U.S. Geological Survey and Landsat

Landsat Missions

Since 1972, the joint U.S. Geological Survey and NASA Landsat series of Earth Observation satellites have continuously acquired images of the Earth’s land surface, providing uninterrupted data to help land managers and policymakers make informed decisions about natural resources and the environment. Landsat is a part of the USGS National Land Imaging (NLI) Program.

The fundamental goal of the NLI Program is to provide the Federal Government and the public with a primary source of remotely sensed data and applications and to be a leader in defining the future of land remote sensing, nationally and internationally.

Landsat Missions: Imaging the Earth Since 1972

Landsat Next

Landsat Next is on the horizon—the new mission will not only ensure continuity of the longest space-based record of Earth’s land surface, it will fundamentally transform the breadth and depth of actionable information freely available to end users.

SilvaCarbon

SilvaCarbon is an interagency technical cooperation program of the US Government working with partners around the globe to enhance tropical forested countries’ capacity to monitor, measure, and report carbon in their forests and other lands.

SilvaCarbon has worked with 26 tropical forested countries to build forest and landscape monitoring capabilities, promote health and social outcomes, and enable development opportunities globally.

Key Technical Areas

Remote Sensing

SilvaCarbon supports countries to adopt and implement cost-effective monitoring tools and methods to build technical and capacity skills. SilvaCarbon also works with partners under the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) to coordinate international donor support for Earth observation data.

National Forest Inventory

SilvaCarbon helps improve the technical capacity of the GFOI and other partners to build countries’ capacity to design and implement national forest inventory systems that are accurate, affordable, and tailored to meet national needs for reporting and resource management.

Greenhouse gas Inventory

Through SilvaCarbon, experts advise countries with the development of accurate, robust greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories that are consistent with international standards and reporting requirements.