Beyond The Dashboard

Ensuring Data Drives Real World Change



Becky Atkins
Data Lab Global Network Lead,
World Resources Institute (WRI)



27th May, 2025



World Resources Institute

As an independent research organization, we leverage our data, expertise and global reach to influence policy and catalyze change across systems like food, land and water; energy; and cities. Our 2,000+ staff work on the ground in more than a dozen focus countries and with partners in over 50 nations.

WRI's Data & Platforms



15+ years

Of experience building interactive data applications

950,000

Annual users on our most established data tool Global Forest Watch

13+

Established data platforms

≈40

Data products overall

Listening to Local Perspectives

- Brazil
- China
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ethiopia
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Republic of the Congo
- Rwanda
- The Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- United States





Beyond The Dashboard

Ensuring Data Drives Real World Change

People won't use data when they:

So we:

1 Can't find it

Data- Make accurate, impactful data available

2 Can't understand it



Delivery- Provide the tools to make it usable in context

3 Can't trust it



People- Engage deeply & respond to feedback



Global Tree Cover Loss

The Tree Cover Loss data represents the **removal of tree canopy** at a given location, measured annually at 30 x 30m resolution.

It reflects areas where trees have been cleared or lost due to disturbances such as logging, fire, disease, or land use change.

Source: High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st Century Forest Cover Change; M.C.Hanson et al



2024 showed more tropical forest lost to fire

Tropical Primary forest cover (2001): 1,000 Mha Moving average Loss to fires Loss to other drivers Primary forest loss (Mha) Non-fire related loss can occur from mechanical clearing for agriculture and logging, as well as natural causes such as wind damage and river meandering. The three-year moving average may 🔆 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE represent a more accurate picture of the data trends due to uncertainty in year-to-year comparisons. This figure is calculated with a 30 percent minimum tree cover canopy density.

The age of extinction Deforestation

Fires drove record loss of world's forests last year, 'frightening' data shows

Burning, worsened by global heating, overtook farming and logging as biggest cause of destruction of tropical forests

The age of extinction is supported by

the guardian org

About this content

Patrick Greenfield

Wed 21 May 2025 05.01 BST



The Americas | A losing battle

Wildfires devastated the Amazon basin in 2024

They wiped away all progress governments had made to curb deforestation in recent years

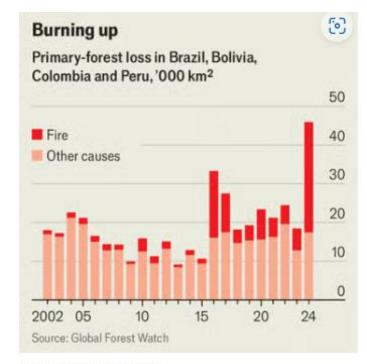
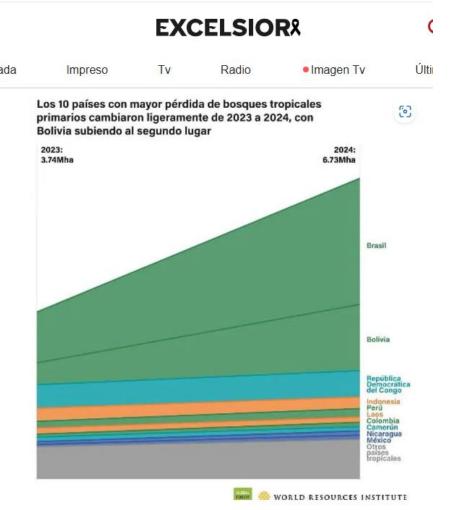


CHART: THE ECONOMIST



THE ECONOMIC TIMES | News

English Edition ▼ | Today's ePaper

India lost 18,200 ha of primary forest in 2024: Data

PTI - Last Updated: May 21, 2025, 04:47:00 PM IST

Synopsis

India's primary forest loss increased to 18,200 hectares in 2024, up from 17,700 hectares in 2023, according to Global Forest Watch data. Since 2001, the country has lost 2.31 million hectares of tree cover, resulting in significant carbon emissions. Humid primary forest loss accounted for 15% of the total tree cover loss between 2002 and 2024.



NewScientist



inter search keyw

News Features Newsletters Podcasts Video Comment Culture Crosswords | This week's magazine

Health Space Physics Technology Environment Mind Humans Life Mathematics Chemistry Earth Society

Environment

Tropical forest loss doubled in 2024 as wildfires rocketed

A record 67,000 square kilometres of primary rainforest was lost from the tropics in 2024, with global warming and El Niño contributing to a massive jump in fire-driven damage

By Luke Taylor

□ 21 May 2025









Corporations improving their supply chains



Indigenous groups and local communities fighting for their land



National and subnational governments implementing policy





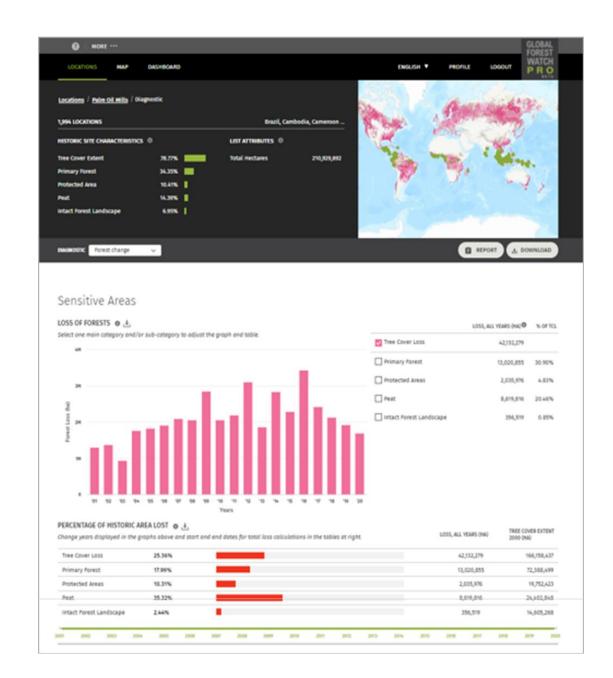
Local police and forest rangers enforcing policies



Journalists and news media holding powerful interests to account

Global Corporations-Olam Agri

- Assess risk in supply chains
- Monitor portfolios of locations across the globe







"Olam Food Ingredients uses Global Forest Watch Pro for active monitoring of roughly 400,000 farms... it was the most efficient, publicly trusted, and effective method for us"

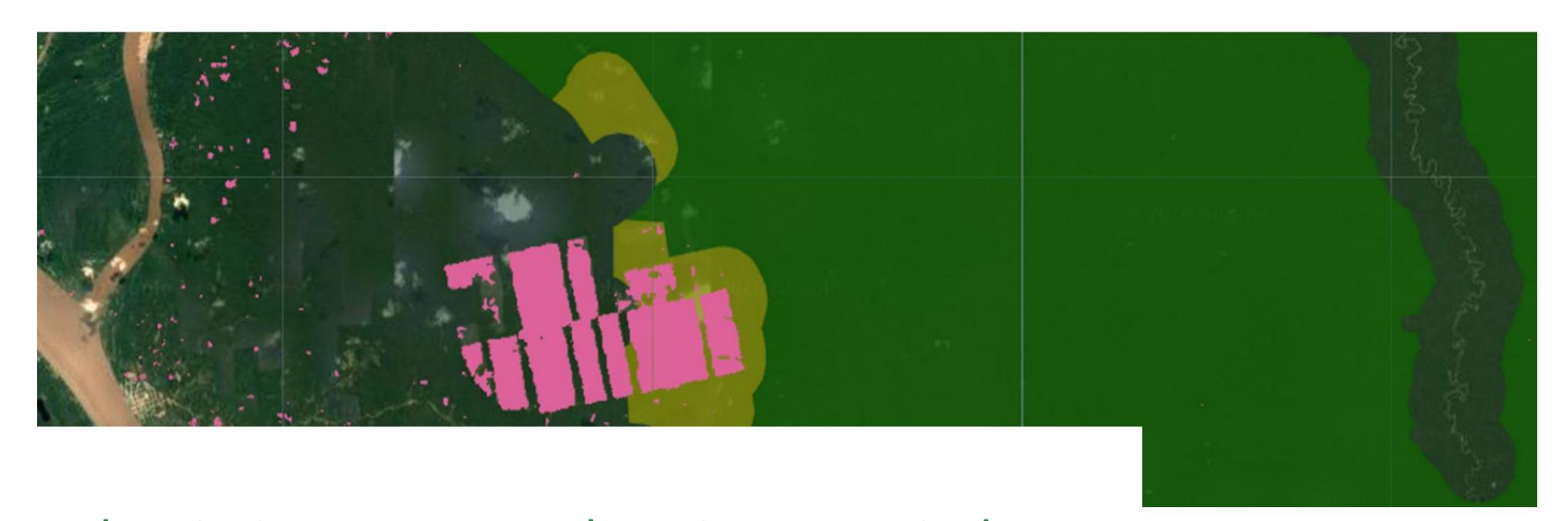
Benjamin Wielgosz Geospatial Development Manager Olam Food Ingredients

Global Land Analysis and Discovery (GLAD) alerts

GLAD uses imagery from NASA's Landsat satellites to **automatically flag areas** where the forest canopy has been disturbed.

Each alert indicates a 30x30m area which has experienced a disturbance in forest canopy, and alerts responders of the need to investigate





Subscriptions to GLAD alerts in 22 tropical countries decreased the probability of deforestation in Africa by 18%



Local Forest Rangers-Madagascar

- GLAD alerts delivered through Forest Watcher
- Unique research into Andrefana Dry Forests
- Deep engagement with local communities





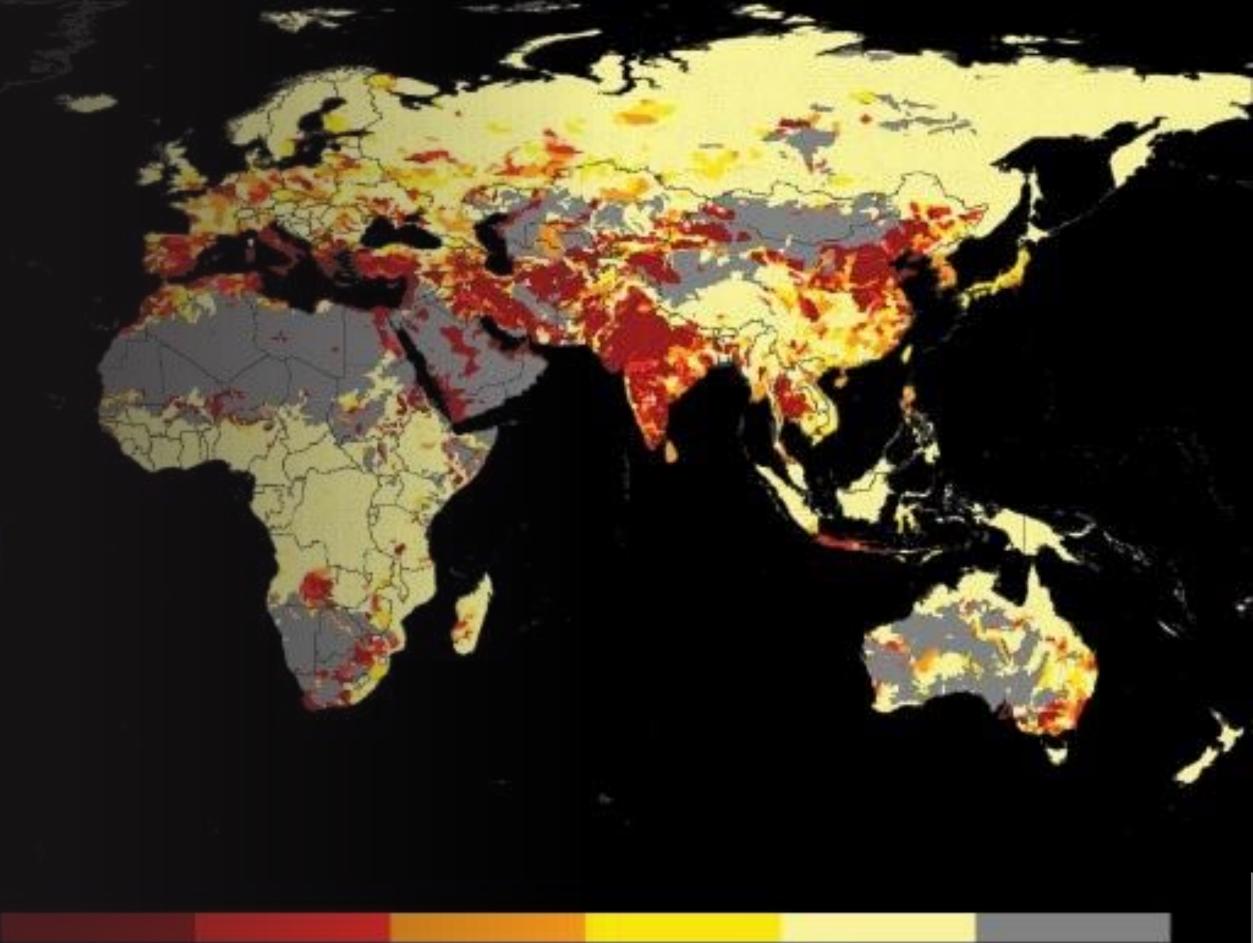
But taking the same approach:

- 1. Data- Make accurate, impactful data available
- 2. Delivery- Provide the tools to make it usable in context
- 3. People- Engage deeply & respond to feedback

Aqueduct 4.0

The baseline of water stress measures the **competition for** water resources.

It is the relationship between water demand and the available renewable water supply in a basin.



BASELINE WATER STRESS

Source: wri.org/aqueduct

Extremely high (>80%)

High (40-80%) Medium-high (20-40%) Low-medium (10-20%)

Low (<10%) Arid and low water use





















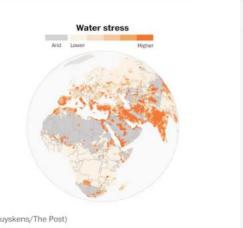
Making Headlines

The Washington Post

Here's where water is running out in the world — and why

New research shows that by 2050 an additional one billion people will live in areas with high levels of water stress. See where water is scarcest in the world.

By Veronica Penney and John Muyskens

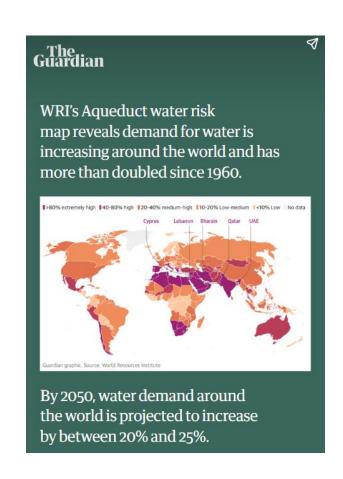








Parker Dam holds back the Colorado River between Arizona and California and creates Lake Havasu. From the reservoir, water is pumped to the Colorado River Aquedict, and flows to Southern California's cities. (Brian van der Briag / Los Angeles Times)



Managing Supply Chains-The Aqueduct Alliance

















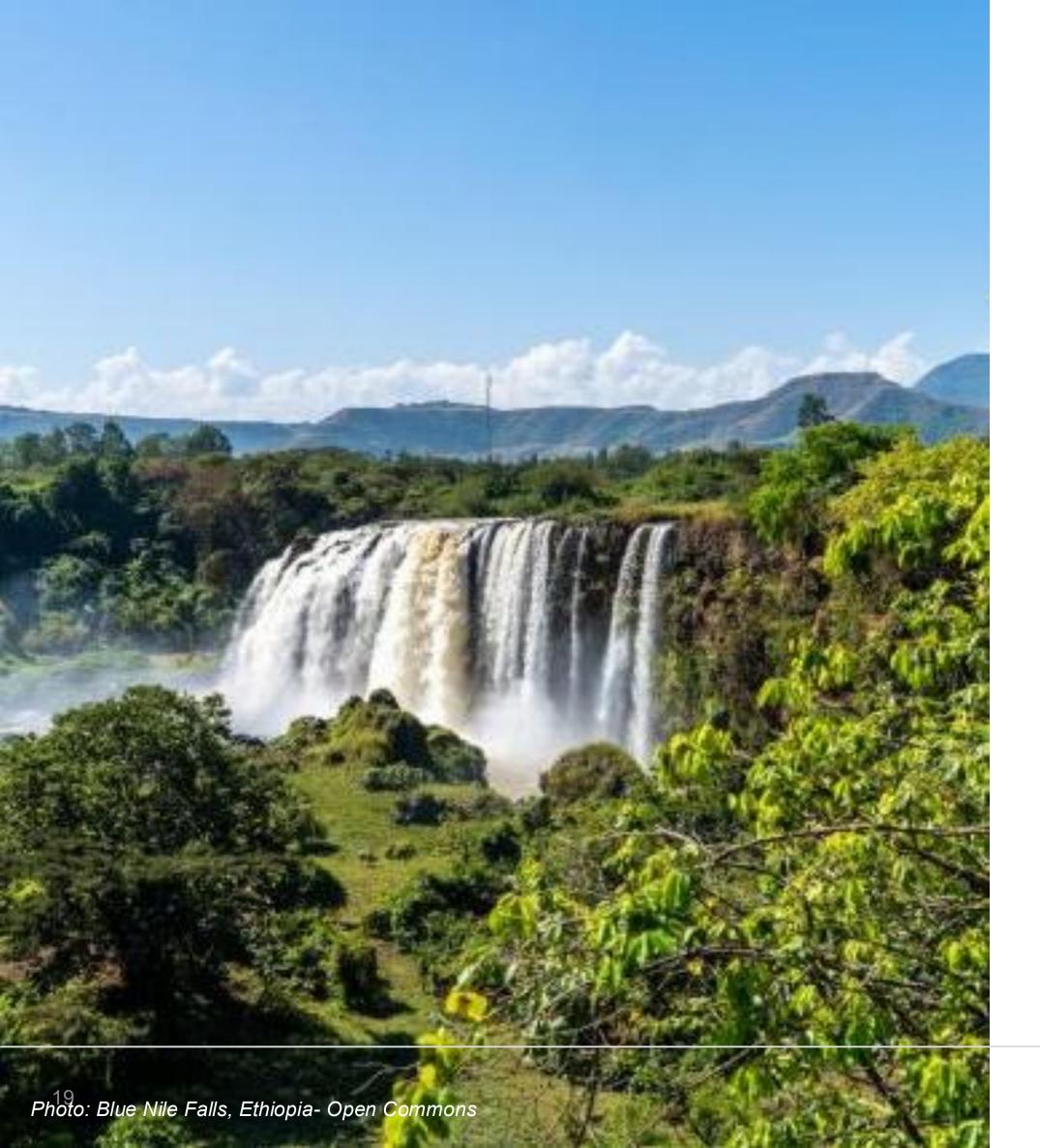






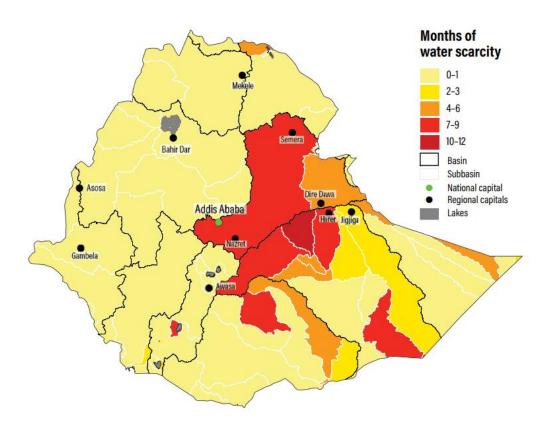






National and Subnational Governments- Ethiopia

- The Aqueduct Water risk model, downscaled and inclusive of local government data
- Additional mapping capacity and expertise
- Consultations for enhanced nature based solutions
- Co-developed, granular datasets for national and regional level planning



Source: Adane, Z., T. Gelassie, and E.L. Swedenborg. WRI. 2021









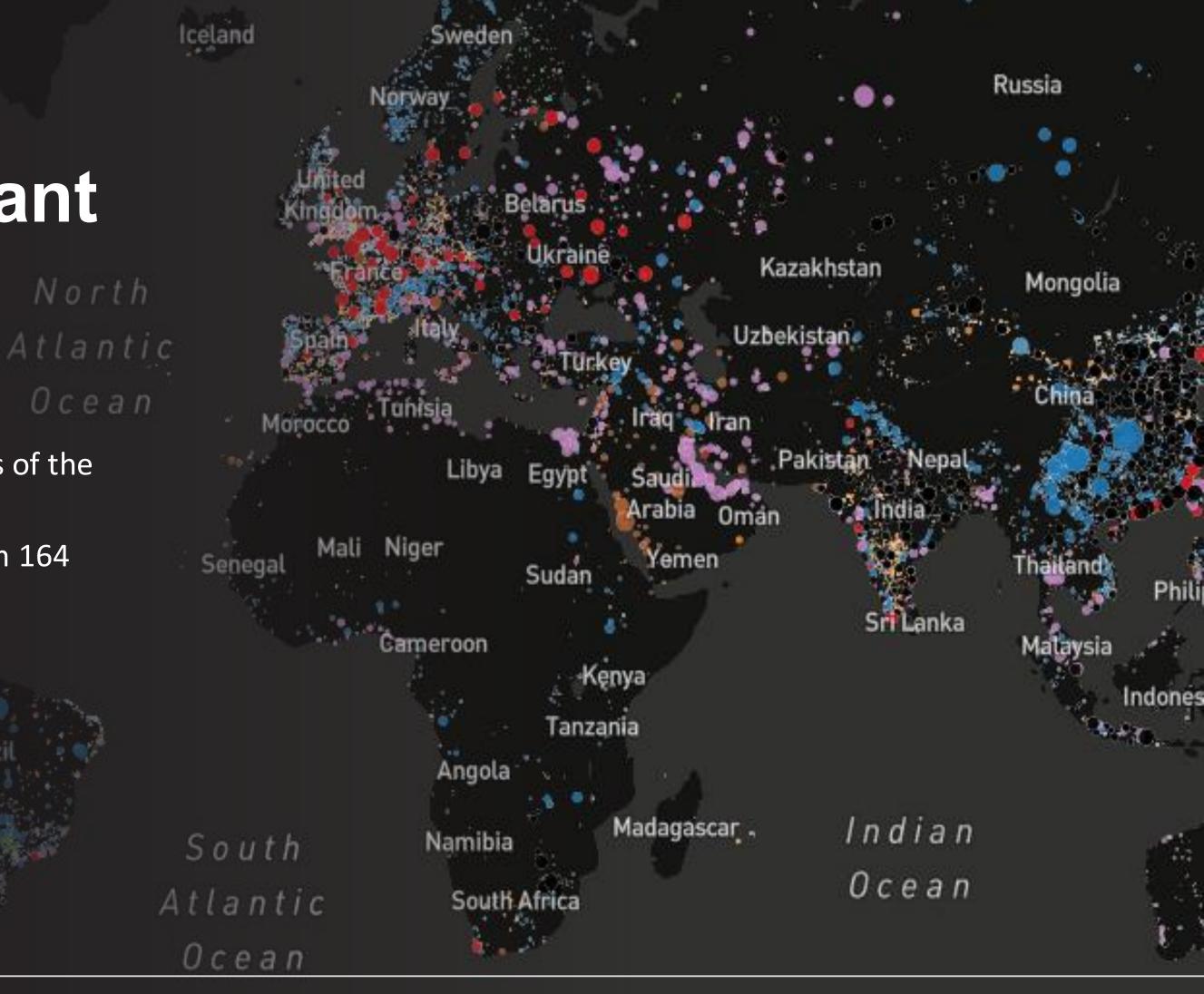
Ethiopia is committed to taking action on climate change, and WRI's expertise and experience are invaluable in helping the country achieve its goals.

Her Excellency Minister Dr. Fitsum Asefa

Global Power Plant Database

Open, global dataset of the geolocations of the world's power plants, and covers approximately 30,000 power plants from 164 countries

Peru Brazil Bolivia Paraguay









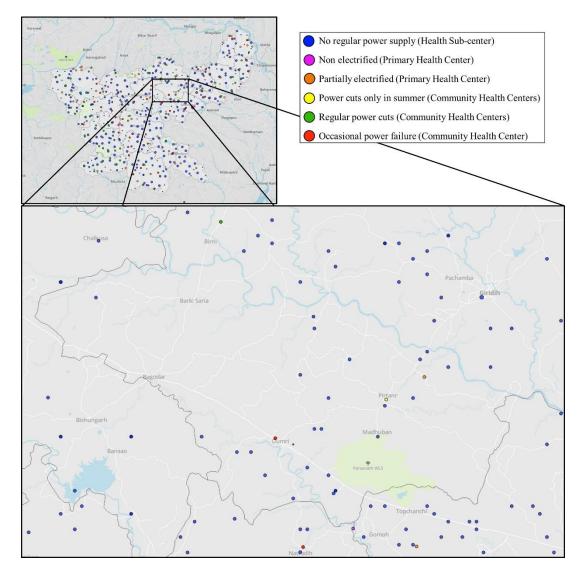
Energy Planning Agencies- India

Energy Access Explorer allows:

- Layered data: Combines energy, environment, and population data to reveal gaps and opportunities.
- Custom uploads: Lets users add and visualize their own data for localized insights.

This is paired with:

- Local engagement to build trust
- Tailored research where needed



Health facilities in government-owned buildings, Jharkhand.

Source: WRI













Listening to identify:

The right data- What accuracy at what frequency?

2 The right delivery- What are people trying to do with the data?

3 For the right people- Who is making decisions which lead to change?

Leading to:



Accurate, impactful data



Reliable infrastructure and data management



Platforms, apps and tools



Custom data analyses



Working together and building trust



Thank You.

STAY IN TOUCH



wri.org



becky.atkins@wri.org



www.linkedin.com/in/becky-atkins