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00:00:00,183 --> 00:00:04,640  
[MUSIC]

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00:00:04,640 --> 00:00:07,327  
[Celio De Sousa] Liberia is an incredibly biodiverse country.

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00:00:07,327 --> 00:00:11,925  
The ecosystems, like its forest and mangroves, have an impact on the country's economic plans,

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00:00:11,925 --> 00:00:15,009  
and as a result, people's livelihoods and the environment.

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00:00:40,066 --> 00:00:43,986  
I'm part of NASA's technical team under the  
partnership with Conservation International.

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00:00:44,880 --> 00:00:51,120  
NASA's role here is actually to provide the expertise and the technical experience

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00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:55,119  
remote sensing and earth observation that it has as an institution.

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So, part of my job is actually to leverage all of this knowledge

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and experience and data sets and different technologies that we have available

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00:01:02,589 --> 00:01:10,540  
through NASA to provide these nations with up-to-date, accurate, high-resolution land cover maps.

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00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:21,920  
This is important because the first step of ecosystem accounting is to actually map the

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dynamics of ecosystems over time and we also must verify and compile biodiversity information with

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these land cover maps to get a complete picture of ecosystems and their benefits.

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00:01:36,880 --> 00:01:41,680

[Trond Larsen] Conservation International is working closely in this partnership with NASA to ultimately

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develop this first ever ecosystem map for Liberia.

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00:01:46,607 --> 00:01:52,185

There's really two work streams that are coming together, and NASA has been leading the development of a

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00:01:52,185 --> 00:01:54,948

and CI has been leading the development of a map of

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potential ecosystem types, because this really didn't yet exist for Liberia.

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When we're talking about these benefits, we're referring to natural capital, which is really

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00:02:04,560 --> 00:02:07,591

the stocks of these natural resources, and that's

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estimated to be even more than half of the total wealth in countries such as Liberia.

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00:02:12,999 --> 00:02:19,020

So there's really a desperate need for a more cost-effective and replicable approach to assess

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00:02:19,020 --> 00:02:23,680

what this wealth is coming from natural ecosystems,

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and the first step to do that is to combine

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where we expect these potential ecosystems to occur with the actual known land cover that NASA has produced

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to come up with that final map of ecosystem extent. Because it's those differences

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00:02:37,386 --> 00:02:41,177

in ecosystem\htypes that are providing those different benefits and

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00:02:41,177 --> 00:02:45,309

we need to know where those are\h spatially so that we can begin to understand how

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00:02:45,309 --> 00:02:49,061

much and from where those benefits are\hcoming, so that we can then make decisions

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00:02:49,061 --> 00:02:53,473

about how to protect them and maintain\hthose flows of benefits into the future.

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00:02:53,473 --> 00:03:00,640

[Celio De Sousa] We are producing and offering these countries the\htools that they need to actually start acco

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00:03:00,640 --> 00:03:03,428

for their ecosystems and their ecosystem services,

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00:03:03,428 --> 00:03:08,117

and bringing this information into their decision-making at a national level.

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00:03:08,117 --> 00:03:13,005

So this will ultimately\htranslate into better policies for conservation, and

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00:03:13,005 --> 00:03:19,316

that will bring essentially\hbenefits for their economy and the society in general.

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00:03:19,316 --> 00:03:23,200

[Trond Larsen] So if we can regularly\h update these accounts over time, then we can\h\h

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00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:28,080

really understand those trends in how nature\his contributing to the economy and to human\h\h

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00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:30,538  
well-being, and we can use that information\hto make

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00:03:30,538 --> 00:03:35,146  
better decisions about how we can protect those ecosystems and maintain

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00:03:35,146 --> 00:03:38,068  
the flows\hof those benefits that people need.

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00:03:38,068 --> 00:03:43,188  
[Celio De Sousa] The government of Liberia formally adopted this map as the basis

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00:03:43,188 --> 00:03:47,783  
for the national system of ecosystem accounting. So, it is a huge deal for us,

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00:03:47,783 --> 00:03:52,318  
because this map will\hessentially serve as the starting point for them,