MapX and the World Environment Situation Room
Powering Big Data for the Environment
“The availability of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data is vital for evidence-based decision-making and to ensure accountability for implementation of the 2030 Agenda”

- UN Secretary General, António Guterres
Aiming to close the gap between data and decision-makers, the World Environment Situation Room will emphasize access to and use of Earth Observation, remote sensing and geospatial datasets.
To power geospatial datasets and make them widely available for environmental monitoring, planning and reporting, the World Environment Situation Room will leverage UN Environment’s MapX platform.
Introducing MapX

MapX is an online, fully customizable geospatial platform to map and monitor natural resources and the environment using the best available data. The MapX mission is to offer equal access to the best available geospatial information, technology and monitoring tools to support environmental planning, decision making and monitoring at any scale.
MapX offers four core services to serve the objectives of the World Environment Situation Room and related stakeholders. These include:

- A global store of reliable data
- Tools to contextualize, analyze and visualize
- Alerts and dashboards for monitoring impacts
- Story maps to support communications and outreach
To work across different environmental topics, priorities and advance the overall achievement of Agenda 2030, data will be organized along four core themes in the World Environmental Situation Room.
Biodiversity

MapX already hosts over 1200 datasets, including extensive data catalogues for the selected themes. For example, there are currently 79 datasets in the Biodiversity Theme, including **Human pressure and Protected Areas**.

The map shows the percentage of a protected area under intense human pressure.
Building on its comprehensive data catalogue, MapX offers analytical and visualization tools to help transform information into insight.

For example, MapX helps identify areas of intersection or overlap.

*Mapping the relationship between threatened species, protected areas, and human pressure can help prioritize areas for intervention.*
Pollution

MapX has started populating the second World Environment Situation Room theme of Pollution. 44 related views are already available, including:

Global Carbon Emissions by weighted by population (2014) from the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center.
Climate Change

Regarding the theme of Climate Change, MapX has integrated 41 datasets into the World Environment Situation Room, including modelled forecasts to different climate change scenarios.

Baseline Water Stress is derived from 12 global indicators, developed by Aqueduct, within the World Resource Institute.
Risk

Regarding the World Environment Situation
Room cross-cutting theme of Risk, 53 datasets related to natural disasters.

This map shows a live feed, updated every 15 minutes from the United States Geological Survey, of earthquakes of magnitude 5.5 or higher in the past 30 days.
Global scale dashboards can aggregate data from all countries, including individual reports from regions and countries and measure progress towards important environmental indicators.

Regarding the decommissioning of toxic chemicals as per the Stockholm Convention for example, this dashboard shows the levels of Persistent Organic Pollutants by country.
Future Outlook- Establishing a global public good of environmental data.

By leveraging MapX’s cloud computing architecture and open-source technology, the World Environment Situation Room represents a key building block towards establishing a global public good of environmental data.

*Photo of satellites orbiting the earth courtesy of the European Space Agency*
To find out more, visit:

MapX website: www.mapx.org

UN Environment Live: https://environmentlive.unep.org/situation

Story map performed by the MapX story map engine