Harnessing Open Data to Bridge the Gap
WRI’S MISSION | To move human society to live in ways that protect Earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.
WRI’S APPROACH

COUNT IT  
CHANGE IT  
SCALE IT

SCALING OUR IMPACT IN URGENT TIMES
Strategic Plan 2014-2017
The data gap

Unavailable

Unusable

Unused
The data gap
Total Landsat Scenes Provided to Users Since Jan. 1, 2008

Free data policy
75+ million Landsat scenes downloaded

as of April 2018
Open

• Equitable access to crucial sustainable development information
• Participation leads to new innovations
• Facilitates transparency and accountability
Monitoring the Planet’s Pulse

Resource Watch provides trusted and timely data for a sustainable future.

Explore data
The Annual Surface Water Extent data set contains maps of the location and temporal distribution of surface water from 1984 to 2015 and provides statistics on the extent and change of those water surfaces. For more information, see the associated journal article, “High-Resolution Mapping of Global Surface Water and Its Long-Term Changes (Nature, 2016) and the online Data Users Guide. These data were generated using 3,066,102 scenes from Landsat 5, 7, and 8 acquired between March 16, 1984, and October 19, 2015. Each pixel was individually classified into water/nonwater using an...
Interoperable

• Please don’t make me digitize anything
• Helps connect sustainable development issues across themes and sectors
• Removes a barrier to innovation
Build and Contribute to Open Source tools
Modular and neutral API
Actionable

- Connecting top/down and bottom/up data
- Meeting the users where they are
- Visualize and tell a story
UMD/Google tree cover loss

Displaying loss with > 10% canopy density.
The promise of the data revolution

- Better targeting
- Monitor impact in near real-time
- Informed decision-making
- Continuous learning
- Radical transparency
Thank you

Resourcewatch.org
@resource_watch