

NICFI Program Q1 Update (March 2021)

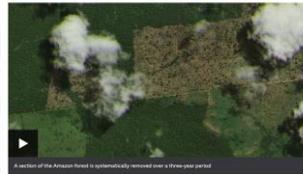
The NICFI data program commenced on September 22nd 2020. This first quarterly report provides an update of the activities completed to date, the data available and key statistics and metrics gathered from insights collected by the project team.

News and Media

Since the launch of the NICFI Data Program it has been featured in numerous media pieces including 4 owned blogs and 8 earned media articles including BBC and Reuters. The overall response has been positive and supportive

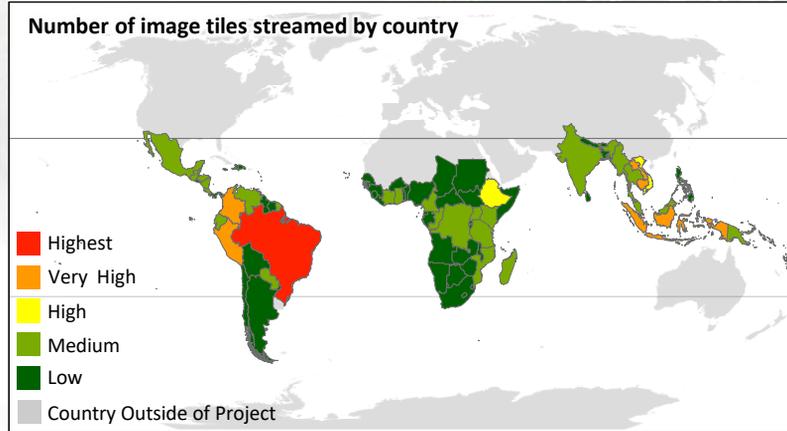
Norway funds satellite map of world's tropical forests

By [Knut H. Sævi](#)
BBC News Environment
@bbcnews
@khsaevi



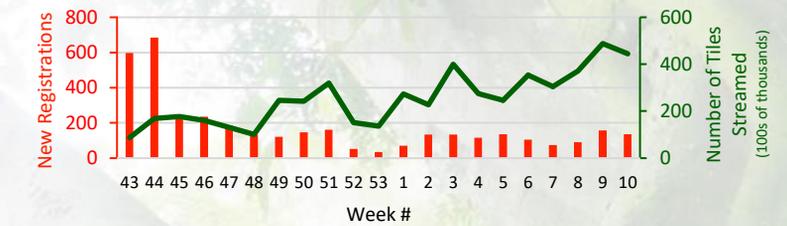
A unique satellite dataset on the world's tropical forests is now available for all to see and use.

of the Norwegian government's initiative to make this program happen. January 2021 also saw 48 new SuperDoves launched adding additional capabilities to Planet's service offering, improving revisit and spectral resolution of the PlanetScope series.



Activities

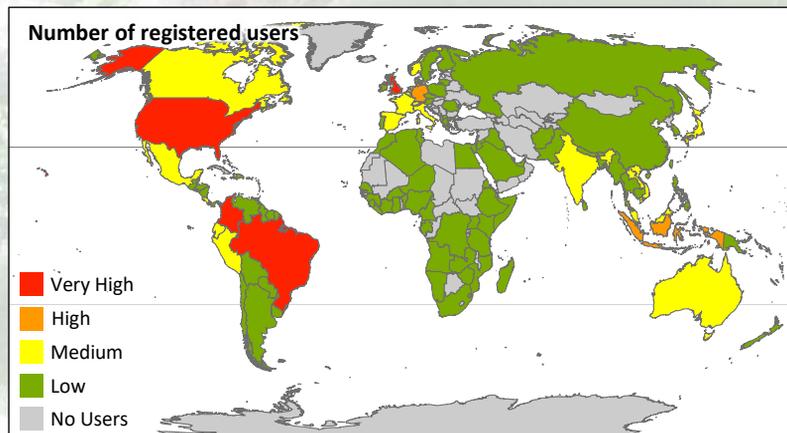
- Commenced roll out of monthly mosaics with 6 now available accounting for 270 M sq km
- Completed delivery of Archive mosaics back to 2015 accounting for 450 M sq km
- Iterative approach to selection of SPOT5 coverage
- Ingesting SPOT5 data for GPs through Planet
- Set up helpdesk and escalation
- Key user engagement through monthly meetings
- Gathered first user feedback through User Survey
- Preparation and refinement of materials in response to user feedback
- Launched the enablement plan working with small group of users
- Planet have updated their ArcGIS and QGIS plugins to support NICFI program data
- Engaged with users across media, science, research and commercial industry to provide details about the program and understand their use cases



97 countries included in the NICFI program with over **4500 registered users** from **120 countries** worldwide. To date, **5.6 million tiles** streamed from Planet Explorer.

Events

- [GFOI English Webinar](#) (15th Dec) – 400 viewers
- Virtual event with Norwegian Prime Minister
- UNDP Science Forum (18th Feb)
- [GFOI Spanish Webinar](#) (2nd Mar) – 400 viewers
- [GFOI French Webinar](#) (16th Mar) – 150 viewers
- Science User Summit (24th March) – 22 attendees
- [TFA Webinar](#) (25th March) – 156 viewers
- [GEO Webinar](#) (29th March)



Resources and Helpdesk

Tier one support has handled 94 tickets since Sept 2020 with issues or questions typically resolved within hours. Most commonly these have been on topics of download and discovery, access through other platforms such as GEE and requests around more information on the program and how the data can be used.

Enablement materials such as FAQs and User guides now available in 5 languages (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Bahasa Indonesian). Additional resources generated in response to user support requests and include

- Processing methodology and corrections for basemaps
- Tutorials to download basemaps

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User Feedback

Data product team met monthly with Key User Feedback Group designated by the Ministry, including UN-FAO, Mapbiomas, and Global Forest Watch to provide critical feedback that was considered in mosaic engineering and production as well as delivery and enablement including review of the processing of the visual mosaics.

"Users are happy; overall feedback has been great. Most are comparing to what is visually available from Landsat or Sentinel, and the resolution improvement is primary advantage for their use... Some non-technical users may need training on clouds vs. artefacts of a cloud mask, so we might do a blog series to better train users ...[The NICFI Basemaps] are now the most toggled basemaps on Global Forest Watch, with a lot of overlap between GLAD alerts + Planet basemaps, which aligns with our ideas of how we expect users to be using these images in coordination with alerts." - Global Forest Watch, Key User Feedback Group

"We have received positive enthusiasm and feedback... We've integrated the visual data into OpenForis - using it as map backdrops and validation data in our SEPAL platform, Collect Earth, CollectEarth Online point collection tools. Countries are using it. We expect results from point collection data analysis soon and UNFCCC reporting. We are working with downloading and classifying some of the quads; the mechanics of it work really well but we need to make users aware of the size. The results of classification are really impressive on a wall to wall scale, and the Landsat normalized processing is good for that classification process." - UN-FAO, Key User Feedback Group

Activities next Quarter

- Continued delivery of monthly mosaics
- Scenes delivery for GPs
- Onboarding for GPs
- Oslo Tropical Forest Forum webinar 14th April
- User Launch Program results
- Continued support to Purpose Allies
- User story collation and formal reporting with GFW/FAO
- Direct basemap integrations for GEE users
- Continued event and outreach with user groups
- Continued outreach with ESRI and other geospatial software
- Continued outreach with Microsoft, AWS and Mapbox
- COP26 planning

User Story Highlights



The NICFI program brings commercial satellite technology, previously out of reach to many, to all working on tropical forest conservation around the world...

So far we detected recent forest loss in Chiribiquete National Park in Colombia... in an illegal gold mining area in the southern Peruvian Amazon... and in an indigenous territory in the Ecuadorian Amazon. - Amazon Conservation, January 2021



"Under the UN-REDD Programme, several countries are already moving ahead with integrating this new data into their National Forest Monitoring Systems for a wide range of applications..."



Republic of Congo, the national-scale data collection exercise will rely on the provision of regular, cloud-free images of high spatial resolution of NICFI. In **Lower Mekong** region, FAO is developing Near Real-Time monitoring systems, where the high-resolution NICFI data will enable countries to validate information on changes in forest cover before field survey. Finally, **Peru** took advantage of the program to improve its estimates of deforestation activities from 2007 to 2019. One of the great advantages is that it not only offers cloud-free composite mosaics, but it also provides the dates associated with those images, giving the country relevant information to analyze land use cover changes." [UN-REDD, January 2021](#)



Belize GEO created and shared high-res forest classification algorithms

Belize GEO @BZgeo · Oct 28, 2020
Here's a rough #forest cover classification of #Belize based on the @ClimateForest-purchased global @PlanetLabs mosaics, processed w/ #GoogleEarthEngine.

Tnx for the inspiration, @SEPAL_Erik!

Google Earth Engine

Planet and 8 others



Unilever, with NGIS and Google Cloud, is applying the data to check compliance with zero deforestation sourcing

Purpose Allies



Outreach Partners



Partner profile – Global Forest Watch (GFW)

Thousands of people around the world use GFW every day to monitor and manage forests, stop illegal deforestation and fires, call out unsustainable activities, defend their land and resources, sustainably source commodities, and conduct research at the forefront of conservation. The Planet-NICFI Basemaps are now the what users most actively choose on GFW, accounting for 63% of basemap selections and 62,000 toggles.