

Belgium

National Geographic Institute of Belgium

Enhancing climate risk assessment through geospatial collaboration

“Everything happens somewhere. Geodata enable us not only to understand the spatial dimensions of climate change, but also to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies that increase a country’s resilience. Thanks to our collaboration with CERAC, the indispensable role of geospatial data is being fully exploited to tackle climate challenges and build resilience, and thus a more secure future for Belgium.”

Ingrid Vanden Berghe
Administrator General, National
Geographic Institute of Belgium

A partnership between Belgium’s National Geographic Institute (NGI) and the newly established Climate Risk Assessment Center (CERAC) is delivering geospatial expertise and critical reports on biodiversity loss and wildfire risks. The collaboration is equipping CERAC to better evaluate Belgium’s exposure and vulnerability to climate and environment hazards in the middle and long term.

NGI started by conducting a comprehensive geodata needs assessment and benchmarking CERAC’s practices against those of similar organisations in the UK and Germany. To enhance CERAC’s capacity, NGI provided tailored training on geospatial tools, such as QGIS and GeoHub, empowering staff with essential skills. Advanced mapping materials were developed to visualise the results of CERAC’s internal analysis projects, ensuring these findings are accessible and impactful for both policymakers and the public.

In the second half of 2024, NGI produced two pivotal reports addressing important Belgium climate and environment risks. The first, a pre-analysis of literature on the risks associated with biodiversity loss, serves as a baseline reference for CERAC’s First Risk Assessment. The second report, initiated at the suggestion of the National Crisis Center, examines the growing risk of wildfires in Belgium – a challenge that is expected to grow significantly over the next decade due to climate change.



Visit the website:
<https://www.cerac.be>



Benefits

- **Strategic leadership:** Reinforced NGI’s position as Belgium’s federal geobroker and a key contributor to national climate resilience, safety and security.
- **Collaboration foundation:** Laid the groundwork for a Memorandum of Understanding to extend the partnership beyond 2024, making sure that Climate Risk Assessments in Belgium do not lack essential geospatial information
- **Effective communication:** Use of advanced maps and visualisations to clearly convey complex risk analyses to diverse audiences, ensuring the findings resonate with both experts and non-experts.
- **Strengthened policy-making and public awareness:** Provided actionable insights and accessible tools, including impactful visualisations, to enable the National Security Council, policymakers, and the public to better understand and anticipate climate risks.
- **Enhanced preparedness:** Delivered reports addressing biodiversity loss and future wildfire risks to guide long-term strategies.
- **Capacity building:** Trained CERAC staff in geospatial tools, enhancing their analytical capabilities.