



**EARTH SCIENCE  
APPLIED SCIENCES**

# **2021 Earth Science Applications Week Closing Plenary**

**August 12, 2021**

**EARTH SCIENCE APPLICATIONS WEEK 2021**

# W E L C O M E





# OPENING REMARKS

Lawrence Friedl, Director  
Applied Sciences Program





# NASA SMD REMARKS

Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen,  
Associate Administrator  
NASA Science Mission Directorate





# WEEK IN REVIEW

Dr. Emily Sylak-Glassman,  
Program Manager  
Applied Sciences Program

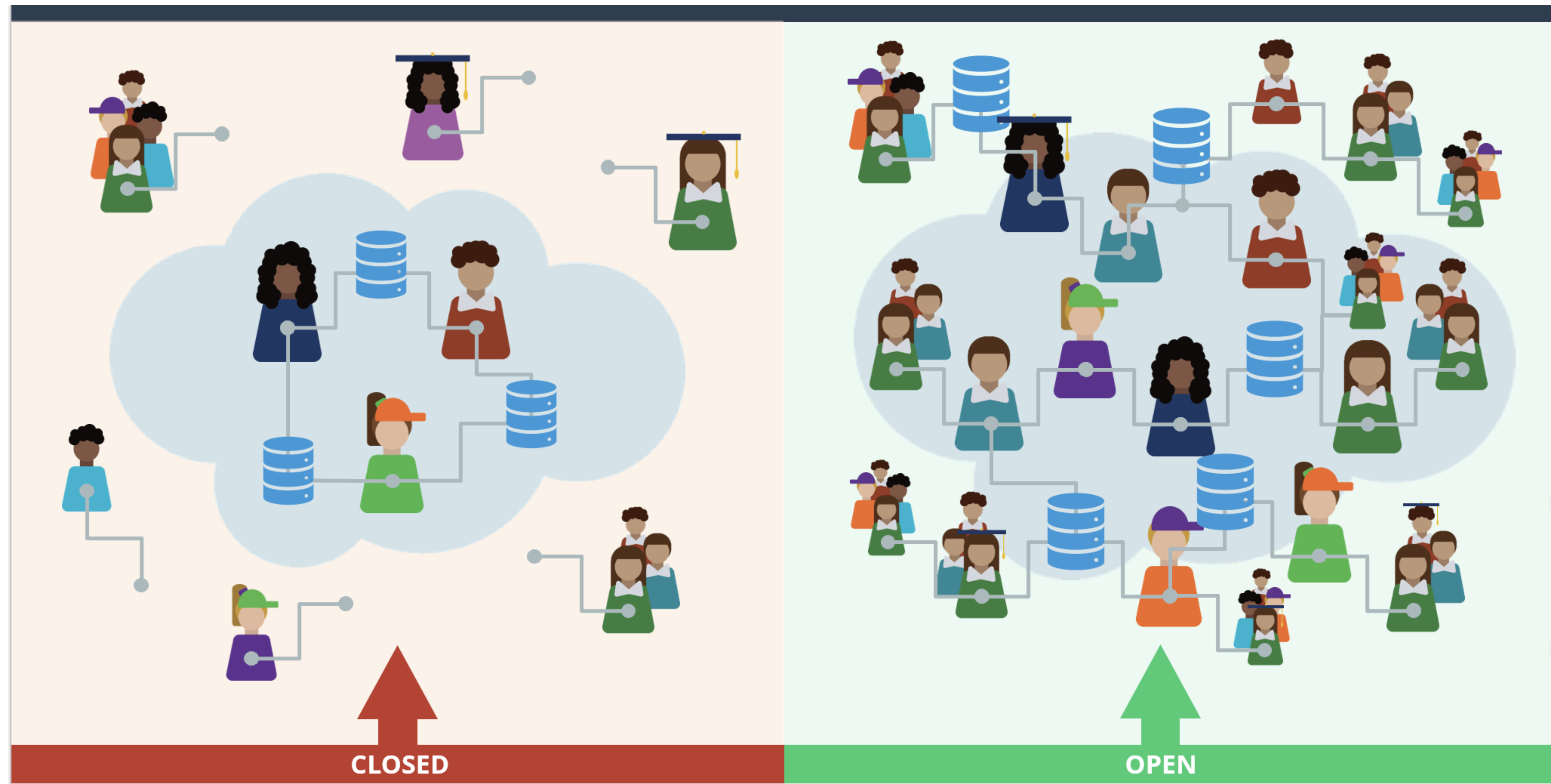




# NASA Earth Science Data Pathfinders

Cynthia Hall, Community Coordinator  
NASA Earth Science Data Systems

# Open-source Science



# Challenges

- NASA Earth science data users have challenges with data discovery, dataset selection, and data application

The screenshot shows the NASA Earth Data Search interface. A search for 'gfsad' has been performed, resulting in 8,197 matching collections. The interface includes a search bar, filters for categories, features, keywords, and platforms, and a list of search results. A red circle highlights the search results area, and another red circle highlights the '8,197 Matching Collections' text.

**Search Data Catalog**

gfsad

Temporal Range: [Dropdown] Collection: [Dropdown] Version: [Dropdown]

Showing 1 - 10 of 10 results

Sort by: Product Name

| Product Name     | Description   | Measures                |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| GFSAD1KCD v001   | Global Food Security Support Analysis Data (GFSAD) Crop Dominance 2010 Global 1 km  | MEASURES GFSAD CROPLAND |
| GFSAD1KCM v001   | Global Food Security Support Analysis Data (GFSAD) Crop Mask 2010 Global 1 km       | MEASURES GFSAD CROPLAND |
| GFSAD30AFCE v001 | Global Food Security-support Analysis Data (GFSAD) Cropland Extent 2015 Africa 30 m | MEASURES GFSAD CROPLAND |

8,197 Matching Collections

The screenshot shows the NASA Earth Data Search interface with search results for 'SST'. The search results are displayed in a list view, showing 43 matching collections. A red circle highlights the '43 Matching Collections' text. The interface includes a search bar, filters for organizations, projects, and processing levels, and a list of search results.

**EARTHDATA SEARCH**

Find a DAAC

SST

43 Matching Collections

Showing 20 of 43 matching collections

| Product Name | Description  | Measures   |
|--------------|--|--|
| POSEIDON-2   | 161,311 Granules • 2012-01-02 ongoing • The Ocean Biology DAAC produces near real-time (quicklook) products using the best-available combination of ancillary data from meteorological and ozone data. As such, the inputs and the calibration used are less than optimal.       | MAP IMAGERY NRT VIIRS_L2_SST_NRT v2016.2 - OB.DAAC |
| POSEIDON-3   | 816,684 Granules • 2012-01-02 ongoing • The Visible and Infrared Imager/Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) is a multi-disciplinary instrument that is being flown on the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) series of spacecraft, including the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partner...  | MAP IMAGERY VIIRS_L2_SST v2016.2 - OB.DAAC         |
| POSEIDON-3B  | 2,676 Granules • 2012-01-02 ongoing • The Ocean Biology DAAC produces near real-time (quicklook) products using the best-available combination of ancillary data from meteorological and ozone data. As such, the inputs and the calibration used are less than optimal.         | NRT VIIRS_L3m_SST_NRT v2016.2 - OB.DAAC            |
| PRARE        | 9,036 Granules • 2012-01-02 ongoing • The Visible and Infrared Imager/Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) is a multi-disciplinary instrument that is being flown on the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) series of spacecraft, including the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnershi... | VIIRS_L3m_SST v2016.2 - OB.DAAC                    |
| RA-2         | GHRSSST Level 2P OSPO dataset v2.61 from VIIRS on the NOAA-20 satellite (GDS v2)   |  |

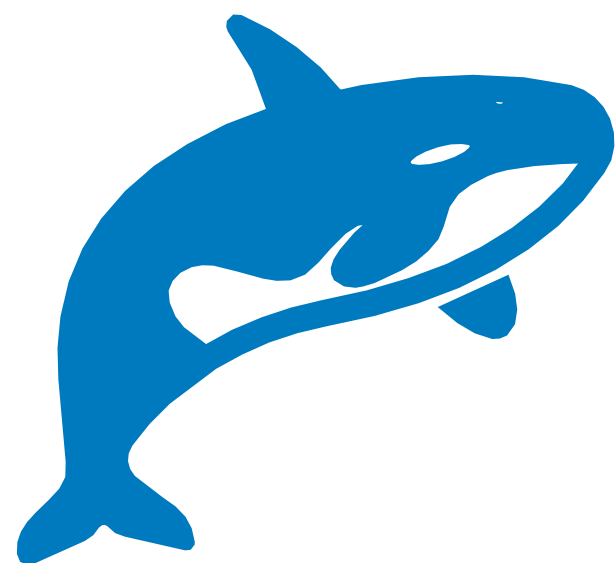
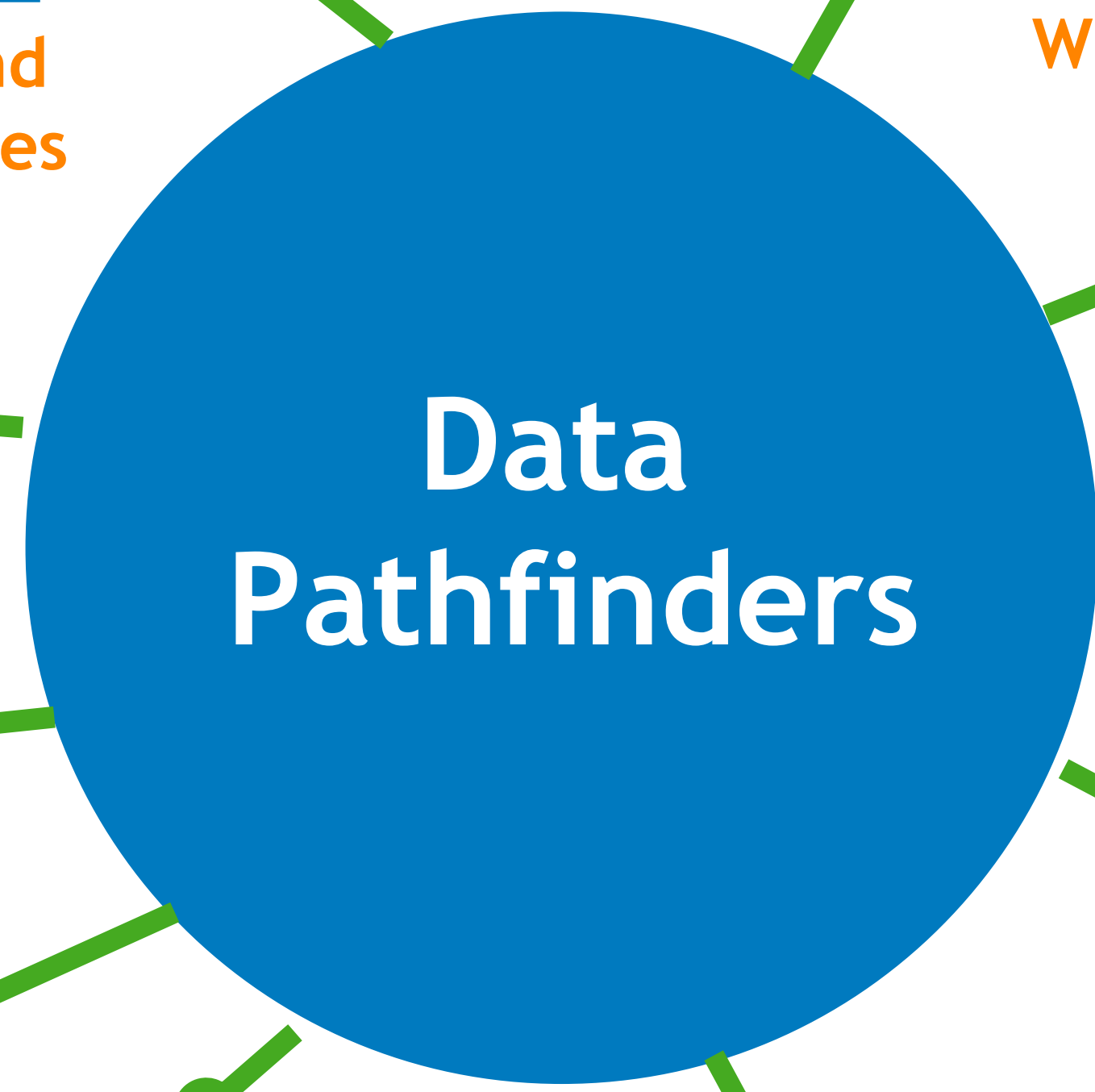




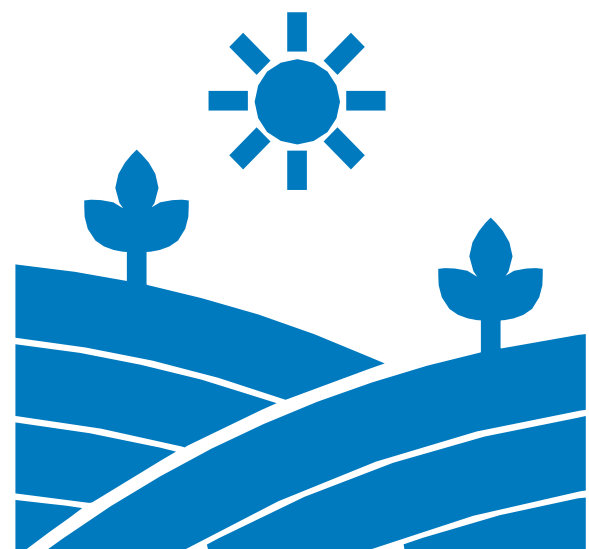
# Earthdata Data Pathfinders

- Are data product selection guides focused on science disciplines and application areas, like fires, floods, diseases, and sea level change;
- Have direct links to commonly used datasets from NASA's Earth science collections;
- Link to tools which provide ways of visualizing and subsetting data, with an option to save data in various file formats.





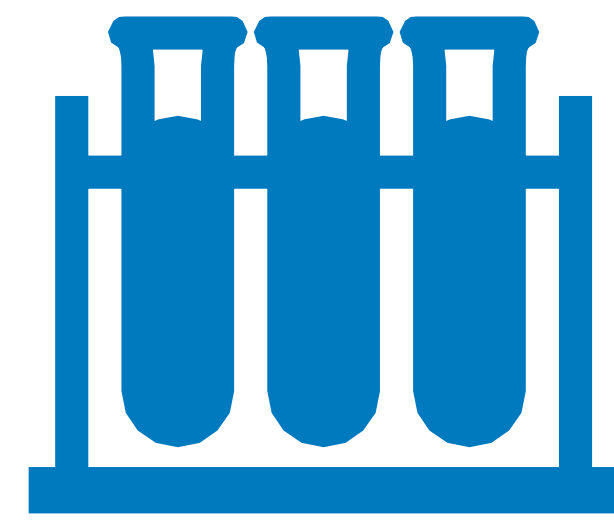
**Biological Diversity and Ecological Forecasting**



**Agriculture and Water Resources**



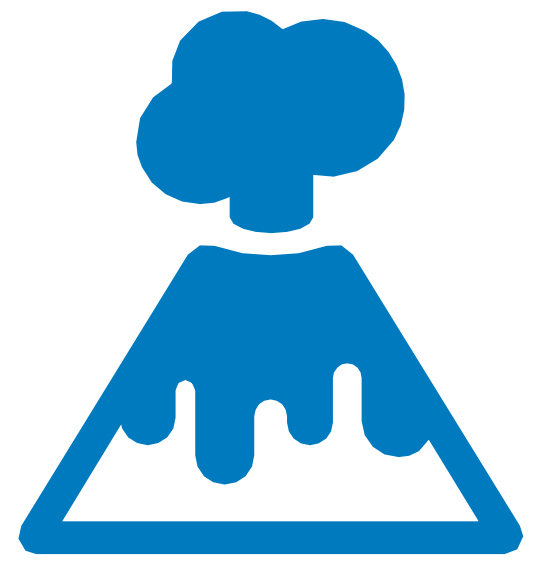
**Wildfires**



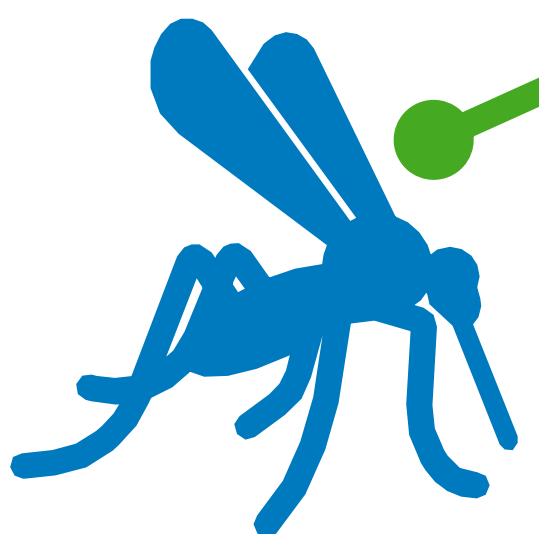
**Water Quality**



**Sustainable Development Goals**



**Disasters**



**Diseases**



**Geographic Information System**



**Greenhouse Gases**



**Health and Air Quality**



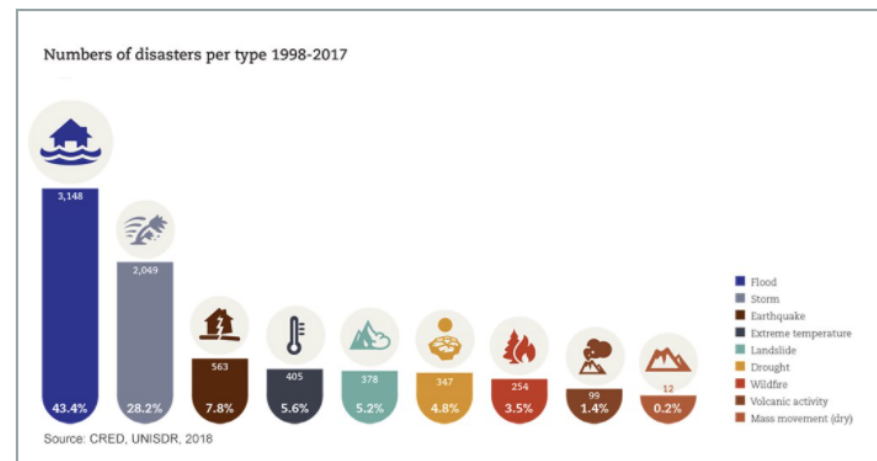
**Sea Level Change**



# Earthdata Data Pathfinders

## Disasters Data Pathfinder

Natural disasters affect millions of people every year. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), there were roughly 7250 disasters between 1998 and 2017, killing over 1.3 million people. Of those, flooding and storms account for the greatest number of disasters, while earthquakes cause the largest number of deaths; close to 750,000 people died from earthquakes during that period. It is also important to note that climate change will likely increase frequency of extreme heat and other extreme weather events in the coming decades.



Credit: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

New to using NASA Earth science data? This pathfinder is designed to help guide you through the process of selecting and using applicable datasets, with guidance on resolutions and direct links to the data sources.

After getting started here, there are numerous NASA resources that can help develop your skills further. If you are new to remote sensing, check out [What is Remote Sensing?](#) or view NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training on [Fundamentals of Remote Sensing](#) and other [Disaster-related trainings](#).

### Disaster Data Pathfinders:

- [Cyclones](#)
- [Earthquakes and Volcanoes](#)
- [Extreme Heat](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Landslides](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

About the Data

Use the Data

Other NASA Assets of Interest

| Measurement  | Satellite/Platform   | Sensor  | Spatial Resolution           | Temporal Resolution |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Active Fire and Thermal Anomalies, Cloud Top Temperature, Land Surface Temperature, Surface Reflectance, Sea Surface Temperature, Vegetation Indices | Terra and Aqua   | Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) * | 250 m, 500 m, 1000 m, 5600 m | 1-2 days            |
| Active Fire/Thermal Anomalies, Land Surface Temperature, Nighttime Imagery, Sea Surface Temperature, Surface Reflectance, Vegetation Indices         | NASA/NOAA Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) NOAA-20 satellite and Suomi NPP              | Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) *     | 500 m, 1000 m, 5600 m        | daily               |
| Clouds   | NASA/NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-East (GOES-East) and GOES-West | Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI)                          | 1 km                         | 10 min              |
| Clouds   | Japan Meteorological Agency Himawari-8   | Advanced Himawari Imager                                | 1 km                         | 10 min              |
| Elevation/Topography   | Space Shuttle  | Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)                 | 30 m                         | Static              |



# Earthdata Data Pathfinders

## Cyclones Data Pathfinder



Tropical storms are low-pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters, where the sea surface temperatures are greater than about 80°F (26.5°C). Because of this critical temperature, they occur in different seasons in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. The storms are cyclonic, meaning they rotate in either a clockwise (Southern Hemisphere) or counterclockwise (Northern Hemisphere) direction, often having outer edges that extend hundreds of kilometers from the center of the storm. A tropical depression reaches storm status when its winds maintain a speed of 33 knots (around 38 mph or 62 km/h) or more. A tropical storm reaches hurricane status when its winds maintain a speed of 64 knots (74 mph or 119 km/h) or more. These massive storms bring sustained heavy winds and rainfall, devastating coastal communities with storm surges and both coastal and inland areas with flooding and winds.

NOAA provides up-to-date information on storm tracking and intensity within the Atlantic and East Pacific Oceans at its [National Hurricane Center](#) and the Naval Oceanography Portal provides information on storm tracking within the West Pacific and Indian Oceans through its [Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#). Note that hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons are all cyclonic storms with wind speeds over 64 knots; the name is dependent on location.

NASA provides information that can help in pre-storm emergency preparedness, by helping urban planners and emergency management professionals understand the exposure and vulnerabilities as well as post-storm damage assessment and response. In addition to the datasets below, NASA has several other projects that may have cyclone-related model-based data or tools. View the [Other NASA Assets](#) section to find out more.



Hurricane Isabel, which was once a powerful Category 5 hurricane in the central Atlantic with winds estimated at 160 mph, finally came ashore on September 18, 2003, as a much weaker Category 2 storm. Credit: NASA.

Pre-storm Assessment

Near Real-time Assessment

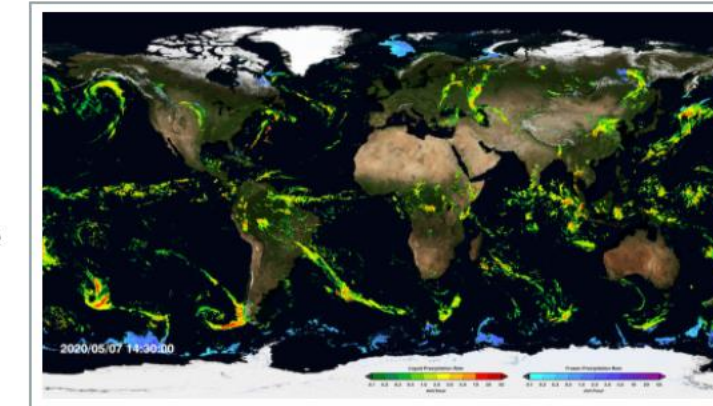
Post-storm Assessment

Tools for Data Access and Visualization

## Pre-storm Assessment

### Precipitation

NASA's Precipitation Measurement Missions (PMM) provide a continuous long-term record (over 20 years) of precipitation data through the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) and Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) missions. The follow-on mission, GPM, provides even more accurate measurements, improved detection of light rain and snow, and extended spatial coverage. GPM has developed a story map providing information on the [2020 Hurricane Season](#).



Near real-time IMERG Early Run Half-Hourly Image, acquired on May 7, 2020. Credit: NASA.

The products from TRMM and GPM are available individually and have also been integrated with data from a global constellation of satellites to yield improved spatial/temporal precipitation estimates providing a temporal resolution of 30 minutes (in the case of GPM). The integrated products are the TRMM Multi-satellite Precipitation Analysis (TMPA) and the Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for GPM (IMERG). IMERG's multiple runs accommodate different user requirements for latency and accuracy (Early = 4 hours, e.g., for flash flood events; Late = 12 hours, e.g., for crop forecasting; and Final = 3 months, with the incorporation of rain gauge data, for research).

### Data Products for Measuring Precipitation

Research-quality data products can be accessed via Earthdata Search:

- [TMPA from Earthdata Search](#)  
Rainfall estimate at 3 hours, 1 day, or NRT and accumulated rainfall at 3 hours and 1 day. Data are in HDF format and can be opened using Panoply. Data are available from 1997.
- [IMERG from Earthdata Search](#)  
Early, Late, and Final precipitation data on the half-hour or 1-day timeframe. Data are in NetCDF or HDF format, and can be opened using Panoply. Data are available from 2000.

Data products can be visualized as a time-averaged map, an animation, seasonal maps, scatter plots, or a time series through an online interactive tool, Giovanni. Follow these steps to plot data in Giovanni: 1) Select a map plot type. 2) Select a date range. Data are in multiple temporal resolutions and multiple temporal coverages, so be sure to note the start and end date to ensure you access the desired dataset. 3) Check the box of the variable in the left column that you would like to include and then plot the data. For more information on choosing a type of plot, see the [Giovanni User Manual](#).

- [TMPA in Giovanni](#)
- [IMERG in Giovanni](#): Data are available from 2000-present.

Data can be visualized in Worldview:

- [IMERG Precipitation Rate in Worldview](#)
- [AMS2 Precipitation Rate in Worldview](#)  
Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer 2 (AMS2) instrument collects data that indicate the rate at which precipitation is falling on the surface of the ocean and is measured in millimeters per hour (mm/hr).



# Earthdata Data Pathfinders

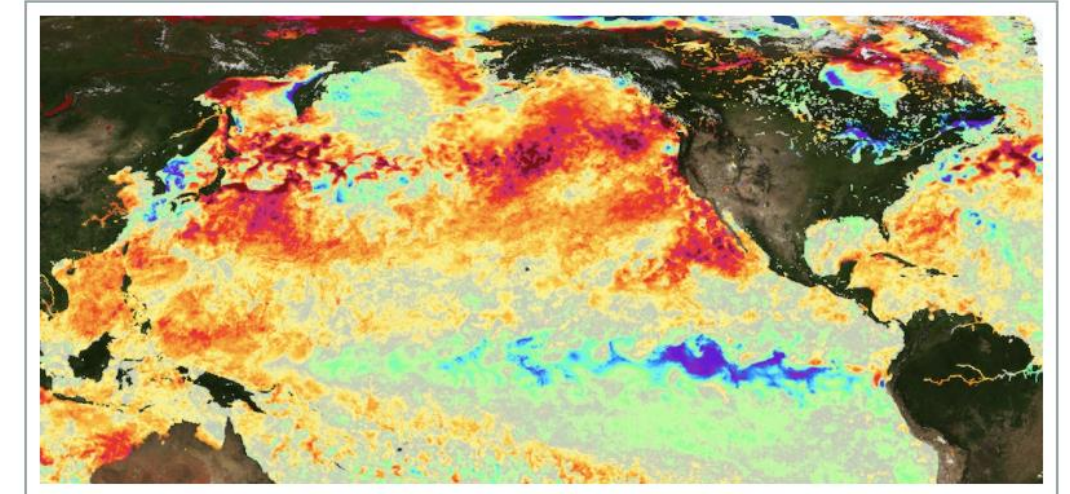
The screenshot shows the Earthdata Search interface. The search bar contains 'sea surface temperature' and displays '1,550 Matching Collections'. The results list includes:

- SLSTR Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) in NRT - Sentinel-3**: Int'l / Interagency • 2017-07-05 ongoing • SLSTR SST has a spatial resolution of 1km at nadir. All Sentinel-3 NRT products are available at pick-up point in less than 3h. Skin Sea Surface Temperature following the GHRSSST L2P GDS2 format specification, see https://ww...  
EO:EUM:DAT:SENTINEL-3:SL\_2\_WST\_\_NRT v2017-07-05 - EUMETSAT for Copernicus
- SLSTR Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) in NTC - Sentinel-3**: Int'l / Interagency • 2017-07-05 ongoing • The SLSTR SST has a spatial resolution of 1km at nadir. All Sentinel-3 Non Time Critical (NTC) products are available at pick-up point in less than 30 days. Skin Sea Surface Temperature following the GHRSSST L2P GDS2 form...  
EO:EUM:DAT:SENTINEL-3:SL\_2\_WST\_\_NTC v2017-07-05 - EUMETSAT for Copernicus
- Aqua MODIS Global Mapped 11µm Daytime Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Data**: 17,630 Granules • 2002-07-04 ongoing • MODIS (or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is a key instrument aboard the Terra (EOS AM) and Aqua (EOS PM) satellites. Terra's orbit around the Earth is timed so that it passes from north to south across the...  
MODISA\_L3m\_SST vR2019.0 - OB.DAAC
- Aqua MODIS Regional 11µm Day/Night Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Data**: 1,937,605 Granules • 2002-07-04 ongoing • MODIS (or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is a key instrument aboard the Terra (EOS AM) and Aqua (EOS PM) satellites. Terra's orbit around the Earth is timed so that it passes from north to south across t...  
MODISA\_L2\_SST vR2019.0 - OB.DAAC

The interface also features a sidebar with filter collections (Categories, Features, Keywords, Platforms, Instruments, Organizations, Projects, Processing Levels, Data Format, Tiling System, Horizontal Data Resolution) and additional filters (Include collections without granules, Include only EOSDIS collections). The footer shows 'v1.134.6 · Search Time: 1.1s · NASA Official: Stephen Berrick · FOIA · NASA Privacy Policy · USA.gov' and 'Earthdata Access: A Section 508 accessible alternative'.

## Thermal Expansion — Sea Surface Temperature

More than 90% of atmospheric heat is absorbed by the ocean, causing the ocean to warm and expand; this is called thermal expansion. This warming has contributed roughly one-third of the global sea-level rise observed by satellite altimeters since 2004. Measurements such as SST and SSH aid in our understanding of this process.



Sea surface temperature anomalies, September 21, 2020, from the Multiscale Ultrahigh Resolution data product. Visualization from the State of the Ocean (SOTO) tool. Credit: NASA

Satellites enable measurement of SST from approximately 10 µm below the surface (infrared bands) to 1 mm (microwave bands) depths using radiometers. The spatial patterns of SST reveal the structure of underlying ocean dynamics.

Research-quality data products from MODIS on Terra and Aqua, and from VIIRS on Suomi NPP and JPSS NOAA-20 can be accessed via Earthdata Search; for subsetting SST data, use PO.DAAC's HiTIDE Tool (see the [Tools for Data Access and Visualization](#) section for more information):

- [Terra MODIS SST data from Earthdata Search](#)
- [Aqua MODIS SST data from Earthdata Search](#)
- [Suomi NPP VIIRS SST from Earthdata Search](#)
- [NOAA-20 VIIRS SST from Earthdata Search](#)

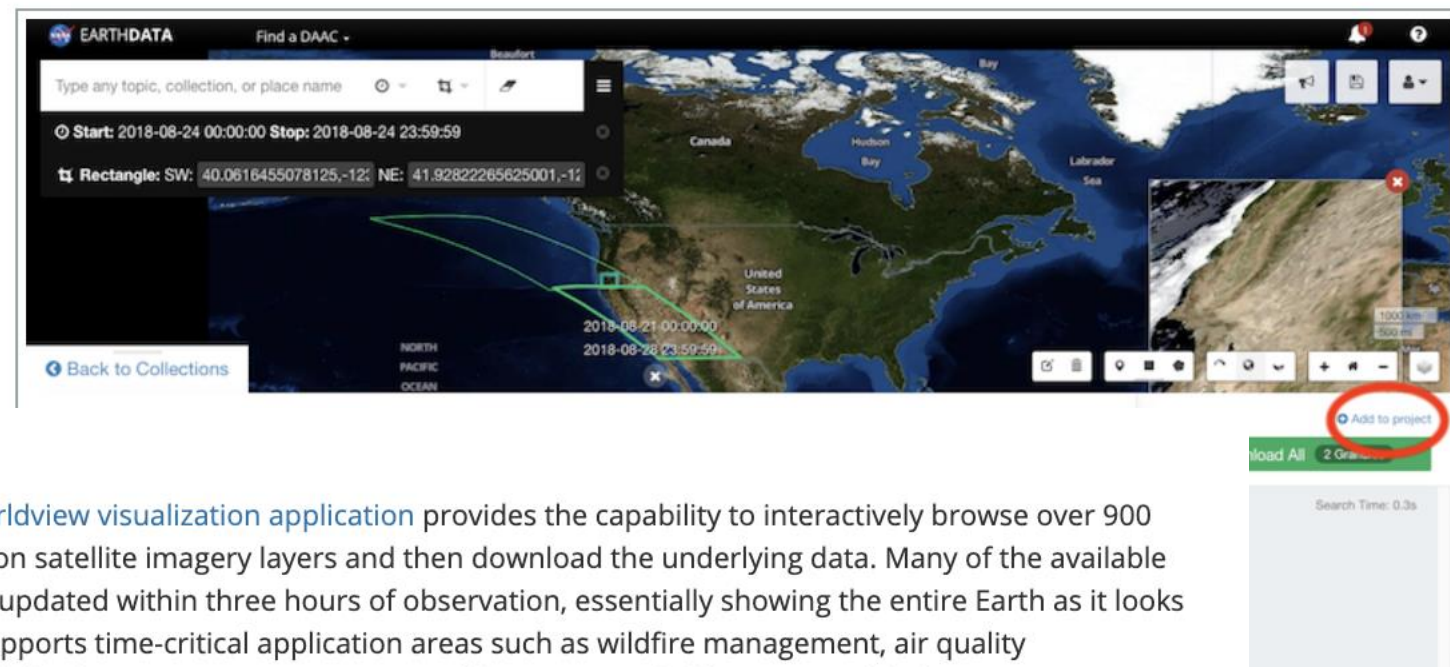
Data products can be visualized as a time-averaged map, an animation, seasonal maps, scatter plots, or a time series through an online interactive tool, Giovanni. Follow these steps to plot data in Giovanni: 1) Select a map plot type. 2) Select a date range. Data are in multiple temporal resolutions and multiple temporal coverages, so be sure to note the start and end date to ensure you access the desired dataset. 3) Check the box of the variable in the left column that you would like to include and then plot the data. For more information on choosing a type of plot, see the [Giovanni User Manual](#).

- [Aqua MODIS SST data from Giovanni](#)  
Data products from MODIS on the Aqua satellite at 4 km resolution are provided at both 8-day and monthly temporal resolutions.

# Earthdata Data Pathfinders

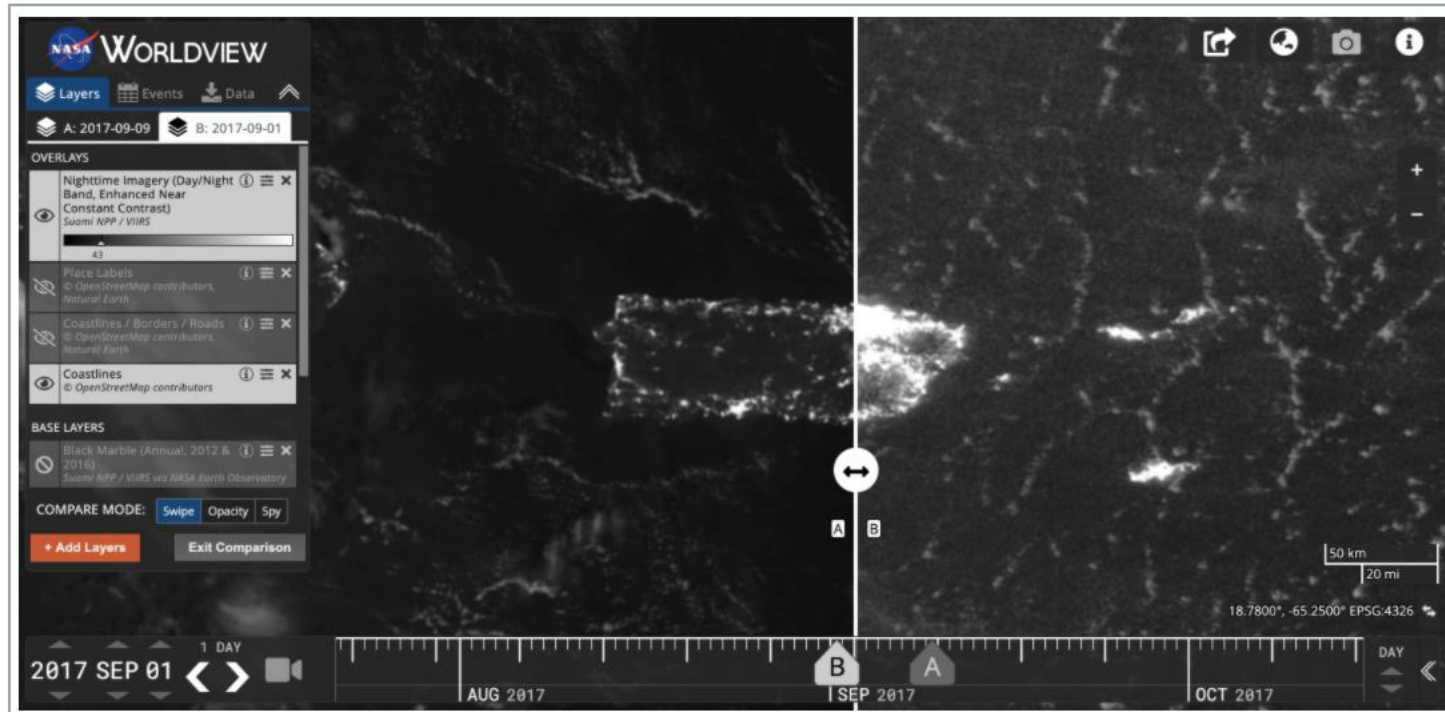
## Earthdata Search

Earthdata Search is a tool for data discovery of Earth Observation data collections from NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS), as well as U.S and international agencies across the Earth science disciplines. Users (including those without specific knowledge of the data) can search for and read about data collections, search for data files by date and spatial area, preview browse images, and download or submit requests for data files, with customization for select data collections.



## Worldview

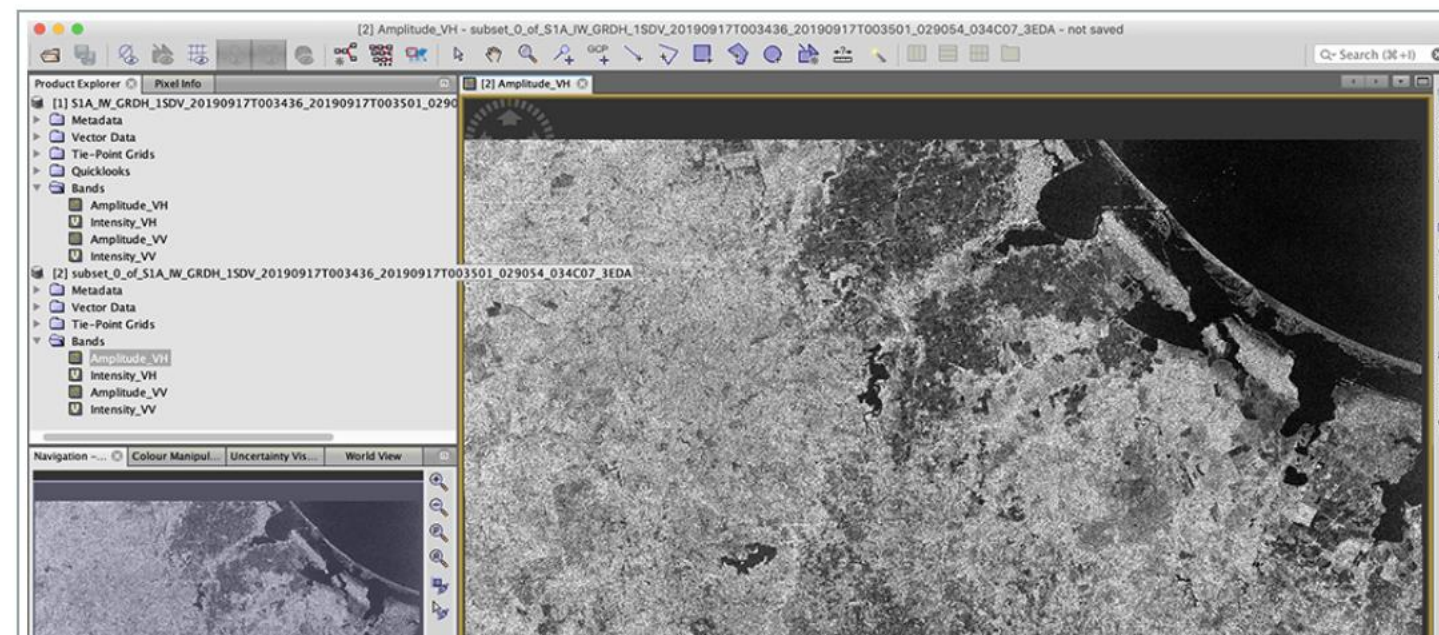
NASA's EOSDIS Worldview visualization application provides the capability to interactively browse over 900 global, full-resolution satellite imagery layers and then download the underlying data. Many of the available imagery layers are updated within three hours of observation, essentially showing the entire Earth as it looks "right now." This supports time-critical application areas such as wildfire management, air quality measurements, and flood monitoring. Imagery in Worldview is provided by NASA's Global Imagery Browse Services (GIBS). Worldview now includes nine geostationary imagery layers from GOES-East, GOES-West and Himawari-8 available at ten minute increments for the last 30 days. These layers include Red Visible, which can be used for analyzing daytime clouds, fog, insolation, and winds; Clean Infrared, which provides cloud top temperature and information about precipitation; and Air Mass RGB, which enables the visualization of the differentiation between air mass types (e.g., dry air, moist air, etc.). These full disk hemispheric views allow for almost real-time viewing of changes occurring around most of the world.



Worldview Suomi NPP/VIIRS nighttime lights comparison image showing power outages caused by Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The right image (acquired 1 September 2017) shows the island before Hurricane Irma. The left image (acquired 9 September 2017) shows power outages across island after Hurricane Irma. NASA Worldview image.

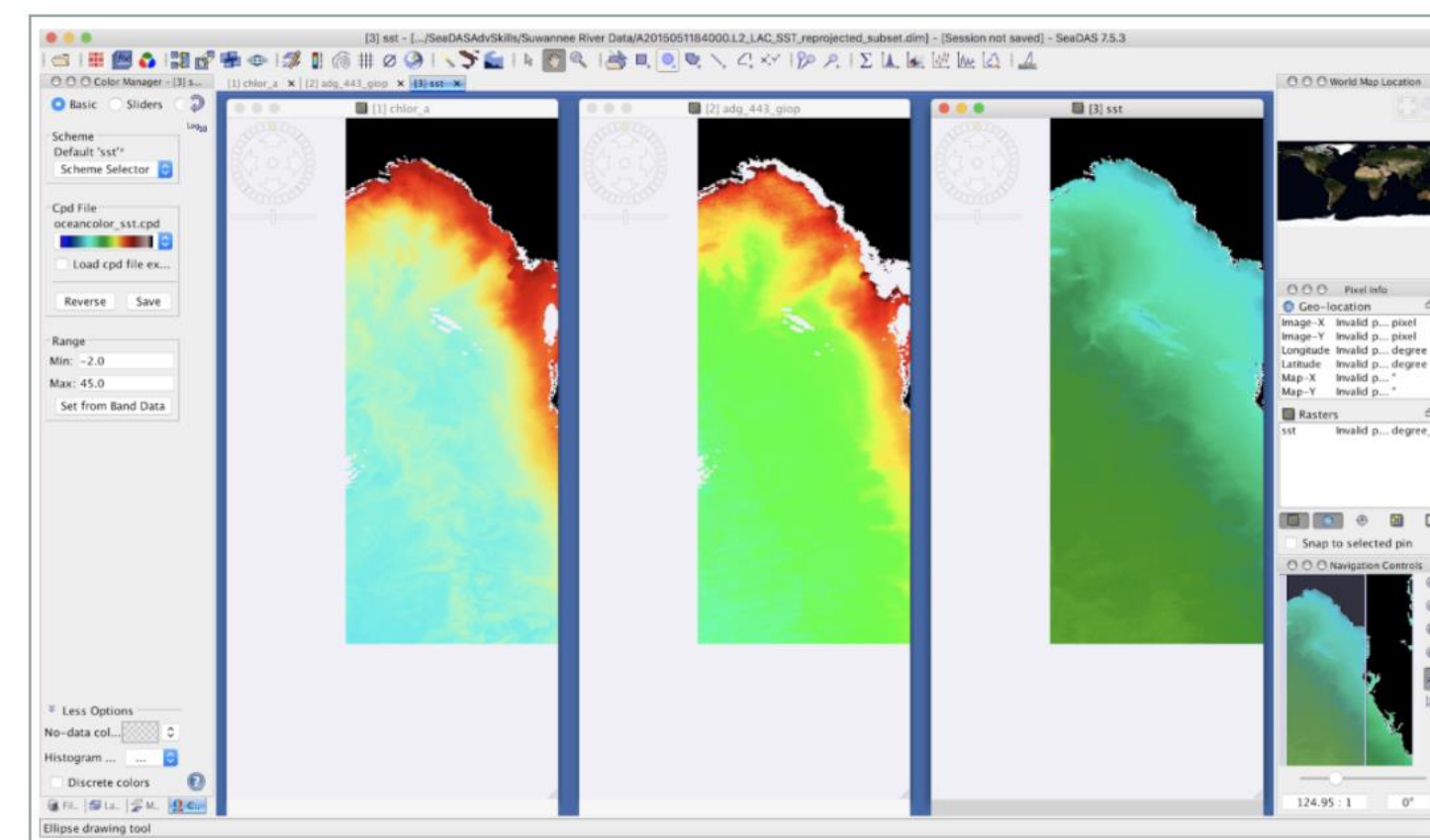
## Flood Inundation Mapping

Once you have downloaded the needed SAR data product, it must be calibrated to account for distortion in the data. The objective in performing calibration is to create an image where the value of each pixel is directly related to the backscatter of the surface. So calibration takes into account radiometric distortion, signal loss as the wave propagates, saturation, and speckle. This process is critical for analyzing images quantitatively; it is also important for comparing images from different sensors, modalities, processors, and different acquisition dates.



## SeaDAS

NASA's Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor (SeaWiFS) Data Analysis System (SeaDAS) is a comprehensive software package for the processing, display, analysis, and quality control of ocean color data. While the primary focus of SeaDAS is ocean color data, it is applicable to many satellite-based earth science data analyses.



SeaDAS is a comprehensive software package for the processing, display, analysis, and quality control of ocean color data. This image shows ocean color, sea surface temperature and non-algal material plus colored dissolved organic matter.

## AppEARS

AppEARS, from LP DAAC, offers a simple and efficient way to access and transform geospatial data from a variety of federal data archives. AppEARS enables users to subset geospatial datasets using spatial, temporal, and band/layer parameters. Two types of sample requests are available: point samples for geographic coordinates and area samples for spatial areas via vector polygons.

## Performing Area Extractions

When choosing to request an area extraction, you will be taken to the Extract Area Sample page where you will enter a series of parameters that are used to extract data for your area(s) of interest.

## Subsetting

Choose your region of interest in one of these three ways:

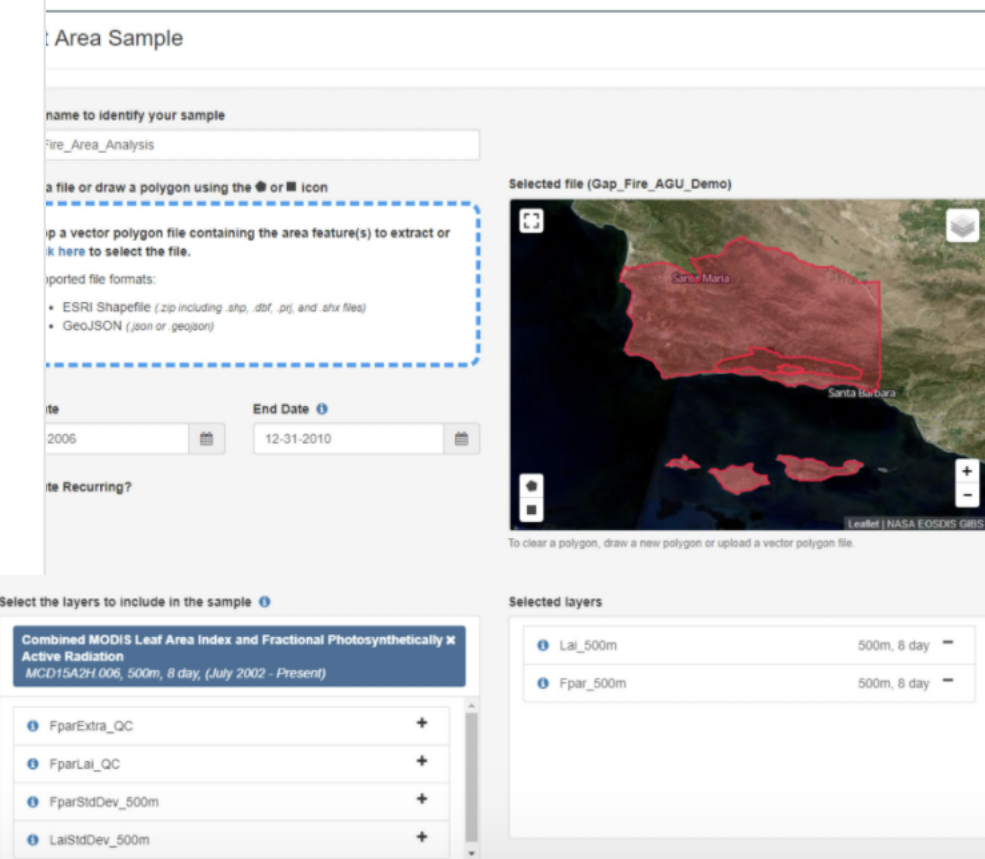
- Load a vector polygon file in shapefile format (you can upload a single file with multiple features or multipart single features). The .shp, .shx, .dbf, or .prj files must be zipped into a file folder to upload.
- Load a vector polygon file in GeoJSON format (can upload a single file with multiple features or multipart single features).
- Draw a polygon on the map by clicking on the Bounding box or Polygon icons (single feature only).

Specify the date range for your time period of interest.

- Specify the range of dates for which you wish to extract data by entering a start and end date (MM-DD-YYYY).
- Click on the Calendar icon and selecting a start and end date in the calendar.

## Data Layers

Filter the product short name (e.g., MOD09A1, ECO3ETPTJPL), keywords from the product long name, resolution, a temporal extent, or a temporal resolution into the search bar. A list of available products matching your query will be generated. Select the layer(s) of interest to add to the Selected layers list. Layers from multiple products can be added to a single request. Be sure to read the list of available products available through AppEARS.



These steps:

1. Parameters as

2. Layerover,

3. Metric/Terrain

4. in the

5. in the



# Earthdata Learn Resources



## Discover Fire and Related Data Active Fire/Thermal Anomalies

NASA provides data that can be used to detect active fires and thermal anomalies, such as volcanoes, and gas flares. These data are useful for studying the spatial and temporal distribution of fire, to locate persistent hot spots such as volcanoes and gas flares, and to locate the source of air pollution from smoke that may have adverse human health impacts.



- [Discover Fires/Thermal Anomalies Data in Fire Information for Resource Management System \(FIRMS\)](#)
- [Discover Fires/Thermal Anomalies Data in Earthdata Search](#)
- [Fire Carbon Emissions Estimates at NASA's Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distributed Active Archive Center \(ORNL DAAC\)](#)
- [Fire Extent/Severity Data at ORNL DAAC](#)
- [Fire/Thermal Anomalies Data at NASA's Land Processes DAAC \(LP DAAC\)](#)
- [Visualize Fires/Thermal Anomalies Data in Worldview](#)

## Data Tutorials/Recipes

- [Getting Started with Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer \(MODIS\) Thermal](#)
- [Anomalies and Fire Data: All About Accessing Data](#)
- [Getting Started with MODIS Thermal Anomalies and Fire Data: Interpreting Quality Information](#)
- [Getting Started with MODIS Thermal Anomalies and Fire Data: Using the Data](#)
- [Learn about Satellite Detections of Fire in Worldview](#)
- [Tutorials/Recipes for LP DAAC Data](#)
- [Tutorials/Recipes for ORNL DAAC Data](#)

## Data User Guides

- [MODIS Active Fires Data User Guide](#)
- [Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite \(VIIRS\) Active Fires Data User Guide](#)

## Explore Fire Events in Worldview

- [California and British Columbia Wildfires \(Summer 2018\)](#)
- [Camp Fire \(November 2018\)](#)

lightning strikes have been the cause of some of the worst wildfires in the western United States and around the world. Wildfires caused by lightning often occur in remote locations that are not easily accessible.

- [Discover Lightning Data in Earthdata Search](#)
- [Lightning Data at NASA's Global Hydrometeorology Res \(GHRC DAAC\)](#)
- [Visualize Lightning Data in Worldview](#)

## Data Tutorials/Recipes

- [ISS LIS Lightning Flash Location Quickview using Python](#)
- [Using ArcGIS to Convert LIS Very High Resolution Gridded Climatology NetCDF Data to GeoTIFF Format](#)

## Webinars

- [Discover International Space Station \(ISS\) Lightning and Validation Data from Geostationary Operational Environment \(GOES-16\)](#)
- [Learn How to Subset Ozone Monitoring Instrument \(OM\) Goddard Earth Sciences Data and Information Services Center Level 2 Data Subsetter](#)
- [Striking New Spatial Bounds Using ISS Lightning Imaging Data](#)

## Precipitation

By monitoring seasonal variations in precipitation (rain and snow) fire managers are better able to predict and evaluate when and where a wildfire may develop, how severe the fire may become, and the rate at which a wildfire spreads.

- [Citizen Science on Snow](#)
- [Discover Rain/Snow Data in Earthdata Search](#)
- [Precipitation Data at GES DISC](#)
- [Rain/Snow Data at GHRC DAAC](#)
- [Snow Data at NASA's National Snow and Ice Data Center \(DAAC\)](#)
- [Visualize Rain/Snow Data in Worldview](#)

## Backgrounders

Backgrounders are informational articles providing a deeper explanation of key topics in Earth science to aid in understanding data and data use.

### Most Recent

#### Nighttime Lights

Remote sensing of nighttime light emissions offers a unique perspective to monitor human behaviors, such as electrification of remote areas, disaster recovery, and more. (May 2021)

### All Backgrounders

#### What is Data Latency?

Several factors affect the speed at which data are processed and made available to users. Here's how NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) defines data latency. (August 2020)

#### Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as an aspiration, what United Nations member countries hope to ideally achieve in the future. Earth observations can be used in monitoring progress towards reaching each goal. (June 2020)

#### What is Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)?

Learn more about SAR, a type of active data collection where a sensor produces its own energy and then records the amount of that energy reflected back after interacting with the Earth. (April 2020)

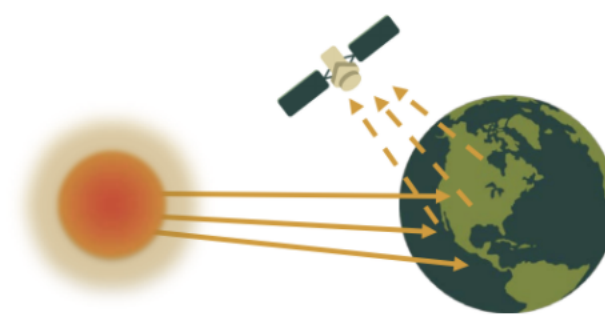
#### Essential Variables

Essential variables are variables known to be critical for observing and monitoring a given facet of the Earth system. Learn how they ensure the usability of data across multiple platforms and agencies. (March 2020)

#### What is Remote Sensing?

Remote sensing is the acquiring of information from a distance. Read about how remote sensors enable data-informed decision-making based on the current and future state of our planet. (September 2019)

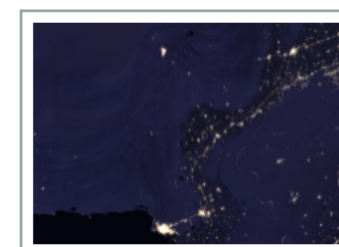
### Passive Sensors



### Active Sensors

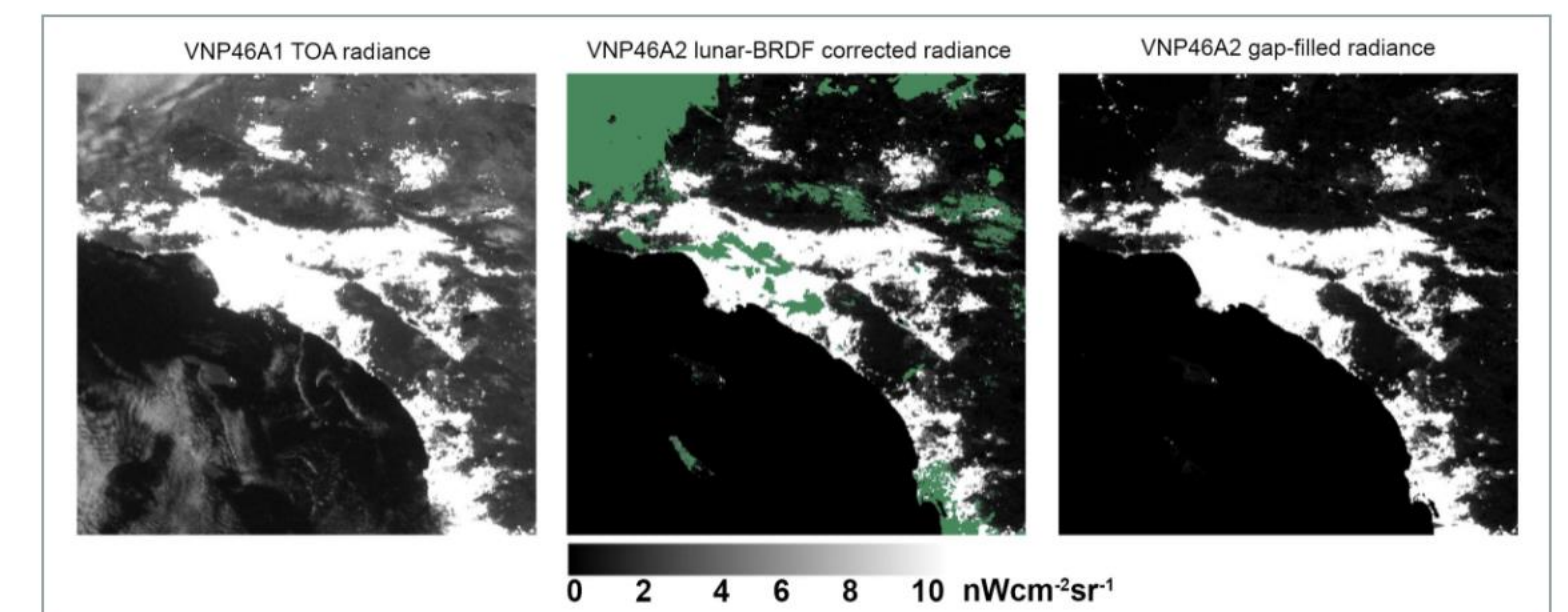


Diagram of a passive sensor versus an active sensor. Credit: NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program



## Choosing the Right Black Marble Product

Since lunar effects have not been removed from the VNP46A1 NTL product, sky-illumination and environmental conditions can impact imagery. For detecting changes in human activities and processes linked to artificial lights at night, the VNP46A2 product, which "turns off the moon," is a better choice.



Comparison of NASA's Black Marble data products over Los Angeles, CA. (Left image) VNP46A1-TOA provides a Top of Atmosphere perspective. Note the hazy areas caused by cloud cover; (center image) VNP46A2 - Daily has been moonlight adjusted, but still is hindered by cloud cover (green colored areas); (right image) VNP46A2 - GapFilled fills in gaps due to cloud cover. NASA image.

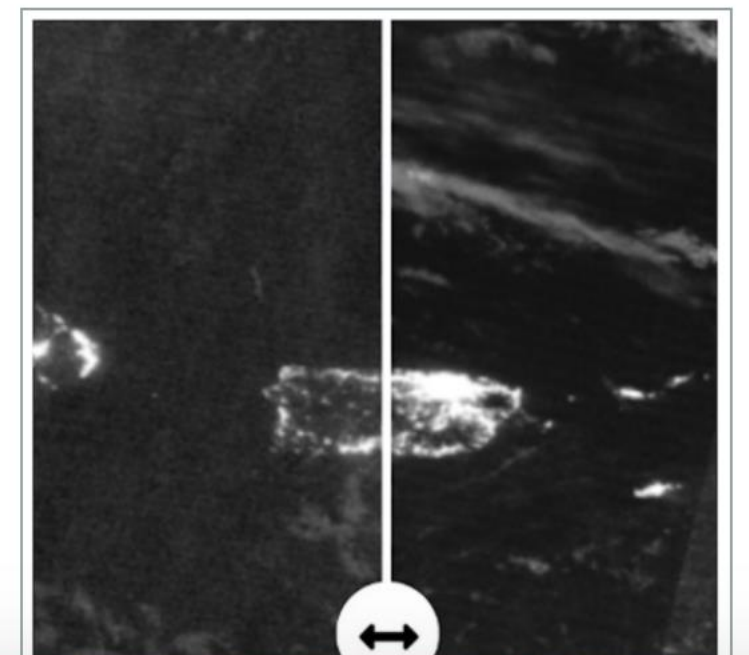
It's important to understand which NTL are captured by VIIRS DNB and which NTL are not (e.g., outdoor lights, building lights, traffic, etc.). Understanding the composition of the sources making up NTL signals enables better use of the data in Earth system science and urban applications.

## References:

- [Black Marble Data Products at NASA's Level-1 and Atmosphere Archive and Distribution System Distributed Active Archive Center \(LAADS DAAC\)](#)
- [Black Marble User Guide](#)
- [A Framework for the Validation of Global Nighttime Environmental Products](#)

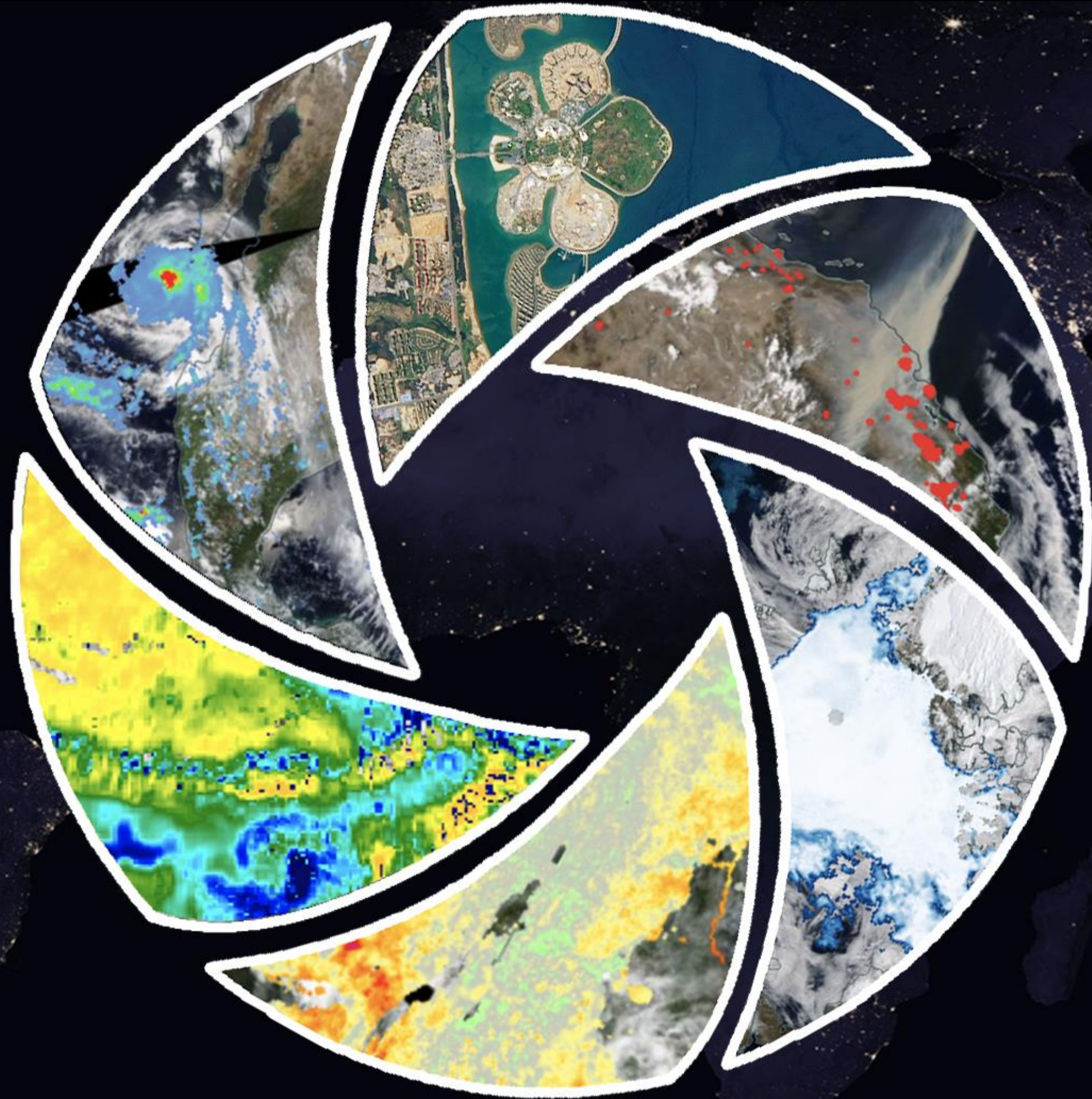
## Applications of Nighttime Lights Data

NTL contribute to a variety of Earth science studies and applications. By "subtracting" moonlight and other extraneous sources, researchers can systematically monitor artificial lights like street and building lighting, fishing boats, gas flares, fires, aurora, and many human activities. In addition, Black Marble data are helping assess progress towards meeting many of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically addressing the needs of conflict-affected populations (SDG-1); quantifying the effectiveness of local electrification projects in the developing world (SDG-7); building infrastructure resilient to disasters, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation (SDG-9); and ensuring that cities and human settlements are inclusive, safe, resilient, and



# EARTHDATA

OPEN ACCESS FOR OPEN SCIENCE



[earthdata.nasa.gov](https://earthdata.nasa.gov)







# Ten Years of NASA Space Apps

Sarah Hemmings



**NASA**

**SPACE APPS  
CHALLENGE**



# Space Apps is the world's largest annual global hackathon

2020

Over 250 local events in 87 countries



● Event Location    ● Live Streaming Location

# What is a hackathon?



- Innovation competition
- Roots in cyber security
- Local and virtual events
- Sprint/marathon over 48hr

## How does it work?

- NASA issues challenge statements (with related data)
- Teams create solutions Oct 2-3
- Solutions are judged, winners are selected



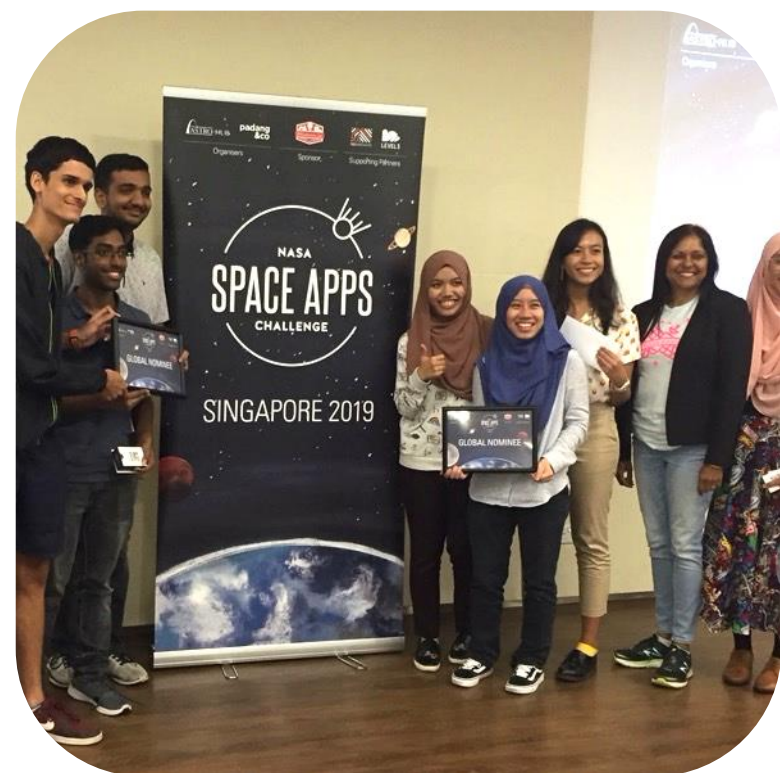
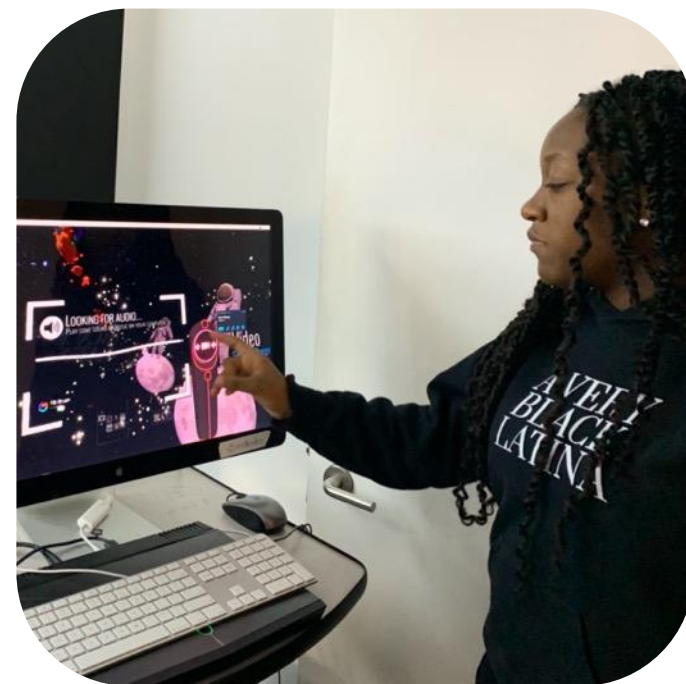
# Space Apps Highlights



- Began in 2012, with focus on space tech
- Moved to Earth Science Division in 2017
- Over 150K participants to date

## Space Apps Goals

- Raise awareness of NASA open data
- Encourage growth, diversity of next generation
- Foster interest in Earth and space science/tech
- Inspire collaboration, creativity, critical thinking



# Winners and Prizes

- NASA invites winners to attend rocket launch



# 2020 Participation

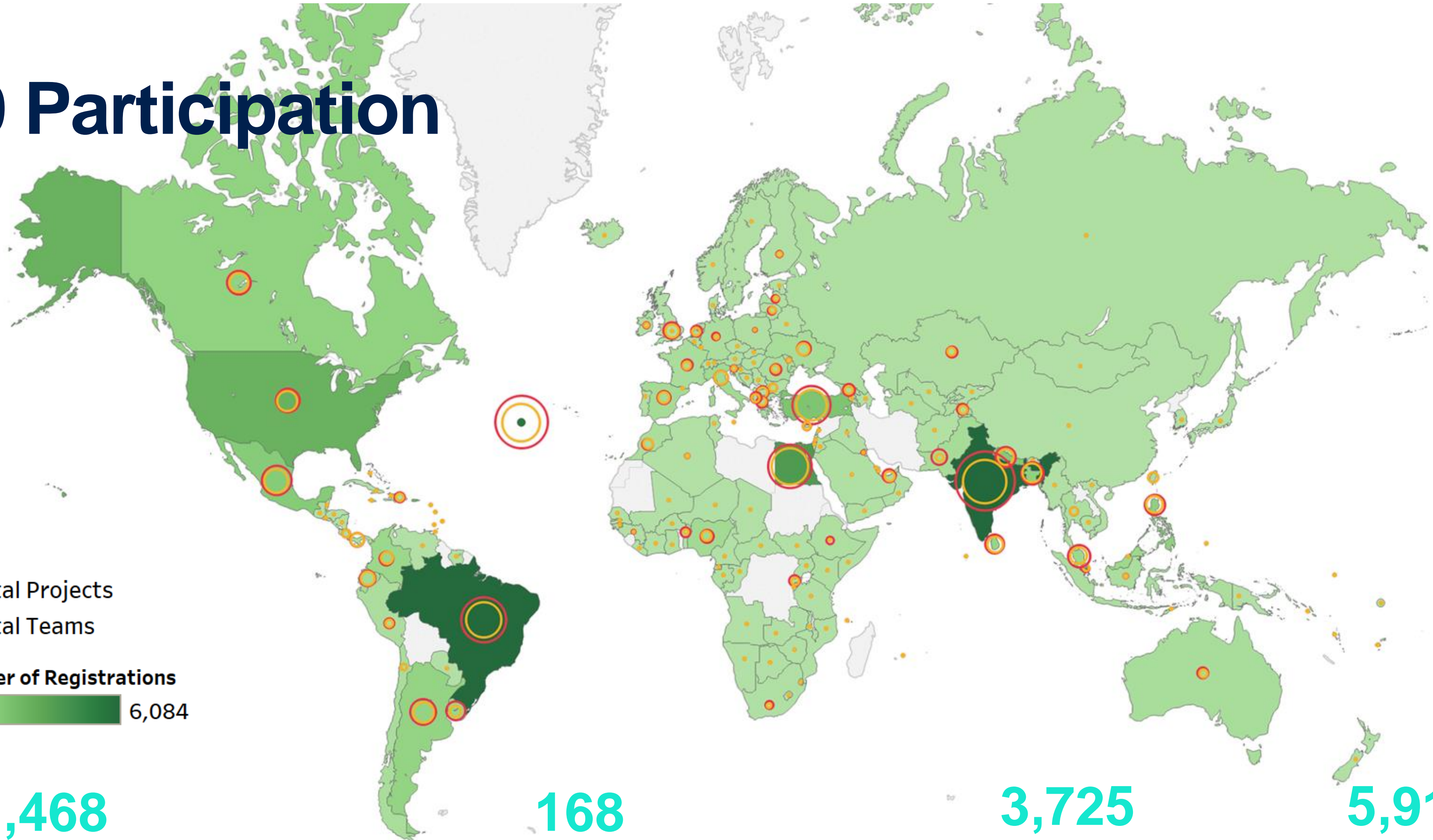
## Key

■ Total Projects

■ Total Teams

## Number of Registrations

1  6,084



**41,468**  
Registrations

**168**  
Countries/Territories\*

**3,725**  
Submissions

**5,915**  
Teams

# Local Leads are key

- STEAM & open data ambassadors worldwide
- Local hubs of innovation
- New communities of collaboration
- Professional development and networking
- 37.5% female

***Apply to host in 2022!***

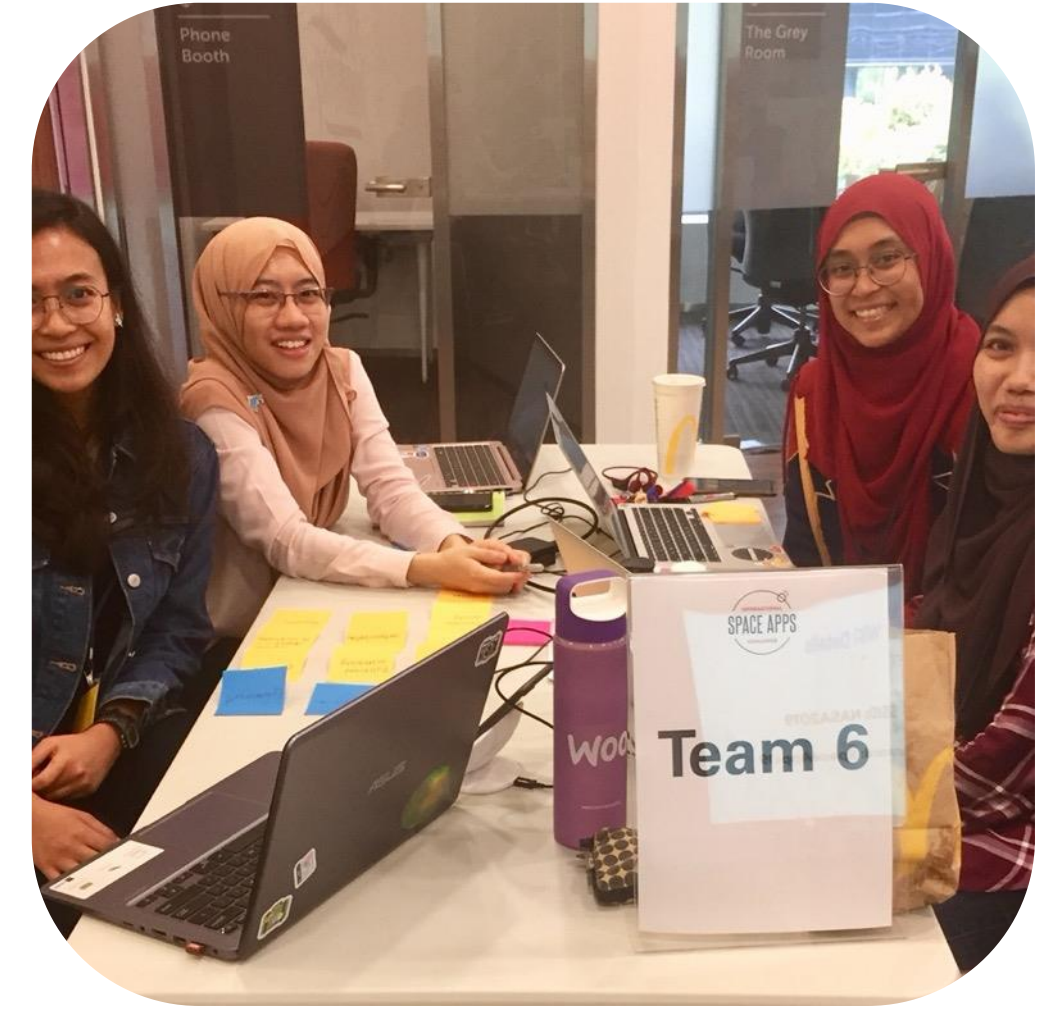




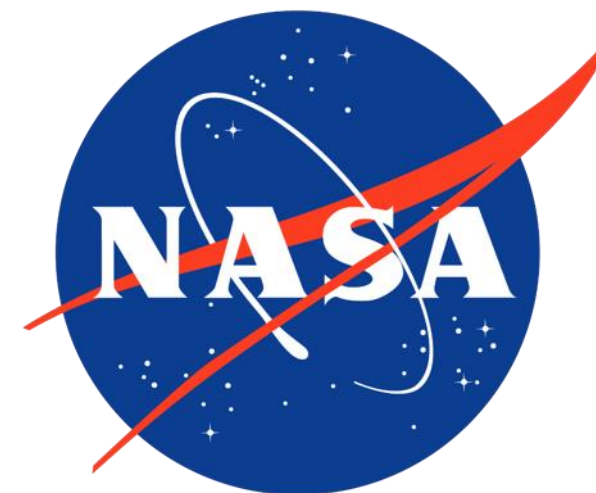
# We are not alone in thinking Space Apps is great 😊



**71 million+**  
#SpaceApps  
**Social Media Reach**  
(29% increase over 2019)



# 2021 Space Agency Partners



At Space Apps, There's Always Space For One More...



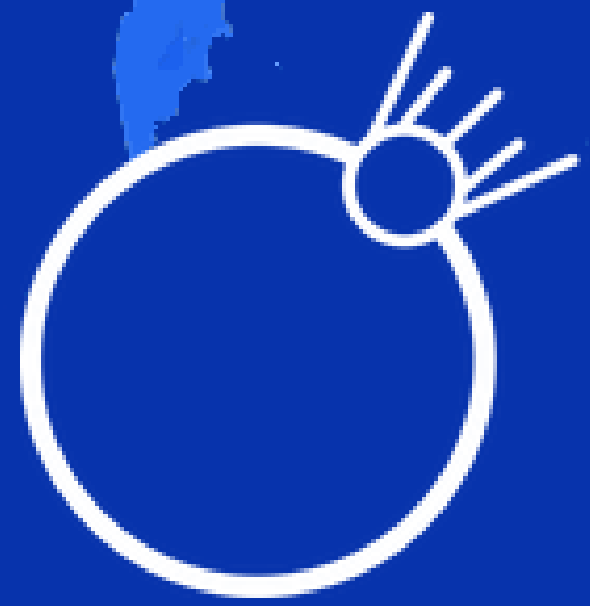
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# OCTOBER 2-3, 2021

## Tenth Annual Event

Register Now



# NASA SPACE APPS CHALLENGE

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Space Apps is managed by the NASA Earth Science Division

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Connect with #SpaceApps

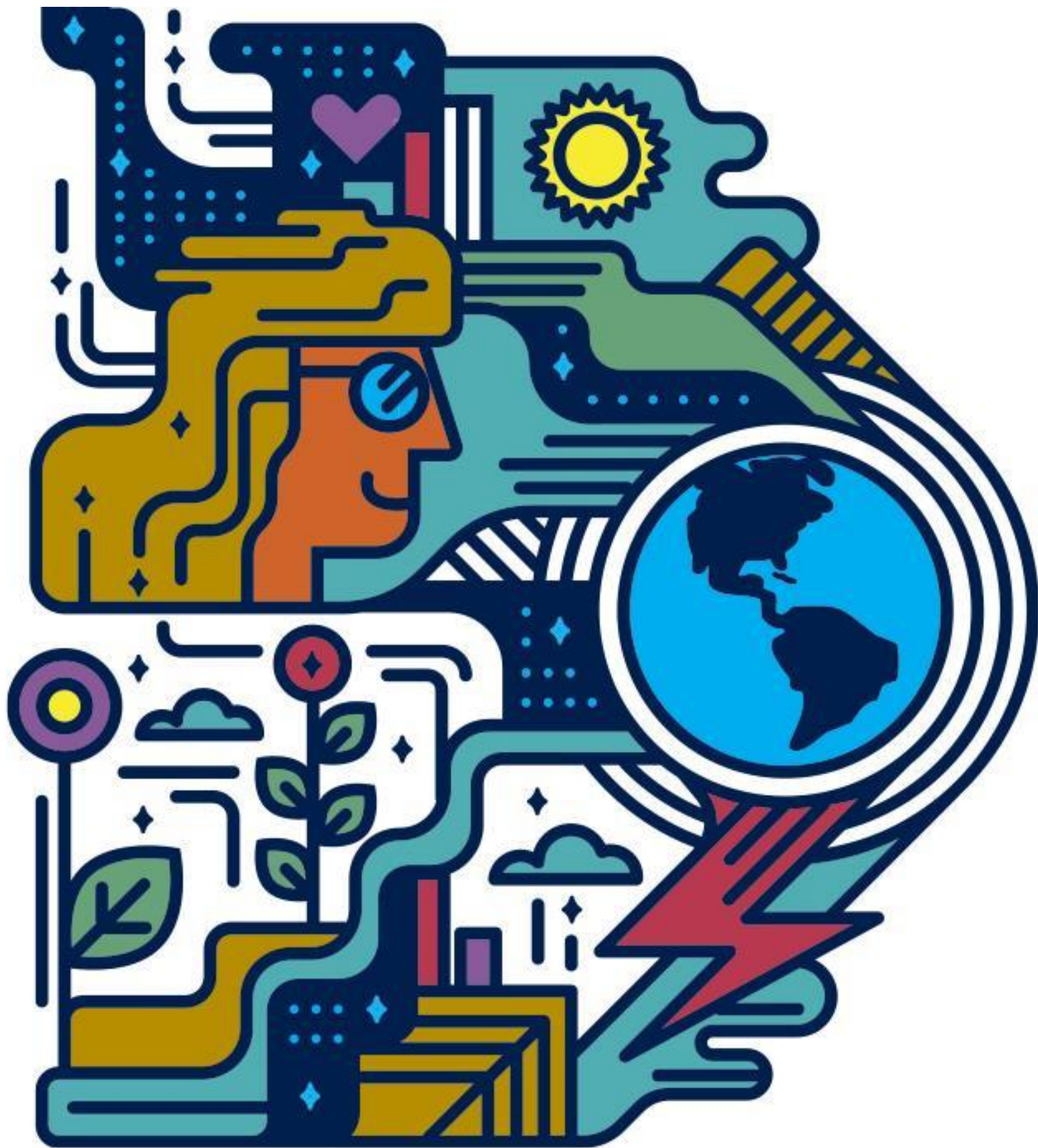


**Join us as a SME/judge,  
local lead, or participant!**

**[www.spaceappschallenge.org](http://www.spaceappschallenge.org)**

**Propose a challenge for 2022:**

**[jessica.chau@nasa.gov](mailto:jessica.chau@nasa.gov)**



# The Applied Sciences Applications Guidebook

Leveraging Decades of Experience and  
Best Practice

Erin Martin & Sterling Riber

# Web-based product to synthesize and share best practices in developing EO applications



- Audiences: emerging applied scientists, basic research scientists considering applied work, PIs new to NASA
- Format: mixes interactive, e-learning approaches
- Sources: desk review, survey, 25 interviews and 2 design consultations – so far!
- Content: diverse representation of ASP program areas, geographies and PIs
- Timing: launch in late November

# Main sections of the guidebook



**EARTH SCIENCE  
APPLIED SCIENCES**

## APPLIED SCIENCES APPLICATIONS GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook is a place to explore the many, diverse ways that scientists are using satellite data to help people at home and abroad make important decisions about water, agriculture, fisheries, disaster response, health and the environment. It offers insights, lessons and recommendations – all from the point of view of individuals who have devoted their careers to using science to make the world a better place.

Select a topic and begin exploring...

### APPLIED SCIENCE: WHAT IT TAKES

Applied sciences require a particular combination of technical, managerial and people skills. Learn more about what it takes to succeed, and why many scientists working on applied research think they have the best job in the world.

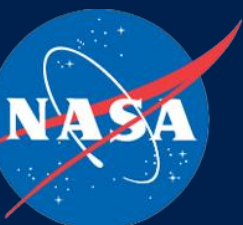
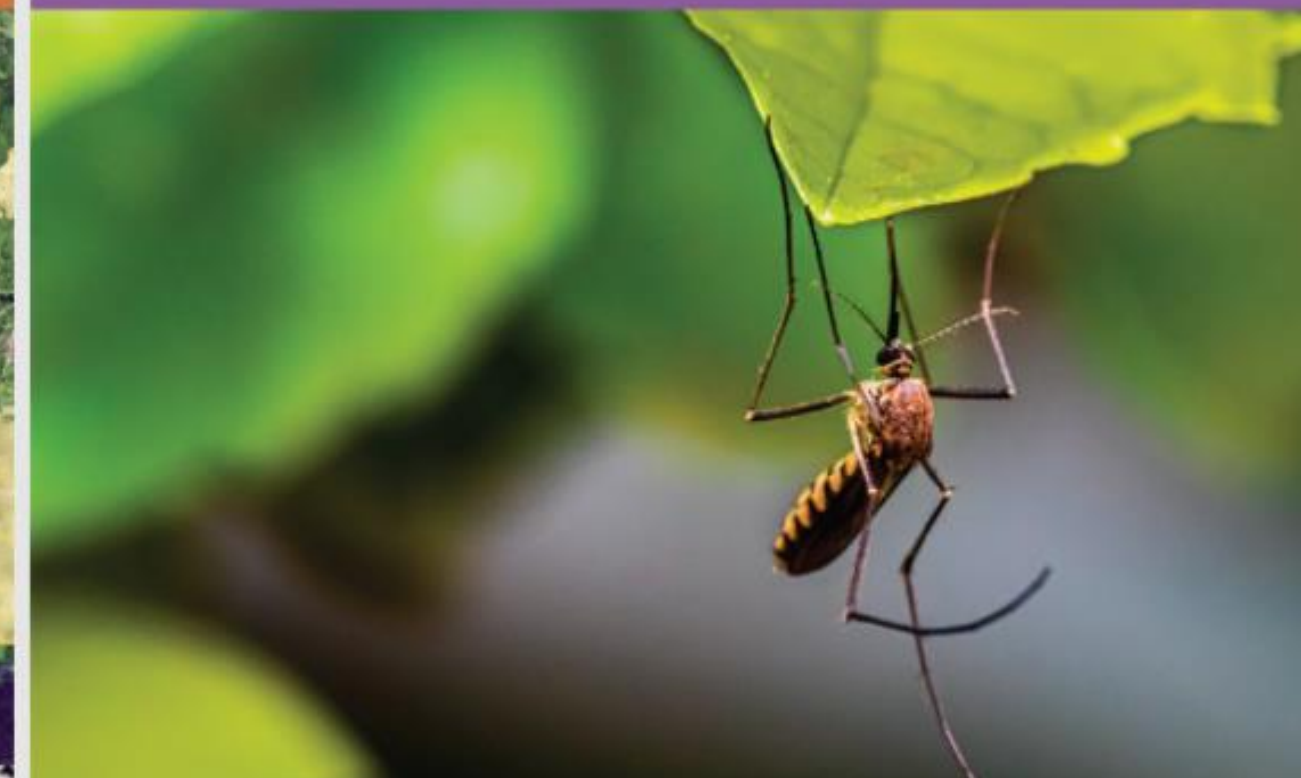
### USING APPLIED SCIENCE TO TACKLE CRITICAL CHALLENGES



### DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE APPLICATIONS

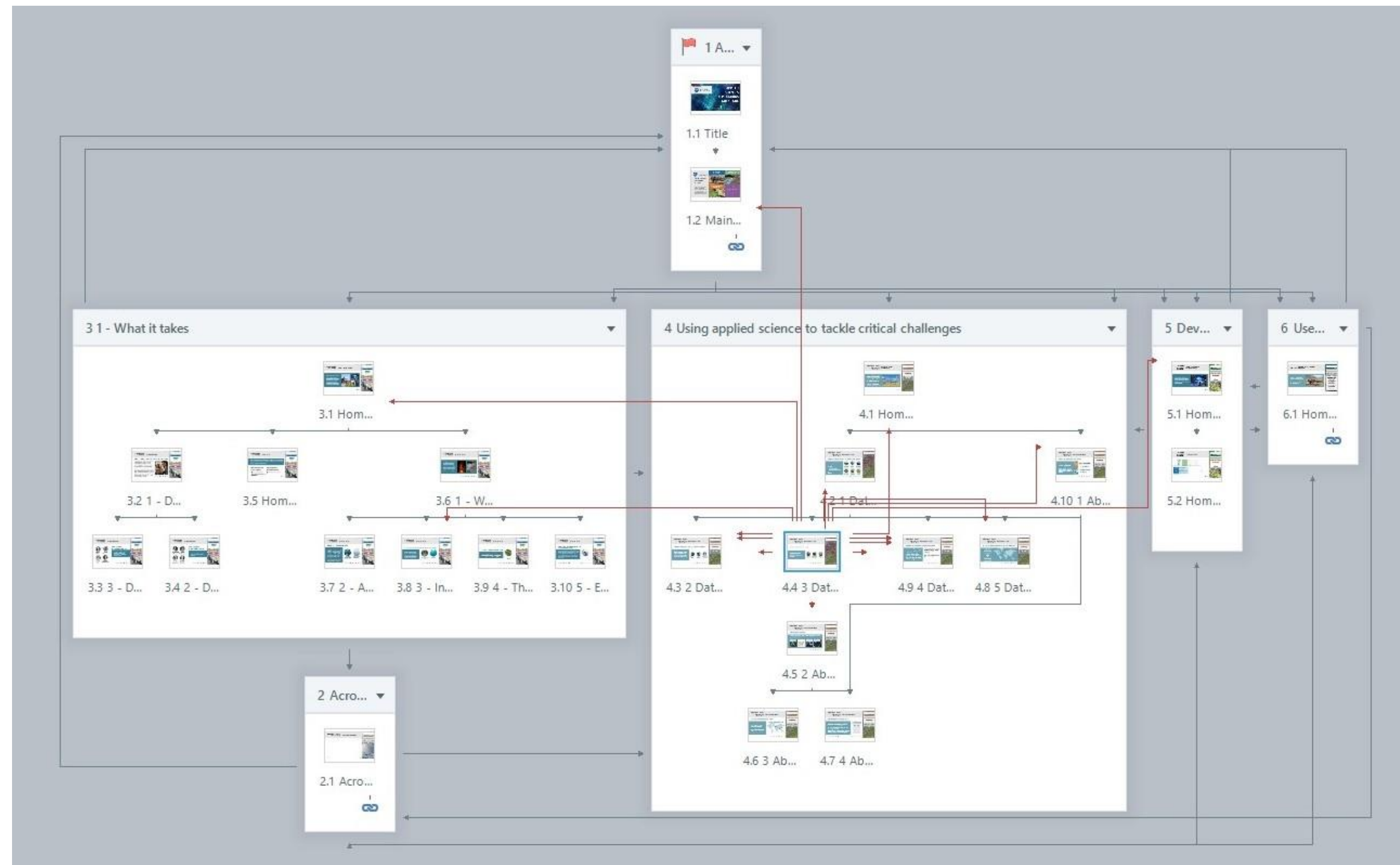


### USE CASES





# Creating engaging content through interactivity



The guidebook is developed using an e-learning authoring tool called Articulate Storyline. Some benefits to this approach include:

- Ability for users to choose their own path
- Built-in interactivities (e.g., rollovers, quizzes, soundbites)
- Graphics and animation
- Responsive full screen display
- Fast loading HTML5 output

# Vision: guidebook catalyzes greater engagement in Applied Sciences

APPLIED SCIENCE: WHAT IT TAKES | DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESS

HOME | GLOSSARY | ACRONYMS

APPLIED SCIENCE: WHAT IT TAKES

- Definitions of success
- Success factors
- Why applied science?

USING APPLIED SCIENCE TO TACKLE CRITICAL CHALLENGES

DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE APPLICATIONS

USE CASES

*Success is answering a question that somebody actually wants the answer to. That's often an iterative process because what you start out off with as what people think they might want to know, may not wind up being what is going to be most helpful in the end...So, success is the journey. And it's getting there together. And finding something in the end that can change minds or change the way that we do things.*

Click to listen

PREV < 1 2 3 > NEXT

Becky Chaplin Kramer  
Lead Scientist, Natural Capital Project, Stanford University and University of Minnesota

Faisal Hossain  
Professor, University of Washington Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

James Nelson  
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Brigham Young University

Blake Schaeffer  
Research Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development

The plan is for the guidebook to be a focal point for learning, sharing and exchange on applied sciences applications. Possible activities may include:

- New cases studies and fresh content
- Annual lessons learned symposium
- Applied sciences community interaction



# How you can get involved



- Share your suggestions, ideas and experience
- Volunteer for BETA testing (planned for September)

**Contact: Erin Martin**  
**[eemartin08@yahoo.com](mailto:eemartin08@yahoo.com)**



# CLOSING REMARKS

Lawrence Friedl, Director  
Applied Sciences Program



# THANK YOU TO OUR PLENARY SPEAKERS, PANELISTS, AND EMCEES!

## Day 1

Milagros Becerra  
Lawrence Friedl  
Katie Lange  
Laura Lorenzoni  
Monica Namu  
Teresa Purello  
Gavin Schmidt  
Nicole Ramberg-Pihl  
Karen St. Germain  
Emily Sylak-Glassman  
Nikki Tulley  
Tanner Yess

## Day 2

Alix Bakke  
Kris Bedka  
Sandra Cauffman  
Becky Chaplin Kramer  
Brendan Crowell  
Megan Donahue  
Robert Emberson  
Keith Gaddis  
David Green  
Charlie Huyck  
Jeremy Kirkendall  
Erica Kriner  
Kyle Pecsok  
Ricardo Quiroga  
Ellen Ramirez  
Stephanie Spera  
Rochelle Williams

## Day 3

Britnay Beaudry  
Inbal Becker-Reshef  
John Bolten  
Brad Doorn  
Stephanie Granger  
Mehdi Hosseini  
John Keniston  
Venkat Lakshmi  
Christine Lee  
Amber McCullum  
Joel McClure  
Ethan McGee  
Milton Munoz-Hincapie  
Catherine Nakalembe  
Hayley Pippin  
Nancy Searby

## Day 4

Assad Anyamba  
Lawrence Friedl  
Julia Gohlke  
Pawan Gupta  
Cyndi Hall  
Ryan Hammock  
John Haynes  
Sarah Hemmings  
Tracey Holloway  
Oded Holzinger  
Adriana Le Compte  
Erin Martin  
Sterling Riber  
Emily Sylak-Glassman  
Jilian Walechka  
Thomas Zurbuchen



# THANK YOU TO OUR SYMPOSIA SESSION SPEAKERS AND EMCEES!

## DAY 2

Porter Abbey  
Jacob Abramowitz  
Britnay Beaudry  
Biplov Bhandari  
McKenna Brahler  
Madison Broddle  
Trista Brophy  
Cecil Byles  
Erica Carcelan  
Marc Coudert  
Sativa Cruz  
Jacob Frankel  
Emily Gelbart  
Madeleine Gregory  
Shobhana Gupta  
Ella Haugen  
David Hondula  
Nelson Huffaker

Paxton LaJoie  
Zachary Leslie  
Alexa Lopez  
Bradley Macpherson  
Jay Mrazek  
Monica Namu  
Brandy Nisbet-Wilcox  
Jonathan O'Brien  
Caden O'Connell  
Kristen O'Shea  
Hayley Pippin  
Paul Stackhouse  
Kezang Tshering  
Katie Walker  
Thinley Wangden  
Sophie Webster  
Hannah Wetzel

## DAY 3

Emily Adams  
Arlin Arpero  
Daniel Babin  
Rebecca Bernat  
Catherine Buczek  
Philip Casey  
Laura Cooper  
Karissa Courtney  
Rachel Darling  
Michael Enz  
Jose Fernandez  
Alex Gunnerson  
Georgia Hartman  
Shilpa Kannan  
Yusuke Kuwayama  
Ryan Lam

Bethany Mabee  
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Tamara Rudic  
Madelyn Savan  
Yeshey Seldon  
Ekapol Sirichaovanichkarn  
Justine Spore  
Sophia Stonebrook  
Amanda Weigel  
Ila White



# MANY THANKS TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE!



Sydney  
Neugebauer



Amanda  
Clayton



Lauren  
Childs-Gleason



Jonathan  
O'Brien



Sarah Brennan  
Cecil Byles  
Helena Chapman  
Kathleen Cutting  
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Mike Ruiz  
Cindy Schmidt  
Jeff Walter  
Rochelle Williams





EARTH SCIENCE  
APPLIED SCIENCES

# EARTH SCIENCE APPLICATIONS WEEK 2021

Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> -  
Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
12pm - 4pm ET







EARTH SCIENCE  
APPLIED SCIENCES

**THANK YOU!**

EARTH SCIENCE APPLICATIONS WEEK 2021