

What's Behind the Pink Pixel? Three Ways to View Satellite Imagery to Investigate Alerts

Satellite imagery is a core part of creating GLAD alerts, but did you know that satellite images can also be useful when acting on GLAD alerts? Once you know where to look, satellite images can provide contextual information that can help you understand the drivers of change, plan patrol routes, and determine an appropriate response to alerts.

For example, one of our Small Grants Fund recipients noted that GLAD alerts sometimes pick up natural changes within their area of interest that are not important for patrols. By looking at satellite images before going to the field, they can determine whether the alerts were caused by human activity or natural forces, and decide whether to patrol based on that information.

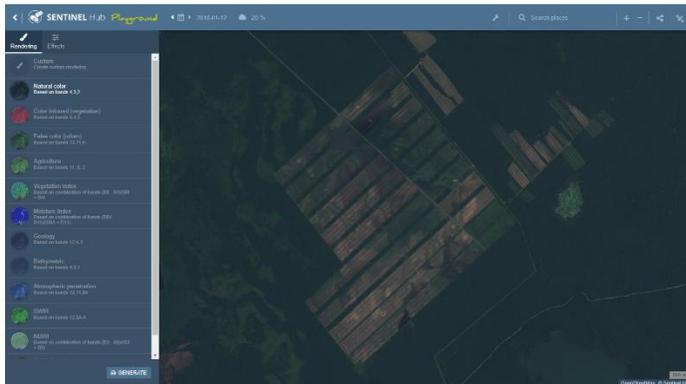
Below are three online resources for viewing recent satellite imagery.

Global Forest Watch

On the [Global Forest Watch](#) platform, you can view recent Sentinel-2 satellite images alongside GLAD alerts. Turn on imagery in the pane to the right, and select the date range of interest. The most recent, cloud-free image for that time period will display on the map, and you can click on it for more information. We are working on redesigning this interface to make it easier to scroll between images– stay tuned!

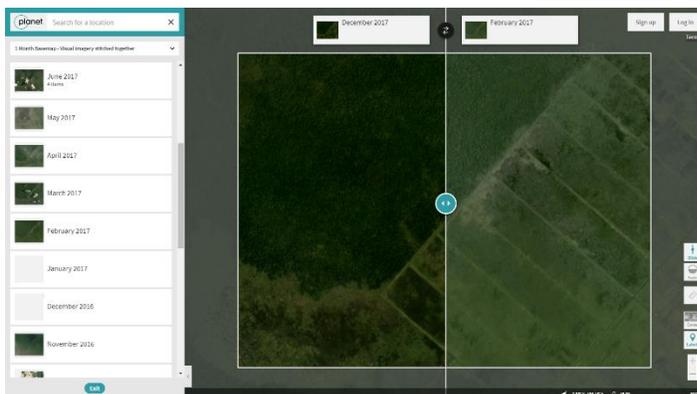


Sentinel Playground



Sentinel Playground also shows recent Sentinel-2 images. The interface makes it easy to select the date you want and scroll between images. Zoom to or search for your area of interest, then use the bar on the top of the screen to scroll through dates. The panel on the left lets you change the image effects and customize your view.

Planet Explorer



While Planet is perhaps best known for paid access to daily images, it has recently released monthly mosaics to the public for free via the **Planet Explorer** platform. These images are more detailed than images from Sentinel-2, and since they combine multiple days of imagery, the mosaics generally do not have any clouds. Search for or draw an area of interest, then scroll through months in the panel on the left. Planet Explorer also has a neat feature to easily compare different months using a slider bar.

For more details about Global Forest Watch, including access to other tutorials, general facts, and specialized information, visit www.globalforestwatch.org/howto.