10 Years of Imaging South America

SPOT VEGETATION

Havana
Port-au-Prince
Santo Domingo
Kingston
Belmopan
Guatemala City
Tegucigalpa
San Salvador
Managua
San José
Panamá City
Roseau
Castries
Kingstown
Bridgetown
Saint George's
Maracaibo
Caracas
Port of Spain
Medellín
Bogotá
Cali
Georgetown
Paramaribo
Cayenne
Quito
Guayaquil
Lima
La Paz
Brasília
Belo Horizonte
São Paolo
Rio de Janeiro
Recife
Asunción
Porto Alegre
Santiago
Buenos Aires
Montevideo

Booming Cities

Latin America experiences an explosive urban growth. In 2008, almost 80% of the population lived in urban areas.

Rio de Janeiro slums. Source: West Virginia University.

Agrofuels and the Rainforest

The biofuel crop area is expanding rapidly across South America, contributing to deforestation.

Deforestation in Matto Grosso Brazil seen by ASTER in 2006.
Source: NASA and U.S./Japan ASTER Science Team

Volcanoes

The Chaitén volcano in Chile is one of Latin America's 269 active volcanoes. Following its eruption in July 2008, the plume drifted all the way across Argentina.

Source: MODIS Rapid Response Project, NASA/GSFC

El Niño

is a cyclic climatic event severely altering weather patterns worldwide. During a major El Niño, ocean water warms up and the sea level rises by up to 35 cm along the Pacific coast.

El Niño events can lead to a dramatic decrease in fish catch. © Puerto_urbano

Glaciers

are a critically important water resource for South America. Since the 1980's they have been retreating drastically, providing one of the most visible indications of climate change.

Evolution of Grey Glacier in Chile (ISS and Landsat). Source: NASA.

VEGETATION

This unique image is a composite of all daily images recorded for 10 years by the VEGETATION instruments on-board satellites SPOT-4 and SPOT-5. The bathymetry is derived from the Blue Marble next generation.
Capitals and other major cities (> 2 million inhabitants) are shown.
More info : http://eoedu.belspo.be/vgt10

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belspo BELGIAN SCIENCE POLICY

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