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Wrap-up and final discussion

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First things first: the special issue

- Special Issue „Remote Sensing and GIS for Monitoring Habitat Quality“ (theme of the conference but open to external contributions)
- In the journal Remote Sensing
 - Gold **Open Access** (publication fee, free to read online)
 - Impact Factor **2.612**
 - Rapid publication: mean time from submission to article published online: 52 days (!)
- Option to publish some „feature papers“ free of charge
 - Based on decision of the guest editorial board
- Submission deadline: **30 November 2014**

Summary and conclusions

- Users want Remote Sensing and GIS products in HQ monitoring (repeatability, area coverage, rapid response, quantified accuracy)
- Conceptual work has to be done and is in progress (ecology and geoinformation science have to reach a common understanding, together with policy)
- The first studies bridging the whole process from raw sensor data to habitat quality are already there
- New sensors and new applications are being pioneered
 - Aquatic systems
 - Grasslands
 - Multiple habitats within a landscape
 - Etc.
- Remote sensing and GIS can bring a new perspective to HQ monitoring
- Important to link ecologists, RS/GIS scientists, government and industry stakeholders

A few questions to consider

- Is environmental policy ready for the capabilities of RS? (legal implications, quantitative studies, multi-scale approach)
- How can we best exploit the synergies of field and RS mapping?
- How to ensure that our studies make their way into operational application
 - RS/GIS Methodological study → Mapping study for scientific purposes → Environmental Impact Assessment → Regional-scale habitat inventory → National monitoring scheme (N2000) → International monitoring scheme (IPBES)
- Can Remote Sensing move beyond Land Cover?
- Can we initiate the „quantitative revolution“ in HQ mapping
- Where do we meet next?