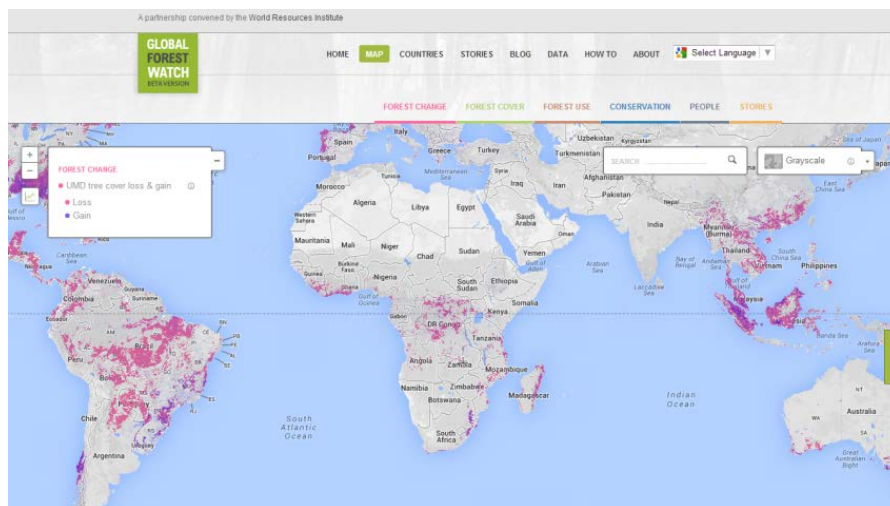




## Global Forest Watch

### Side Event Abstract for the 5<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly



#### **Date, Time, Venue:**

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

17:45-19:15 pm

Room 5 (Refreshments will be served)

#### **Event Title:**

Global Forest Watch – Transforming Access to Forest Information

#### **Event Abstract:**

This side event will introduce [Global Forest Watch](#), a dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system that empowers people everywhere to better manage forests. Global Forest Watch was created by the World Resources Institute with over 40 partners, including Google, Esri, the University of Maryland, Imazon, and the U.N. Environment Programme.

By the time people find out where, when, and why forests are disappearing, it is usually too late to take action. Information is often years out of date, inaccessible, difficult to interpret, or inconsistent when compared across geographies and through time. Global Forest Watch is an innovative solution to this forest information gap. For the first time, Global Forest Watch unites satellite technology, open data, and crowdsourcing to guarantee public access to timely and reliable information about forests. Armed with the latest information from Global Forest Watch, governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and communities can work together to tackle the drivers of deforestation at scale.

Within 48 hours of launching in February, 2014, more than 100,000 people in over 200 countries and territories had visited the Global Forest Watch on-line platform, and hundreds of media outlets covered the launch.

The side event will feature a demonstration of the Global Forest Watch online forest monitoring and alert system, followed by a panel discussion of how this new tool is being applied to create change on the ground. The side event will include a question and answer session with the audience.

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