NICFI Program Q2 Update (June 2021)

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This second quarterly report provides an update of the activities completed in this quarter, the data available and key statistics and metrics gathered from insights collected by the project team, including the onboarding of our first General Partners.

News and Media
In this last quarter media activity directly through the project partners as well as through user organisations has grown. A selection of media items of particular note are included:

SSPI – Footing the climate bill for the world. A video, in collaboration with the project partners, to present the NICFI Data program and how this program came to be.

Insitution of Engineering and Technology (IET) shared a media piece on the value of the NICFI data program to support the monitoring of illegal deforestation and it's link to Myanmar's military coup.

Conflict and Environment Observatory shared a blog post of deforestation in conflict areas using the NICFI data as well as GLAD and RADD alerts.

Partner blogs
Collect Earth Online – Detecting forest degradation with CEO's Geo-Dash

NASA Servir: Small satellites big results: SERVIR Integrates new high resolution global datasets to improve environmental monitoring

Activities
- Continued delivery of monthly mosaics
- Commencement of General Partner onboarding
- User outreach and support across user groups
- UK Cabinet Office Geospatial Strategy input
- Completion of launch program reporting and next step actions
- Continued support to Purpose Allies
- User story collation and formal reporting with GFW/FAO
- GEE development
- Continued outreach with ESRI and other geospatial software providers
- Continued outreach with Microsoft, AWS and Mapbox
- Enablement scripts for story generation through Mapbox
- Support to Ministry for L2 Open call for proposals
- Engagement with Pulitzer centre and discussion of possible Media focused outreach
- FOSS4G event submission
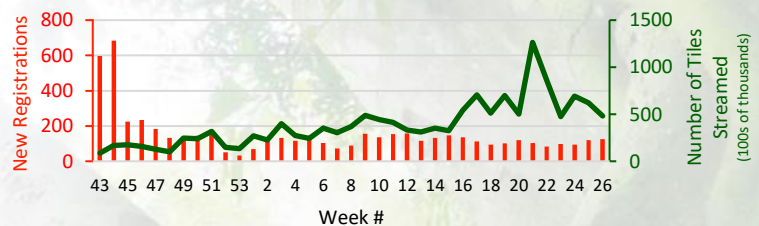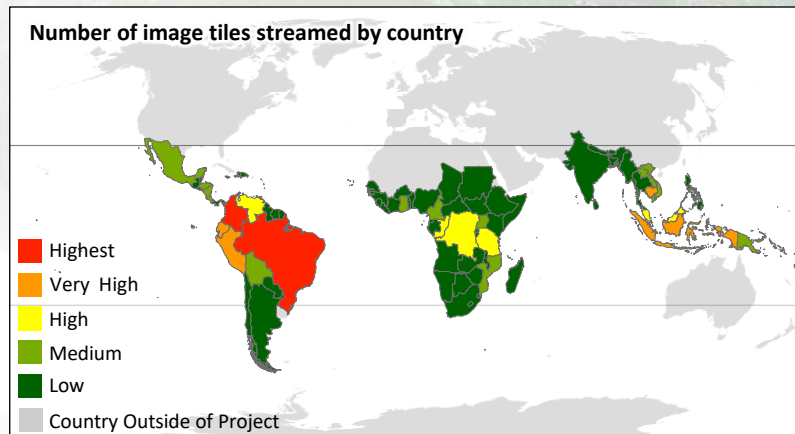- Planet Explore planning
- COP26 planning

Events
- OTFF Webinar 14th April - 200 views across 2 timeslots
- IDEAM Forest Monitoring Webinar - 23rd June
- Private sector round table - 16th June
- Science user round table - 24th June

Number of image tiles streamed by country

- Highest
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Country Outside of Project

97 countries included in the NICFI program with over **6963 registered users** from **130 countries** worldwide. To date, **15.1 million tiles** streamed from Planet Explorer.

Number of registered users

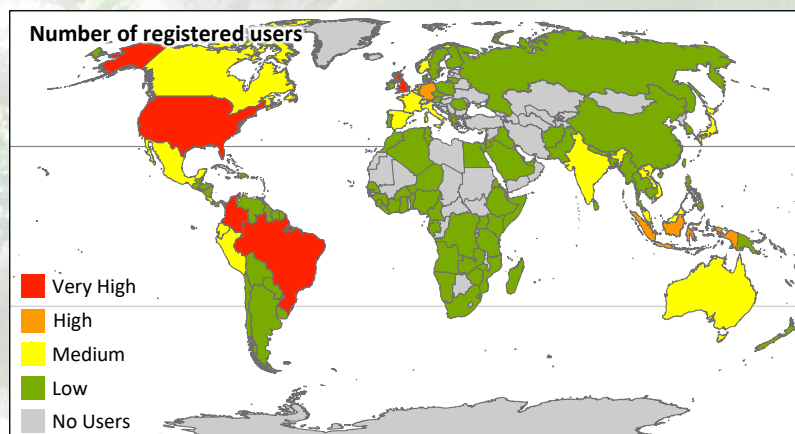

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- No Users

Resources and Helpdesk
Tier one support has handled XX tickets in this quarter (XX overall) 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) and the User Guide has also been recently updated in response to the launch program. Additional resources including a community page are now available for users providing a centralised resource for all NICFI users

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Launch Program

12 users identified across NGO, local and federal government, from intermediate to advanced expertise level, were interviewed as part of the launch program designed to understand more about the user journeys through the platform and using the data provided under the NICFI data program. Interviewees covered job roles from analysts to directors working across the Americas, Africa and APAC regions. The key findings of the report included current use and how the data is beneficial to them as well as pain points with using, downloading or integrating the NICFI data. These findings have informed actions from the project team to ensure barriers to access and use are minimal and include the community page and improved documentation.

General Partners

Current organisations/groups with L2 access:
Colombia| Guyana| Ecuador| Gabon| UNFAO/UN REDD+

Highlights:

Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (IDEAM) has found that the NICFI-Planet data is helping reduce uncertainty in their forest area change and carbon estimates and validating national land cover maps over the archive and monitoring terms. They expect the Level 2 (Scenes) data to contribute especially to early deforestation warning systems and enforcement of zero-deforestation laws and agreements.

Activities next Quarter

- Continued delivery of monthly mosaics
- Continue onboarding GPs
- Second user survey
- GFW WRI deforestation webinar 28th July
- Continued support to Purpose Allies
- User story collation and formal reporting with GFW/FAO
- Launch of GEE Basemap Integration and associated event engagement e.g. GEO4GOOD
- Continued event and outreach with user groups
- Continued outreach with ESRI and other geospatial software
- Potential for media focused outreach / collaboration with Pultizer centre
- Continued outreach with Microsoft, AWS and Mapbox
- GFOI Plenary – 7-10th Sept
- Support to GEO RFP with Microsoft
- Potential OTFF webinar Sept/Oct
- FOSS4G event - 27th Sept – 2nd Oct
- Planet Explore planning
- COP26 planning

Purpose Allies

GLOBAL FOREST WATCH

MAPBIOMAS

FAO

Outreach Partners

Microsoft

mapbox
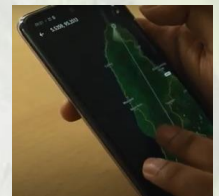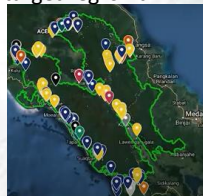
esri

User Story Highlights

CAFI is now using the NICFI data to validate and classify drivers of deforestation and degradation, which is critical to improved land cover mapping, management, and reporting. In partnership with UN-FAO, CAFI is hosting regular workshops with technical practitioners from the six-member countries and beyond to support their work with the NICFI-Planet data, including helping implement dense time-series approaches to track and classify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation over time.

According to Remi D'Annunzio, REDD+ National Forest Monitoring Coordinator for Africa, UN-FAO, "Anywhere in the Central African forest where degradation is happening - we were missing a substantial amount of even easy to detect degradation with anything else other than the NICFI data."
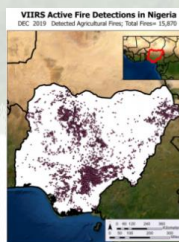
CAFI CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST INITIATIVE

HAkA is an Aceh based NGO whose name stands for Hutan, Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh (Forest, Nature and Environment of Aceh). Presenting at the OTFF webinar in April 2021 the team share how the imagery helps them to identify the occurrence of, and calculate the amount of, deforestation. They do this by validating alerts with the Planet imagery which is important for law enforcement and helps them to prioritise areas to protect and where to target regrowth.

AMPA (Amazonica Por la Amazonia) is applying the data to validate deforestation and to enforce on forestry crimes in the San Martin region of Southern Peru. Presenting at the OTFF webinar in April 2021 the team share how the imagery, along with GFW tools and GLAD alerts to have a better understanding and context of deforestation across the region

AMPA AMAZÓNICOS POR LA AMAZONÍA

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Miami University are using the NICFI data to train local governments and NGOs in west Africa to detect wildfires, map human caused forest and make polices to manage fire mapping and prevention since open burning is the single largest source of black carbon and becomes extremely costly to farmers.

"One of the best things about the Planet-NICFI data is that it is already orthorectified and georeferenced... The mosaics are really helpful in communicating change, particularly in cloudy areas"

Partner profile – UN FAO

The FAO SEPAL and Collect Earth Online platforms enable users from across the world to monitor the worlds forests and track land use and landscape changes anywhere whilst making access to geospatial data simpler. For example additional developments undertaken by FAO include SEPAL's new Orders Section allowing users to bring their NICFI API key directly into SEPAL to access trained classifiers (for deforestation, restoration and drivers of deforestation classification + monitoring), wildfire detection, and work with the data in familiar environments.