



GEIDA FOUNDATION TRAINING · HANDS-ON

Exercise 1 — From Boundary to First Report

Draw a project boundary in Google Earth, export it as KML, and generate your first EO report in the eToolkit

Islamic Development Bank × Terra / Expo City Dubai

Two steps, one deliverable



STEP 1 · GOOGLE EARTH (WEB)

Create the boundary

- Create a new project
- Draw your area of interest as a polygon
- Export the project as a KML file



STEP 2 · GEIDA ETOOLKIT

Generate the report

- Upload the KML boundary
- Select country, theme and project phase
- Run and review your first EO report



≈ 45 minutes



Laptop + Chrome or
Edge



Internet connection



Google account +
eToolkit login

STEP 1 OF 2

Create your boundary in Google Earth (web)

earth.google.com — no installation needed

Create a new project

1

Open earth.google.com and sign in

Use Chrome or Edge; sign in with a Google account

2

Open the Projects panel

Click the map-pin “Projects” icon in the left toolbar

3

Click “New project”

Choose “Create project in Google Drive” (or a local KML file)

4

Name it clearly

e.g. Exercise1_<YourName>_<Area> — names travel into the KML

[Insert screenshot]

Google Earth web — Projects panel with “New project” button

Tip: If “Create in Drive” is blocked by your account, choose the local KML file option — both work for this exercise.

Find your area of interest

1

Search for your location

Use the search tool: a district, town or landmark you know

2

Zoom to a sensible extent

Your whole intended boundary should fit on screen

3

Explore the area briefly

Identify the features that will guide your boundary

4

Pick a realistic AOI size

A district, command area or corridor — not a whole country

[Insert screenshot]

Google Earth web — search box and navigation controls, zoomed to a district

Tip: Choose an area you know personally — you will interpret its EO report much better in Step 2.

Draw the boundary polygon

1

Open the drawing tool

Click the pencil icon: “Add path or polygon”

2

Click to place vertices

Follow visible features; work your way around the area

3

Close the polygon

Click back on the first vertex to close the shape

4

Save to your project

Give the feature a clear name, e.g. “AOI — <Area name>”

[Insert screenshot]

Google Earth web — polygon being drawn with the “Add path or polygon” tool

Tip: 10–30 vertices is plenty. Follow real features (roads, rivers, ridgelines) — do not chase pixel-perfect edges.

Export the project as KML

1

Open the project menu

Click the three-dot : menu on your project

2

Choose “Export as KML file”

The file downloads to your Downloads folder

3

Check the file

It should end in .kml and be small (a few KB)

4

Keep it findable

You upload this exact file in Step 2

[Insert screenshot]

Google Earth web — project : menu with “Export as KML file” highlighted

Tip: KML, not KMZ: if you receive a .kmz, export again choosing the KML option, or note it for the troubleshooting slide.

STEP 2 OF 2

Upload the boundary and run your report in the eToolkit

[Insert eToolkit URL] — sign in with your IsDB credentials

Upload your KML boundary

1

Open the eToolkit and sign in

[Insert eToolkit URL] — use your IsDB account

2

Choose “Upload area of interest”

Select the upload option on the AOI step

3

Select your KML file

The one exported from Google Earth in Step 1

4

Confirm the boundary on the map

Your polygon should appear exactly where you drew it

[Insert screenshot]

*eToolkit — AOI step with upload option and boundary
rendered on the map*

Tip: If the polygon lands in the wrong place or nothing appears, jump to the troubleshooting slide — it is usually the KMZ issue.

Select country, theme and phase

1

Select the country

The Member Country containing your AOI

2

Select the theme

e.g. agriculture, water, or the sector closest to your work

3

Select the project phase

Pick the stage this report would support (e.g. PCN or PAD/RRM)

4

Review your selections

These choices shape which layers the report includes

[Insert screenshot]

eToolkit — country / theme / phase selection screen

Tip: Remember the morning: the phase you pick mirrors the project cycle — a PCN screen and a PCR comparison ask different questions.

Run the report and review the layers

1

Click “Generate report”

Processing takes a short while — watch the progress

2

Review each section

LULC, rainfall, ET / vegetation and climate layers for your AOI

3

Sanity-check with local knowledge

Does the land cover match what you know is there?

4

Export / save the report

Keep it — we discuss everyone’s results together

[Insert screenshot]

eToolkit — generated report with LULC, rainfall and vegetation sections

Tip: The sanity check is the analyst’s habit: never accept an output for an area you know without asking whether it looks right.

Troubleshooting



Exported a .kmz instead of .kml

Export again and choose the KML option; or rename to .zip, extract, and use the doc.kml inside

Polygon does not appear in the eToolkit

Check the file is the one you exported; confirm the polygon was saved into the project before export

Drew a line instead of a closed polygon

Return to Google Earth, click the shape, continue clicking vertices and close on the first point

Boundary appears in the wrong location

You may have drawn while the globe was rotated — redraw with north-up view

Report takes very long

Your AOI may be very large — redraw a smaller, district-scale boundary

Cannot sign in to the eToolkit

Raise your hand — a trainer will check your account access

Your Exercise 1 checklist



A named project exists in Google Earth



A closed boundary polygon is drawn and saved



The project is exported as a .kml file



The KML is uploaded and visible in the eToolkit



Country, theme and project phase are selected



The report is generated, reviewed and saved



Done early?

Draw a second AOI of a different shape (a corridor, a catchment) and compare the two reports.

WHAT YOU JUST DID

You spatialised a project

Location



Boundary (KML)



Spatial layers



First EO report

The same transformation chain from this morning — done by you, in under an hour, with no code. In the next exercises, this boundary becomes a baseline, a monitoring layer, and a document-ready map.