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00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,060

Narrator: At NASA Earth Science, we wake up every day

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00:00:04,080 --> 00:00:08,090

looking for new ways to expand our understanding

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00:00:08,110 --> 00:00:12,250

about the Earth, to push the frontiers of science, and to share what

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00:00:12,270 --> 00:00:16,340

we're learning to benefit people worldwide.

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00:00:16,360 --> 00:00:20,410

Together with our partners, we put science into action.

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00:00:20,430 --> 00:00:24,560

One of our partners, the Jane Goodall Institute,

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00:00:24,580 --> 00:00:28,660

has a mission to protect chimpanzees and the

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00:00:28,680 --> 00:00:32,760

world we all share. In 1960,

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00:00:32,780 --> 00:00:36,860

Jane Goodall arrived on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in

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00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:40,900

Gombe National Park, Tanzania.

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00:00:40,920 --> 00:00:44,960

Goodall: I think of those early days when it was just me and the forest

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00:00:44,980 --> 00:00:49,000

and the chimpanzees. It was so magic.

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00:00:49,020 --> 00:00:53,090

Narrator: As her work studying chimpanzees progress, the land around the park was

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00:00:53,110 --> 00:00:57,110

steadily deforested for timber and agriculture, severing the connection

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00:00:57,130 --> 00:01:01,120

between chimpanzees inside and outside the park,

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00:01:01,140 --> 00:01:05,160

a connection they need to survive.

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00:01:05,180 --> 00:01:09,200

Deforestation is a problem for people, also.

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00:01:09,220 --> 00:01:13,250

Goodall: It was clear there were more people living there than the land could support,

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00:01:13,270 --> 00:01:17,310

they had overfarmed the land, which was

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00:01:17,330 --> 00:01:21,410

infertile. Terrible soil erosion, little streams getting silted up.

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00:01:21,430 --> 00:01:25,540

People clearly struggling to survive.

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00:01:25,560 --> 00:01:29,560

And that's when I realized, unless we improved the lives of the people,

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00:01:29,580 --> 00:01:33,600

we can't even start to try and save the chimpanzees.

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00:01:33,620 --> 00:01:37,640

Narrator: People in the communities and

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00:01:37,660 --> 00:01:41,670

at the Jane Goodall Institute needed a new perspective to

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00:01:41,690 --> 00:01:45,810
see how changes had taken place over time.

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00:01:45,830 --> 00:01:49,910
That's when the partnership began between the institute and NASA.

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00:01:49,930 --> 00:01:54,040
They looked to space, using NASA's satellites that observe the Earth to gain

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00:01:54,060 --> 00:01:58,070
a higher vantage point.

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00:01:58,090 --> 00:02:02,110
Pintea: When we first got our Landsat satellite images from '72 and '99 we

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00:02:02,130 --> 00:02:06,160
made a natural color composite of Gombe and area outside Gombe.

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00:02:06,180 --> 00:02:10,200
And put them side-by-side and realized that lots of

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00:02:10,220 --> 00:02:14,300
deforestation happened. You can see it. The villages lost maybe 90 percent

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00:02:14,320 --> 00:02:18,400
80 percent of the forest cover. And they will tell

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00:02:18,420 --> 00:02:22,420
stories about how the hills were covered

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00:02:22,440 --> 00:02:26,540
in forest. But then when you show them a picture, it's very

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00:02:26,560 --> 00:02:30,680
shocking to everybody, realizing what has been lost.

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00:02:30,700 --> 00:02:34,860

Villagers were motivated to find new ways

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00:02:34,880 --> 00:02:38,880
for sustainably managing their land and to protect

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00:02:38,900 --> 00:02:42,950
the health of the area. The institute and communities

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00:02:42,970 --> 00:02:46,970
started a forest monitoring program to provide training

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00:02:46,990 --> 00:02:51,030
and equip community members with GPS-enabled devices

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00:02:51,050 --> 00:02:55,100
to document forest activities.

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00:02:55,120 --> 00:02:59,180
Together with the institute, villages developed land use plans

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00:02:59,200 --> 00:03:03,370
for mapping where to build homes, what areas could support

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00:03:03,390 --> 00:03:07,540
agriculture, and where it was best to harvest the forest sustainably.

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00:03:07,560 --> 00:03:11,680
Goodall: Really really exciting to see the

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00:03:11,700 --> 00:03:15,750
impact of these images on the villagers.

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00:03:15,770 --> 00:03:19,810
And to see them sitting around and identifying sacred places,

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00:03:19,830 --> 00:03:23,860
and that enabled them to do these land use management plans.

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00:03:23,880 --> 00:03:27,880
And that's made all the difference.

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00:03:27,900 --> 00:03:31,980
Narrator: Tree cover is returning, and Earth observations are

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,090
now being used to show progress and inspire

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00:03:36,110 --> 00:03:40,140
continued action. This helps protect soil needed for

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00:03:40,160 --> 00:03:44,330
agriculture and clean drinking water, and safeguards

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00:03:44,350 --> 00:03:48,440
forest health. It also ensures the long-term survival

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00:03:48,460 --> 00:03:52,460
of Gombe's famous chimpanzees and those

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00:03:52,480 --> 00:03:56,490
across western Tanzania.

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00:03:56,510 --> 00:04:00,590
Goodall: I think that there's no question but that NASA with its satellite imagery

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00:04:00,610 --> 00:04:04,620
used in the right way, it can really be really helpful for conservation.

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00:04:04,640 --> 00:04:08,730
Narrator: At NASA, we continue to observe,

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00:04:08,750 --> 00:04:12,830
examine, and advance the understanding of our home planet.