



# RADD forest disturbance alerts

- progress, analysis, impacts -

Johannes Reiche, Martin Herold and many contributors

ESA LPS22 | Bonn

<http://radar-rs.wur.nl> | <http://radd-alert.wur.nl>

# RADD (RADar for Detecting Deforestation) alerts

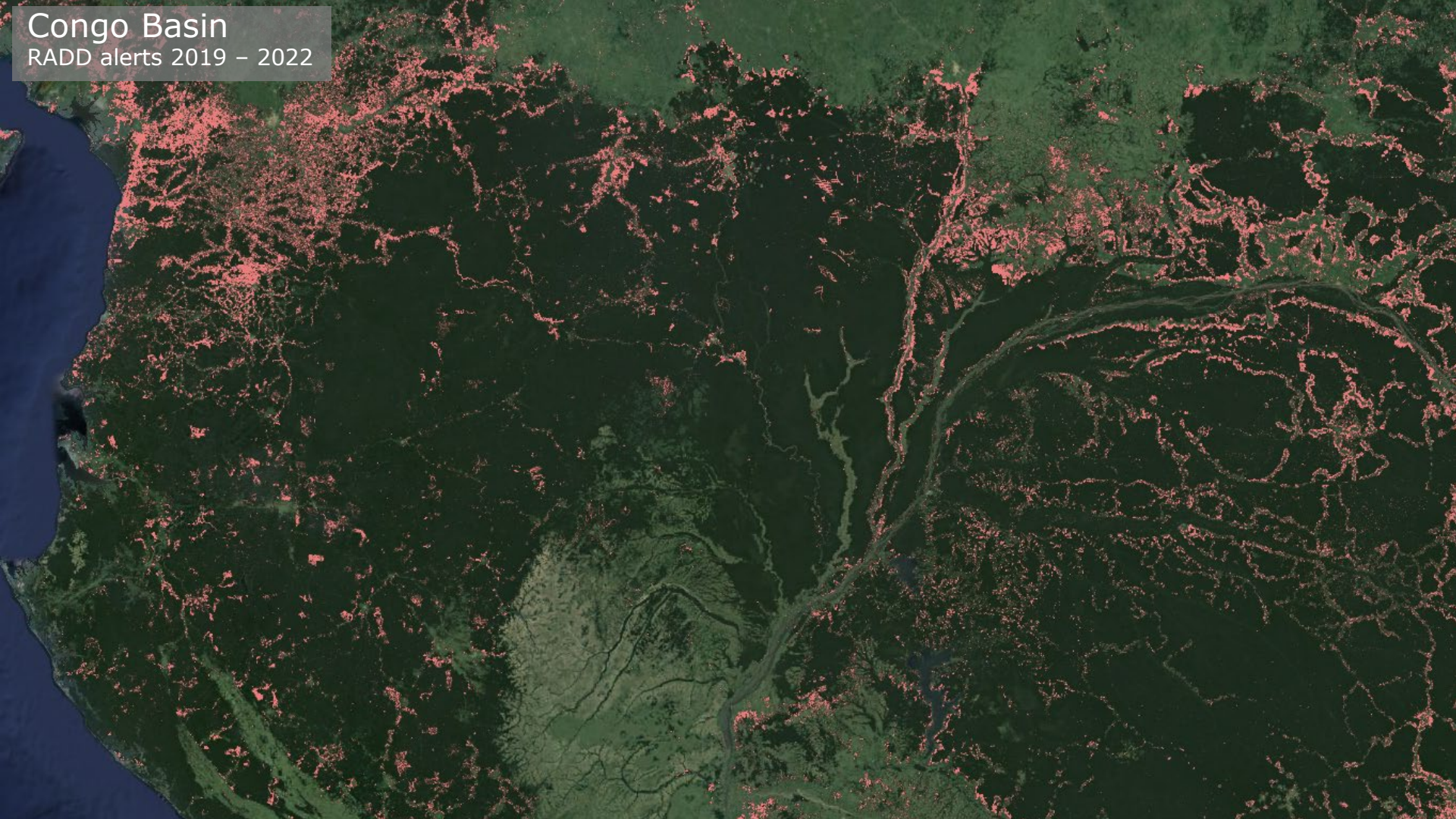
- Forest disturbances alerts for the humid tropics using cloud-penetrating **Sentinel-1 radar**
- Collaboration with, e.g. Global Forest Watch, Google, UMD, ESA
- Weekly updates available via **Global Forest Watch**, SEPAL, GEE and <http://radd-alert.wur.nl>
- Complement existing alerts (e.g. GLAD, JJ-FAST) with the aim to support **law enforcement & transparency**





# Congo Basin

RADD alerts 2019 - 2022







Selective tree logging  
(Central African Republic)

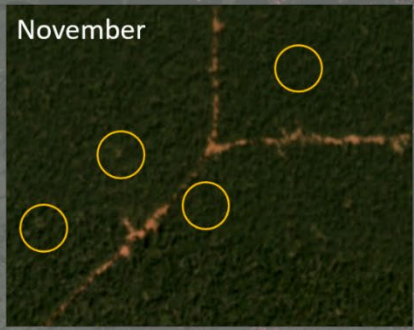
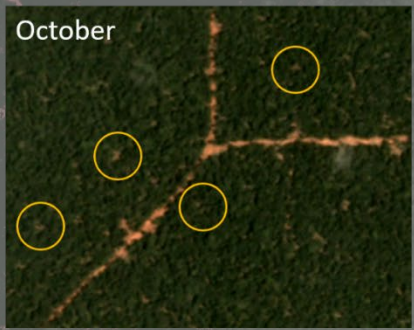
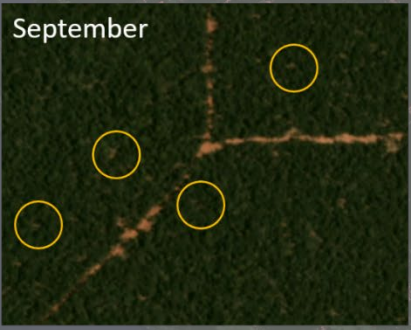


Credit: Pieter Moonen





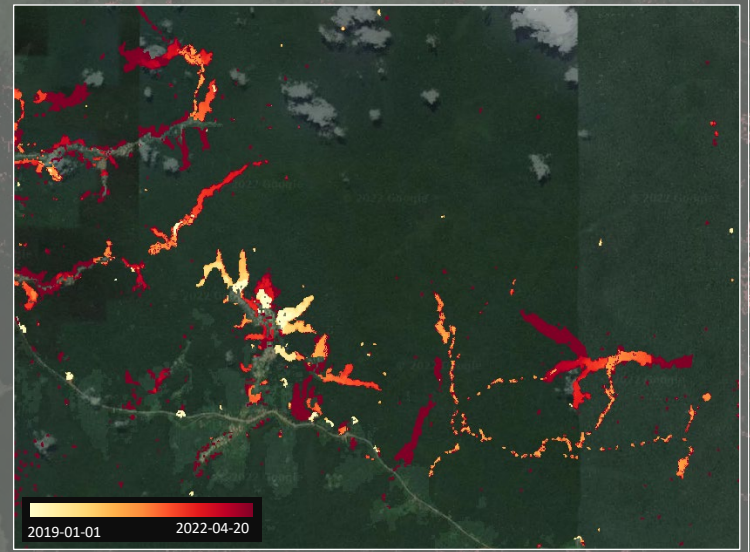
Selective logging  
signal disappears  
quickly



Planet Labs imagery  
Reiche et al., 2021 (ERL)



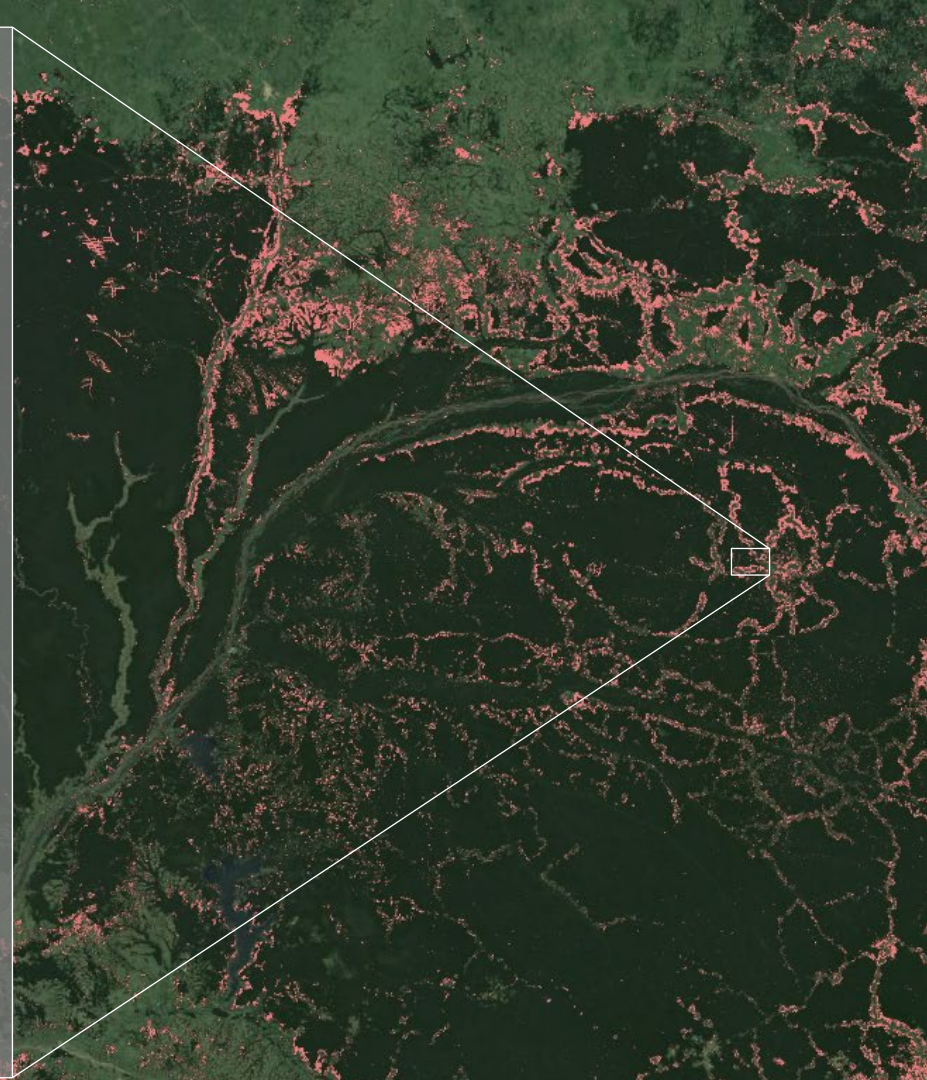
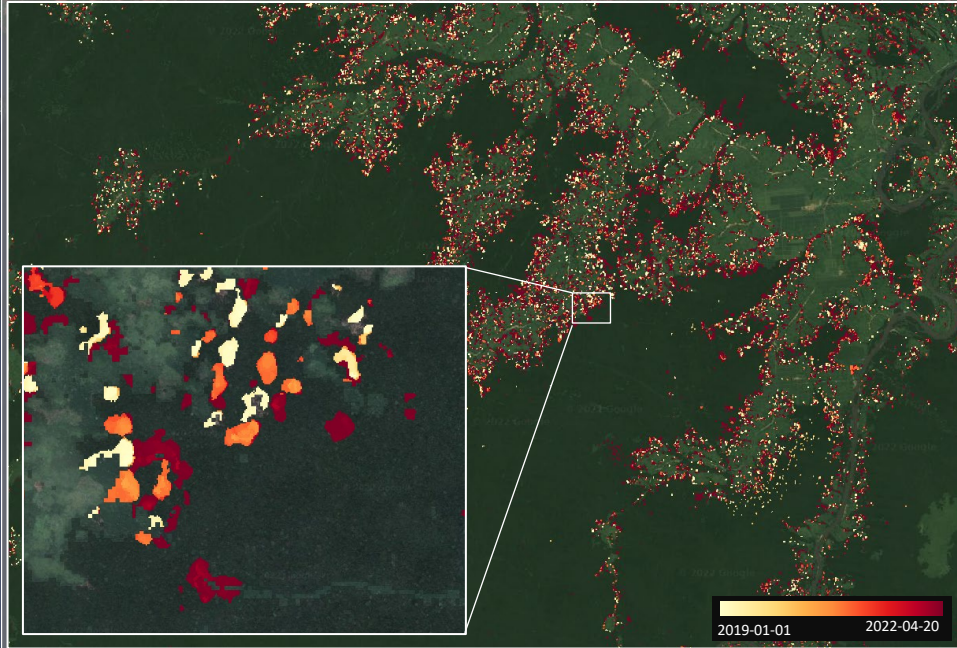
## Gold mining (Republic of the Congo)



Credit: Pascaline Kavuo Mwasi Saambili, GJI DRC



# Smallholder agriculture (DRC)





# West Papua & PNG

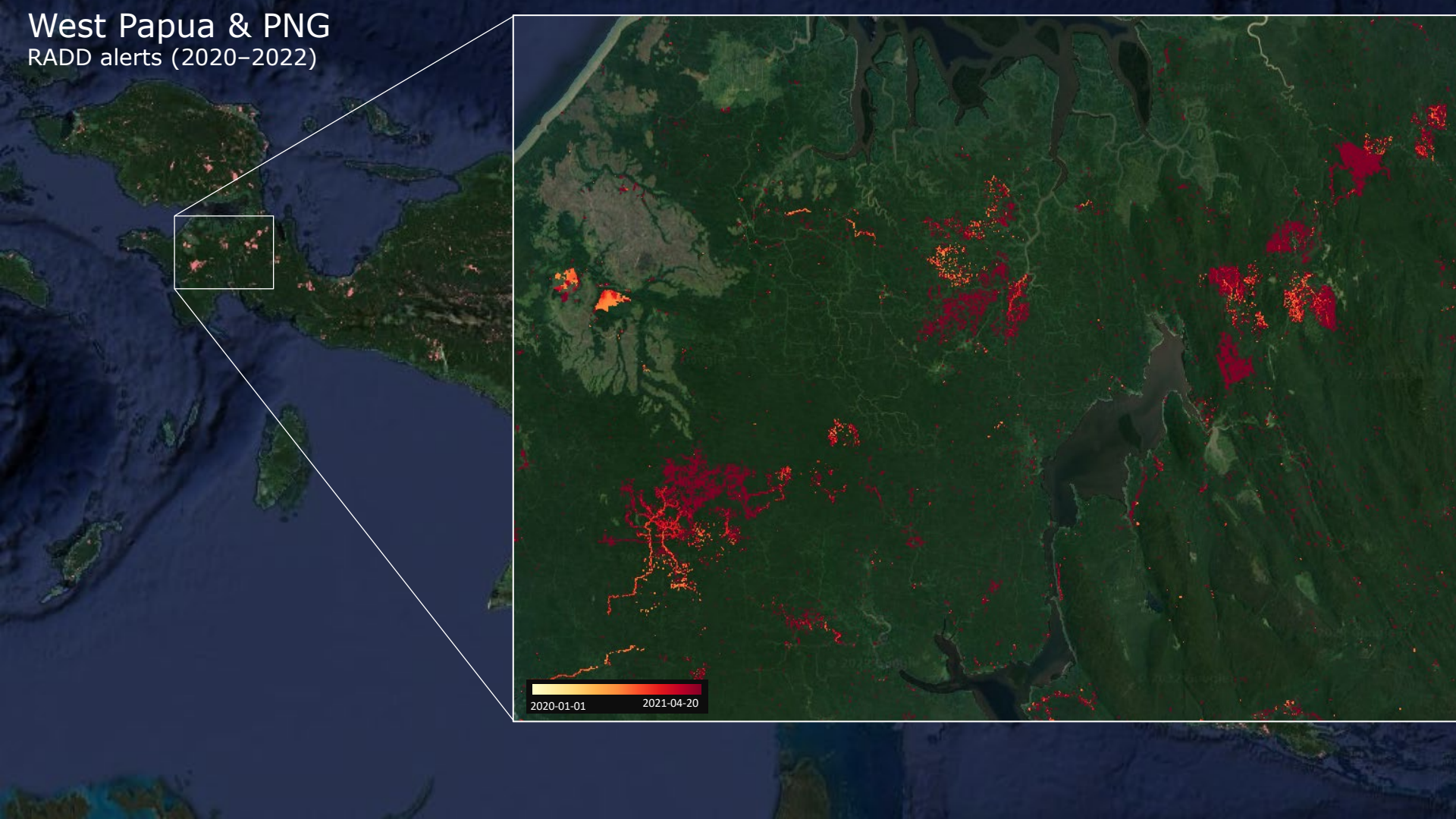
RADD alerts (2020-2022)





# West Papua & PNG

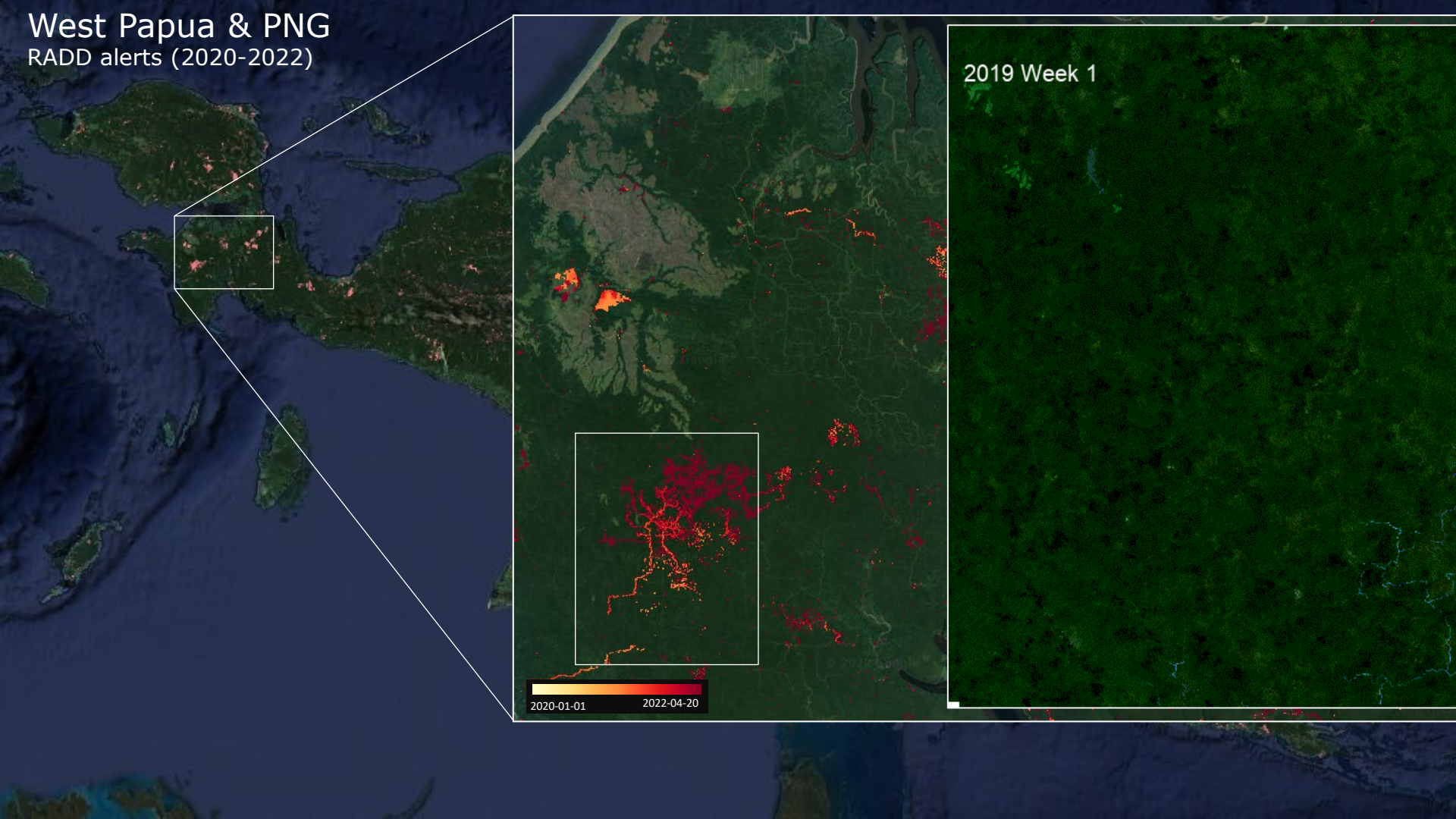
RADD alerts (2020–2022)





# West Papua & PNG

RADD alerts (2020-2022)



2019 Week 1

2020-01-01 2022-04-20



# RADD alert improvements and expansion

- Open-source GEE package for generating analysis-ready Sentinel-1 backscatter data (Adugna Mullissa et al., 2021)
- Expansion to Central America (2022) and Continental Southeast Asia (2023)





# RADD alert improvements and expansion

- Expansion to Central America (2022) and Continental Southeast Asia (2023)
- RADD version 2
  - Improved mapping of large-scale disturbances with **radar texture**
  - Improved MMU and modelling alert-logging relationship
  - ...

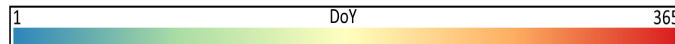
Remaining stems/debris after forest clearing



S1 backscatter



S1 backscatter + texture

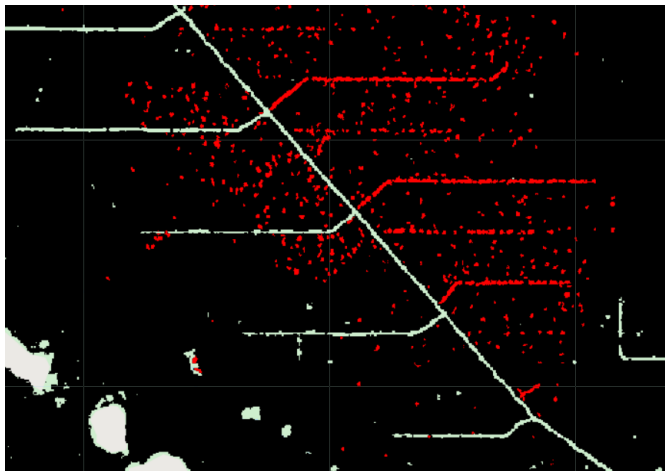




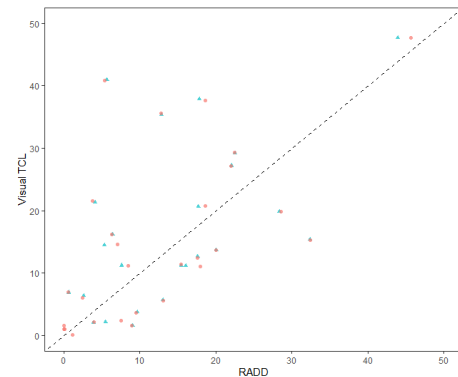
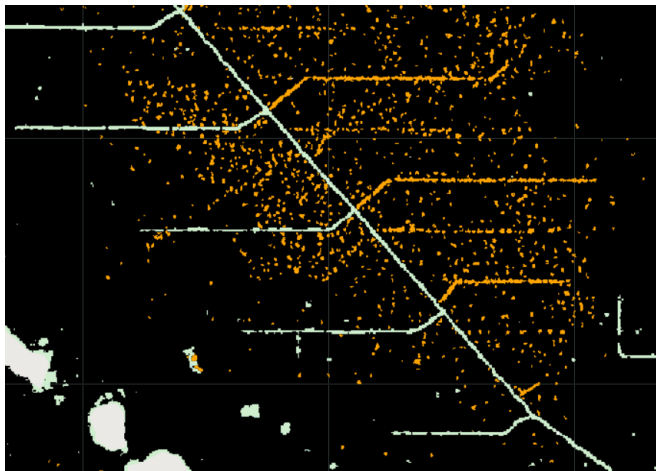
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MMU 0.1 ha (current)



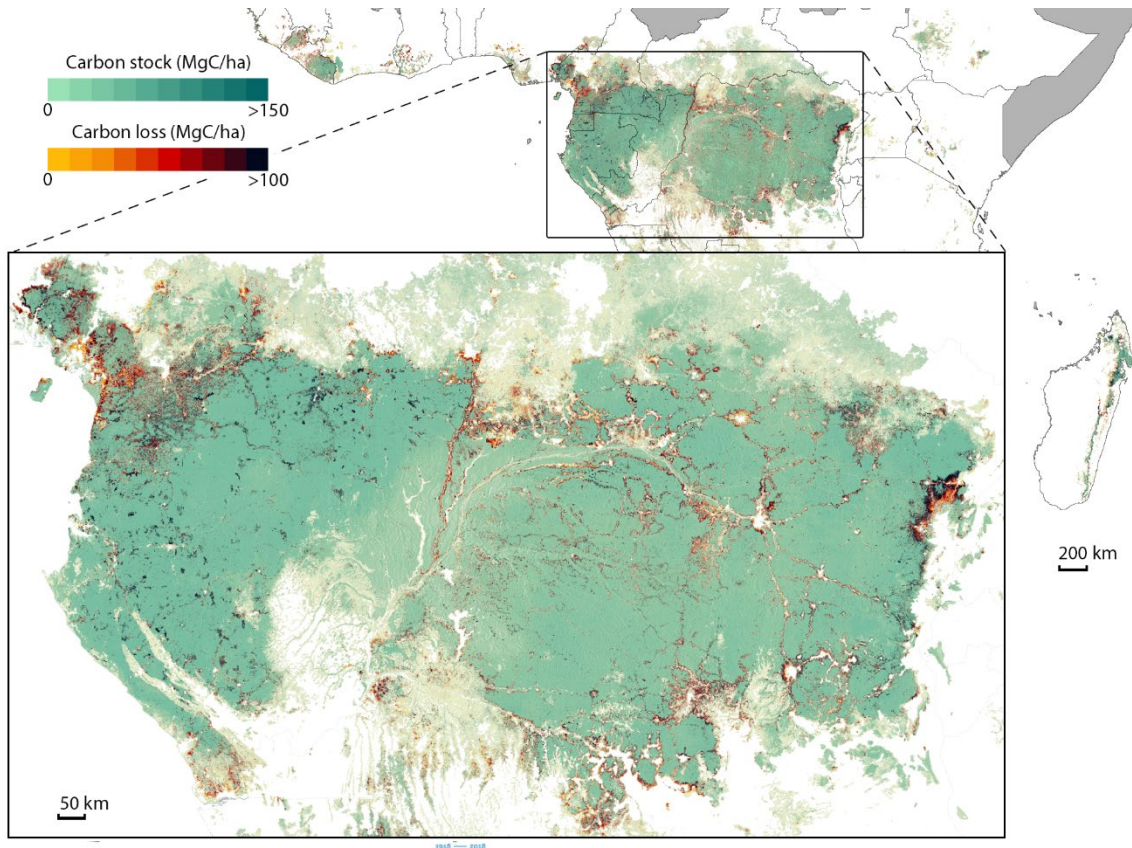
MMU 0.05 ha (version 2)



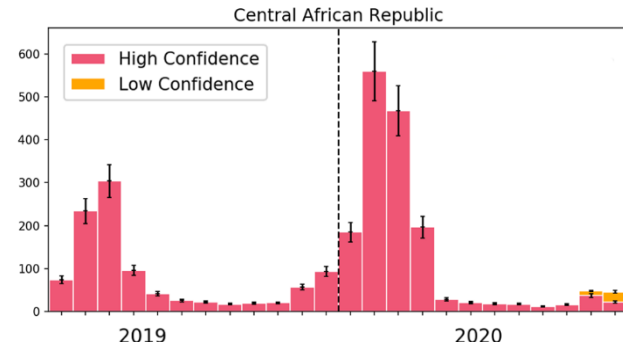
PhD Anne-Juul Welsink



# Beyond I: Rapid carbon loss monitoring



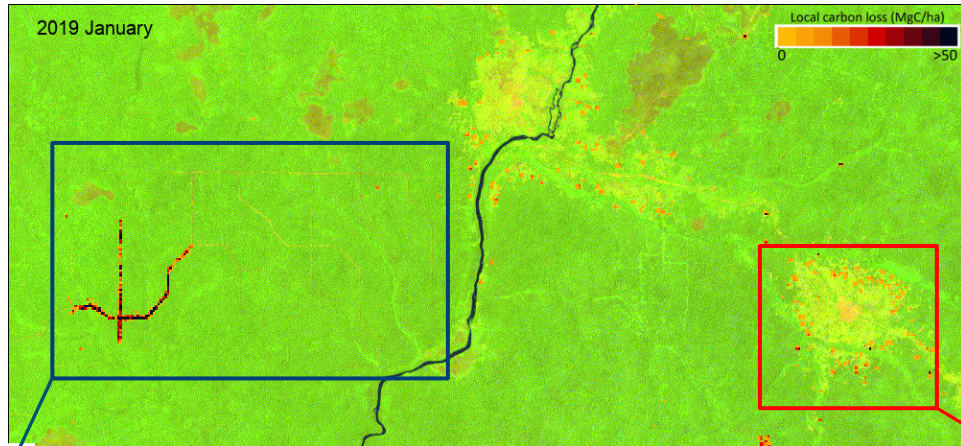
- Combining RADD alerts with new CCI Biomass map (*Santoro et al., 2021*)
- Extensive uncertainty framework



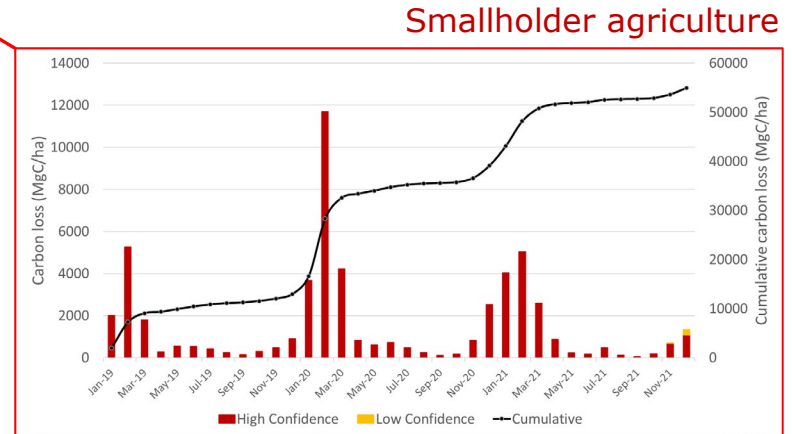
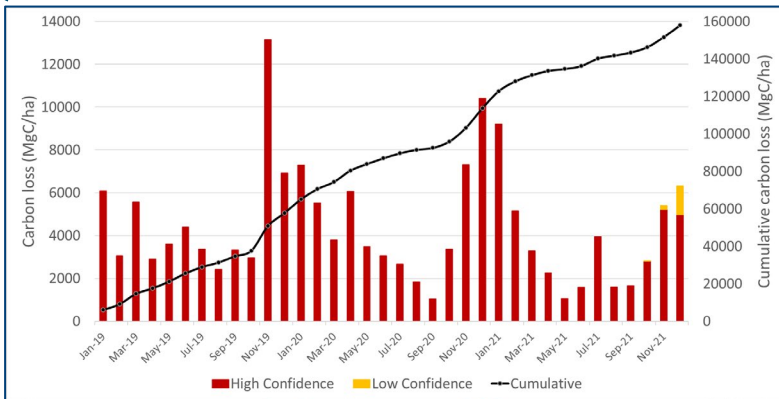
*O. Csillik et al., 2022 (Nature CEE)*



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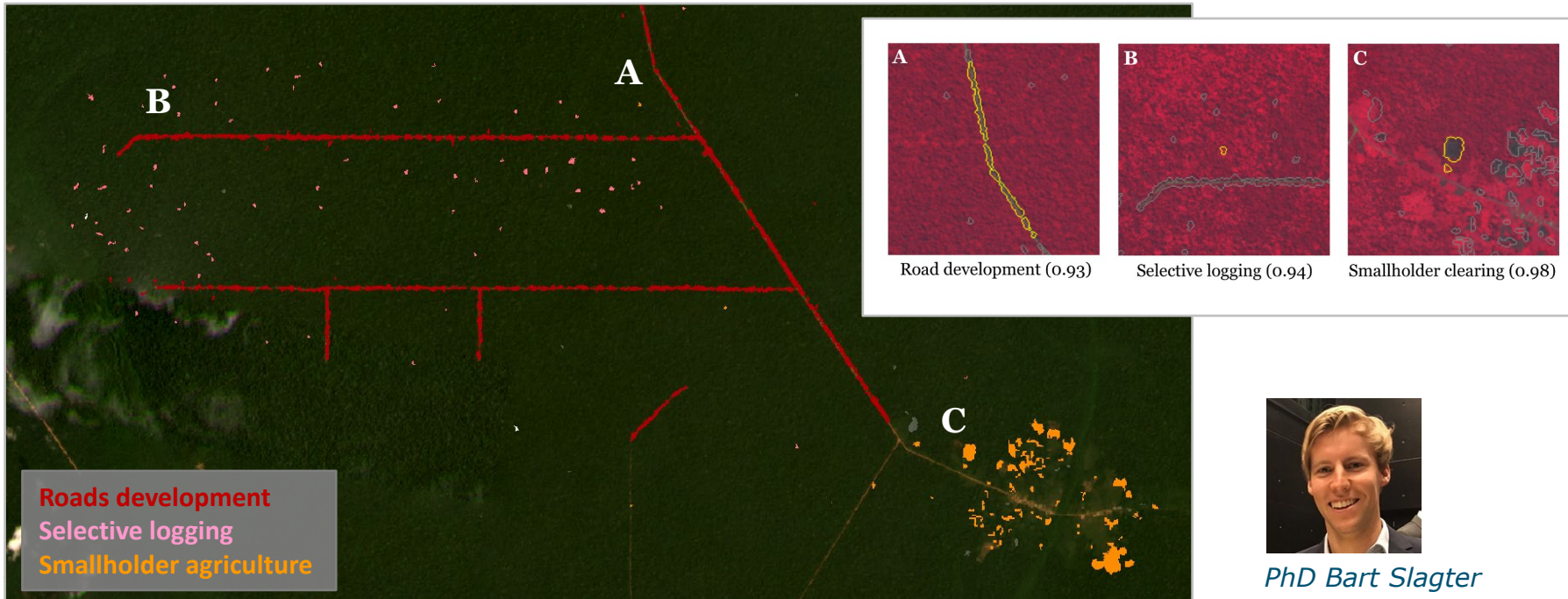
- Strong variations in driver-dependent seasonal dynamics
- Strong negative correlation with rainfall seasonality (*Y. Gou, J. Balling et al., 2022, ERL*)





# Beyond II: Rapid driver mapping

- Classifying direct drivers of forest disturbance using deep-learning (RADD+S1+S2)
- Testing results: F1 score >90% (5 classes)



PhD Bart Slagter

# Summary, way ahead & vacancies

- RADD alert improvements and expansion
  - RADD version-2 and new geographies (Central America, Southeast Asia)
  - Dry forest and Europe
  - L-band radar (SAOCOM, NISAR)



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  - Rapid C-loss monitoring and driver mapping
  - Alert integration
  - Predictions – moving from alerting to predictions

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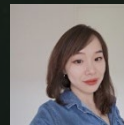
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- **Vacancies @ WUR Radar team (please contact me)**
  - Postdoc – Radar forest monitoring
  - Postdoc – Open-Earth-Monitor data science
  - PhD | young researcher – Radar forest monitoring



# More presentations & posters

## Tuesday (D2.03 EO for Africa: advancements of EO Science and Applications)

- **Yaqing Gou** - Insights and impacts of the **inter-annual relationship** between precipitation and forest disturbance in the African rainforest (Poster)



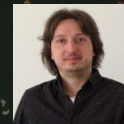
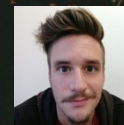
## Thursday (C1.04 AI4EO applications for Land and Water)

- **Aduigna Mullissa** - **Tropical Dry Forest Change Detection Using Sentinel Images and Deep Learning** (Poster)



## Friday (A3.12 Forest Monitoring)

- **Bart Slagter** - **Classifying direct drivers** of forest disturbance in near-real time, using multi-sensor Sentinel data and deep learning (Oral)
- **Anne-Juul Welsink** - Sentinel-based forest disturbance alerts to map **selective logging intensities** in the tropics
- **Sietse van der Woude** - Towards consistent and high-frequency **European forest monitoring**: Combining Sentinel satellite and ground-based data streams
- **Johannes Balling** - Utilizing dense Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 time series for **characterizing disturbances** of humid tropical forests
- **Milutin Milenkovic** - Utilizing Novel Satellite Radar and Lidar Data for Monitoring Amazon **Rainforest Regrowth**



# Upcoming

- Meetings and conferences (2022):
  - [EARSeL Imaging Spectroscopy workshop \(22–24. June 2022 at GFZ\)](#)
  - [ForestSAT 2022 \(29. Aug. – 2. Sept., Berlin\)](#)
- Vacancies - Remote Sensing@GFZ:
  - [Global monitoring team leader \(permanent\): https://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/career/job-offers/job-detail/6143](https://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/career/job-offers/job-detail/6143)
  - [Global monitoring data scientist \(4,5 years\): https://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/career/job-offers/job-detail/6136](https://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/career/job-offers/job-detail/6136)
  - Several post-doc project positions (open soon):
    - FAIR environmental data and monitoring
    - Global and national biomass monitoring