

# Environmental Geodesign at Rio+20

Esri is to take part in several side events at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The conference will be held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Esri will explain and promote the concept of geodesign, a design framework and the supporting technology for designing more sustainable cities.

The participation is realised by special invitation from the European Environment Agency (EEA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the US Department of State. Esri president Jack Dangermond said that providing solutions that support sustainable development has been at the forefront of Esri software development.

At Rio+20, world leaders will write a focused political document renewing their commitment to sustainable development. In the days before this conference, thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, civil society, and intergovernmental organisations will attend side events and sessions to learn about sustainable themes and technologies.

During this time, a team from Esri will present the value of GIS for making place-based decisions. At the [EEA side event](#), Esri's global affairs team lead, Carmelle Terborgh, PhD, will provide examples showing how the information technology industry is ensuring increased access to information for all.

Terborgh will join representatives of the USDA, the US Department of State, and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to present My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE). This partnership programme encourages and supports geographic learning for sustainable development. The Esri team will show Change Matters, a web mapping service that follows US government open data sharing policies. Esri will also demonstrate its cloud-based mapping service [ArcGIS Online](#) at the US Centre pavilion demonstration alley.

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