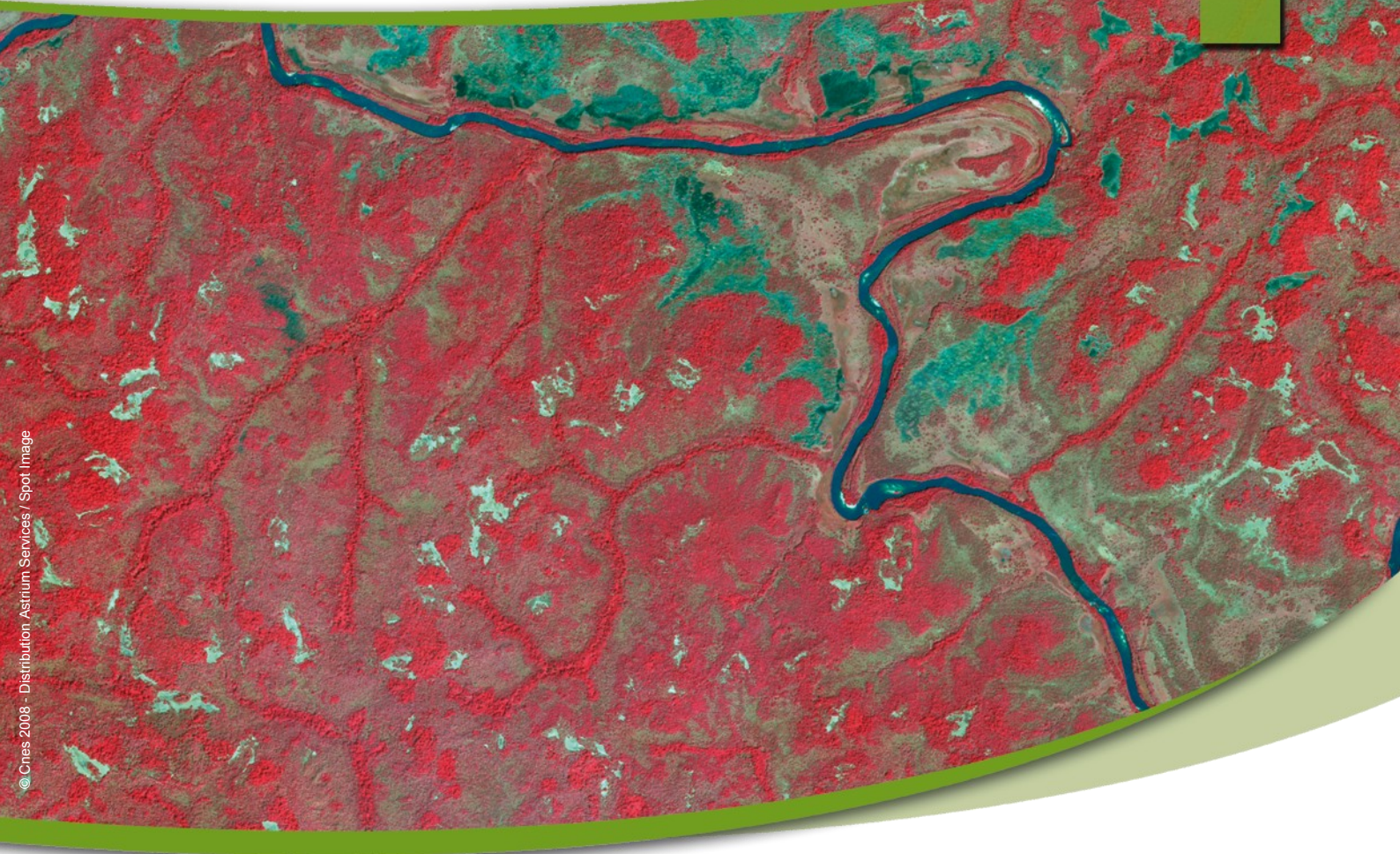


Satellites Tracking Biodiversity

Preserving Natural Habitats

Theme



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Why Biodiversity Matters CoraGlobal and local biodiversity is a vital natural heritage that needs to be preserved for people, science and the economy.

Plants bring many benefits, for example wood for energy and construction, and raw materials for textiles and healthcare. They also play a role in the water cycle and in regulating Earth's climate system. Animals also occupy an important place in natural habitats, helping to maintain ecosystem balances.

However, natural habitats are being severely degraded due to growing anthropogenic pressures—fragmentation of habitats and destruction of ecosystems—and the first impacts of climate change on both animal and plant species.

The Value of Satellite Imagery

Satellite imagery makes it possible to precisely map land use and land cover over large areas, providing a broad vision of the landscape. Data from Earth imagery highlights spatial changes, whether natural or man-made. Combined with botanical data gathered on the ground, information derived from processing of satellite imagery is useful for establishing inventories and calculating indicators of fragmentation, acreages, corridors and so on that are vital for preserving biodiversity.

Monitoring disruption of natural habitats—largely due to human factors such as farming practices, resource exploitation and building—with satellite imagery helps to focus conservation strategies.

Local Conservation Strategies

Some places are richer in biodiversity than others: the variety of flora and fauna depends on bioclimatic conditions, elevation, soils and many other factors. That's why we need to find conservation strategies suited to each kind of territory. Illegal logging and land clearance for farming have destroyed the habitat of numerous plant and animal species, creating ecosystem imbalances and hurting populations.

Conservation Efforts

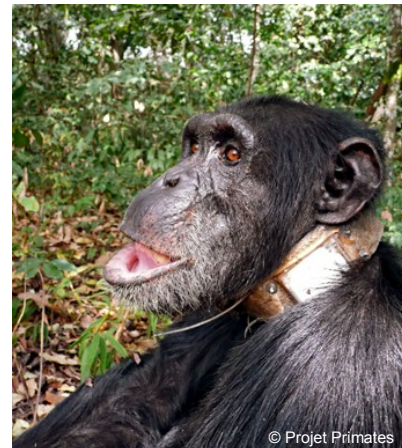
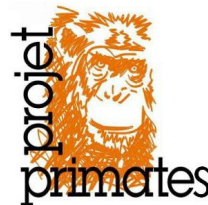
Projects supported by Planet Action are seeking to develop conservation strategies for species' natural habitats, in national parks and ecological corridors.

Preserving Chimpanzees in Guinea

Illegal trade, habitat loss and forest clearing for farming are threatening Guinea's chimpanzees. The Centre de Conservation des Chimanzés (CCC) is working in partnership with Project Primate to develop strategies to protect them.

Goals

- Pursue a conservation and outreach programme
- Help authorities to protect the Haut Niger National Park
- Release young chimpanzees caught by poachers



© Projet Primates

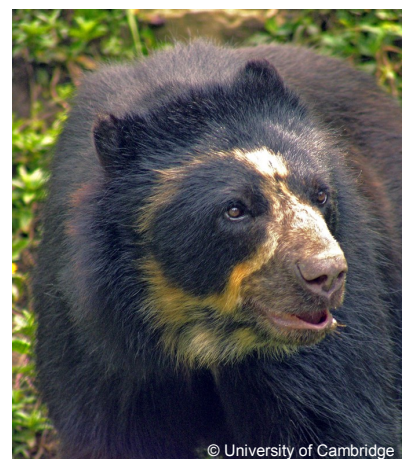
Preserving the Andean Bear in Venezuela

Cambridge University designed this project to model the habitat of the Andean bear in the Sierra de Portuguesa and establish a conservation strategy. It has developed a geographic database of the study areas using maps derived from satellite imagery.



Goals

- Establish a bear conservation plan
- Conceive a habitat model of the bear population
- Implement conservation directives



© University of Cambridge

Preserving the Mekong Delta in Vietnam

WWF is conducting research in the Mekong delta on the impact of climate change and human activities on the mangrove forest and its biodiversity. The results of this research will help the local community and authorities to devise an adaptation strategy.



Goals

- Identify change in the mangrove forest and its impacts on biodiversity
- Study coastal change and erosion
- Raise awareness and devise long-term adaptation strategies to combat climate change



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