



Project Centinela

Digital Public Good for Vulnerable Biodiversity Hotspots



October 1, 2024

CENTINELA RANGE, ECUADOR

You can't fix  
what you can't see.





## PLANET'S MISSION

To image the whole world every day and make global change **visible, accessible, and actionable.**

## Our Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) Purpose:

To accelerate humanity toward a more sustainable, secure, and prosperous world by illuminating environmental and social change.



## Planet Dove Satellite



- Always-on, broad-area monitoring
- 3 meter resolution
- 8 spectral bands

## Planet Dove Constellation

-98° Sun-Synchronous Orbit

## Planet SkySat Satellite



- Custom, targeted monitoring
- 50 centimeter resolution
- RGB, NIR, and Pan bands

## Planet SkySat Constellation

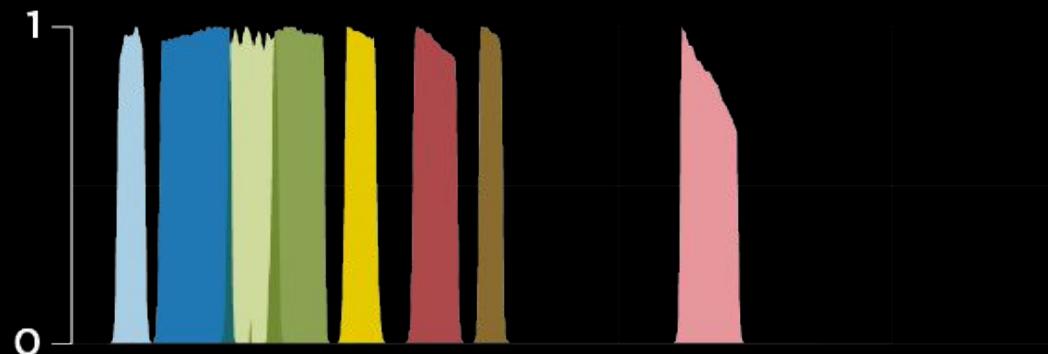
SkySats 1-15  
-98° Sun-Synchronous Orbit

SkySats 16-21  
-53° Inclined Orbit

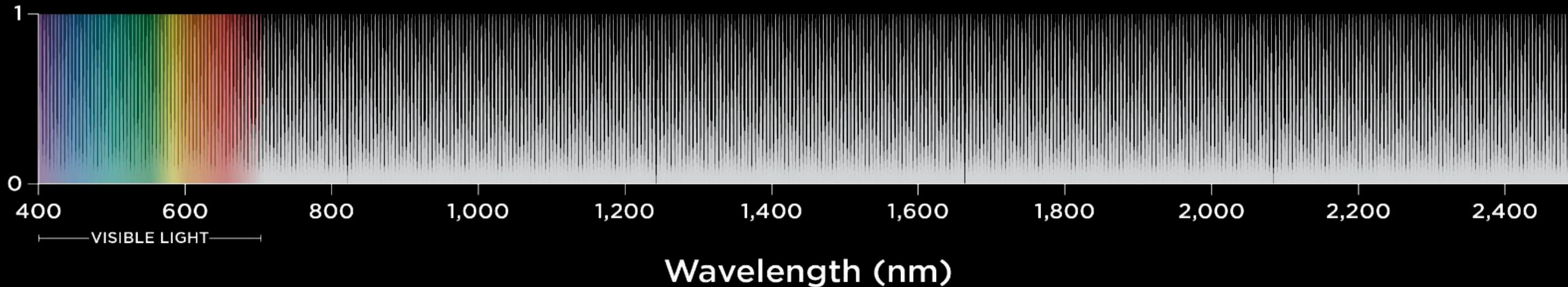


# Tanager: high-fidelity hyperspectral for biodiversity

**SuperDove:** 8 Spectral Bands (near-daily scan)



**Tanager:** 420+ Spectral Bands (tasked monitoring)



For spectral range comparison purposes only – sensor does not provide uniform response across spectrum.

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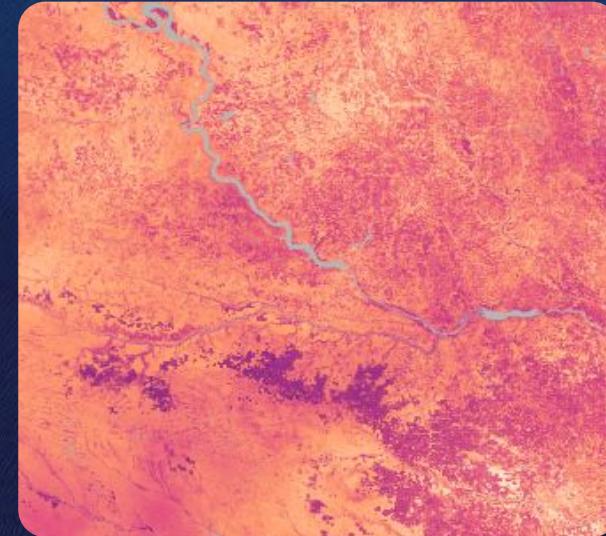


# Planetary Variables

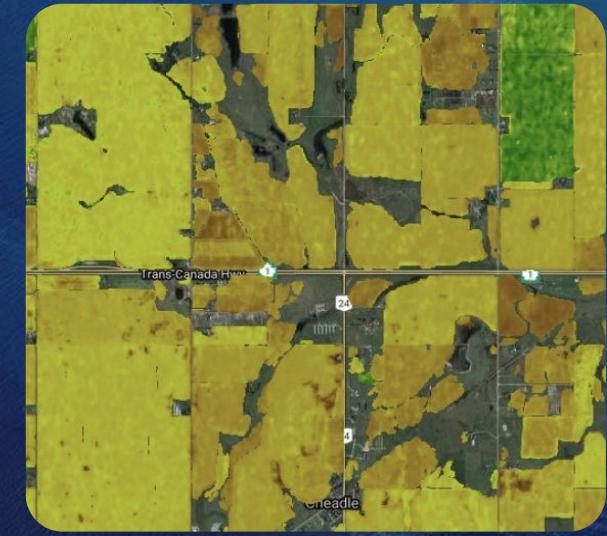
AI-powered, validated models of Earth's changing surface



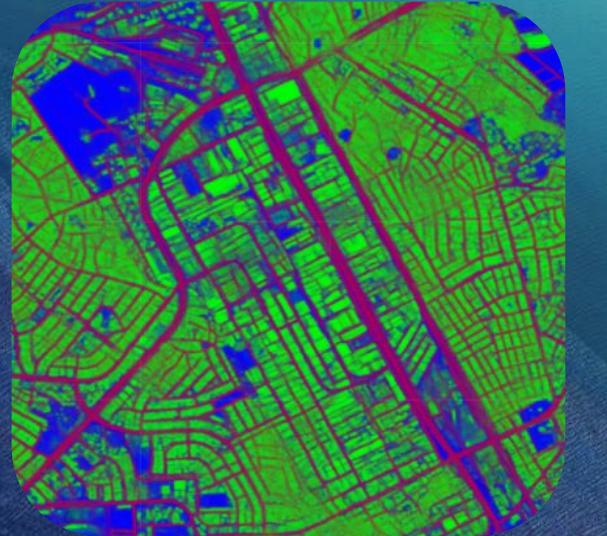
 **SOIL WATER CONTENT**



 **LAND SURFACE TEMP**



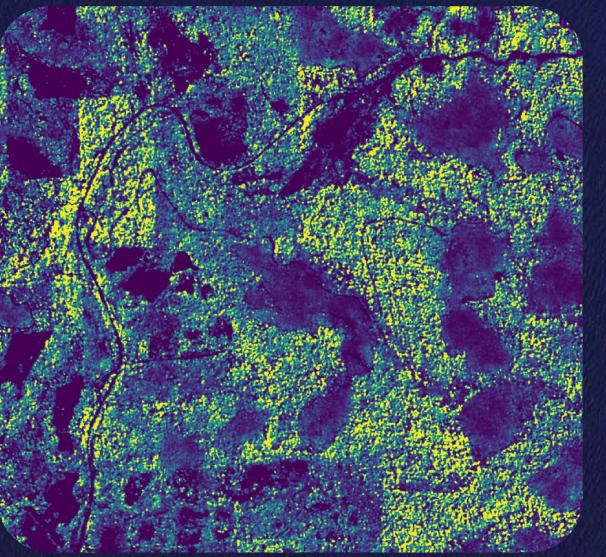
 **CROP BIOMASS**



 **ROADS & BUILDINGS**



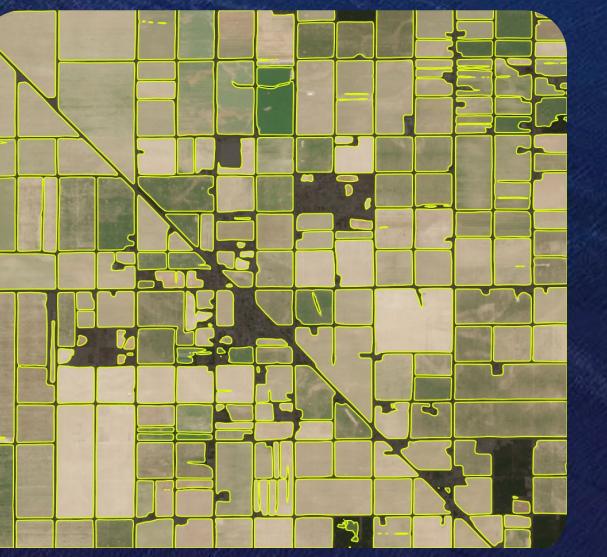
 **FOREST STRUCTURE**



 **FOREST CARBON**



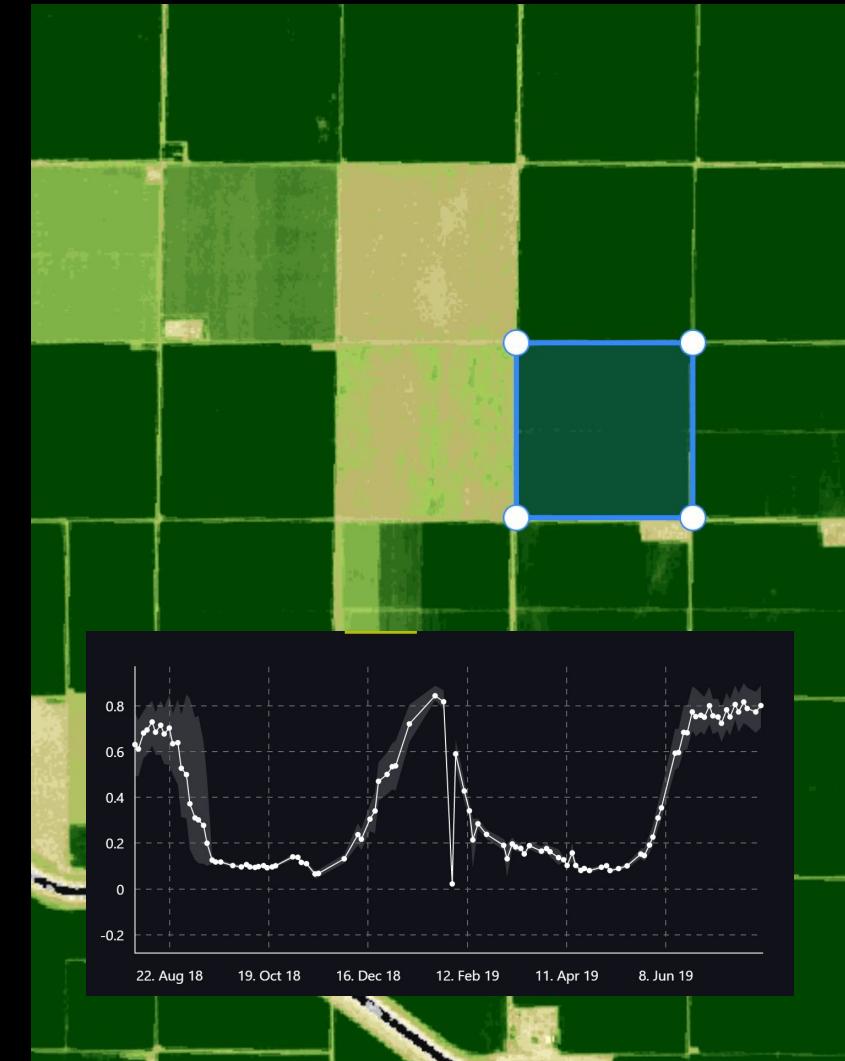
 **VEGETATION ENCROACHMENT**



 **FIELD BOUNDARIES**



# Planet Solutions



## Monitoring

Planetscope 3.7m imagery  
Updated on a near-daily basis

## Tasking

SkySat imagery tasking with  
rapid intraday revisit capability

## Planetary Variables

Measurements of phenomena  
on the Earth's surface

## Platform

API-first cloud platform to extract  
insights from imagery at scale



# Looking Deeper

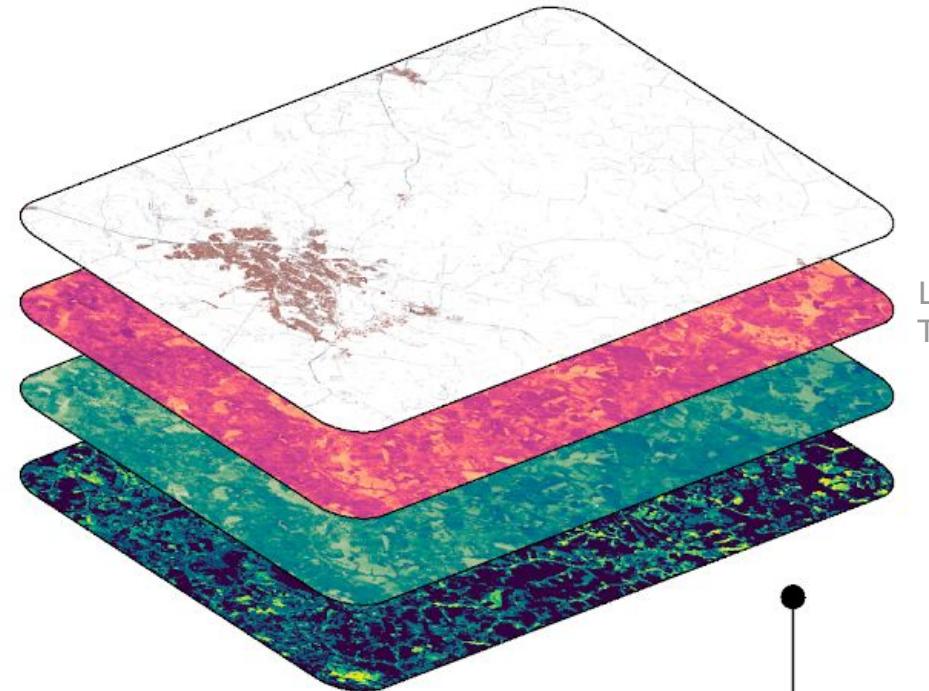
Planetary Variables and Analytics measure phenomenon and classify objects

Road and Building Detection

Soil Water Content

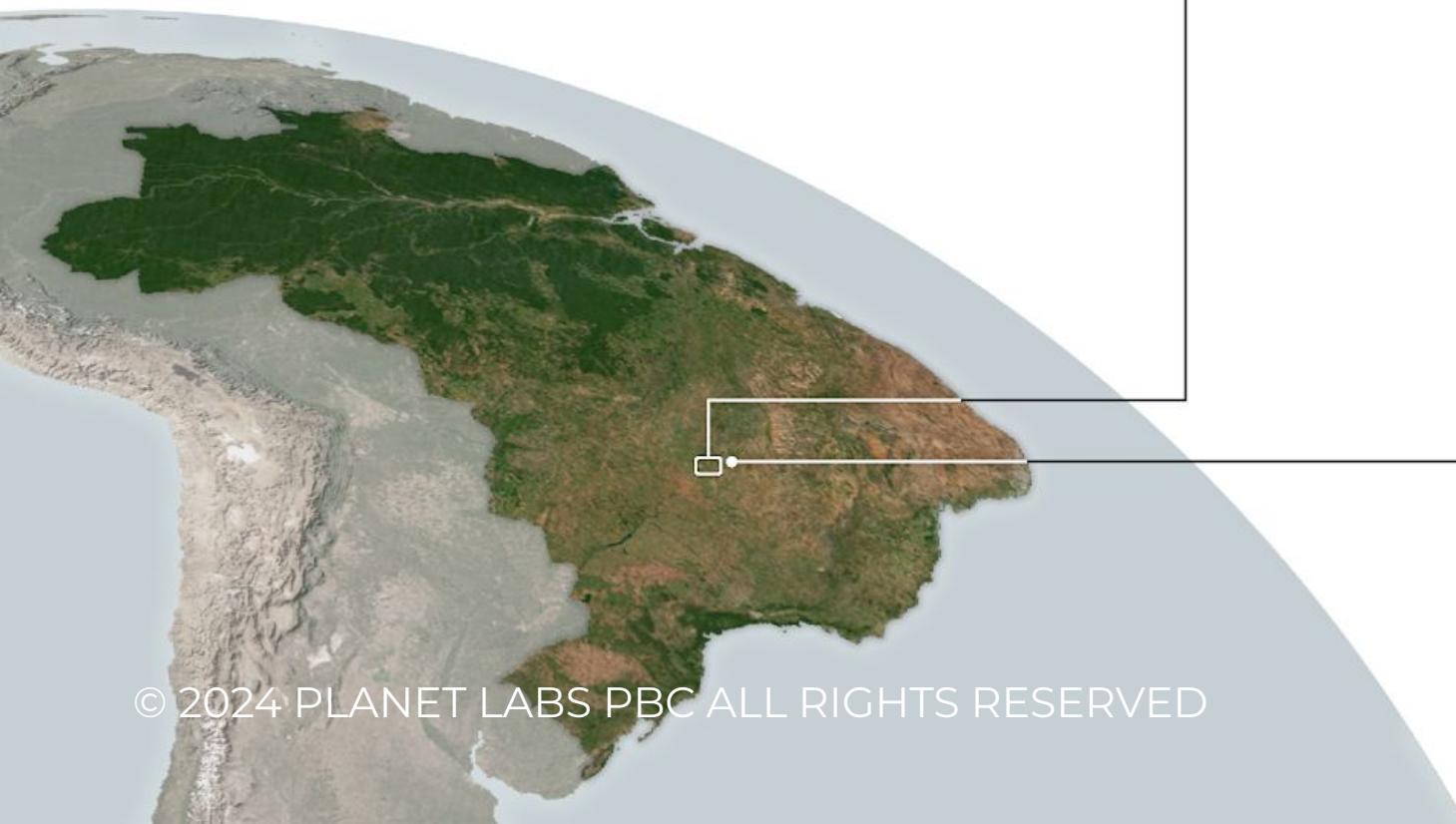
Land Surface Temperature

Forest Carbon



# Looking Broader

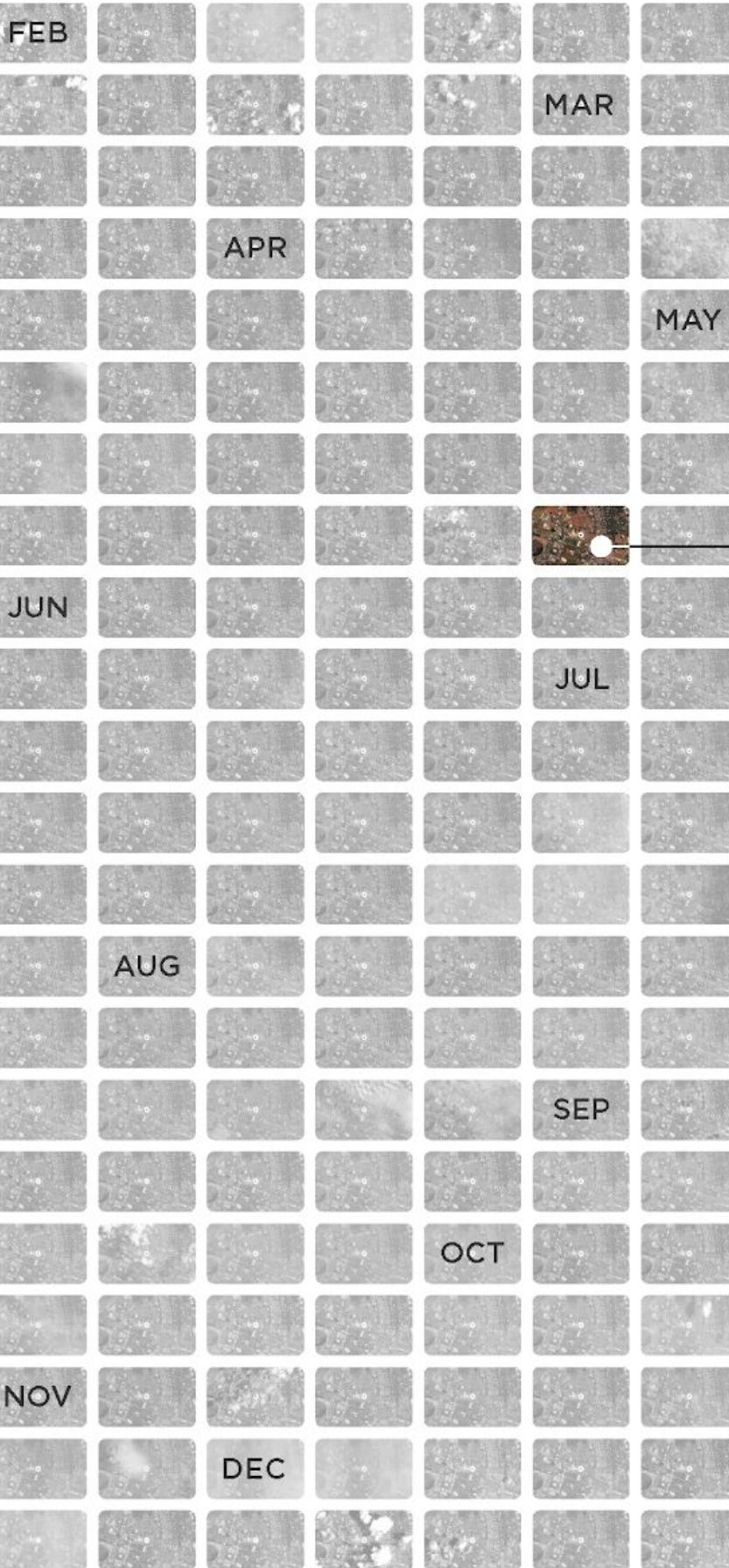
A daily scan of Earth's landmass and Strategic waterways



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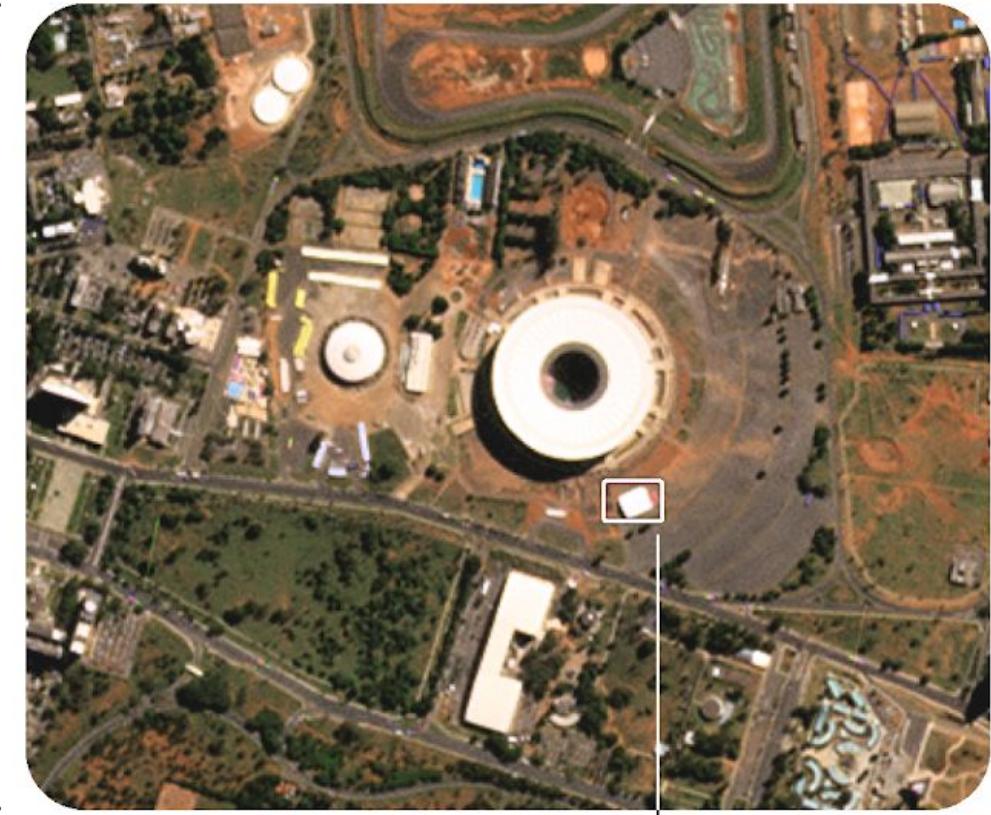
# Looking Back

An extensive archive provides a view backwards in time



# Looking Closer

Automated Change Detection identifies relevant, timely change across broad areas



Nuanced decision-making with high-resolution imagery



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# Planet Purpose Programs

## Focal areas

### BIODIVERSITY



### FORESTS



### SCIENCE



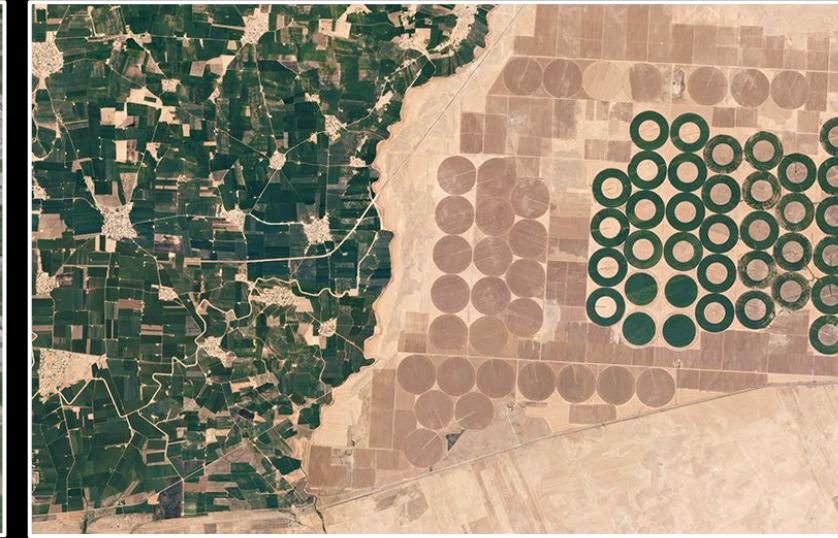
### CLIMATE



### CRISIS RESPONSE



### FOOD SECURITY

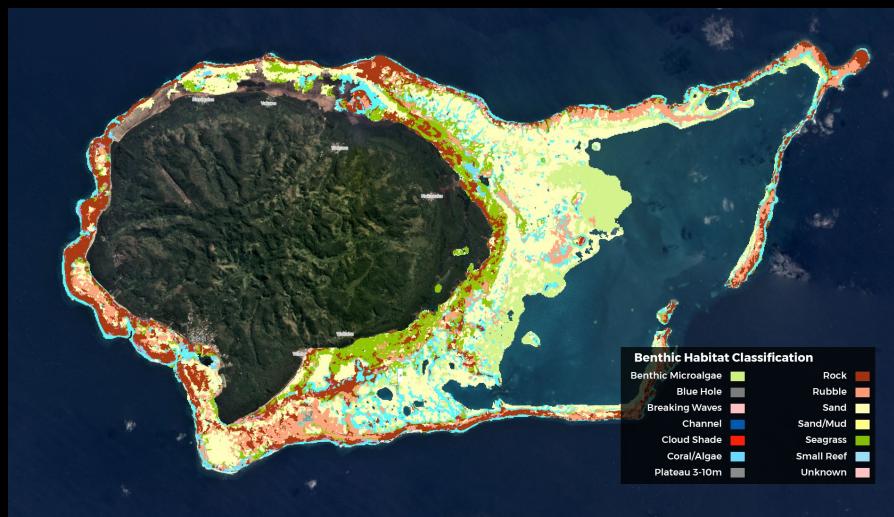




# Planet Purpose Programs

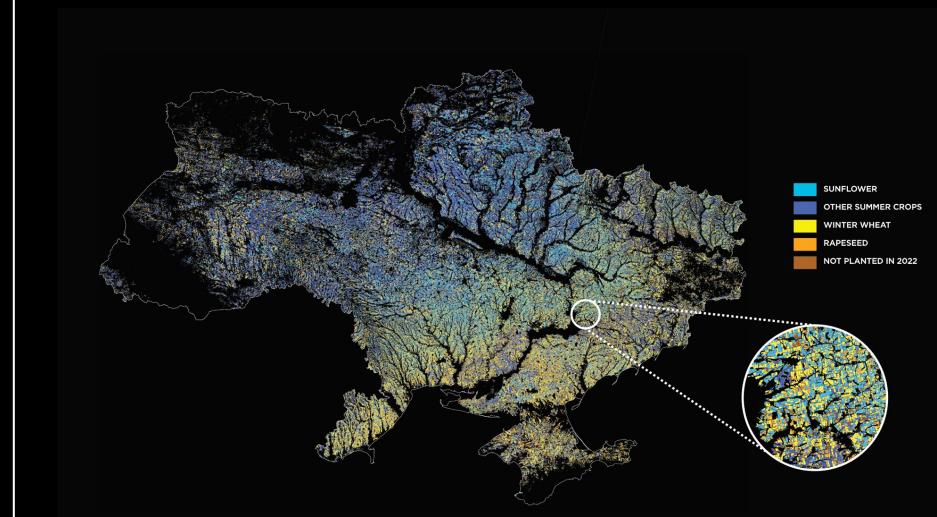
## Digital Public Goods

### OCEAN CONSERVATION



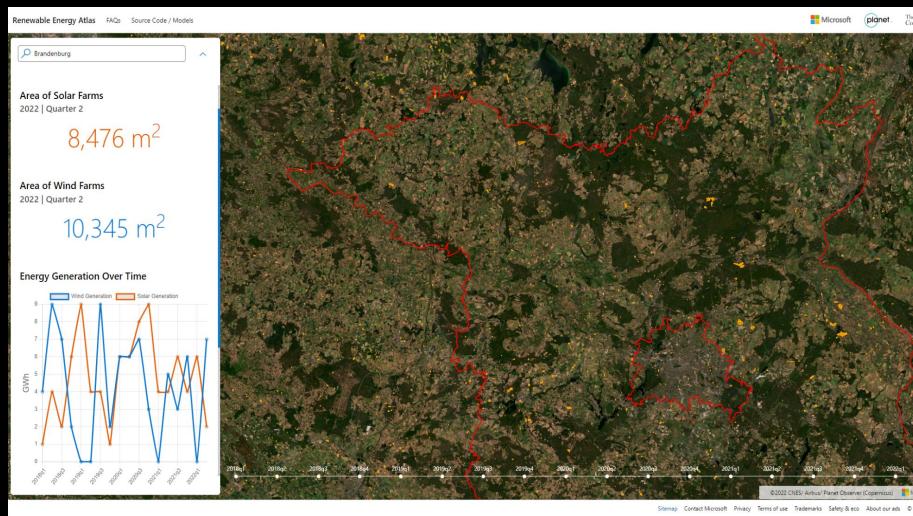
ALLEN CORAL ATLAS

### FOOD SECURITY



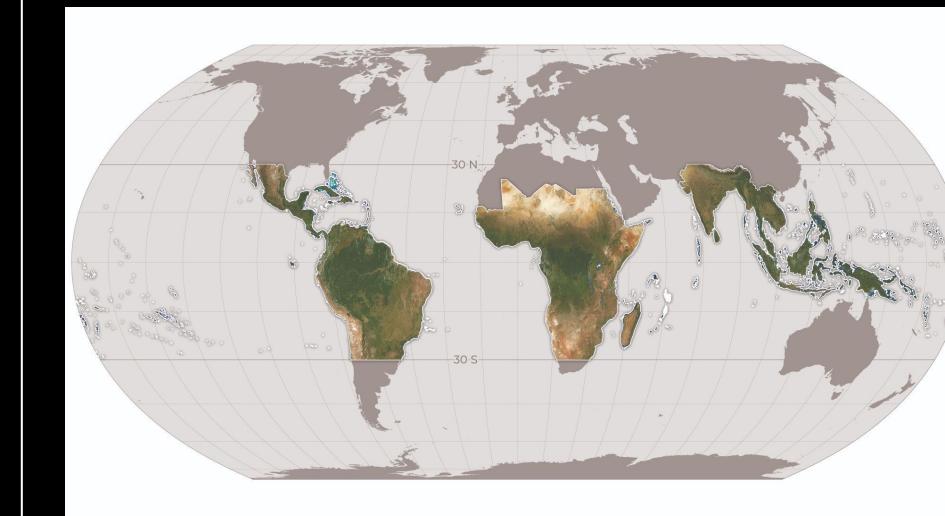
FOOD SECURITY &  
AGRICULTURAL MONITORING  
SOLUTION

### RENEWABLE ENERGY



GLOBAL RENEWABLES WATCH

### FOREST & LAND USE



AIRBUS

NICFI SATELLITE DATA  
PROGRAM



Introducing our newest  
Digital Public Good

# PROJECT CENTINELA

Southern Centinela Range · Ecuador · April 29, 2023





# *Gasteranthus extinctus*

The world's Centinela moment





# Conservation Imperatives



- Unprotected species rarity sites
- Forested habitat
- Non-forested habitat
- Non-habitat



# Why Project Centinela?

1. Help achieve Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 2030 Targets
2. Fast-track knowledge about ecosystems and biodiversity to forestall the most likely extinctions and extirpations
3. Put high-tech data and insights into the hands of those on the frontlines of conservation
4. Engage a community of biodiversity-focused Planet users
5. Help make conservation actions faster, smarter, and more sustainable



# Project Centinela

Open applications for the places that need it most

**For up to 50 vulnerable biodiversity hotspots**

Evaluation criteria for sites with richness, rarity and risk:

- High conservation value
  - using a recognized approach like KBA, World Heritage Site
- Risk to biodiversity
  - e.g. habitat destruction, overexploitation
- Landscape scale <15,000 sq km
  - e.g. national park, community reserve; not nation or biome
- Priority for underinvested ecosystems
  - e.g. aquatic ecosystems, grasslands and savannas, coastal



Centinela Range, Ecuador



# Project Centinela

For those who are ready to hit the ground running and stay committed over the long term

**For up to 50 committed teams as end-users**

Evaluation criteria for project team:

- Biodiversity expertise
- Experience with remote sensing
- Long-term stake in the place identified

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/projectcentinela](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/projectcentinela)

\* 7. Briefly describe your team's biodiversity expertise.  
Please be specific about who and what. Bullet answers are acceptable.

\* 8. Briefly describe your team's experience with satellite remote sensing.  
Please be specific about who and what. Bullet answers are acceptable.

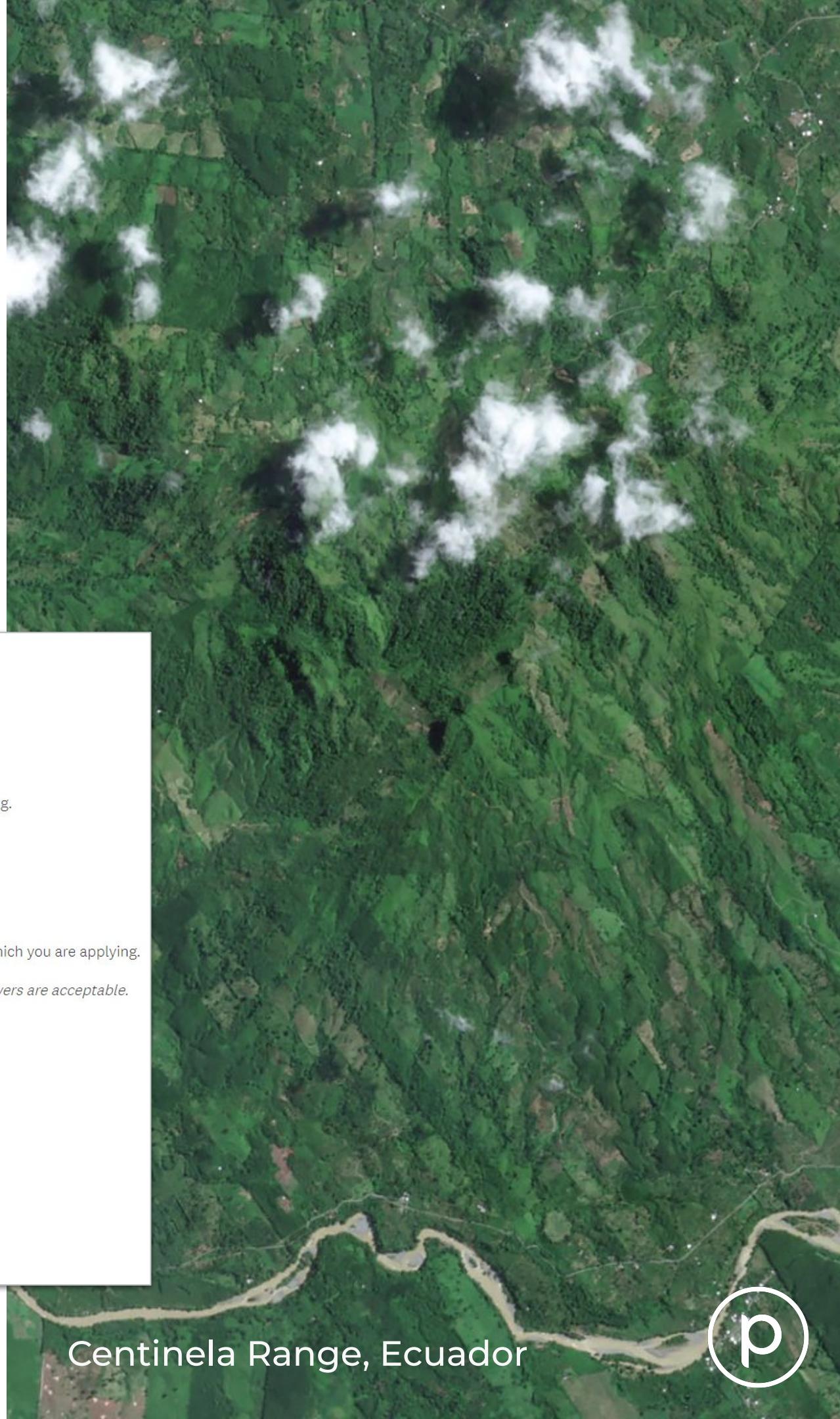
\* 9. Briefly describe your team's long-term stake or say in the site for which you are applying.  
Please be specific about this relationship and commitment. Bullet answers are acceptable.

\* 10. Have you or other team members used Planet data before?

Yes

No

[Prev](#) [Next](#)





# Project Centinela

3 cohorts over 5 years

2024      2025      2026      2027      2028      2029      2030

Launch

1st Cohort (up to 10 sites)

2nd Cohort (up to 20 sites)

3rd Cohort (up to 20 sites)

Evaluation

● Annual report to Planet



# “Biodiversity Subscription” for Centinela sites

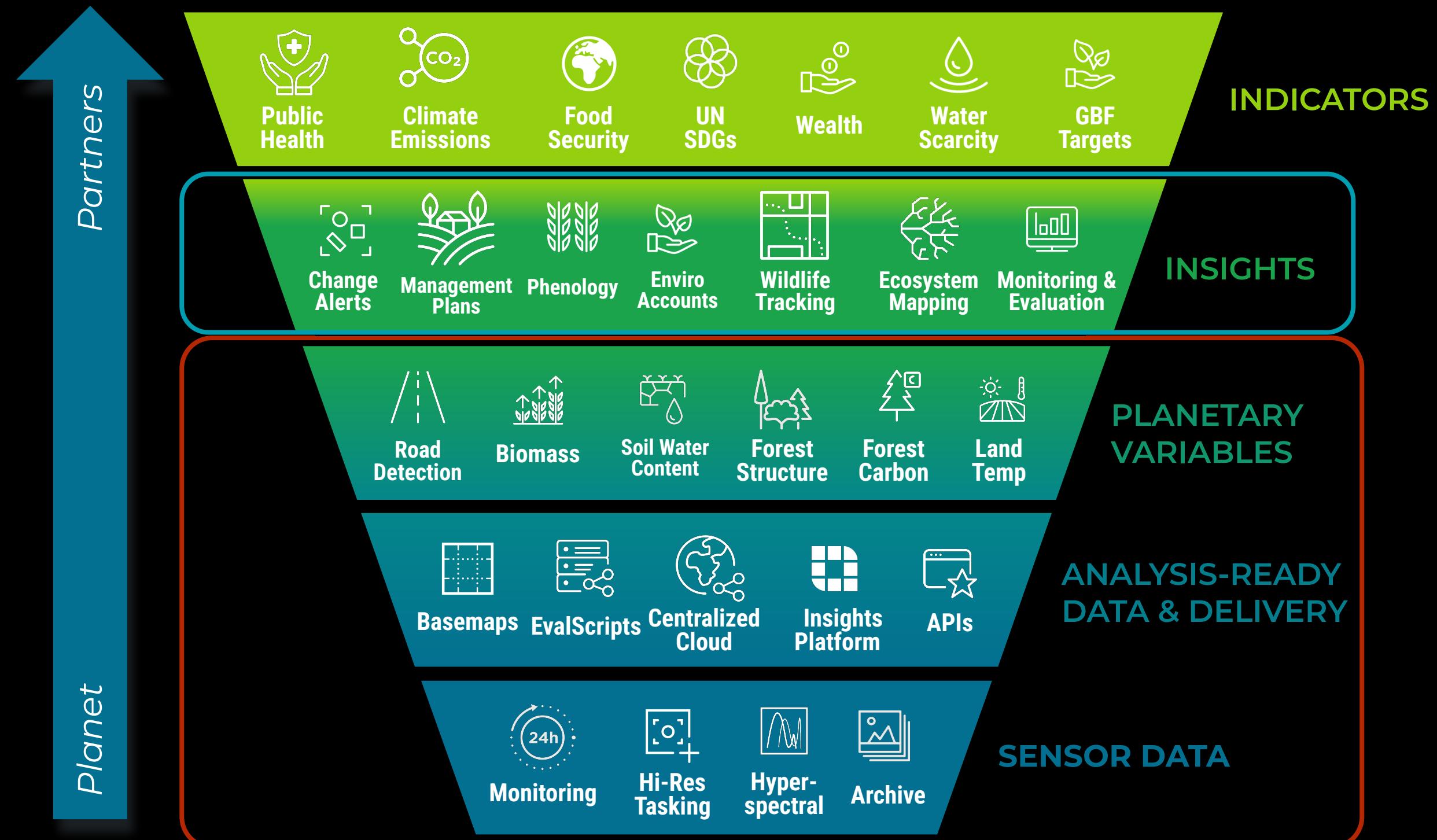
Applicants have the opportunity to express interest in:

- **Basemaps**
  - Monthly basemaps (streaming & download)
  - Archive (2020 - present)
- **PlanetScope**
  - Monitoring
  - Archive (2020 - present)
- **SkySat**
  - Limited Flexible Tasking
  - Archive (2020 - present)
- **Planetary Variables**
  - Forest Carbon Diligence & Monitoring (30m, 3m)
  - Land Surface Temperature (1km or 100m)
  - Soil Water Content (1km or 100m)
  - Crop Biomass (10m)
- **Analytic Feeds**
  - Road Detection & Change Detection
- **Insights**
  - Platform access + “Basic” Sentinel Hub license (70,000 processing units / month)
  - Technical Quickstart training

*Not all data types will be feasible or needed for every hotspot*



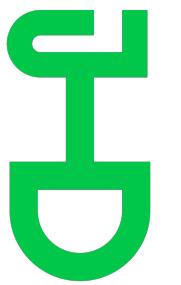
# Data Delivery for Biodiversity Insights





# The Power of the Biodiversity Subscription

An example use for combating desertification and advancing restoration



JUSTDIGGIT

## CHALLENGE

- Fertile areas in East Africa are being degraded into drought-laden deserts due to loss of native vegetation

## ACTION

- Justdiggit used **Planet data to evaluate success of regreening over time from locally dug bunds**
- Planetary Variables quantified the liters of water retained by the soil, degrees of surface cooling, and vegetation increase.

## RESULTS

- **Bunds increased soil moisture, lowered temperatures, and increased vegetation.**
- JustDiggit has restored 300,000 hectares and more than 10 million trees in sub-Saharan Africa.

VEGETATION RESTORATION • Pembamoto, Tanzania

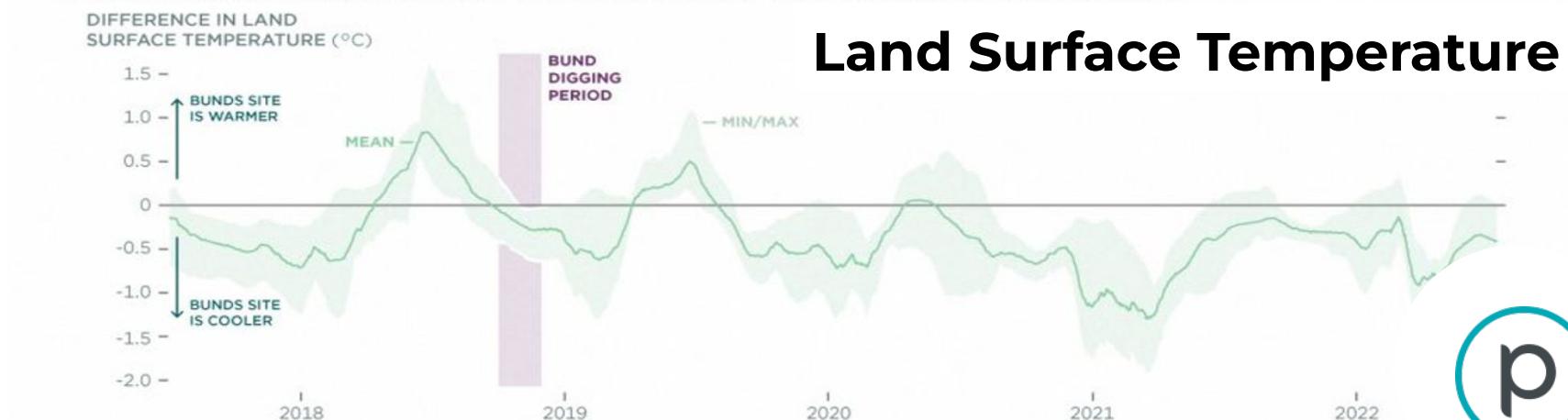


Difference Between Soil Water Content at West Bunds Site and Control Sites



Soil Water Content

Difference Between Daytime Land Surface Temperature at West Bunds Site and Control Sites



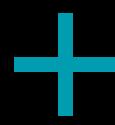
Land Surface Temperature



Introducing our first cohort of sites

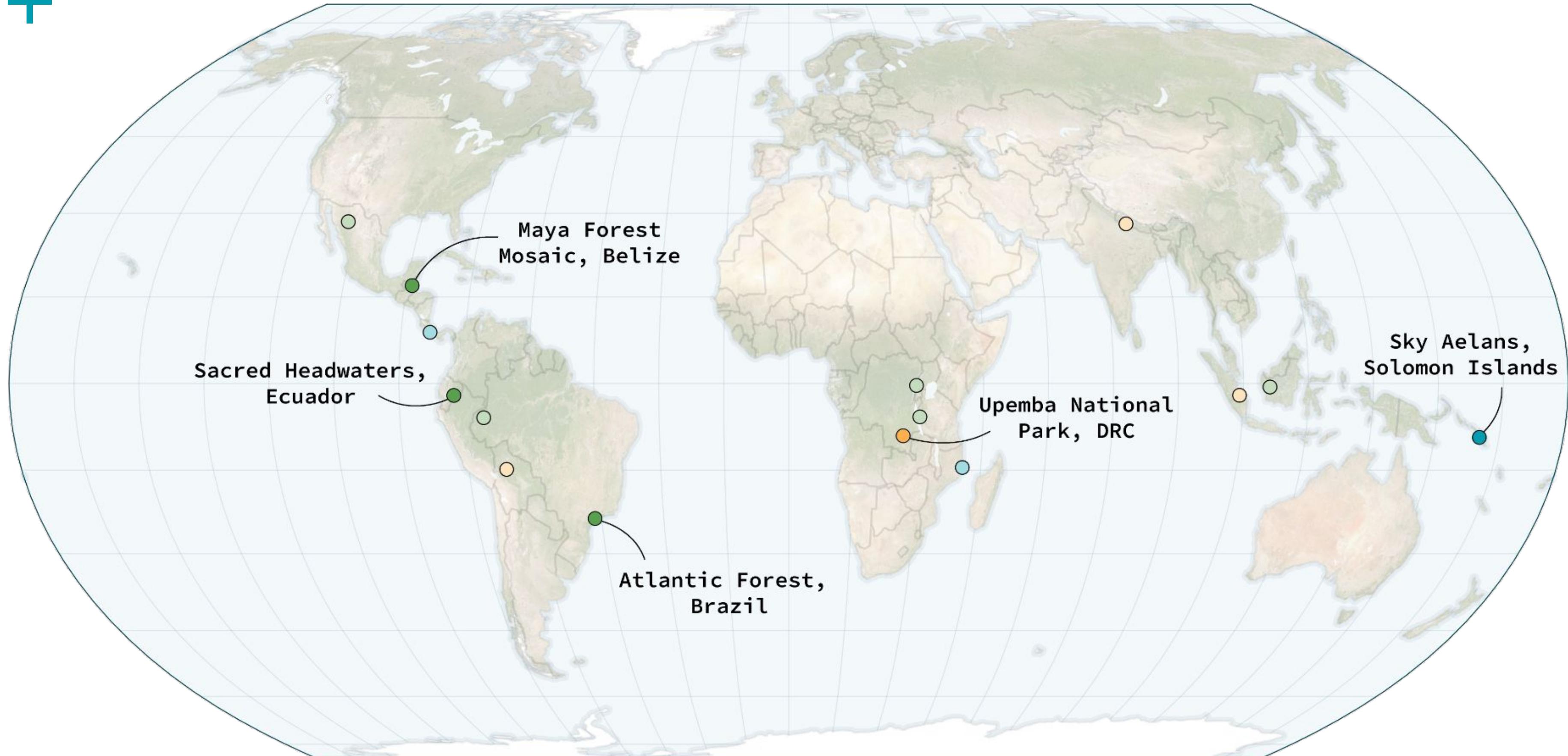
# PROJECT CENTINELA

# First Year



# Second Year

+



Forest

● New

● Existing

Coastal

● New

● Existing

Grassland/Wetland

● New

● Existing

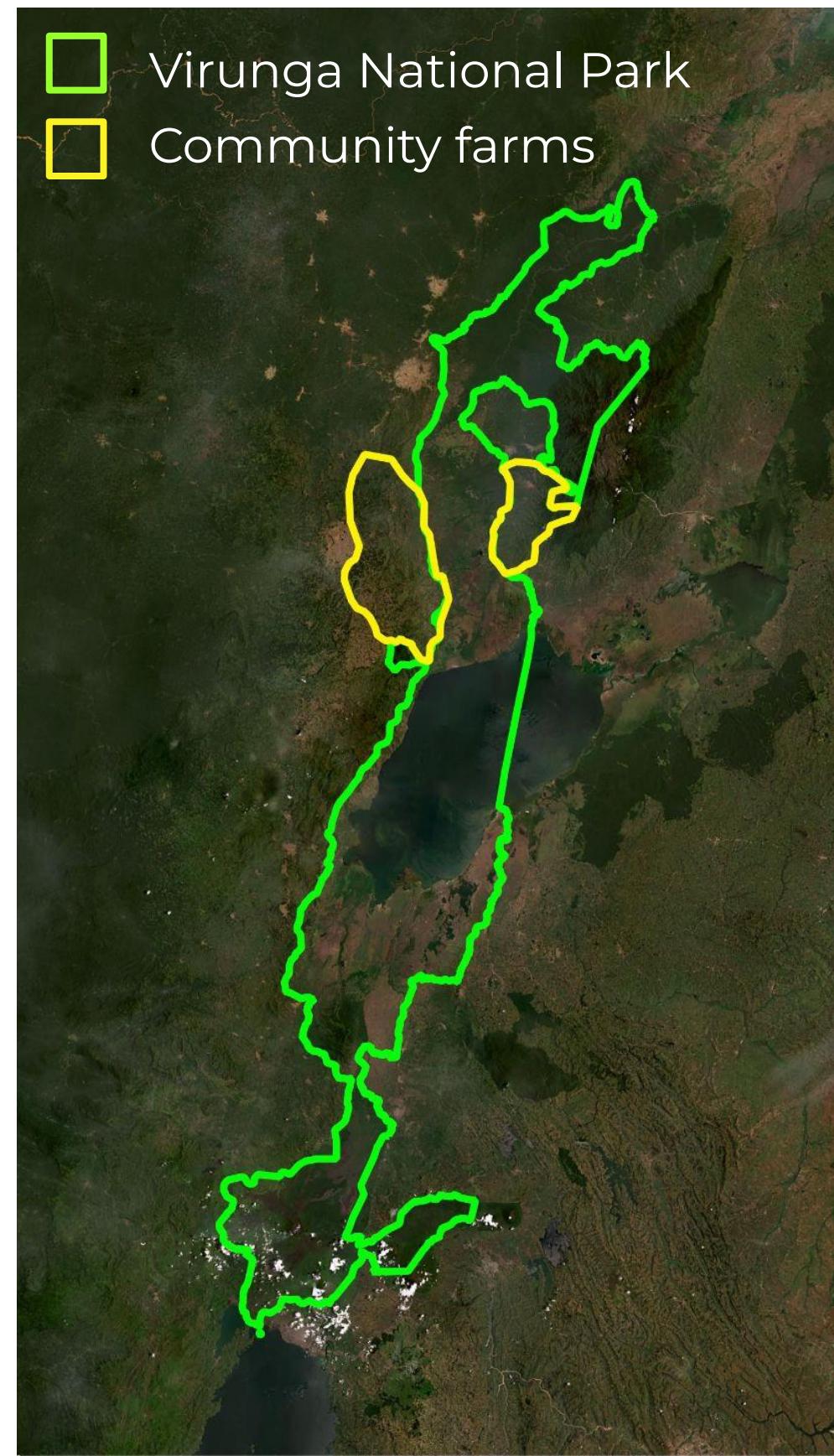
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# Virunga National Park, DRC

War-battered park protecting endangered mountain gorillas

- Monitoring park boundaries for deforestation and effective management
- Analyzing smallholder farms to help local communities access deforestation-free, non-conflict markets
- High-res tasking of Mikeno sector where endangered gorillas live, which is hard to reach in times of conflict





# Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Crucial ridge to reef corridor, offering a refuge to wildlife under climate change



- Restoring mangroves, establishing wildlife corridors, and monitoring habitat restoration
- Integrates Planet data with gridded camera traps and GPS tags for wildlife connectivity metrics





# Vale do Javari, Brazilian Amazon

Remote, unexplored wilderness; homeland to Indigenous peoples in various stages of contact

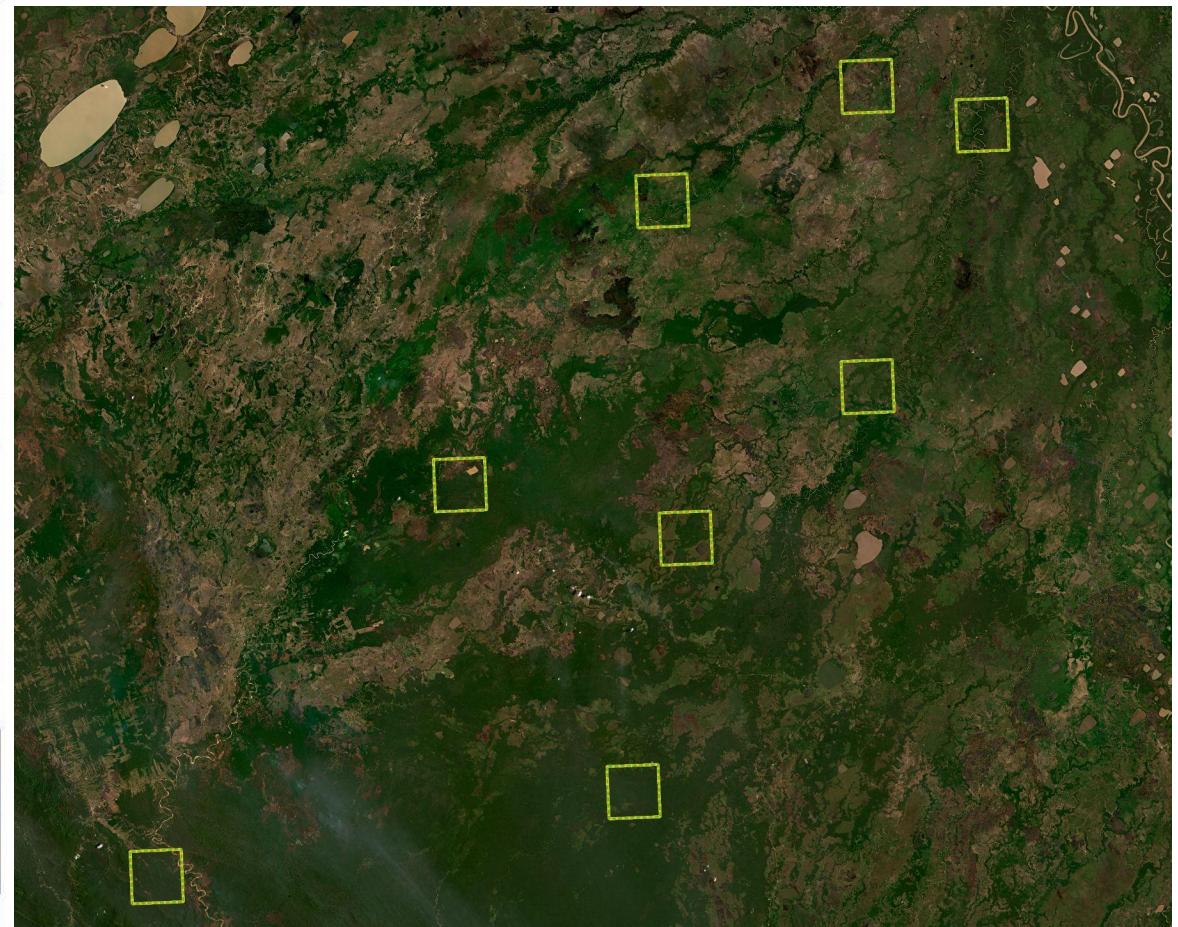
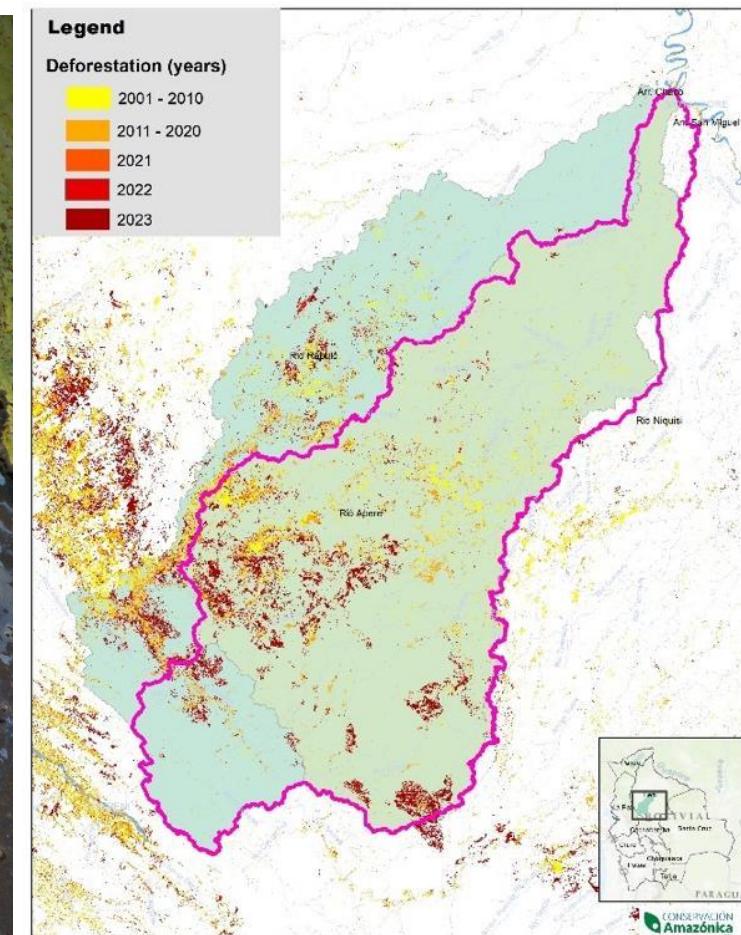
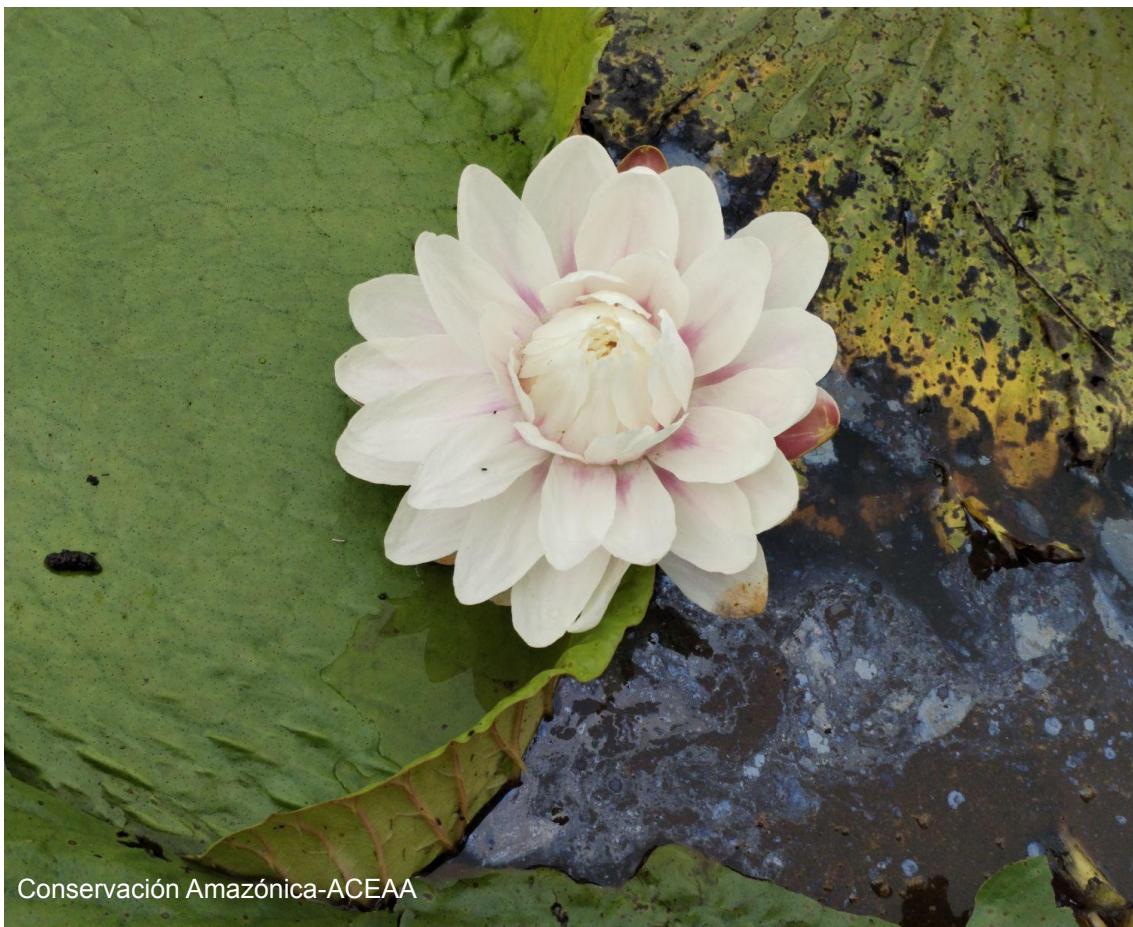
- Helping Indigenous stewards monitor areas at risk of invasion, report environmental crimes, and plan field expeditions in the second largest Indigenous territory in the Brazilian Amazon
- Planet data monitor borders and rivers for illegal incursions, protecting Indigenous health and the lives of surveillance team



# Rio Matos Ramsar Site, Bolivia

Wetland of International Importance with endemic giant water lilies, black spider monkeys

- Supporting the creation of new conservation and protected areas
- Monitoring sustainable cattle grazing and producing alerts for agriculture-driven invasion and degradation
- New application of Planet data to characterize wetland health



# Sumatra Merang Peat Dome, Indonesia

**Combating climate change by restoring habitat for the Sumatran tiger and other key species**

- Delivering community benefits through certified reforestation projects that rewet and seed peatlands and halt fires in their tracks
- Boosting connectivity by restoring a wildlife corridor between key national parks
- Leverage Planet data for accurate forest carbon accounting, threat detection, and habitat quality assessment

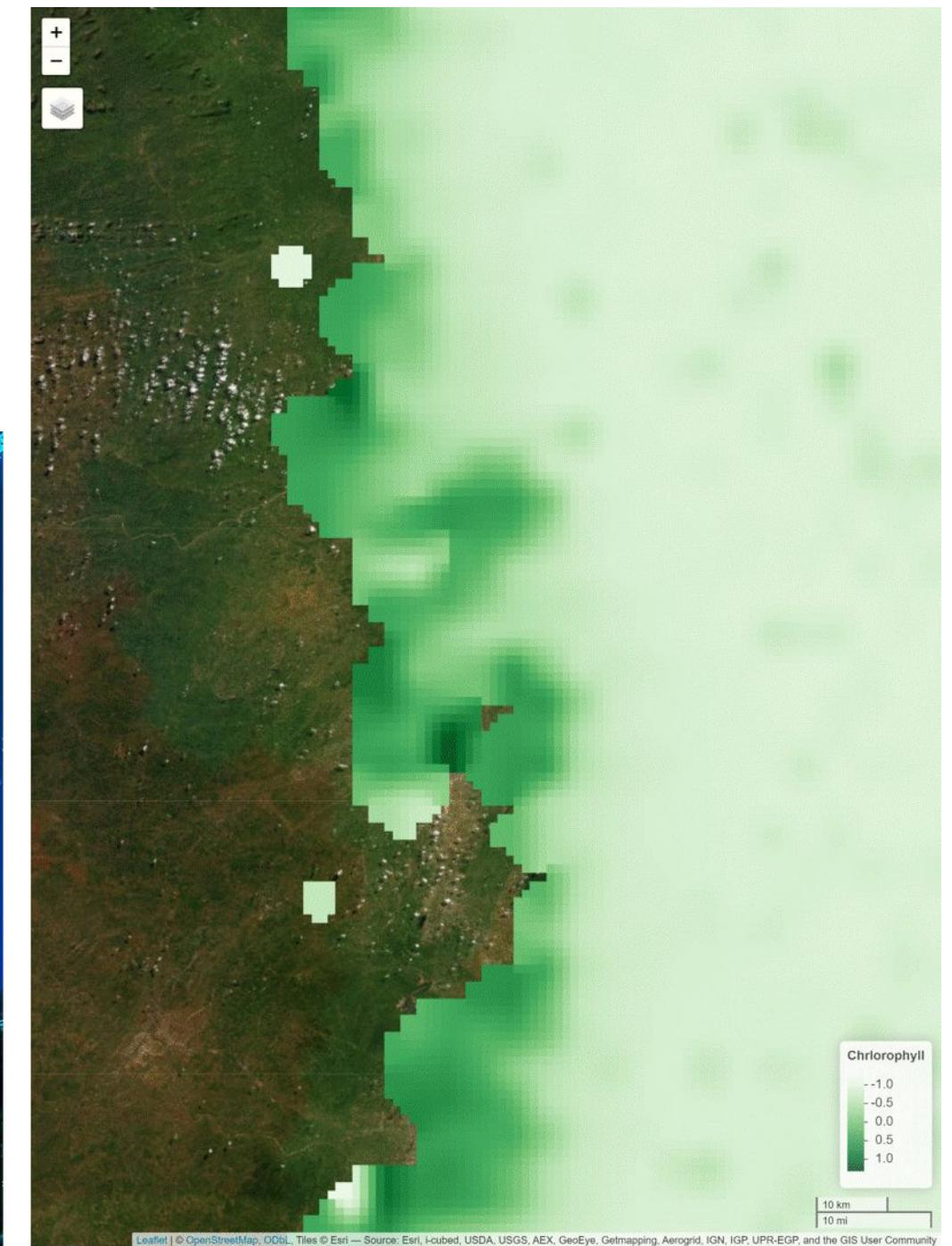




# Northern Coastal Mozambique

Super diverse, climate-resilient coral reefs supporting community livelihoods

- Supporting creation of a marine protected area; informing community fisheries management
- Combines satellite and field data collected by WCS with NatureMetrics' eDNA data to create ecosystem condition indices



# Eastern Chimpanzee Conservation Areas, Uganda and Tanzania

Core habitat for chimpanzees and essential natural resources for local communities

- Monitoring threats to chimpanzees and their habitats across core populations in their eastern range
- Supporting village and district land use planning, local payment for ecosystem services programs, and protected area law enforcement
- Integrates Planet data into implementation of National Chimpanzee Conservation Action Plans





# Terai Arc Landscape, Nepal

Integrated freshwater-grassland habitat key for endangered Bengal tigers

- Supporting habitat management in a UN Global Restoration Flagship for threatened and endangered megafauna
- Informing effective policies and local landscape stewardship practices for tiger preservation
- Insights on freshwater dynamics and grassland vegetation with new applications of Planet data



# Gunung Naning Protection Forest, Indonesia

Home to endangered species, including 10-20% of the entire population of Bornean Orangutans

- Supporting the creation of no-take zones, evaluating species conservation status, and empowering local ecosystem stewards
- Combine Planet data with bioacoustics and camera traps to gain insights about habitat and wildlife





# Sierra Madre Occidental Ecoregion, Mexico

Preserving old-growth forests to protect thick-billed parrot and other species



San Diego Zoo  
Wildlife Alliance



Universidad Estatal de Sonora



ORGANIZACIÓN  
VIDA SILVESTRE, A.C.



- Rapidly detecting logging activities affecting parrot nesting and foraging sites
- Designing conservation strategies by characterizing old-growth forests, tracking wildfire spread and assessing burn severity, and identifying bark beetle outbreaks



# Upemba National Park, DRC

Saving a “forgotten park,” its endangered wildlife, and the people who depend on it

- Restoring one of DRC’s richest biodiversity areas, which is the last remaining site of free-roaming zebras in the country and home to savanna elephants
- Protecting ranger lives and livelihoods with near-real time data
- Incorporates Planet data into a monitoring and conservation response system to address urgent risks from poaching, armed groups, encroachment, and mining



FORGOTTEN  
PARKS  
foundation





# Atlantic Forest, Brazil

Valuing and scaling community-led nature restoration and conservation to reverse loss in an imperiled ecosystem

- Partnering with smallholders to protect remnant forest and restore degraded areas, securing community financial incentives for this stewardship
- Monitoring habitat for threatened Atlantic forest species, jaguar, araponga and endemic frogs
- Combines Planet data with on-the-ground biodiversity and ecosystem service monitoring aligned with nature stewardship methodologies





# Sky Aelans, Solomon Islands

Securing Indigenous governance for unique threatened forests and mangroves



- Tracking illegal logging, roads, and mining that displace endemic and critically endangered species
- Integrates Planet data in an Indigenous Guardian Connector platform to coordinate conservation action
- Protecting habitat of at-risk sea turtles, monkey-faced bats, and sea eagles





# Maya Forest Mosaic, Belize

Securing globally recognized cultural and natural heritage through long-term, collaborative stewardship

- Tracking threats to nature and globally endangered species in a region renowned for jaguars, endangered river turtles, and white-lipped peccaries
- Informing stakeholder collaboration and the co-design of effective, local-to-national conservation strategies
- Integrates Planet data into long-term biodiversity monitoring, community stewardship, and climate resilience strategies on protected and productive landscapes





# Sacred Headwaters, Ecuador

Activating biocultural ancestral stewardship in Amazonian headwaters home to endangered wattled curassow and jaguars



FUNDACIÓN  
PACHAMAMA



REGEN  
NETWORK



- Supporting validation of biocultural stewardship across Indigenous territories
- Underpinning an early warning system to address environmental threats
- Combines Planet data with community-led monitoring to quantify tokenized units of 'biocultural jaguar credits'

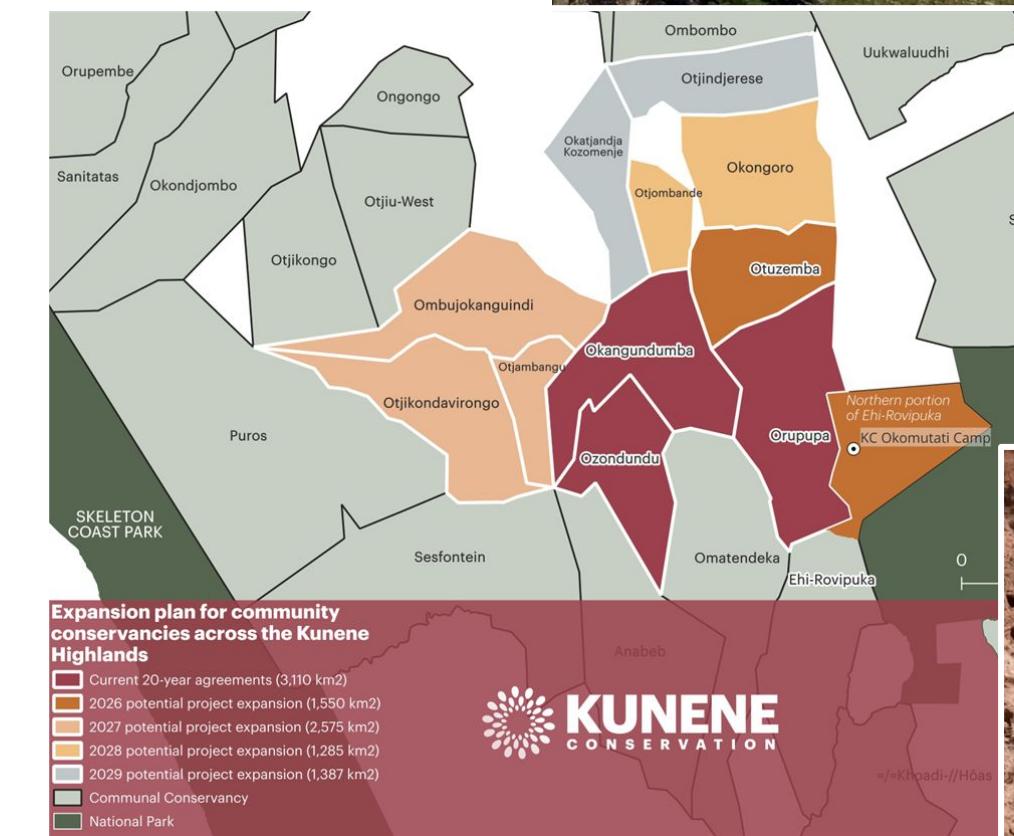




# Kunene Highlands, Namibia

Allying with communities to generate sustainable livelihoods, protect wildlife, and restore grasslands

- Assisting community conservancies to develop and maintain sustainable livelihoods through restoration and managed grazing practices
- Reducing erosion, restoring plant diversity and abundance, and protecting endemic rosy-faced lovebirds and other threatened wildlife
- Incorporates Planet data into analytics for in-field teams and donors, to help verify sustainable livelihoods



Rangeland Consulting & Services

conserve  
GLOBAL

Cultivo



# West Java and Borneo, Indonesia

Helping local communities and forest farmers restore critical habitat and protect two national parks, home to endangered endemic species

- Supporting 14 forest farmer groups to plant native species and monitor restoration success around Mount Halimun Salak National Park
- Monitoring forest cover and biodiversity protection in two national parks known for the Javan lutung, endangered Javan hawk-eagle, and endangered Bornean orangutans
- Combines Planet data with regular patrols and community capacity for sustainable forest management





# Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot, India

**Bringing back montane grasslands and forests that sustain the Nilgiri pipit and other rare birds**

- Informing the efficacy and practice of restoration efforts and assessing the impact on vulnerable species
- Tracking invasive trees damaging sensitive high-altitude grasslands, and monitoring endemic birds
- Uses Planet data in concert with bioacoustic sensing to understand species-habitat interactions and improve restoration design and implementation with a range of stakeholders

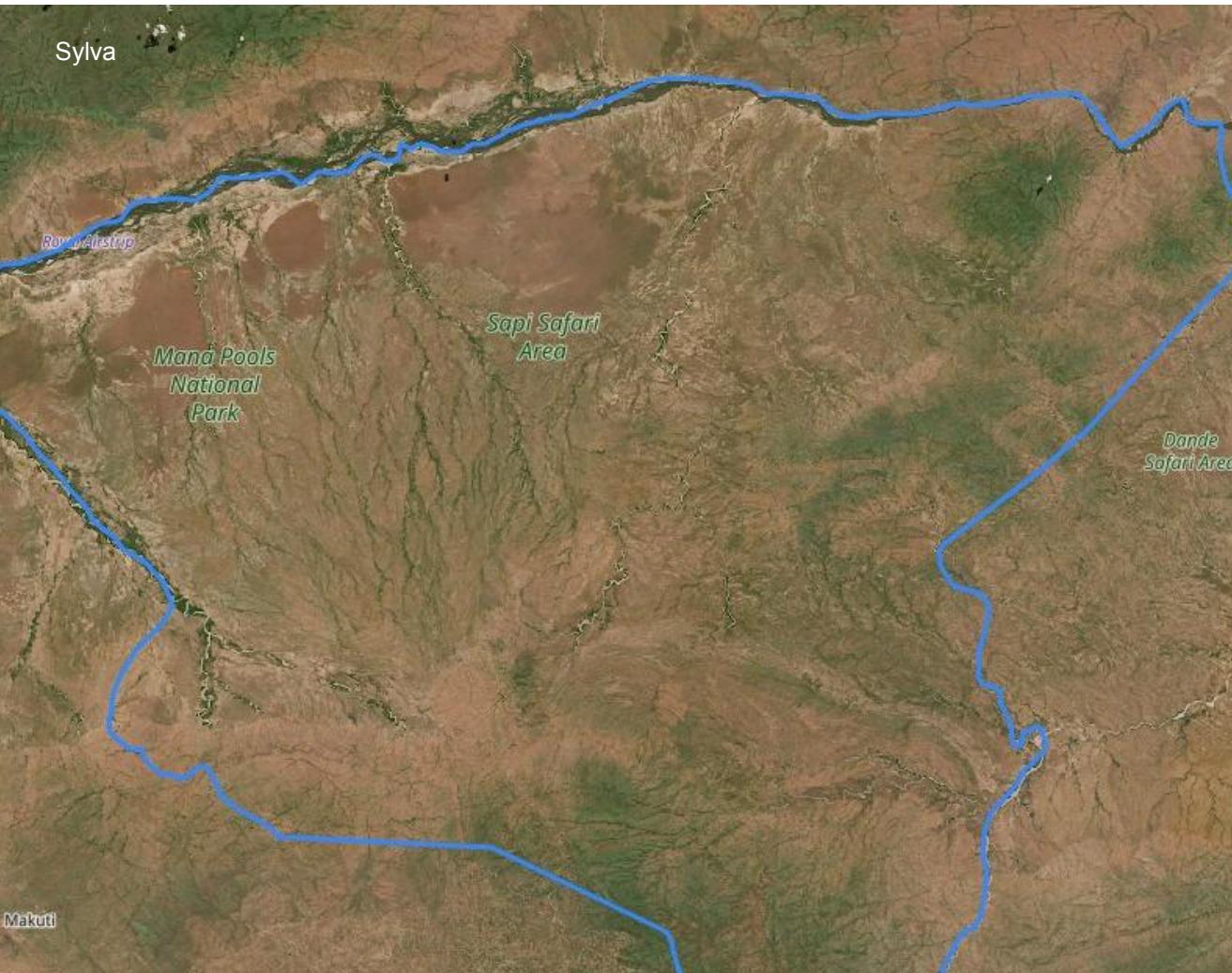




# Sapi Reserve, Zimbabwe

Securing biodiversity through responsible ecotourism, data-driven conservation, and restoration interventions

- Collaboratively restoring a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve through species reintroductions, conservation tourism, and comprehensive conservation planning and management
- Uses Planet data to map and qualify habitat, establish monitoring indicators, and assess carrying capacity



SYLVA

FOUNDATION  
GREAT PLAINS  
CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS

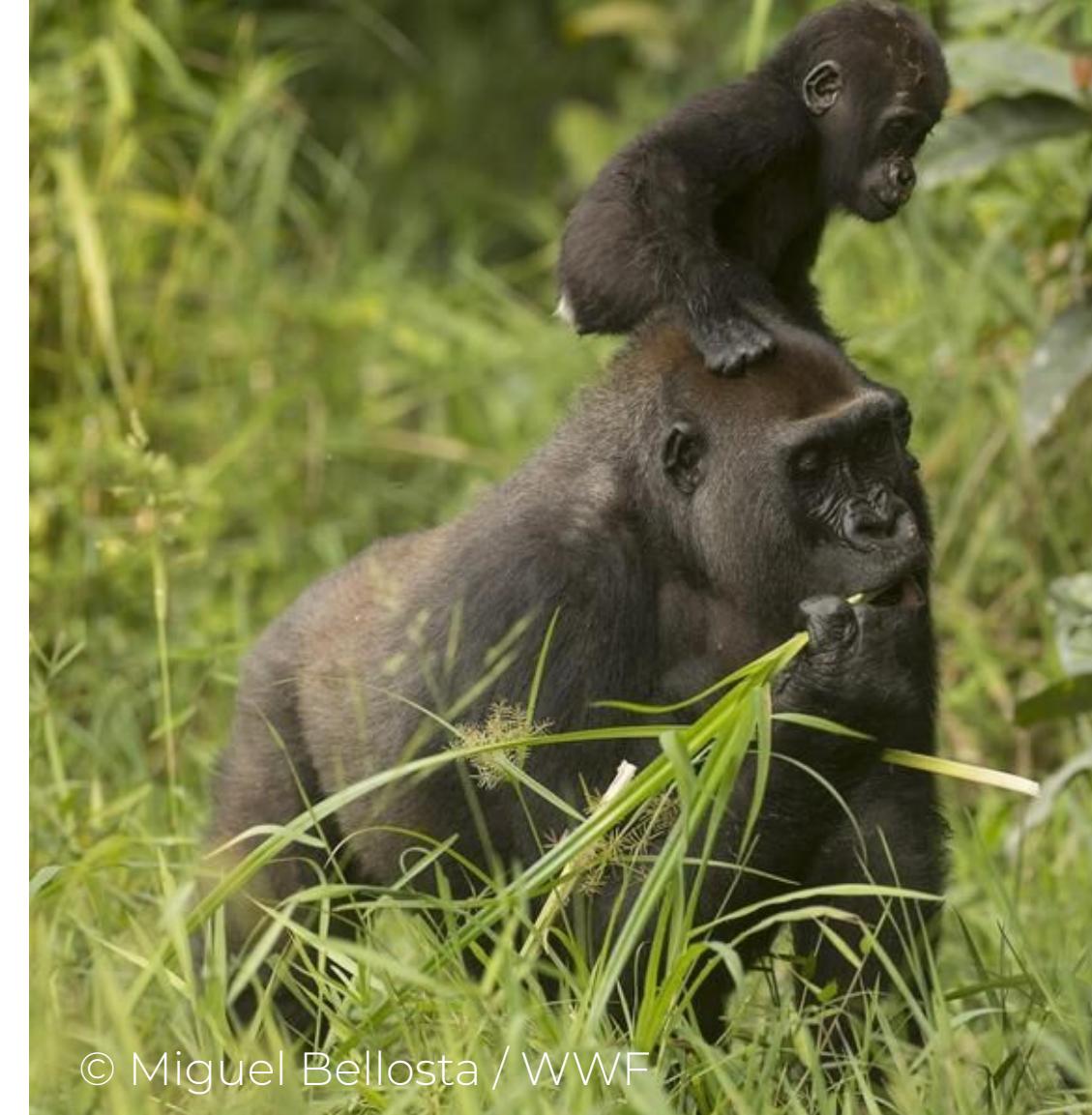




# Lobéké - Dzanga Sangha Conservation Complex, Cameroon and CAR

Supporting a network of protected areas with an early warning system for zoonotic diseases to safeguard the health of wildlife, communities, and the ecosystems they rely on

- Reducing the risk of disease spread and increasing forest security for local communities and vulnerable African forest elephants, gorillas, and sitatunga
- Leverages Planet data to improve biodiversity monitoring, design early warning systems, and empower local communities

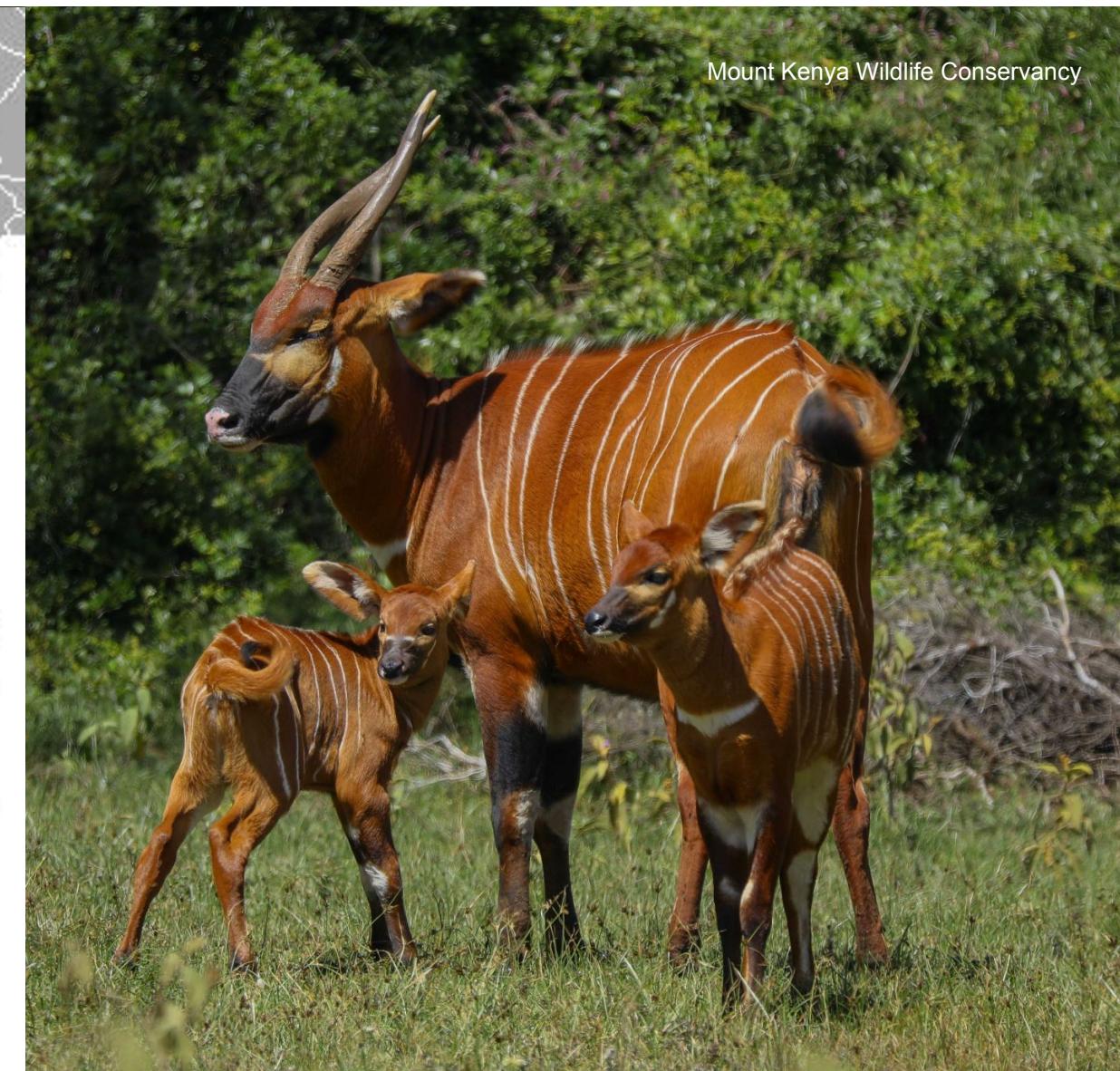




# Mountain Bongo Habitat, Kenya

Monitoring the last remaining habitats of the  
Critically Endangered mountain bongo

- Monitor mountain bongo habitat and raise awareness about its condition among policymakers and communities
- Identify and track threats to remaining mountain bongo populations
- Leverage Planet data for conservation and adaptive management strategies for rewilding and protecting remnant mountain bongo populations





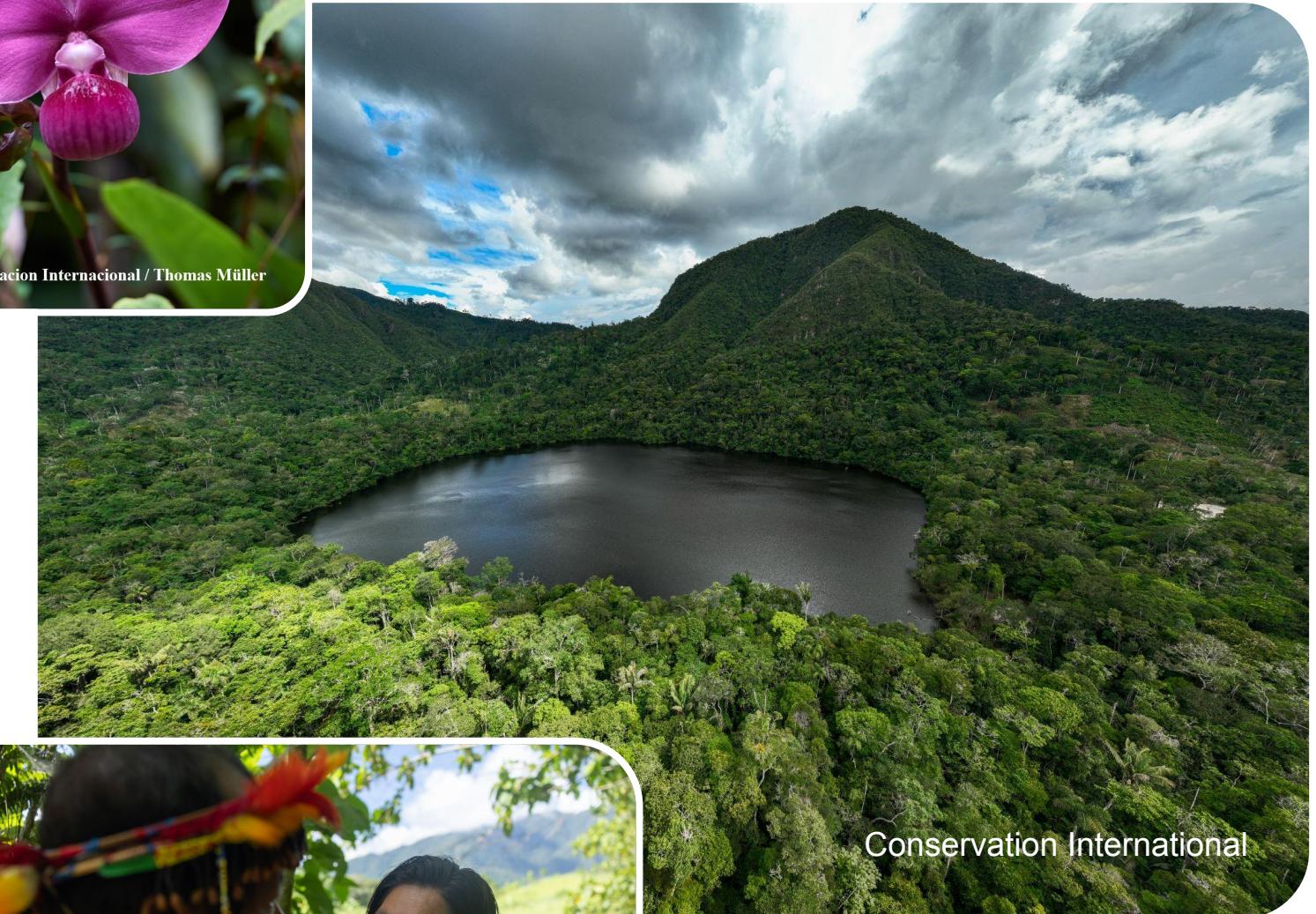
# Alto Mayo, Peru

**Strengthening ancestral cultures, participatory management, and durable conservation across protected areas and Indigenous communities**

- Enhancing deforestation monitoring and protection for the Alto Mayo Protection Forest, home to more than 1,300 registered orchid species, including the Kovachii orchid
- Restoring cultural traditions and ecosystems with 16 Awajún Indigenous communities through sustainable economic programs like carbon credits and community nurseries
- Incorporates Planet data into control and surveillance plans tracking ecosystem threats, and supports monitoring and evaluation of habitat for endangered species, including the San Martín titi monkey, Peruvian yellow-tailed woolly monkey, and upper Amazon stubfoot toad



© Sernanp- Conservacion Internacional / Thomas Müller



Conservation International



© Conservacion Internacional Peru / Marlon del Águila



# Namuli, Mozambique

Developing sustainable local economies to reduce deforestation, preserve irreplaceable vulnerable biodiversity, and improve nature-based wellbeing

- Reconciling rural development and biodiversity conservation through economic opportunities that reduce deforestation and restore biodiversity, including REDD+ and sustainable agriculture
- Helping establish a Community Conservation Area in the Mt. Namuli Key Biodiversity Area, protecting threatened and endemic species
- Use Planet data to monitor forest areas, track threats to habitat, and promote restoration and sustainable local economic options





# Bentarum and Mendawak, Indonesia

Defending customary and unprotected forests that Critically Endangered Bornean orangutans and Dayak communities depend on

- Conserving highly diverse forests by strengthening Indigenous land tenure, mitigating active threats, and establishing multi-stakeholder forest management agreements and climate-smart farming
- Planet data support forest monitoring, legal recognition of community-managed areas, and rapid risk mitigation of threats to forest biodiversity





# Serendipalm Landscape, Ghana

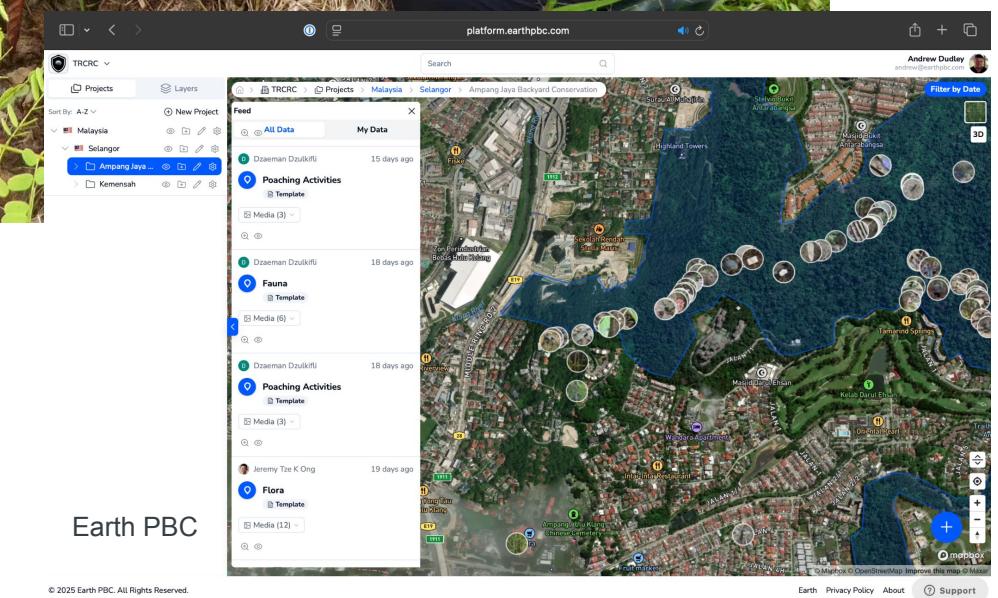
Maintaining functional habitat corridors to the Atewa Range Forest Reserve through biodiverse agroforestry systems

- Fostering high-biodiversity, dynamic agroforestry for 300 households that serves as a conservation corridor for critically endangered species like the Atewa slippery frog that depend on the Atewa Key Biodiversity Area and its surroundings
- Draws on Planet data for agroforestry design, adaptive management, and reporting and disclosure under environmental trade policies within the user-driven Earth Platform



Neira-Salamea et al. 2021

EARTH

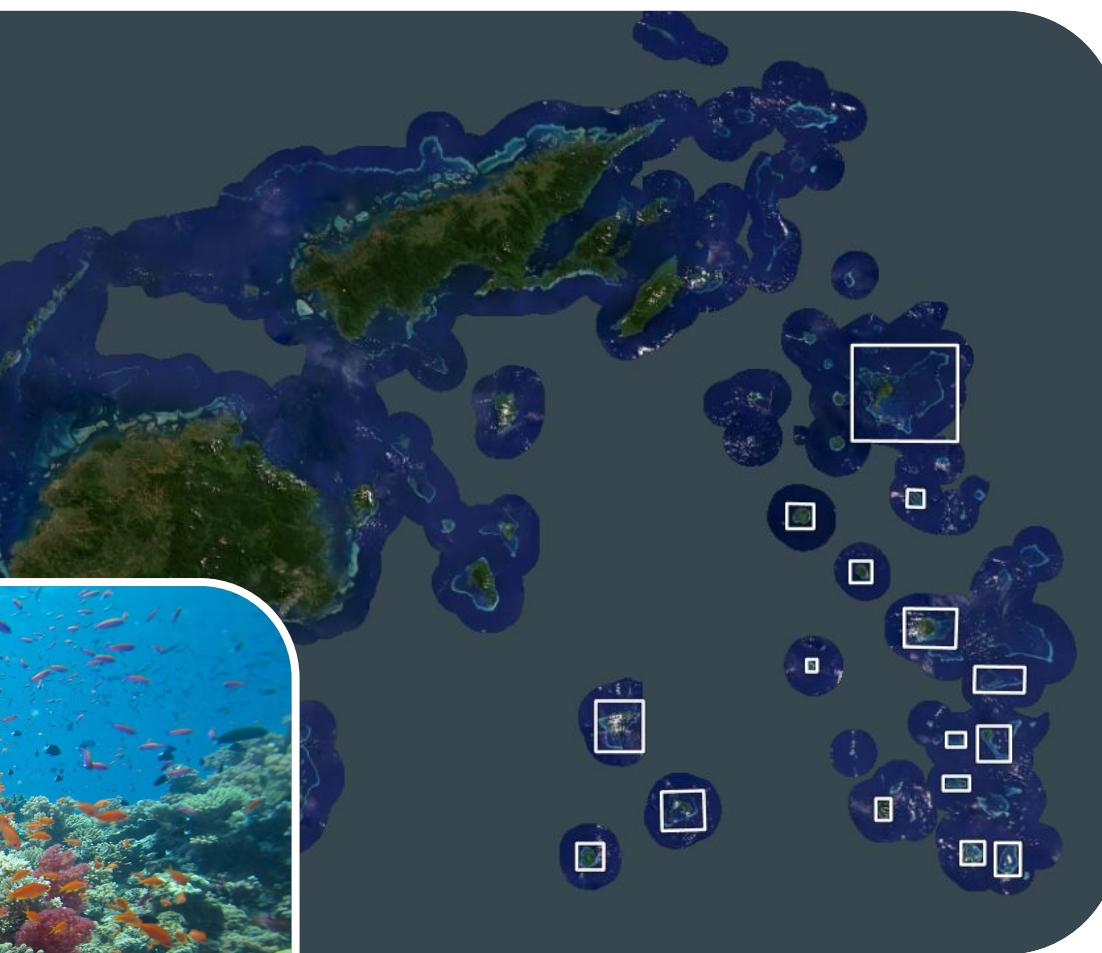




# Lau Seascapes, Fiji

Increasing the resilience of globally significant coral reefs through community science and management

- Partnering with communities on 19 islands to assess climate vulnerabilities and meet the goals of the Lau Seascapes Strategy
- Establishing sustainable planning and management for improved food security, resilient development and conservation of reef biodiversity
- Incorporates Planet data for rapid detection and response to coral bleaching, integrating with citizen science surveys for more precise and actionable insights.





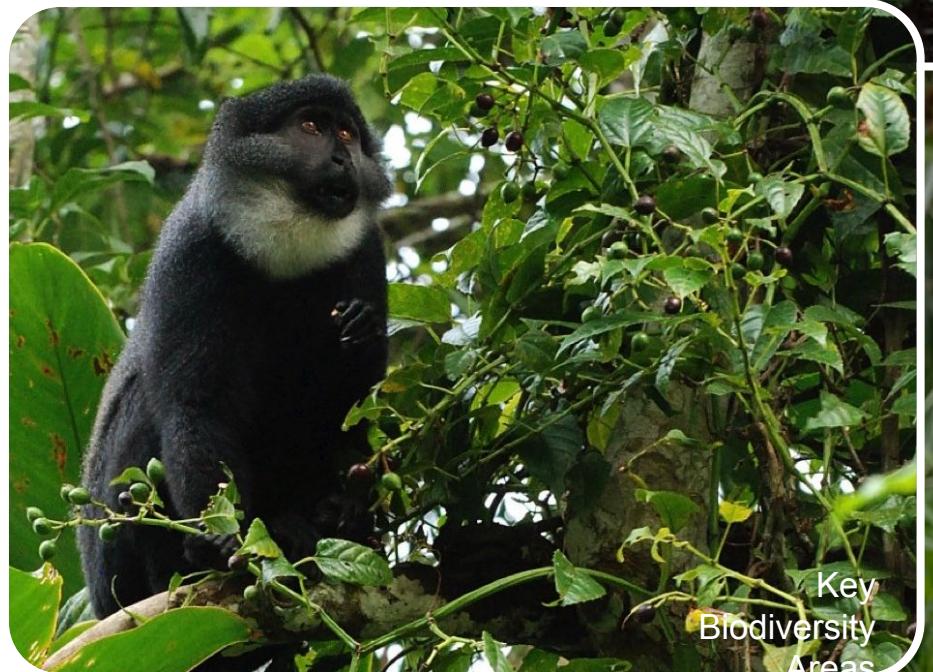
# Ebo Forest, Cameroon

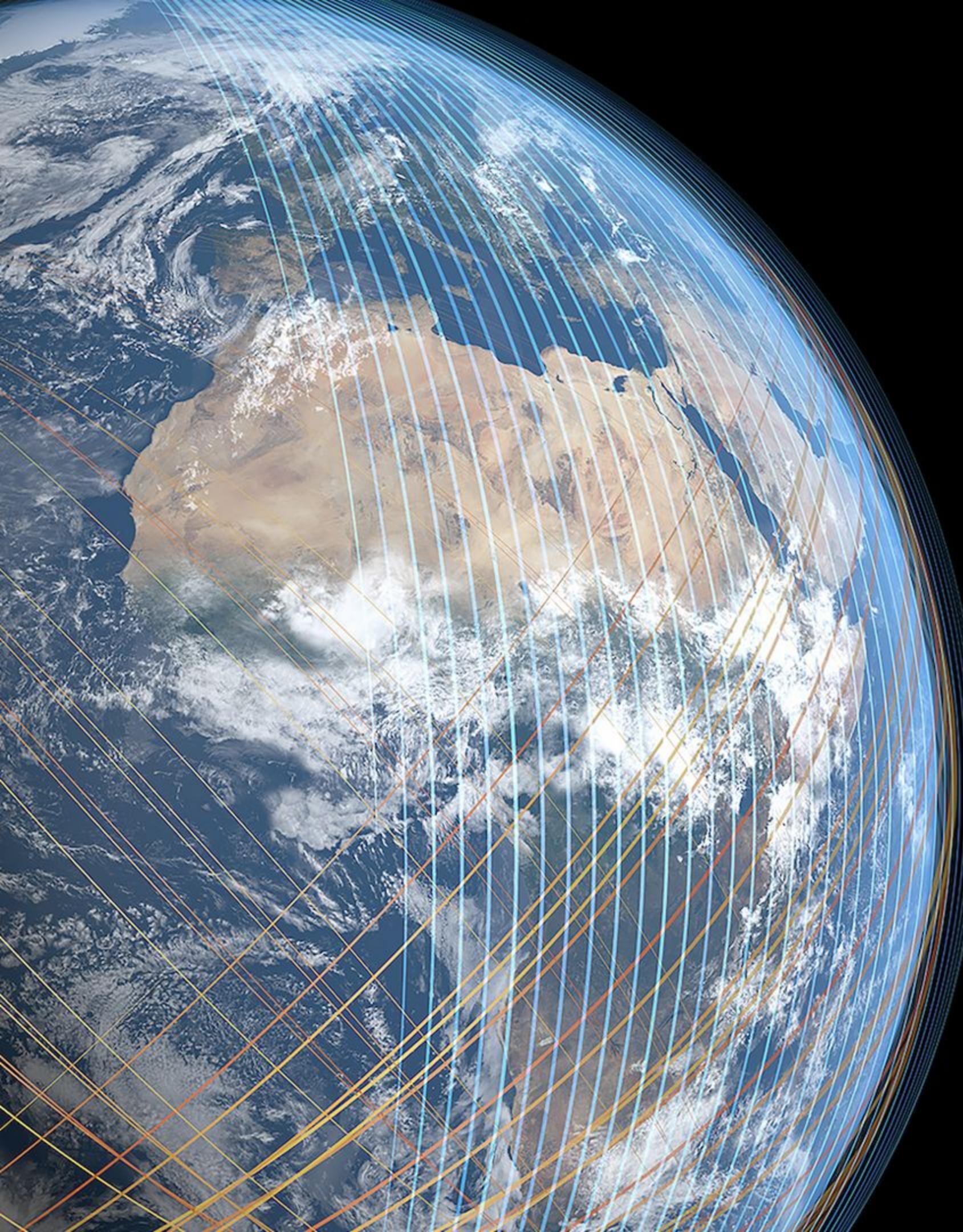
Mitigating urgent threats to endangered gorillas, forest elephants, chimpanzees, and the communities whose livelihoods depend on the forest

- Reducing the negative effects of logging activities on wildlife populations and local communities
- Documenting the integrity of ecosystems and the health of endangered species populations
- Draws on Planet data to track logging and other drivers of forest change in sensitive areas, assess its impacts, inform conservation strategies, and engage stakeholders for better outcomes



San Diego Zoo  
Wildlife Alliance





Thank you