



10 YEARS OF IMAGING ASIA SPOT VEGETATION



Thaw of the Permafrost
Permafrost at present covers 20% of the Earth's land surface. Its thawing due to global warming releases great amounts of ice-trapped methane, a very powerful greenhouse gas. Thawing permafrost along the Kolyma River, Siberia. © Mikhail Al. Arsenov.



Dark Skies
Exposure to fine particles kills 2.4 million people a year, half of which in Asia. Urban air pollution, forest fires and indoor pollution by traditional cooking fuels are to blame. Polluted sunset in Shanghai. Source: wikimedia.org



The Never-ending Battle with Nature
Asia tops the lists of major natural disasters. The 10 most deadly natural disasters occurred in Asia, with floods, earthquakes and cyclones causing the greatest havoc. Beichuan after the 2008 earthquake. Source: houstonchina-consulate



An Irreplaceable Habitat
Forests in Indonesia are being cleared at a rate of 5 football fields a minute. Their conversion to oil palm monocultures causes a 85% loss in biodiversity. From 1998 to 2008, 80% of orangutan habitat has been lost. Source: Raina Kuhn



Facing seaward Hazards
Growing populations and booming economies are threatening Asia's coastal ecosystems. With half of the mangrove gone, inland areas are more vulnerable to storms and erosion. Agriculture (pink) encroaching upon mangrove (green). Source: NASA

VEGETATION
This unique image is a composite of all daily images recorded for 10 years by the VEGETATION instruments on board satellite's SPOT-4 and SPOT-5. The bathymetry and the polar areas are derived from the Blue Marble next generation. Capitals and other major cities (> 5 million inhabitants) are shown.
More info: <http://eod.ucl.ac.uk/vegt10>
Copyright © UCL - Geomatics (Belgium) 2015