Dataset from Landsat:** A companion global dataset to the GMIS dataset, at 30m spatial resolution and based on the GLS Landsat data for the 2010 epoch. The dataset represents the maximal extent of man-made impervious cover across the world and is a binary classification (HBASE/non-HBASE) with associated probability estimates of class membership. This dataset and its companion dataset GMIS are available for open public download from NASA SEDAC: https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/set/ulandsat-hbase-v1

Population datasets:

- **Global Human Settlement population** (GHS-POP): it uses the GHS-BU layer to make a spatial prediction of population census data: https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data.php
- **WorldPop**: open access archive of spatial demographic datasets for Central and South America, Africa and Asia: http://www.worldpop.org.uk/
- **Gridded Population of the World**: The Gridded Population of the World (GPW) models the distribution of human population (counts and densities) on a continuous global raster surface (~1 km resolution). GPW is developed and maintained by CIESIN: https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/gpw-v4

	• **High Resolution Settlement Layer (population estimate)**: Estimates of human population distribution (number of persons and extent of settlements) at a resolution of 1 arc-second (approximately 30m) for the year 2015. The population estimates are based on recent census data and the high-resolution settlement extent developed by the Connectivity Lab at Facebook (cf. High Resolution Settlement Layer (built-up area)). CIESIN used proportional allocation to distribute population data from subnational census data to the settlement extents. The population data have been developed for 33 countries. https://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/hrsl/ The Metadata also makes reference to UN DESA population data. It is important to mention the fact that census data should be readily available from national statistical offices (NSOs), although the level of disaggregation may vary from country to country. In this regard, EO can provide support for disaggregating population data.
Platforms and Tools	There are several online platforms and tools that provide options and support for accessing or deriving various inputs for computation of indicator 11.3.1. • **The Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements:** On February 25, 2021, the Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG) initiative and UN Habitat launched the _Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements_ at the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission. The Toolkit (https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org) is a collaborative effort that improves countries' and cities' capacity on, and makes more accessible, Earth science resources related to SDG 11 indicators. It involves contributions from over 40 organizations, and contains resources, such as data, tools, use cases and learning opportunities, that are related to four primary thematic areas: adequate housing, open spaces, access to public transport and spatial urbanization. It is part of the global urban monitoring framework that UN Habitat designed for monitoring SDGs and other city objectives such as inclusiveness, resilience and safety. Read also UN Habitat's report to the UN Statistical Commission during its 53rd session in March 2022. • **Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL)** is a framework that provide new spatial data mining technologies for the automatic processing, analytics and knowledge extraction from large amount of heterogeneous spatial data. Amongst others these tools provide users with options to map built-up areas from remote sensing data as well as estimating the land use efficiency from the GHSL and in support of measuring SDG 11.3.1: https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/tools.php • **Trends.Earth** is an online platform from Conservation International (CI) and NASA for monitoring land change using earth observations in an innovative desktop and cloud-based system. Amongst others, Trends.Earth Urban Mapper allow users to produce built-up area maps at selected time steps using a combination of the full Landsat archive between 1997 and 2019, and the GMIS dataset (Brown de Colstoun et al 2017). Trends.Earth computes a series of impervious surface indices globally available at 30m resolution to inform on urban extent for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015. Combined with user input and population data, the tool computes SDG 11.3.1 both in the form of maps and tables for ease of interpretation and reporting. https://geflanddegradation.users.earthengine.app/view/trendsearth-urban-mapper • The **Urban Thematic Exploitation Platform** (U-TEP) presents a web-based platform that allows users to effectively utilize Earth Observation (EO) imagery and existing auxiliary data (e.g., geo-data, statistics) to measure and assess key properties of the urban environment and monitor the past and future spatiotemporal development of settlements. In particular it is worth mentioning that U-TEP offers dedicated tool for SDG 11.3.1 monitoring and reporting based on the WSF global datasets: https://urban-tep.eu/puma/tool/

	• The **POPGRID** Data Collaborative aims to bring together and expand the international community of data providers, users, and sponsors concerned with georeferenced data on population, human settlements and infrastructure. Such data can help improve access to public and private services, increase the sustainability of natural resources, and facilitate progress towards meeting the internationally accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): https://www.popgrid.org/home
International Initiatives	**GEO Human Planet Initiative (HPI)** is committed to developing a new generation of measurements and information products that provide novel evidence-based assessment of the human presence on the planet Earth. The Human Planet leverages on advances of Earth Observation technologies and geo-spatial data analytics for improving the global awareness on the spatial patterns and processes of the today's urbanizing world. The GHI core partners include Joint Research Center (JRC), Global Human Settlement Layer project (GHSL), the University of Southampton WorldPop project, and the Columbia University, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) but all together more than 150 individual scientists and policy makers belonging to 85 different organizations are involved: https://www.earthobservations.org/activity.php?id=119 **GEO Global Urban Observation and Information (GUOI)** intends to improve urban monitoring and assessment through international cooperation and collaboration, to provide datasets, information, technologies to pertinent urban users (World Bank, UN, and planning and environmental management agencies, especially in developing countries), and to support UN SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This Initiative will generate various data products of global urban areas using Earth Observation (EO) data, provide EO-based urban data services through various systems and tools, develop new models and algorithms to detect, assess, monitor, and model urban areas and environments, create new knowledge to fill the gaps in the integration of EO and other datasets for a better understanding of cities and develop essential urban variables and indicators for sustainable cities: https://www.earthobservations.org/activity.php?id=125 **Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG)** is an international initiative from the Group on Earth Observations that organizes the potential of EO to advance the *2030 Agenda* and enable societal benefits through achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative's goals include demonstrating practical EO data uses, building capacity, promoting data access, and supporting country and stakeholder adoption of EO for SDG implementation, monitoring, and reporting. In 2020, EO4SDG collaborated with UN Habitat, the GEO Human Planet and GUOI initiatives, and over 40 organizations across regions to develop the *Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*. The Toolkit (https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org) is a collaborative effort that improves countries' and cities' capacity on, and makes more accessible, Earth science resources related to SDG 11 indicators and the New Urban Agenda.
EO-based Monitoring Methodology	

Step-by-Step guide for EO integration into SDG indicator framework	The Metadata on SDG Indicator 11.3.1 (version: March 2021) outlines in detail the current method of computation including a section on data sources and collection. The latter explicitly mentions satellite data as a key information source to be incorporated into the reporting framework: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-03-01.pdf. Some key questions that countries can consider before integrating EO into the 11.3.1 indicator reporting are the following: Do the freely available products meet requirements in terms of spatial resolution, frequency, continuity, period of interest and accuracy? Is in-house capability available and adequate? Is training needed? Are local and international resources required? The relevance of these questions is exemplified below in the outline of the basic steps that need to be followed by users who wish to integrate EO for estimation of indicator 11.3.1. **STEP 1: Get data** As a first step, users need to verify whether the public domain datasets are representative of the reporting period as well as consider the need and availability of more precise datasets. If the public domain datasets are considered inadequate users, have the option to acquire new EO imagery and census data to generate updated information on urban extent and population density. Typically, census data will be obtained through the NSO while users who wish to acquire new EO imagery to generate updated information on urban extent can choose between openly available imagery (e.g, Landsat and Sentinel) and commercial high-resolution imagery – or a combination of both. Users can leverage the Earth Oservations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements resources (e.g., data products, tools, training resources) to easily find and access data of interest to compute indicator 11.3.1. **STEP 2: Process data** Although built-up and/or impervious surface mapping is an established field within Earth Observation applications, classification approaches tend to vary according to the sensors used and the objectives and scale of each study. In most cases, however, the acquired input data is subject to standard pre-processing routines for orthorectification, atmospheric correction and, if relevant, topographic normalization. The mapping itself is typically done using either pixel or object-based image classification based on multi-sensor EO data (e.g. Sentinel-1 and -2) and using spectral, textural and/or contextual features to classify the extent of the built-up and non-built up impervious areas. It is recommended that outputs are subject to manual post-processing for refinement and quality control. Additional processing is also needed to convert the built-up area into a map of the urban extent which apart from the built-up area also includes the urbanized open space. This process of urban agglomeration can be implemented using simple visual interpretation or automatic geospatial techniques. The thematic accuracy can be expected to be around 90% but deviation can occur depending on the character of the urban landscape. For this indicator, it is recommended to consider analysis periods with intervals of 5 or more years. Based on pilots undertaken by UN-Habitat, shorter time intervals do not produce significantly different results, unless such analysis is undertaken using high resolution (and often costly) satellite imagery. It is recommended, but not required, to explore the Landsat archive for historic analysis to better understand urban growth trends and how these affect sustainable development. Once the urban extent has been defined, users need to estimate how many people live within those areas. In the absence of high-resolution population data from the NSO, users need to rely on gridded population data. As gridded population data normally come in a much coarser scale than the urban extent map, users should resample the population grids using the urban extent map as the weighting factor so non-urban areas will have less weight than the urban areas.

	Access a summary of key characteristics of gridded population data sets provided by the POPGRID Data Collaborative: https://www.popgrid.org/data-docs-table1 **STEP 3: Validate the results** Validation is defined as the process of establishing documented evidence to provide a high degree of assurance that a specific process will consistently generate a product meeting its predetermined specification and quality attributes. Validation is important for any application of Earth Observation as it establishes the expected accuracy and uncertainties of a derived product and hence its credibility for an intended usage. Validation should adhere to a set of fundamental requirements, including: **independence**, i.e. only using data and experts which have not been part of the data set production; **timeliness**, i.e. only using reference data which are timely and frequent enough to evaluate the accuracy of a given product; and **validity**, i.e. always using reference data with a higher quality than those used for the data set production. As the number of pixels and/or objects in EO maps is too large to be surveyed in its entirety, the most popular data validation methods relies on sampling. The sampling needs to be carefully designed to ensure statistical validity, yet still accommodating practical realities in terms of cost and time constraints. Various probability sampling designs are suitable to assess the accuracy of maps. The most commonly used are based on simple random, stratified random, and systematic selection of sampling units. No single sampling design can serve as a universally appropriate design; however, stratified random sampling is a practical and cost-efficient design that satisfies the basic accuracy assessment objectives and most of the desirable design criteria. Stratified random sampling affords the option to increase the sample size in classes and/or regions that occupy a small proportion of area to reduce the standard errors of the class/region-specific accuracy estimates for these rare occurrences. A further advantage of stratified random sampling is also the ability to augment a sample when new data or updates become available without compromising the statistical rigor. Independent, timely and valid sample data is typically gathered from field observations and/or from higher resolution imagery acquired by satellite, flight or drone-borne sensors. In all cases the urban vs. non-urban margin can easily be interpreted and it is the general expectation that the validation of built-up areas and the derived urban extent maps against such reference data should return a classification accuracy of 90%.
Recommendations for implementation	
Activities	• Leverage the [Earth Oservations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements]() resources (e.g., data products, tools, use cases, training resources) to easily find and access available data and EO-processing tools of interest to compute indicator 11.3.1. • Evaluate the usefulness of global public domain datasets and tools for national reporting. This could be done for a few selected countries where SDG 11.3.1 has already been estimated with good quality, high resolution input layers that can act as a reference. • Implement a few country studies where SDG 11.3.1 is estimated by taking full advantage of the Landsat and Sentinel imagery for temporal mapping of built-up and non-built-up impervious areas and estimation of urban extent. Leverage national census data to assess the population growth rate, and combine the two to calculate 11.3.1. • Run processing tests and prepare a design document that details the computing and data storage requirements for countries who wish to take advantage of timeseries of Landsat, Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 data for SDG 11.3.1 estimation and reporting. The design document could also detail how similar resources could be requested though well-established data infrastructures or cloud platforms.

Timeframes	**Indicator timeframe considerations:** • According to the latest metadata, It is anticipated that countries can report consistently in 5-year intervals, allowing for three reporting points until the year 2030. **EO timeframe considerations:** • Technology is mature and EO services already established and in use.
References	
Indicator background	• Indicator 11.3.1 Metadata (March 2021): https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-11-03-01.pdf • Indicators and a Monitoring Framework: Launching a data revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals: http://indicators.report/indicators/i-68/ • 2016 Atlas of urban expansion report https://www.lincolninst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/atlas-of-urban-expansion-2016-volume-1-full.pdf • Indicator 11.3.1 Support Sheet (One-Pager): https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org/pages/eo-guidance-document
Publications	• Corbane, C., Politis, P., Siragusa, A., Kemper, T. and Pesaresi, M., LUE User Guide: A tool to calculate the Land Use Efficiency and the SDG 11.3 indicator with the Global Human Settlement Layer, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017, ISBN 978-92-79-73631-5 (print); 978-92-79- 73630-8 (pdf), doi:10.2760/16919 (print), 10.2760/212689 (pdf), JRC108026 • Esch, T., Bachofer, F., Heldens, W., Hirner, A., Marconcini, M., Palacios-Lopez, D., ... & Gorelick, N. (2018). Where we live—A summary of the achievements and planned evolution of the global urban footprint. Remote Sensing, 10(6), 895. • Gallery, M., & Sensing, R. Gridded Population of the World (GPW) v4. • Pesaresi et al. 2016. Atlas of the Human Planet - Mapping Human Presence on Earth with the Global Human Settlement Layer https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/atlas-human-planet-mapping-human-presence-earth-global-human-settlement-layer
Trainings	• ARSET-Remote Sensing For Monitoring Land Degradation and Sustainable Cities (SDG) • ARSET-Introduction to Population Grids and their Integration with Remote Sensing Data for Sustainable Development and Disaster Management • ARSET - Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements
EO technical sites	• Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements: https://eotoolkit.unhabitat.org • Atlas of Urban Expansion: http://www.atlasofurbanexpansion.org/ • Data and Information Access Services: https://www.copernicus.eu/en/access-data/dias • Earth Explorer: https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/

	• Global Human Settlement Built-up (GHS BU): https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data.php • Global Human Settlement population (GHS-POP): https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/data.php • Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL): https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/tools.php • Global Urban Footprint (GUF): https://www.dlr.de/eoc/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-9628/16557_read-40454/ • Gridded Population of the world: https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/gpw-v4 • High Resolution Settlement Layer: https://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/hrsl/ • POPGRID: https://www.popgrid.org/home • The Urban Thematic Exploitation Platform (U-TEP): https://urban-tep.eu/puma/tool/ • Trends.Earth Urban Mapper: cf. https://geflanddegradation.users.earthengine.app/view/trendsearth-urban-mapper • WorldPop: http://www.worldpop.org.uk/ • World Settlement Footprint 2015 (WSF-2015): https://urban-tep.eu/puma/tool/?id=574795484&lang=en • UN DESA population data: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/database/index.shtml