

The Power of Population Data: Introducing WorldPop Global 2 (2015-2030)

4 September 2025



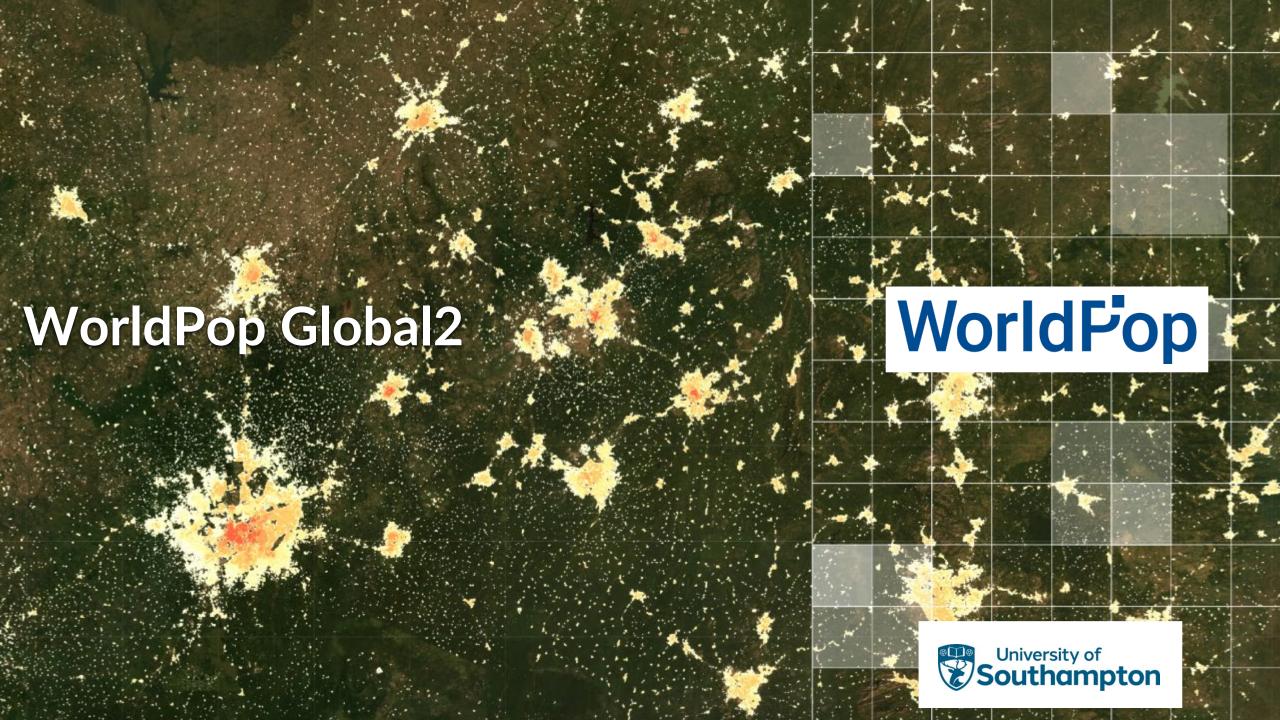
Agenda

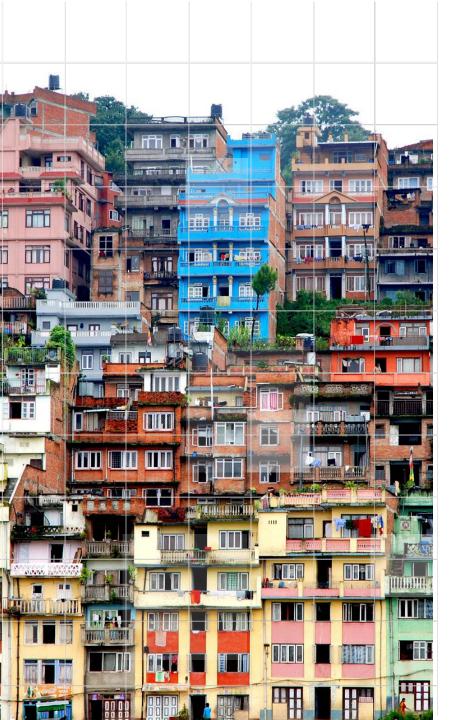
WorldFop

British Summer Time

15:00 – 15:20	Part 1: Unveiling the Future: WorldPop's newest innovative global dataset Breaking new ground: introducing WorldPop Global2 Professor Andy Tatem, Director of WorldPop
15:20 – 15:50 moderated panel discussion	From research to real-world impact: Global development applications Mollie van Gordon - Gates Foundation Andrew Bob Johnny - Sierra Leone Sabrina Juran - UNFPA Moderator: Jess Espey, WorldPop
15:50 – 16:10	Part 2: Hands-on discovery – input data, tools and technical deep-dive Dr Maksym Bondarenko, Head of WorldPop's Spatial Data Infrastructure
16:10 – 16:30	Interactive Q&A with WorldPop's team Questions on technical requirements, platforms, tools, access, integration and much more.

Part 1 – Unveiling the Future

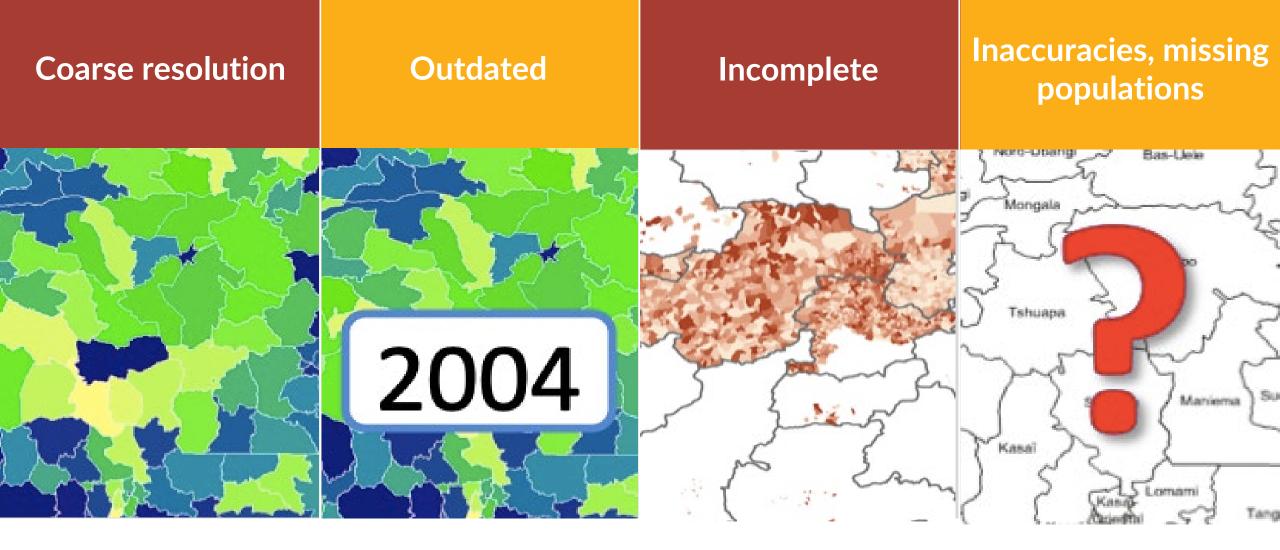




Value of small area population data

- Planning elections
- Calculating GDP
- Local governance
- Traffic planning
- Financial services
- Delivering utilities
- Agricultural subsidies
- Taxation
- Land use management
- Energy strategies

- Health system planning
- Supply chain management
- Health metrics
- Meeting SDGs
- Controlling infectious diseases
- Measuring climate change impacts
- Education planning
- Disaster preparedness



Demographic data challenges

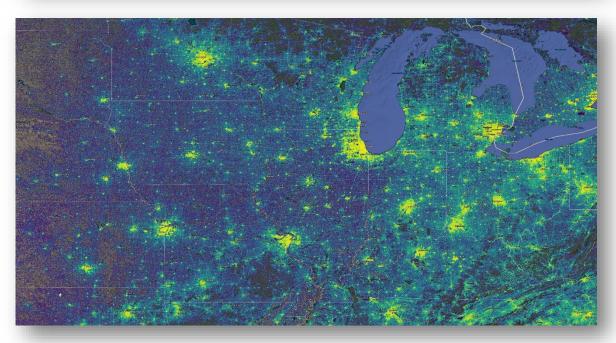


- -Applied research group of 40 staff
- -Geospatial integration methods for addressing demographic data gaps

Mission: Innovative research to empower decision-makers to harness the power of reliable, inclusive and accurate spatial demographic data

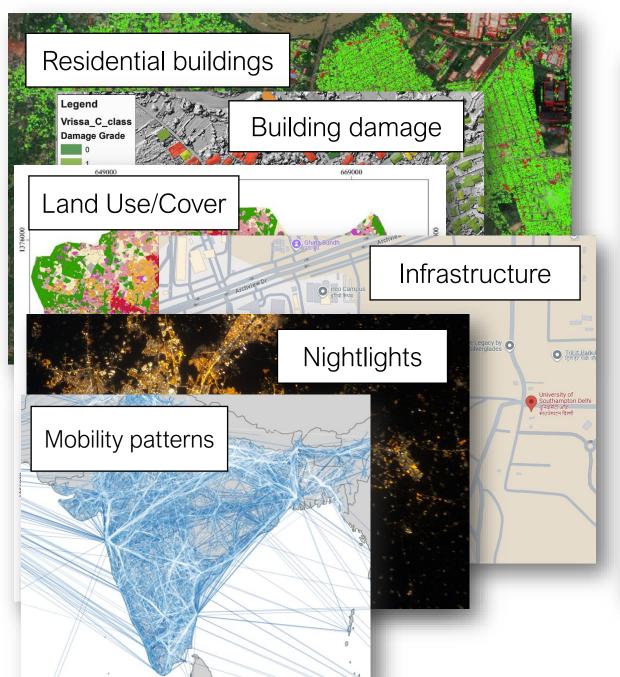
<u>Vision</u>: A world where everyone, everywhere is counted in decision-making

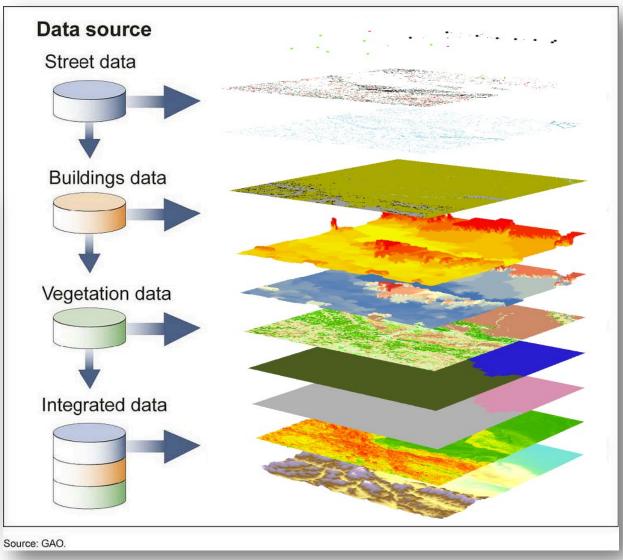




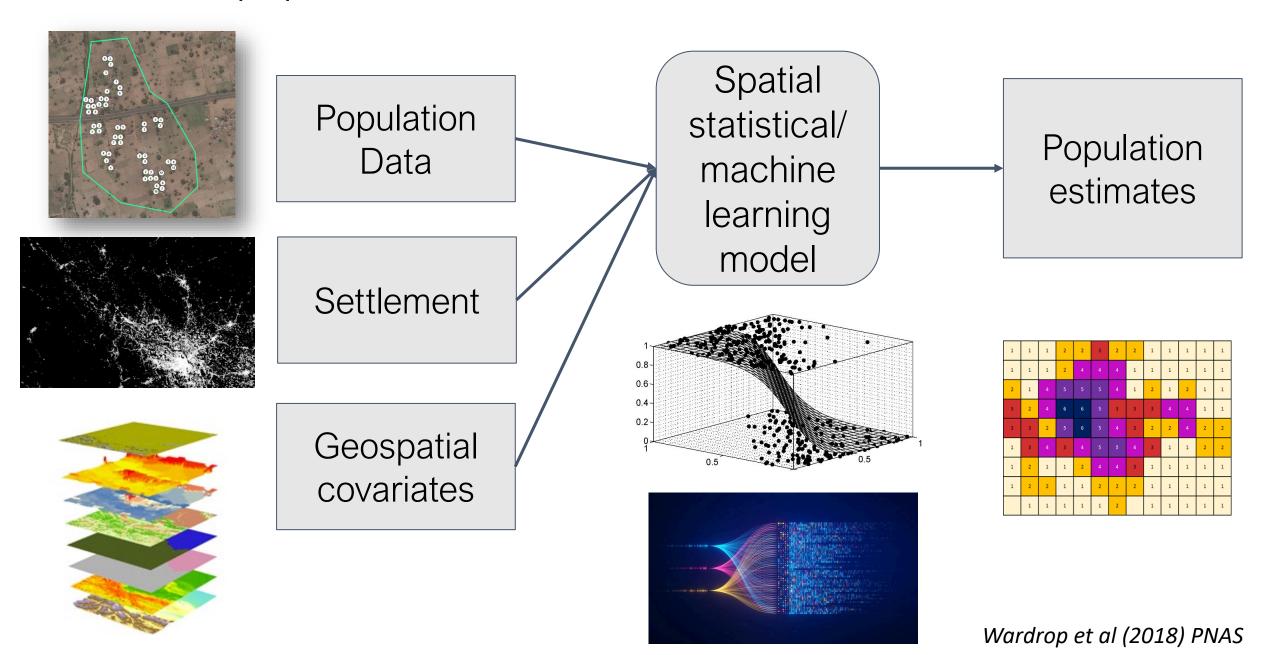






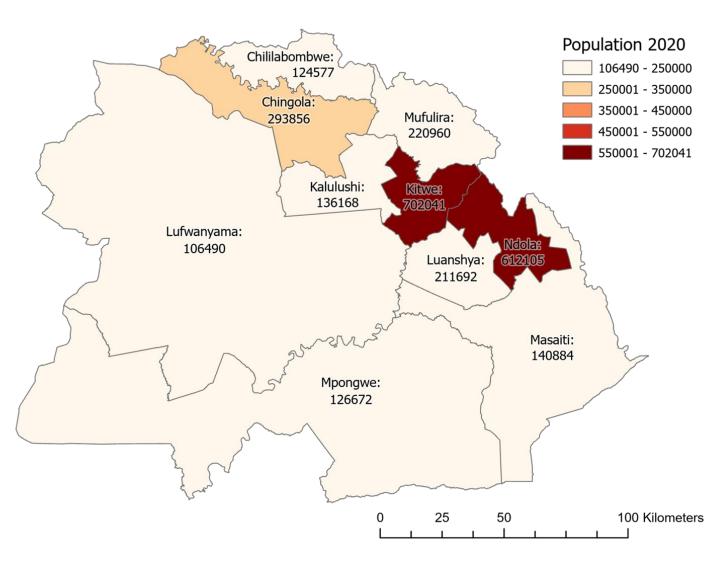


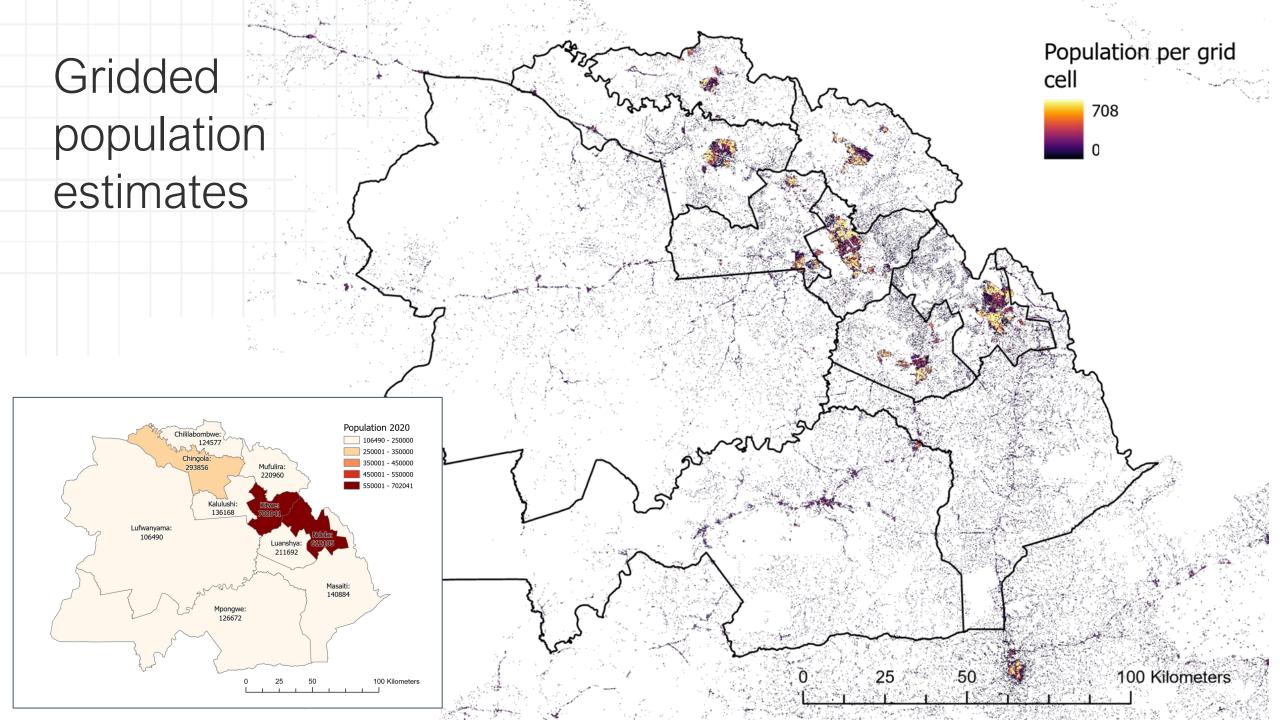
Small area population estimation

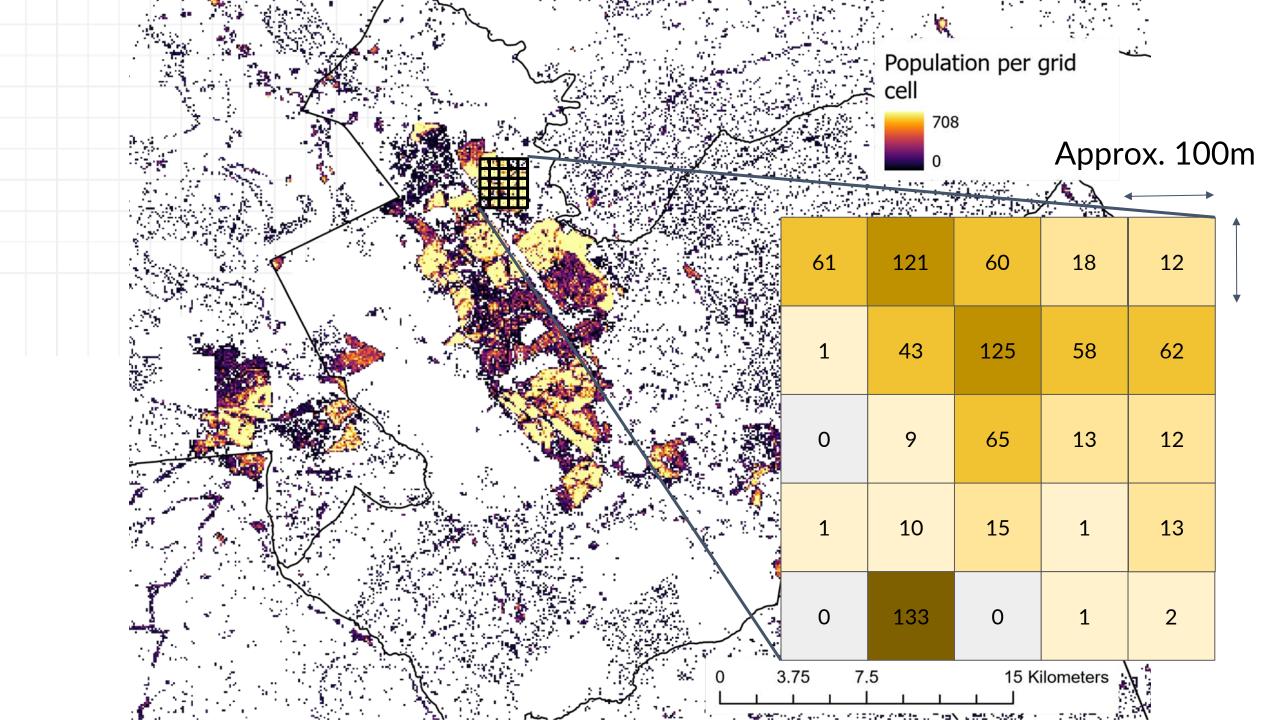


Population estimates: typical data

District	Province	Total
Chililabombwe	Copperbelt	124577
Chingola	Copperbelt	293856
Kalulushi	Copperbelt	136168
Kitwe	Copperbelt	702041
Luanshya	Copperbelt	211692
Lufwanyama	Copperbelt	106490
Masaiti	Copperbelt	140884
Mpongwe	Copperbelt	126672
Mufulira	Copperbelt	220960
Ndola	Copperbelt	612105







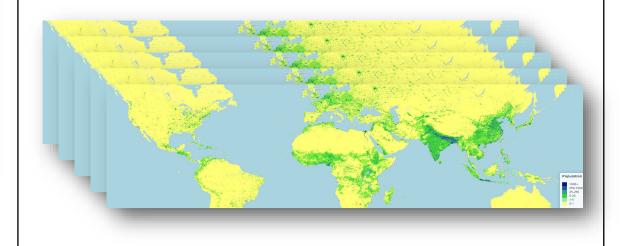
WorldPop produces two broad types of demographic datasets



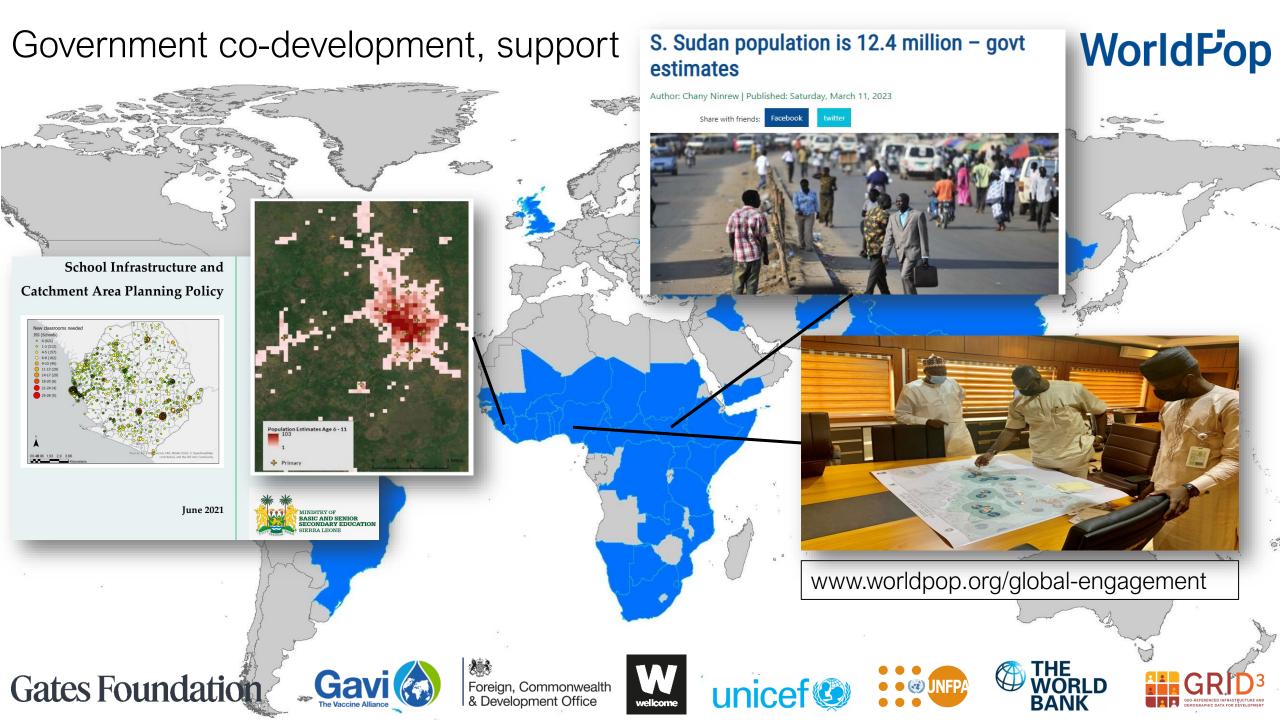
National

- Bespoke model design and data
- Single recent time point
- Co-developed with decision-makers for specific applications
- Most accurate estimates for individual countries and recent timepoints

Global

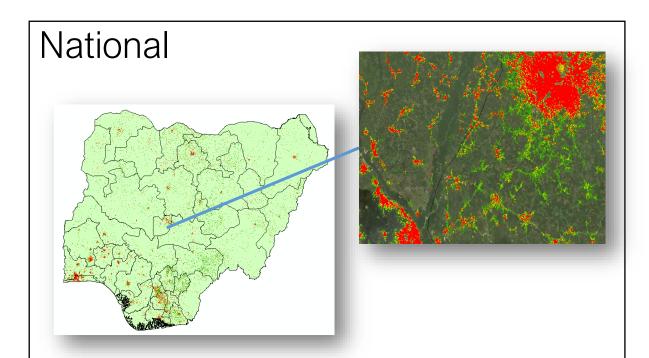


- Consistent data, methods, outputs for all countries
- Multi-temporal
- Co-developed with global demographic and geospatial data providers
- Best for multi-country, multi-year analyses



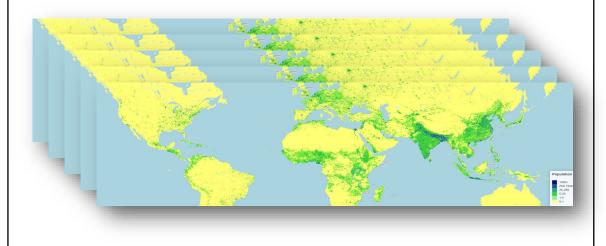
WorldPop produces two broad types of demographic datasets



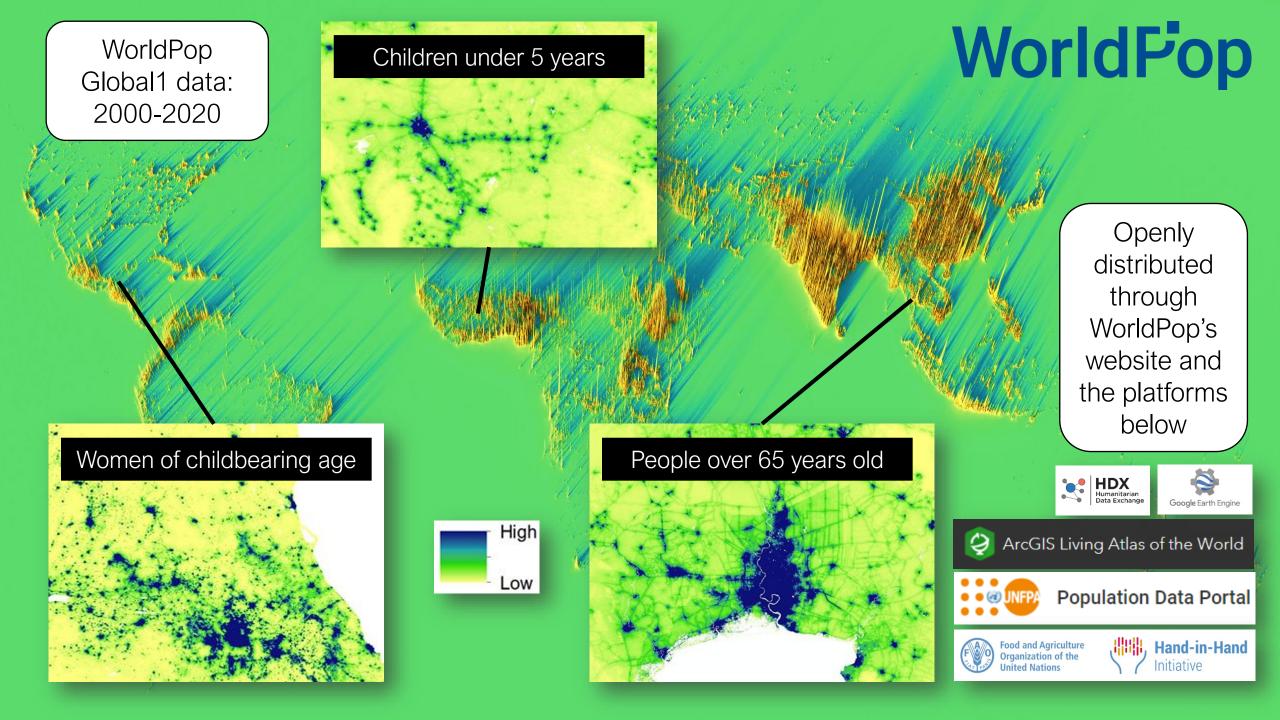


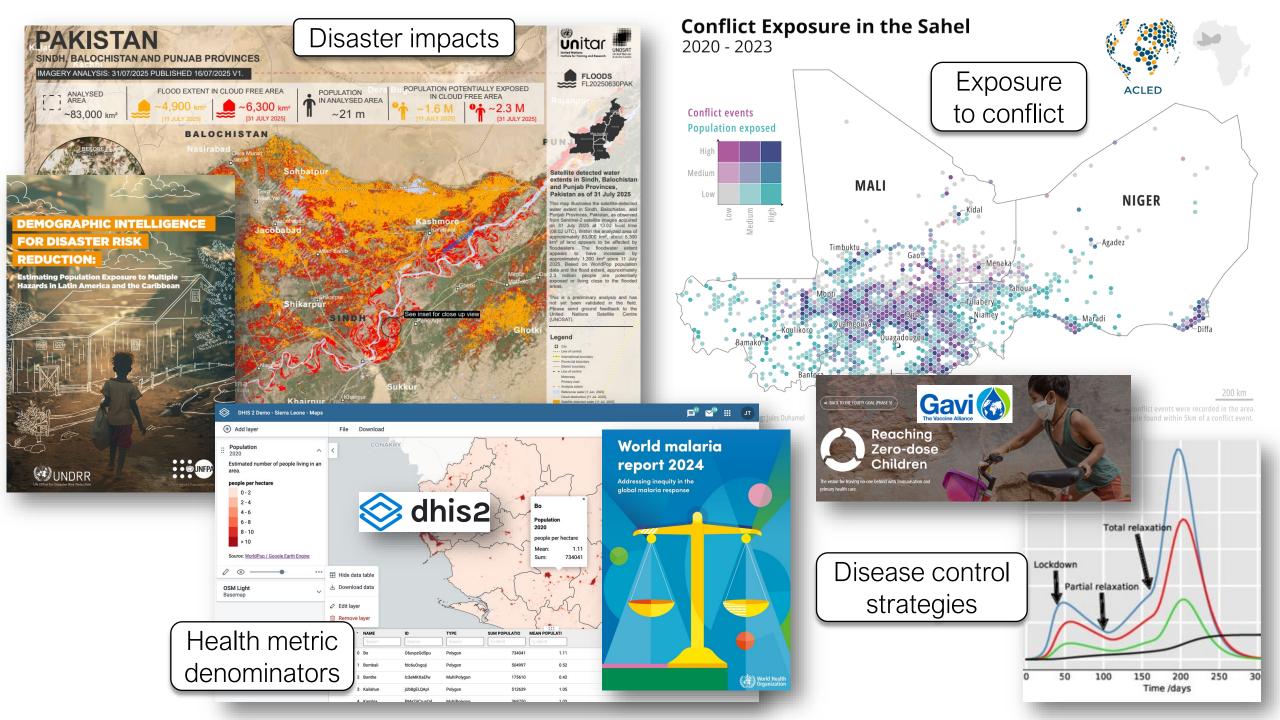
- Bespoke model design and data
- Single recent time point
- Co-developed with decision-makers for specific applications
- Most accurate estimates for individual countries and recent timepoints

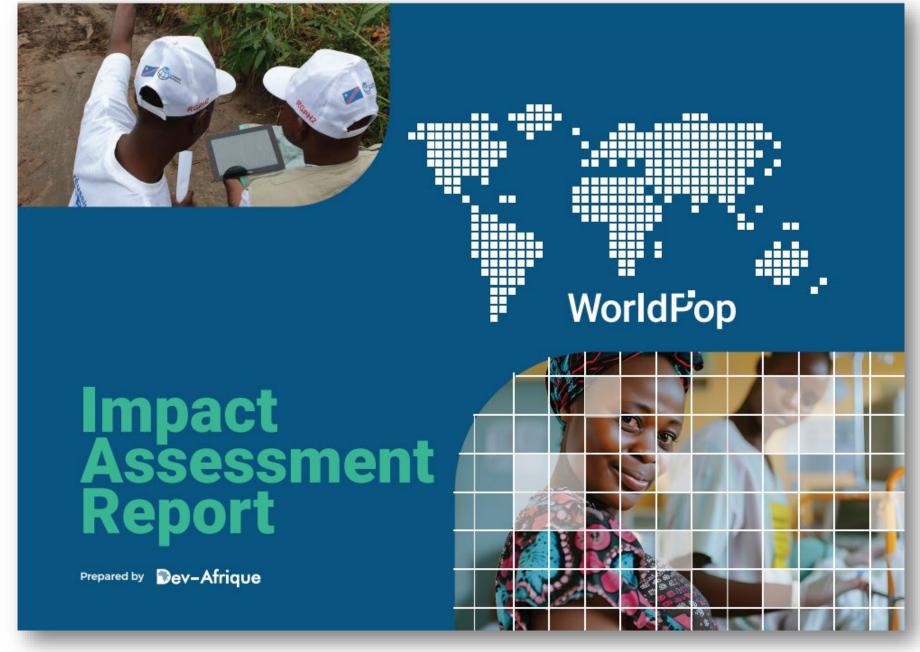




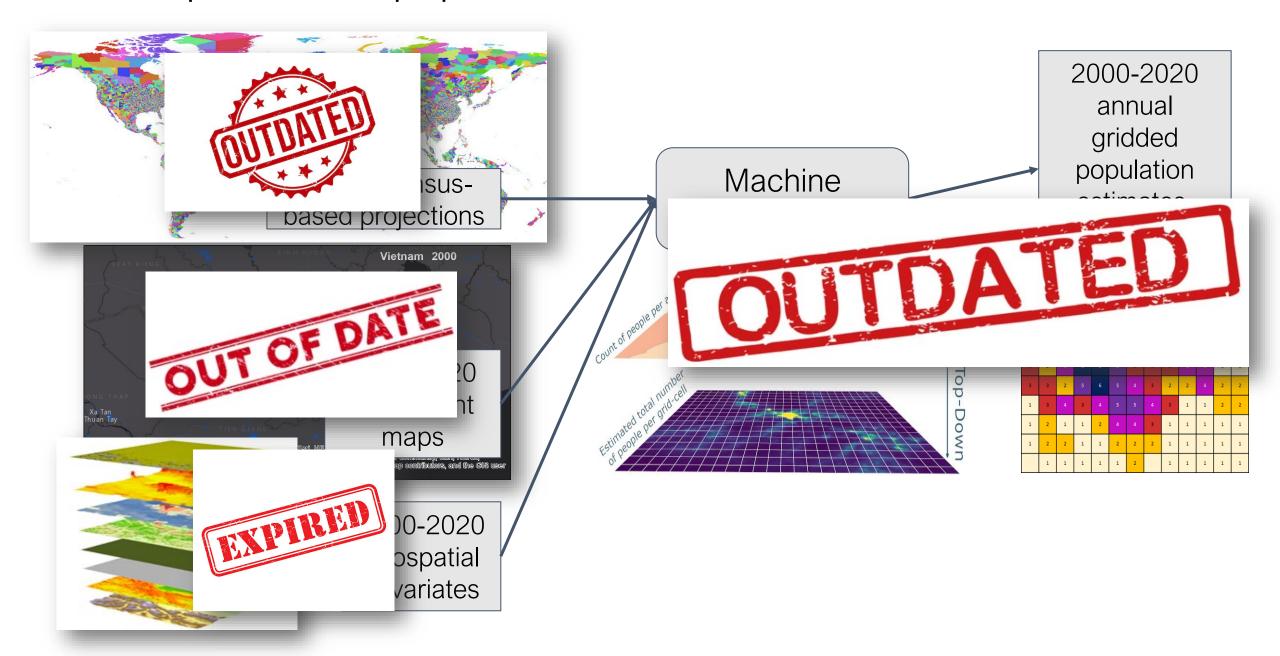
- Consistent data, methods, outputs for all countries
- Multi-temporal
- Co-developed with global demographic and geospatial data providers
- Best for multi-country, multi-year analyses





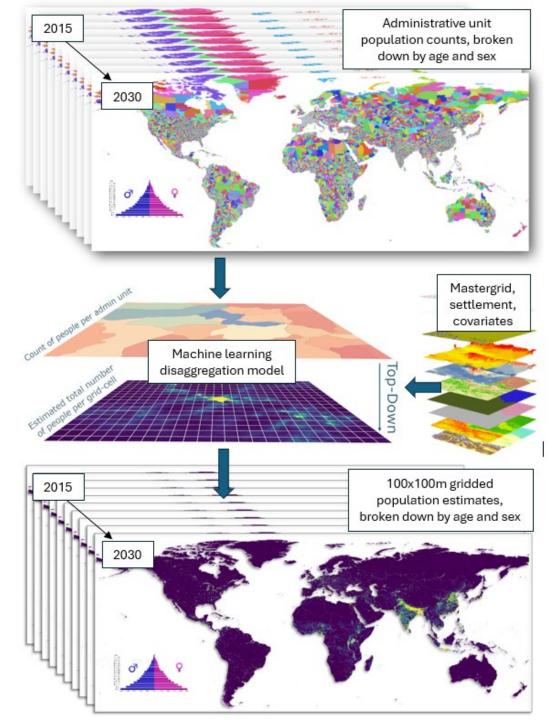


WorldPop 'Global1' population estimates











WorldPop 'Global2': Global high-resolution population estimates for 2015-2030

/ WorldPop News / By Andy Tatem

Tomorrow we're launching WorldPop's new global gridded population datasets – which we're calling 'Global 2'. In this blog I aim to provide an overview of what these new data are, why they matter, how you can use them, and a glimpse of what's coming next.

What was Global 1?

Back in 2018, the WorldPop team finished building the first ever set of multi-annual global 100x100m gridded estimates of residential population, broken down by age and sex classes – 'Global1'. This was the culmination of more than a decade of research on scalable geospatial modelling methods that could leverage satellite imagery and other mapping datasets to spatially disaggregate administrative unit-level population counts. By doing so we could produce high resolution gridded population estimates across national, continental and global scales. The annual datasets covering the 2000-2020 period were made openly available to download and have been in wide use by governments, UN agencies, academics, Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector ever since.

Why make gridded population data?

A major advantage of gridded population data over the more traditional administrative unit-based counts is their flevibility in being able to



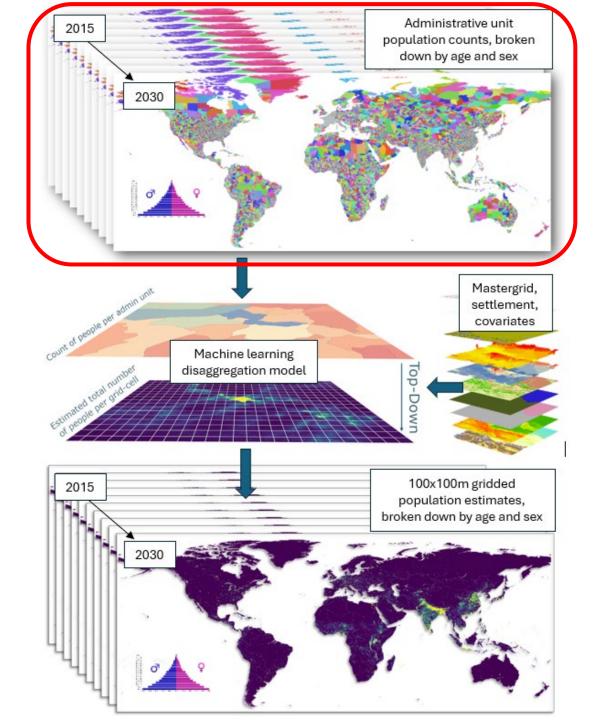
Global Demographic Data

Public release R2025A V1

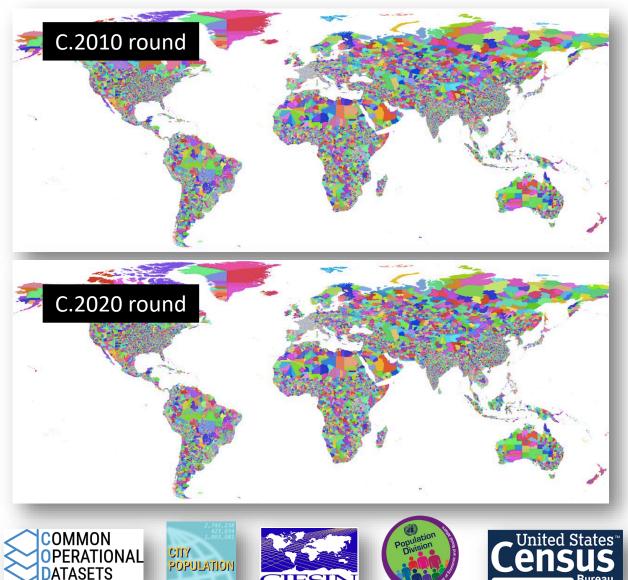
worldpop.org September 2025

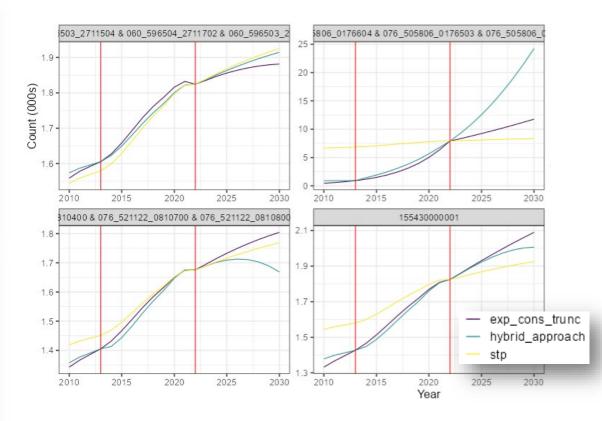


www.worldpop.org



Assembly of 2010-2030 age/sex structured subnational census/projections, including c.2010 and c.2020 census rounds (>1 mill admin unit-based counts)





Department of **Social Statistics** and Demography





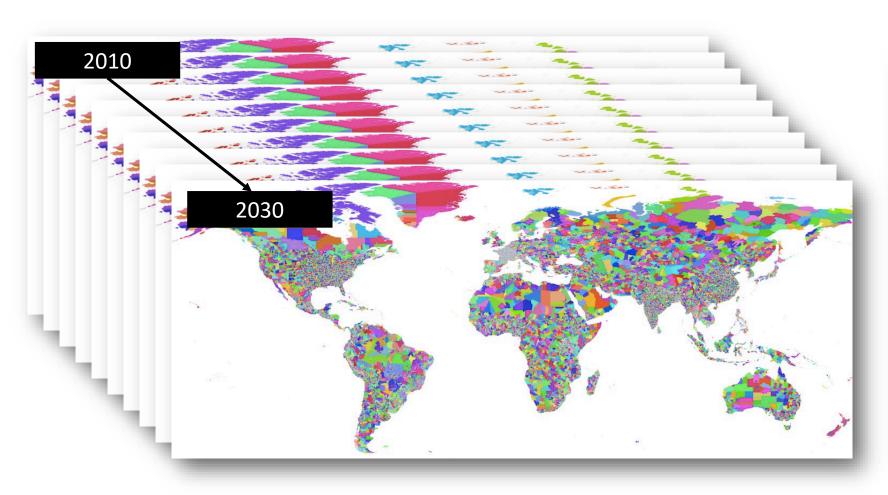


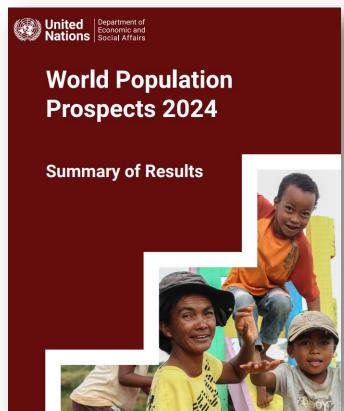




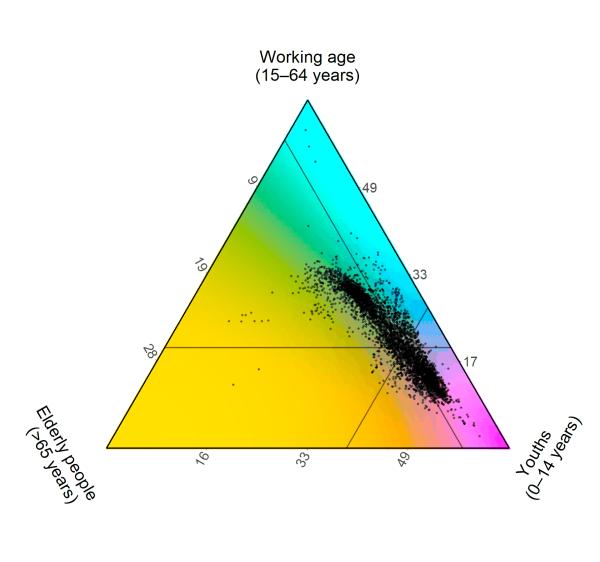


2010-2030 annual time series aligned with UN WPP 2024 national estimates

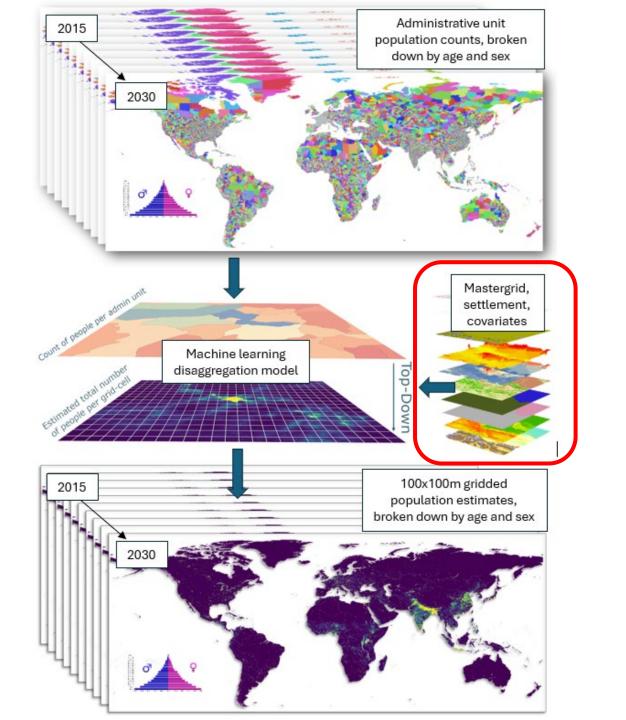




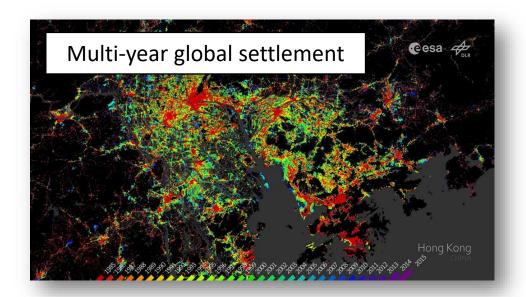
Africa Subnational Population Structures in 2015



Source: WorldPop Global 2 Data



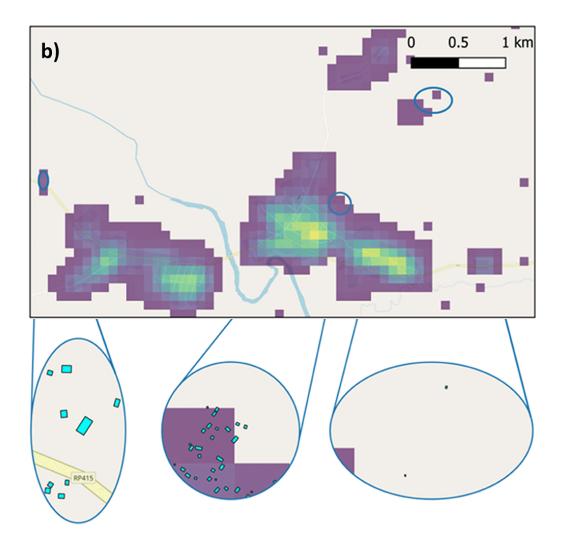






OpenStreetMap







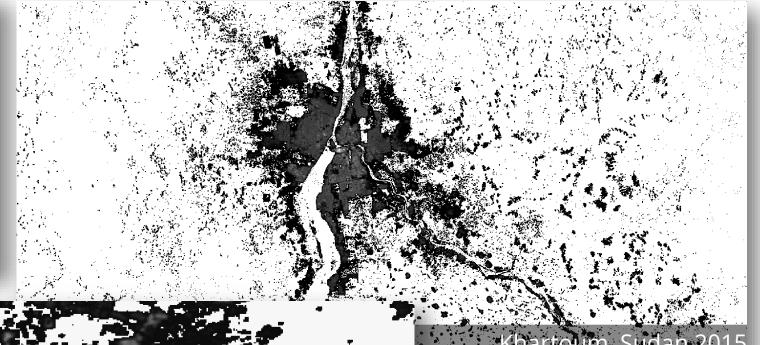
Computers, Environment and Urban Systems

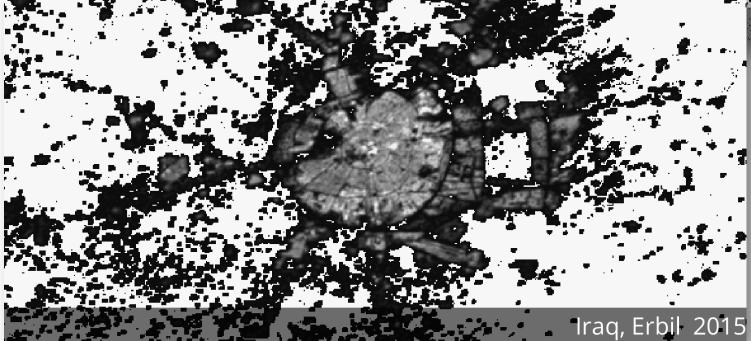
Volume 80, March 2020, 101444

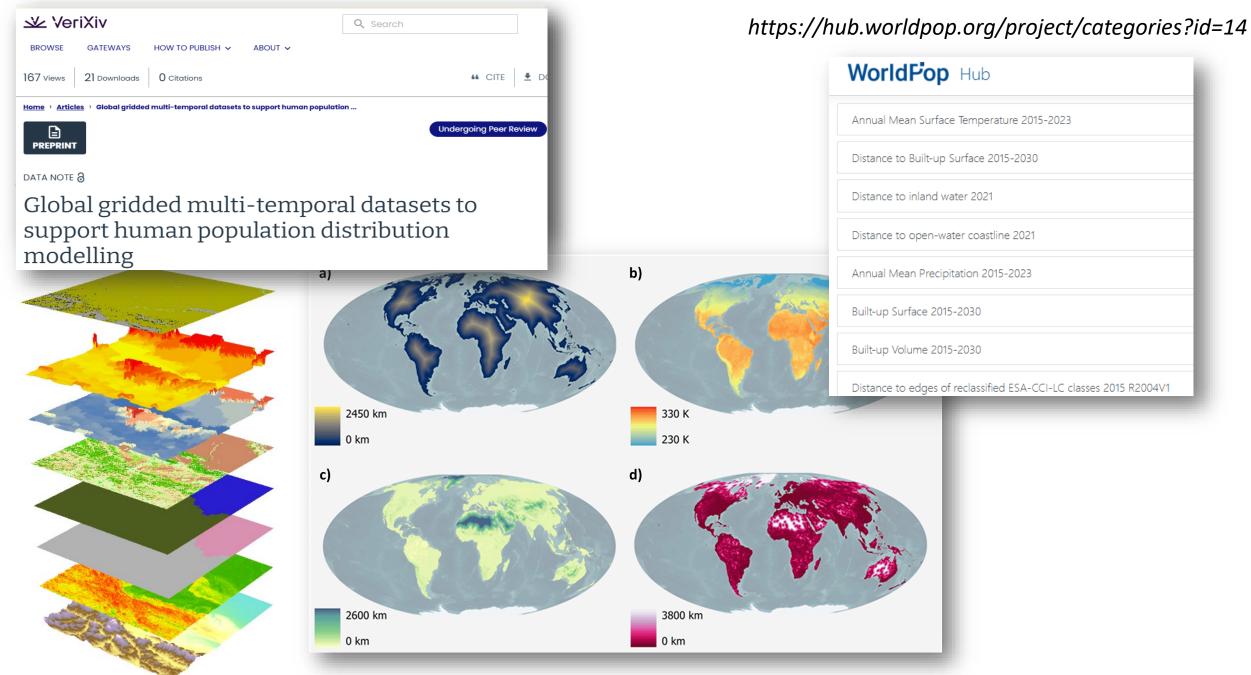


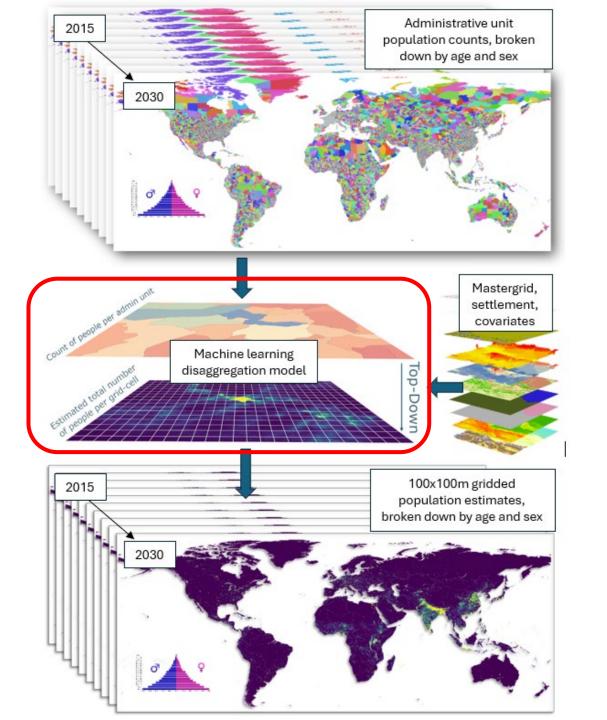
Annually modelling built-settlements between remotely-sensed observations using relative changes in subnational populations and lights at night

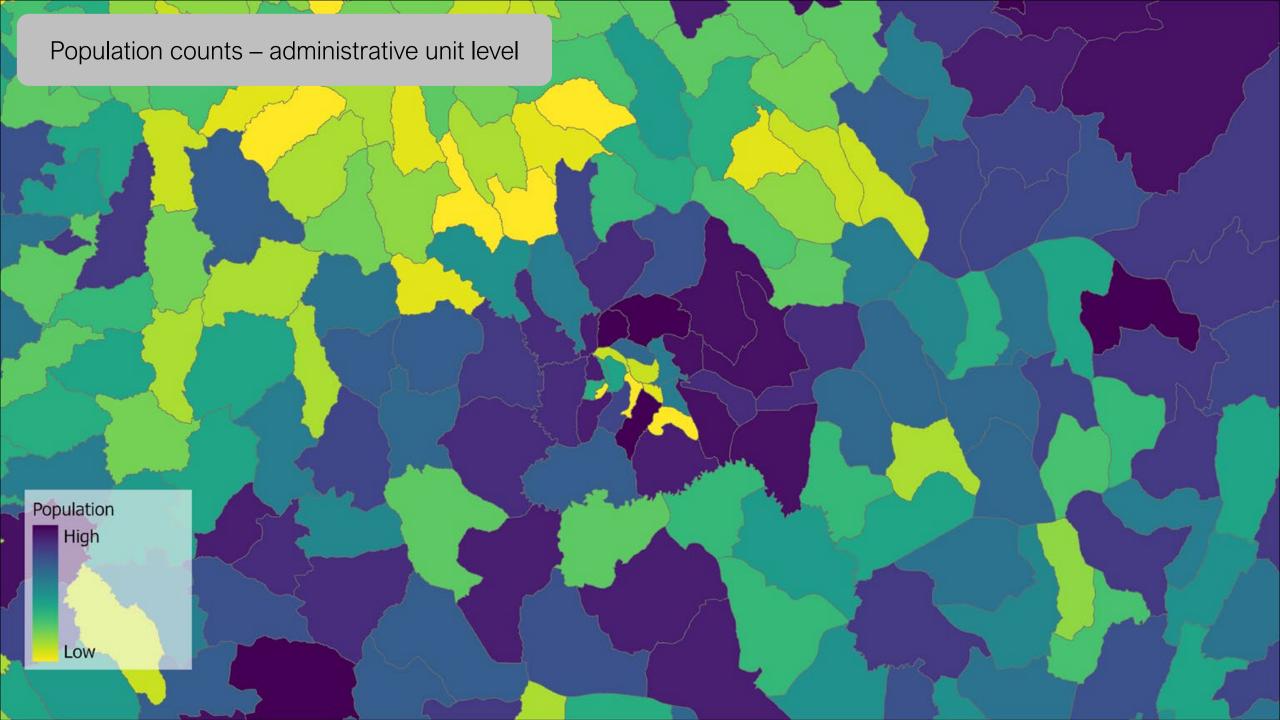
Jeremiah J. Nieves ab A. Alessandro Sorichetta b, Catherine Linard c, Maksym Bondarenko ab, Jessica E. Steele ab, Forrest R. Stevens ad, Andrea E. Gaughan ad, Alessandra Carioli ab, Donna J. Clarke ab, Thomas Esche, Andrew J. Tatem ab

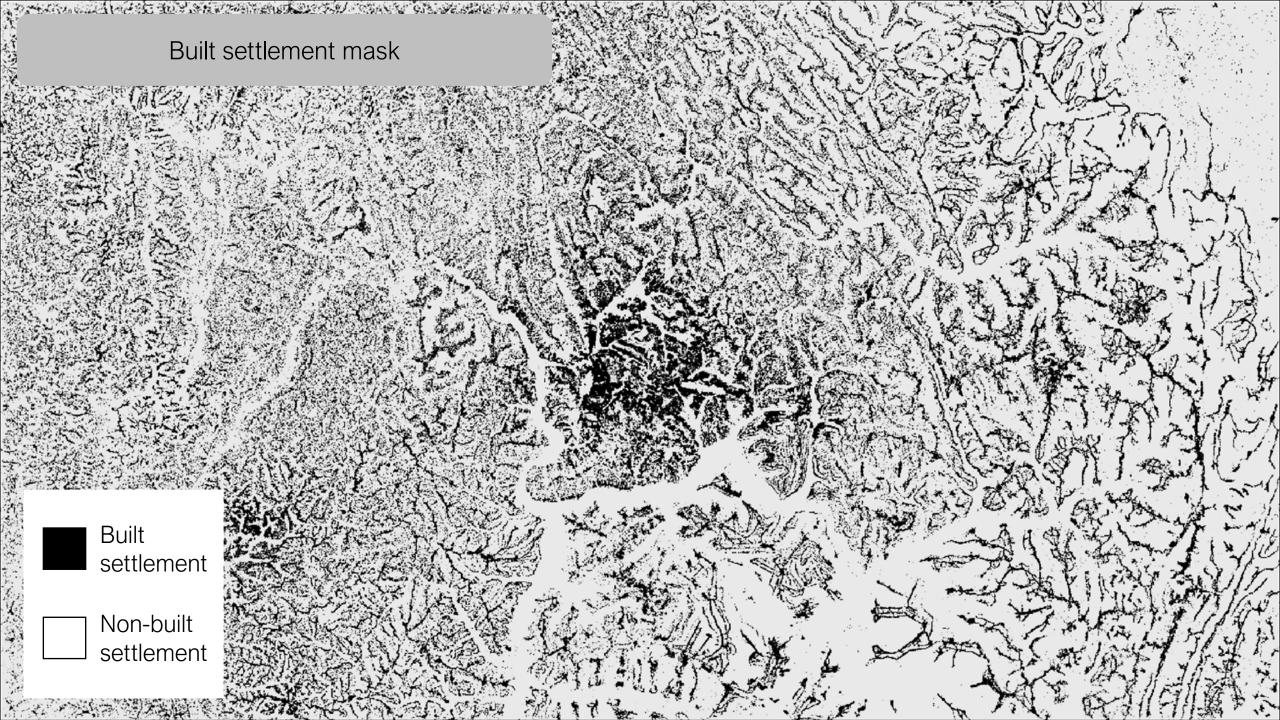


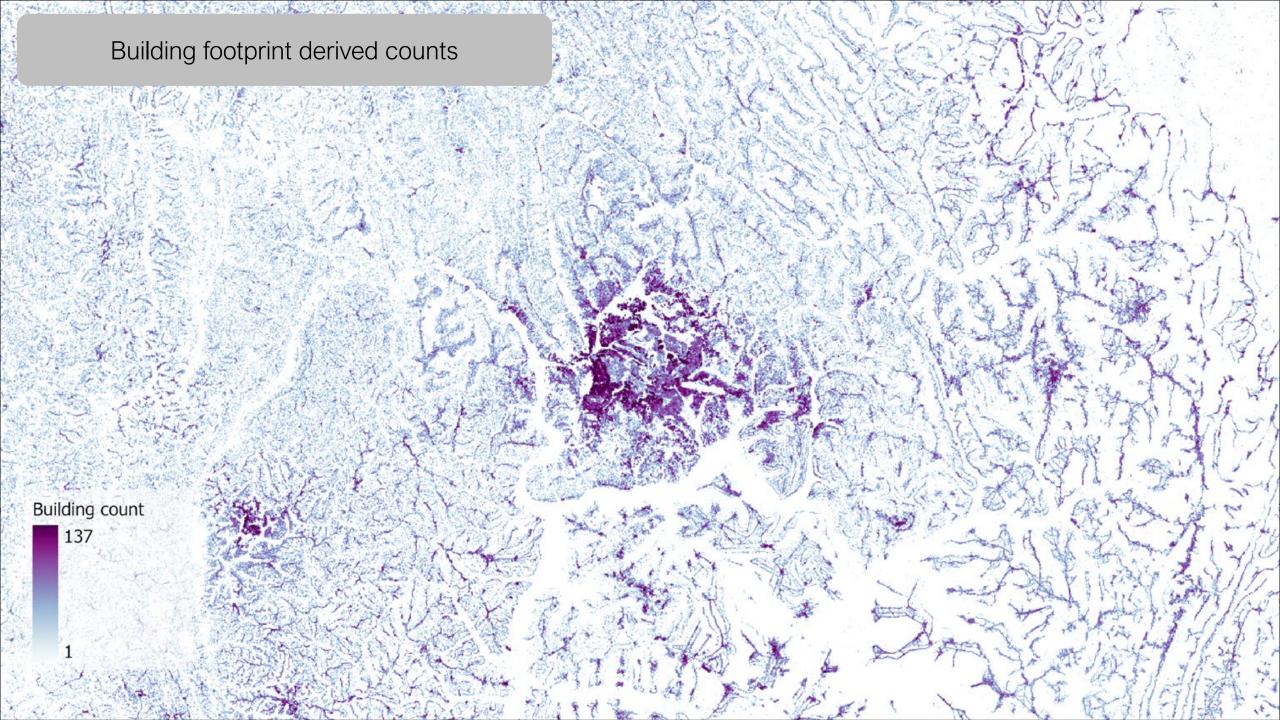


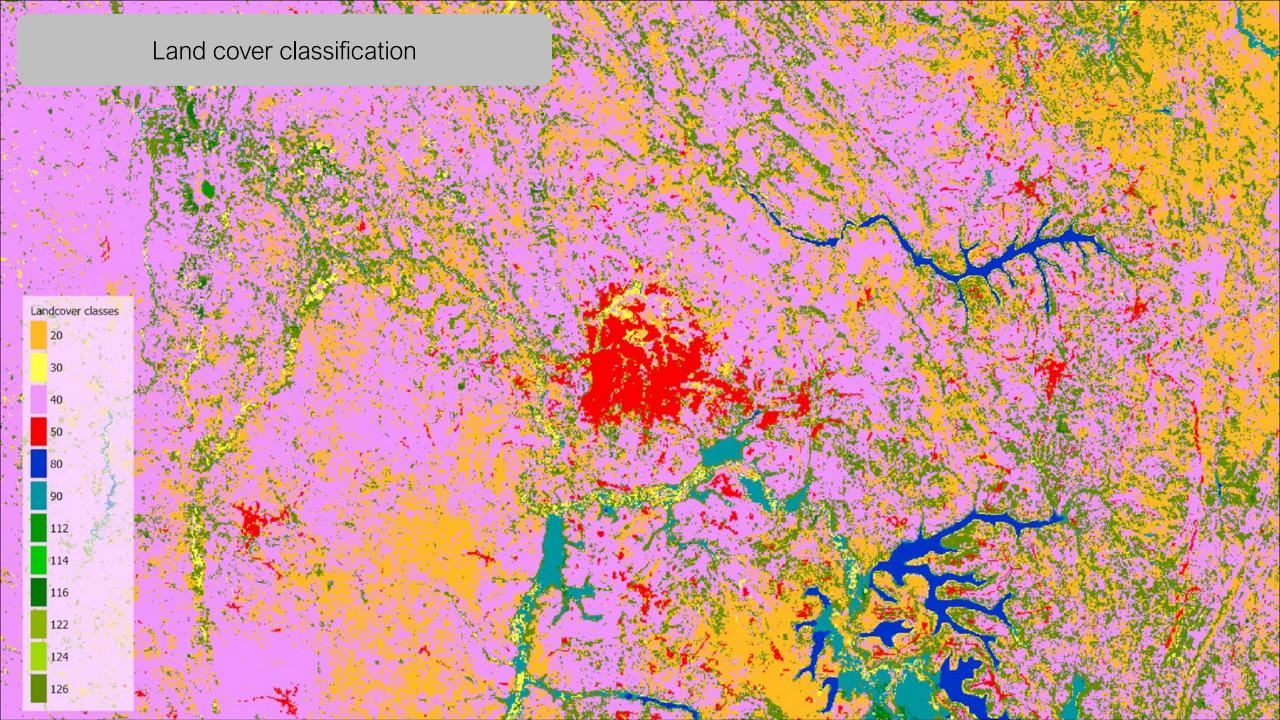




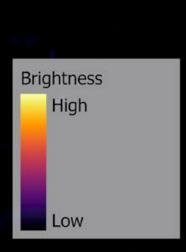


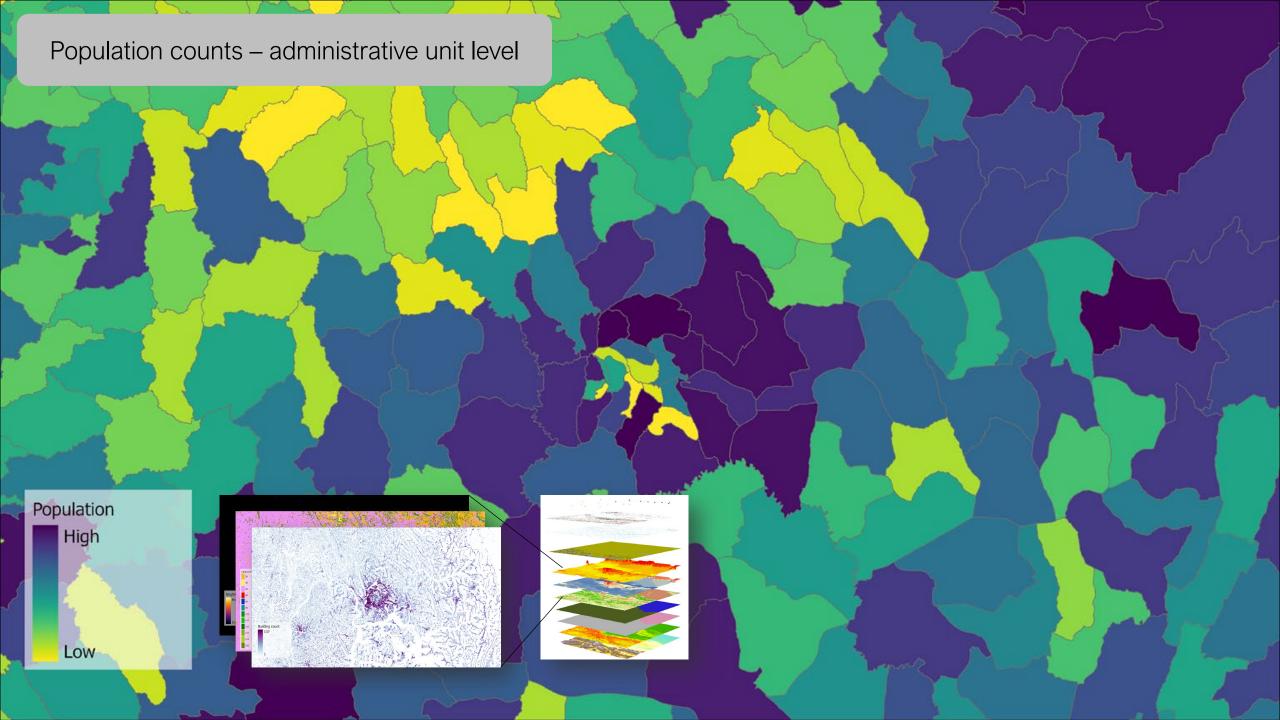


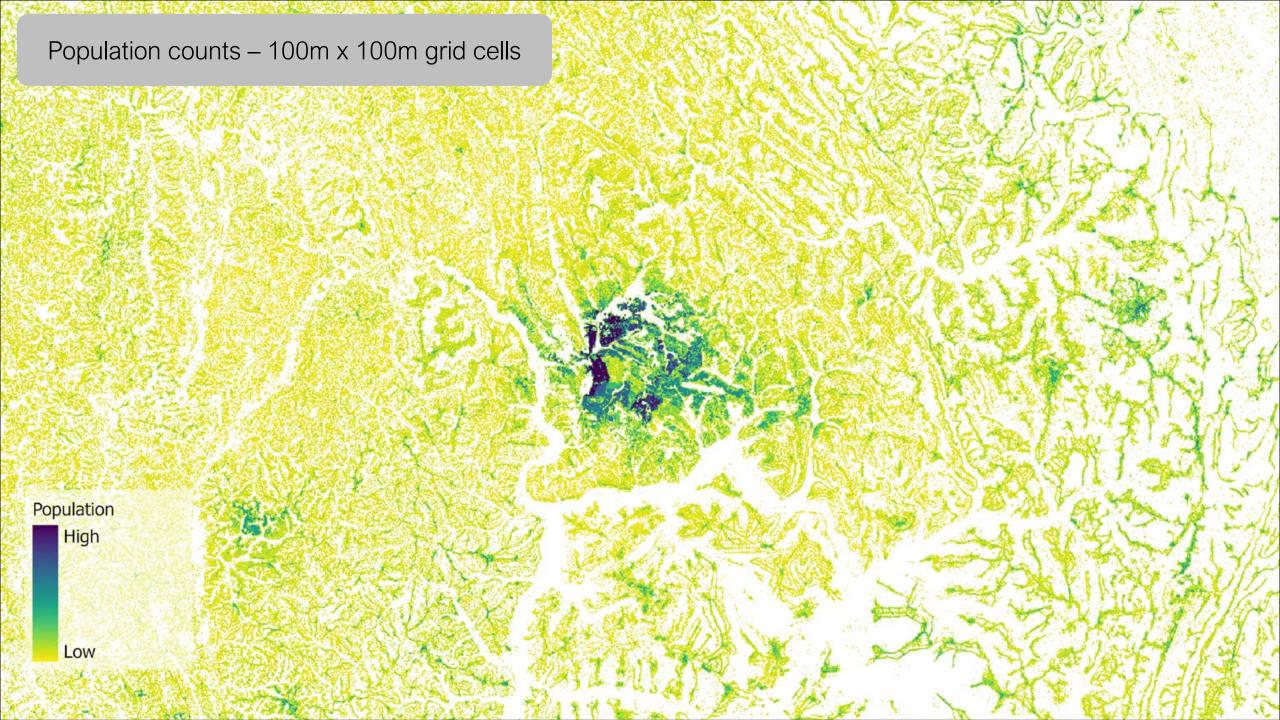


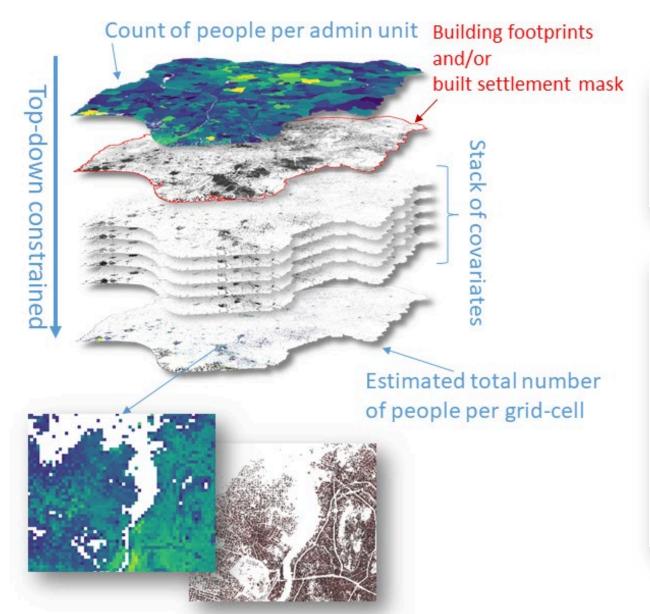


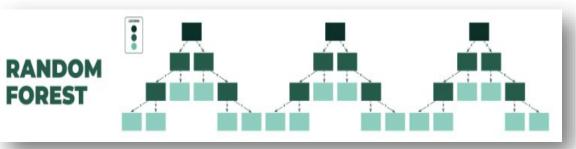
Satellite night-time lights

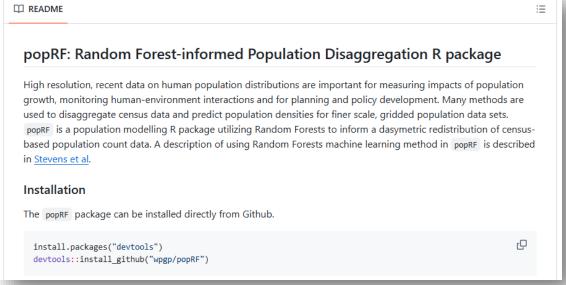






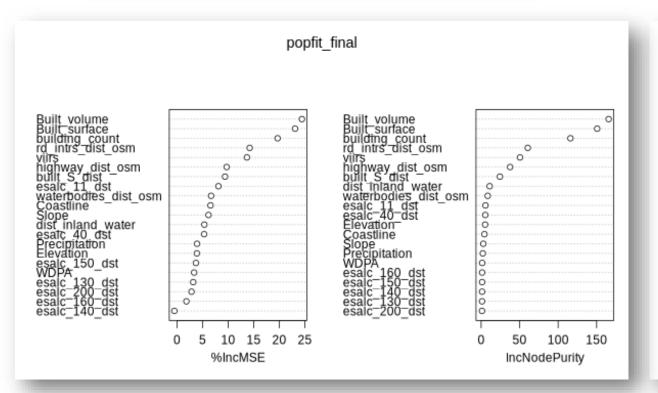




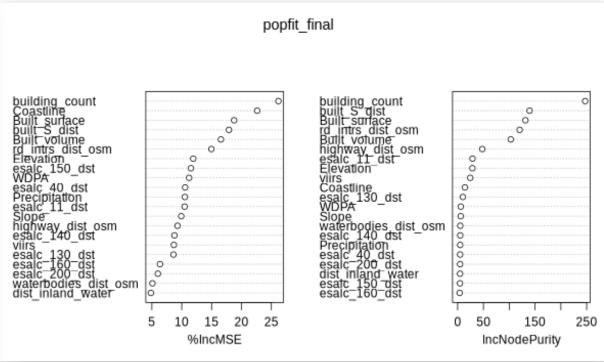


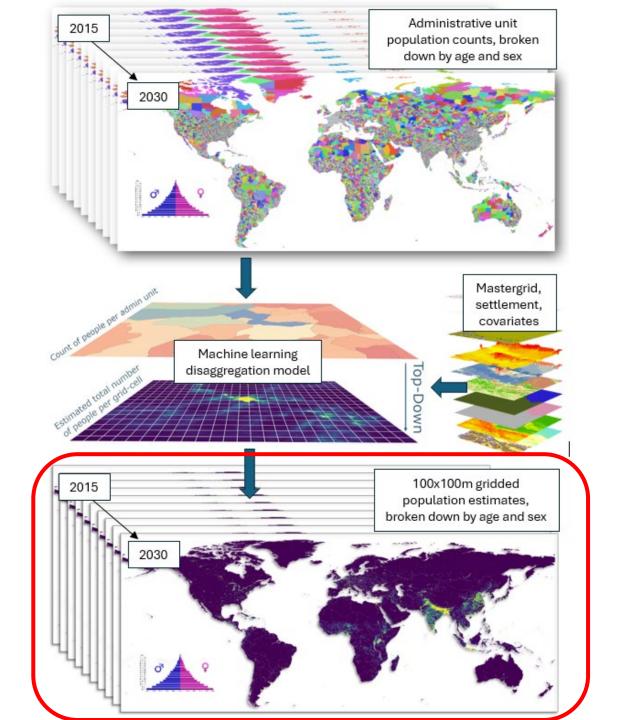
https://github.com/wpgp/popRF

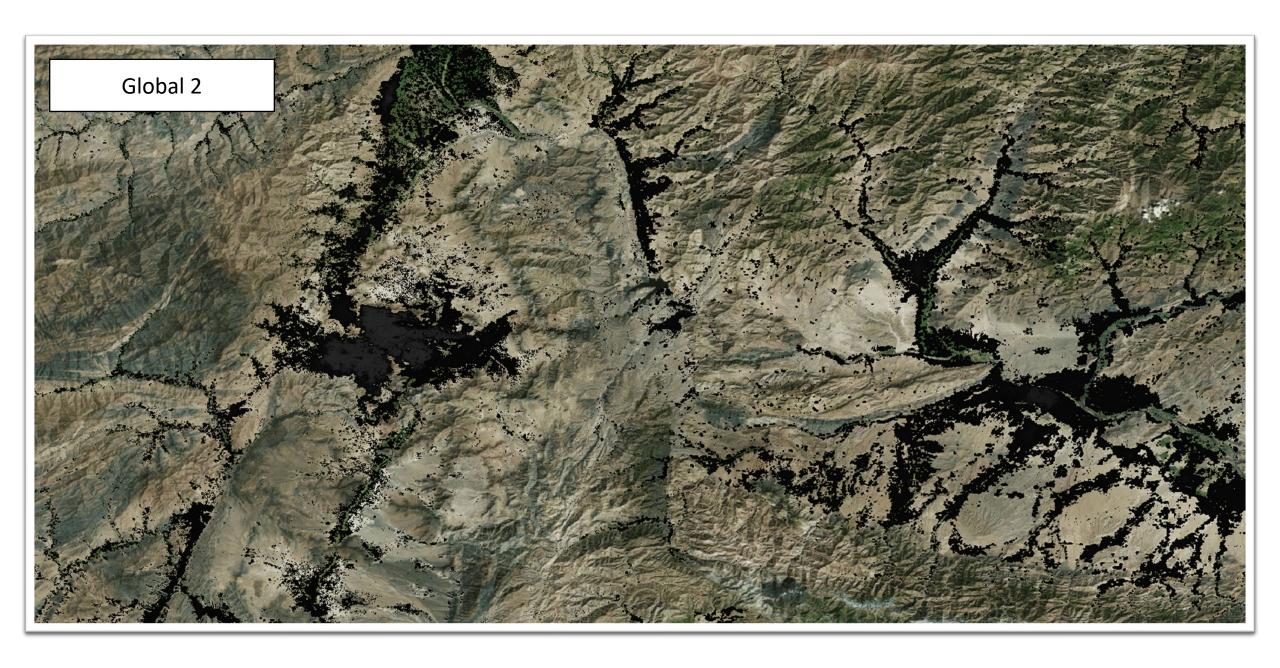
Namibia 2025 gridded estimates Variance explained **96.4%** (last census: 2023)

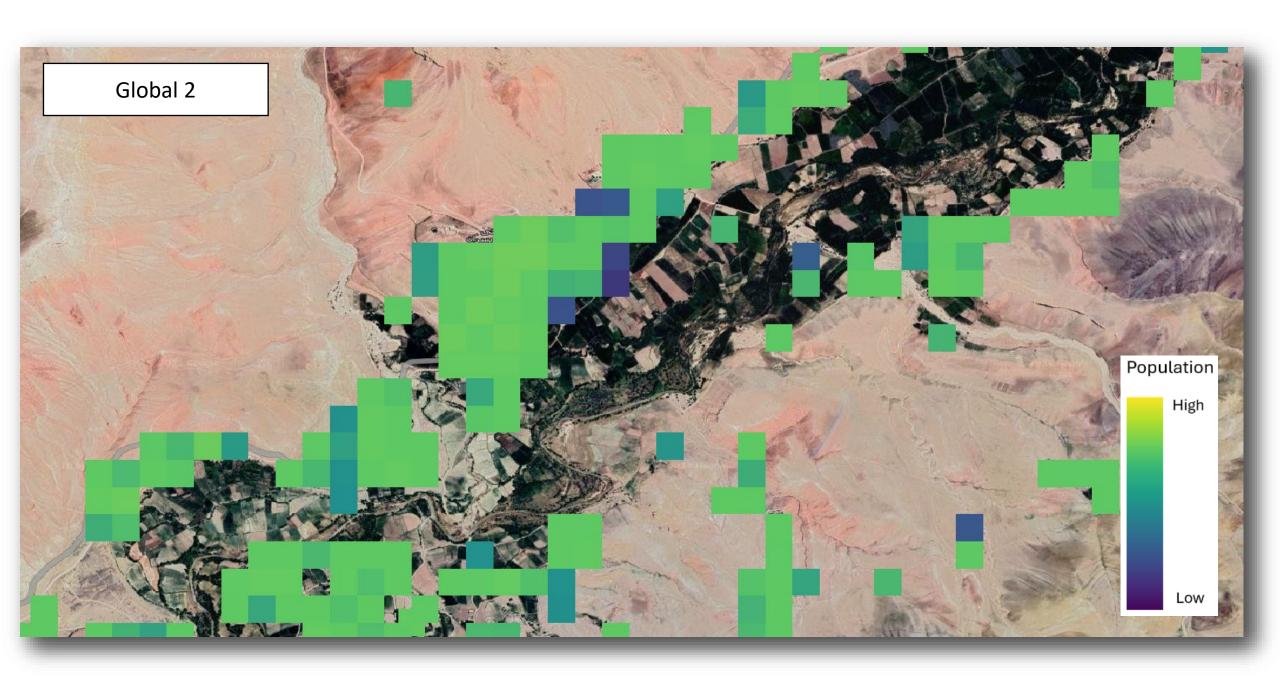


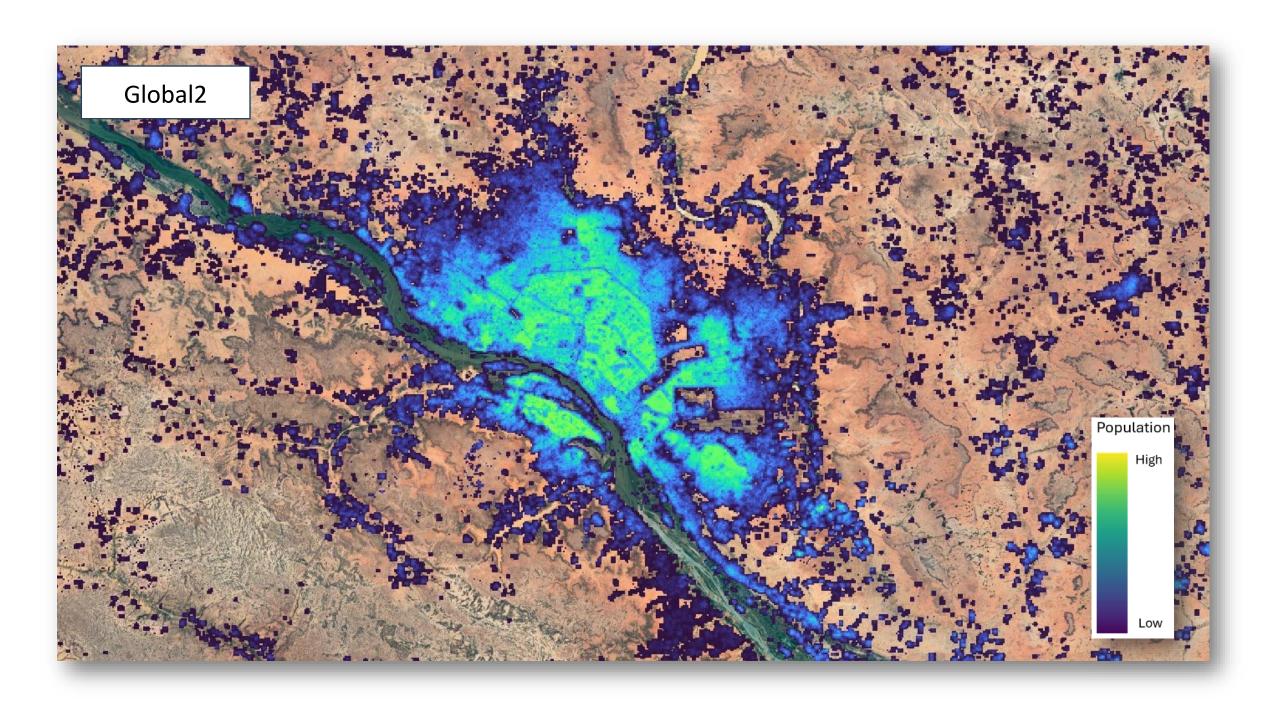
Ethiopia 2025 gridded estimates Variance explained 90.5% (last census: 2007)

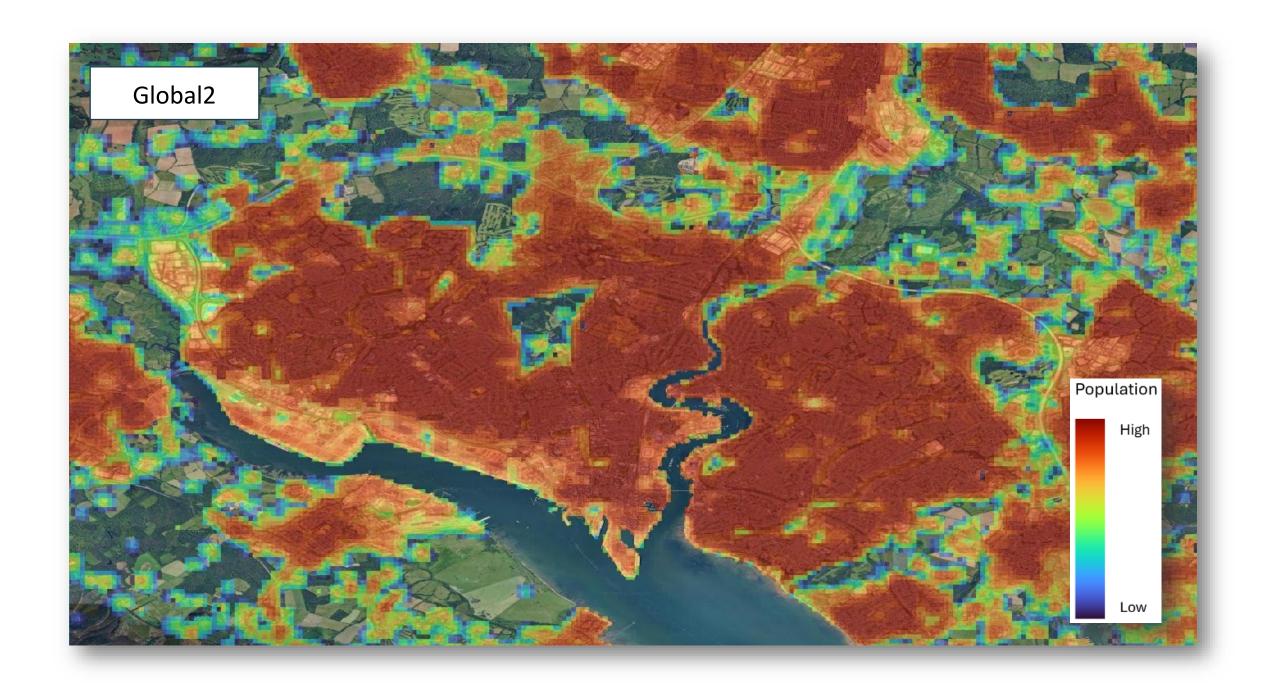


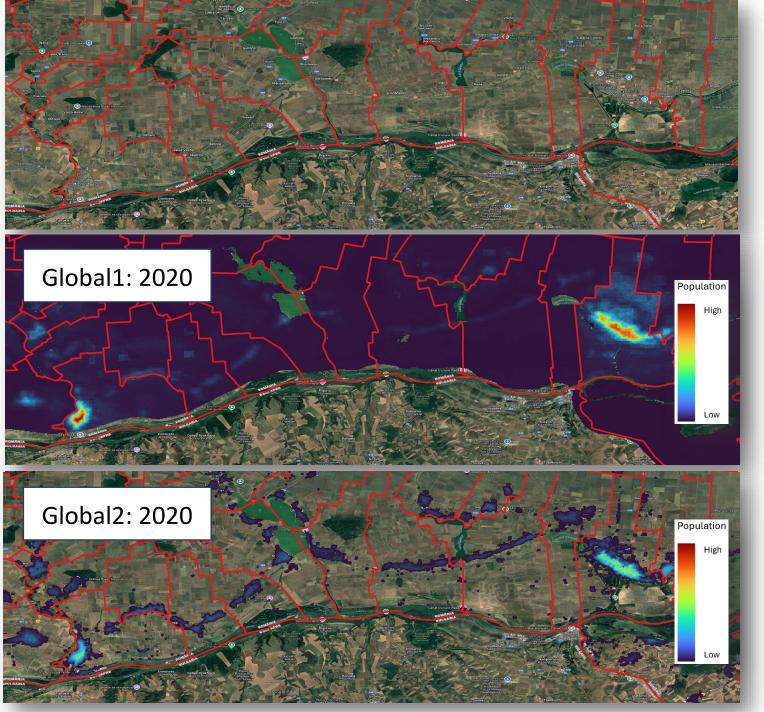


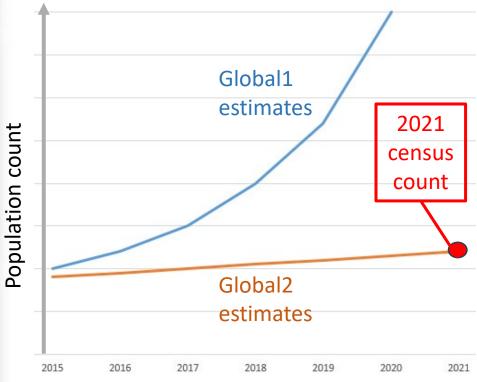


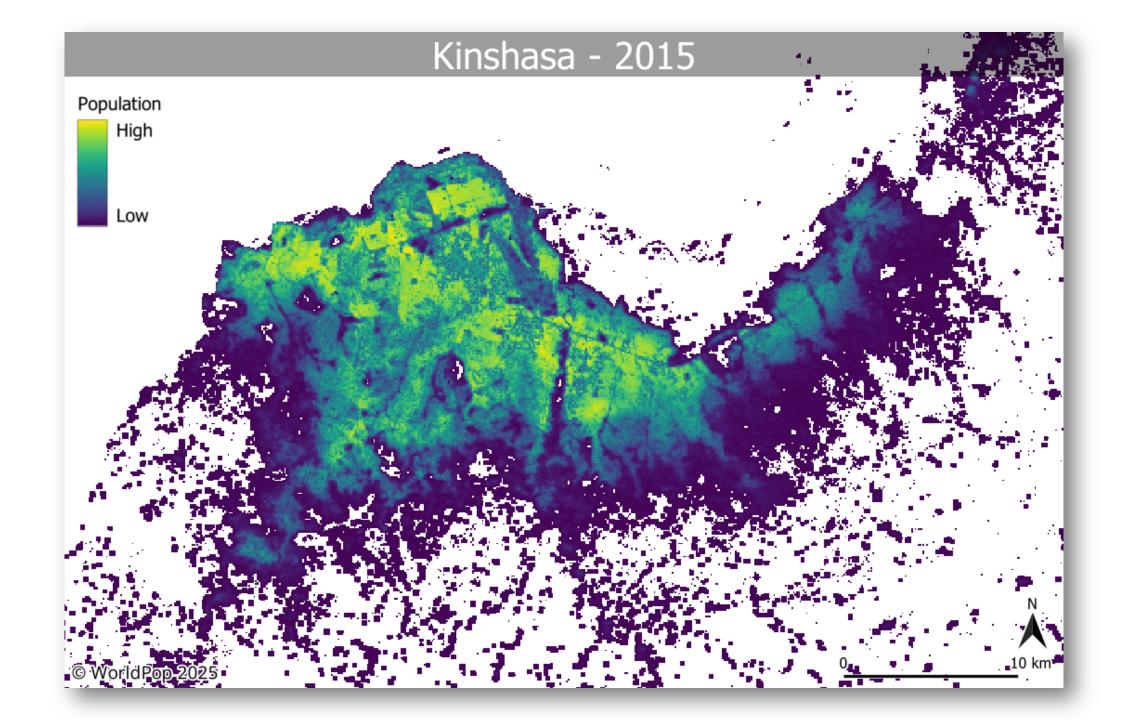


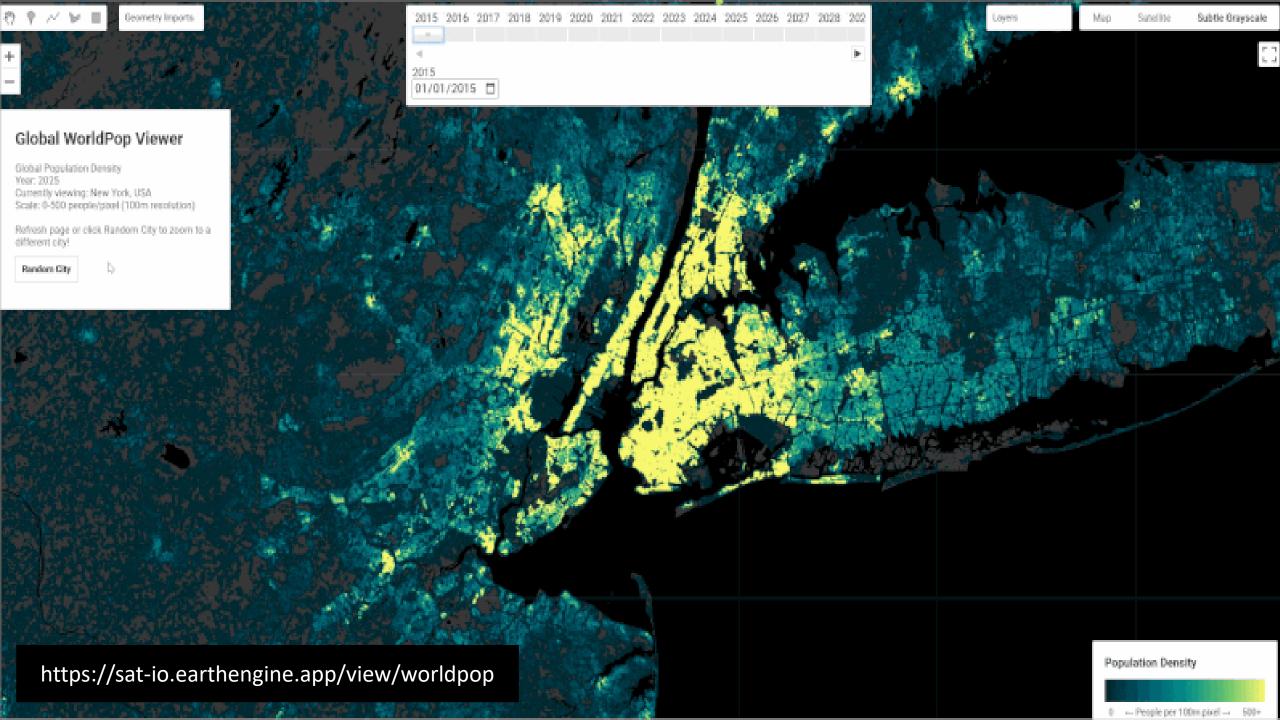






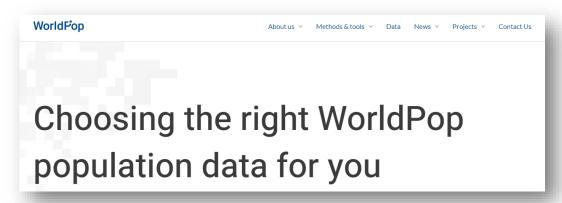


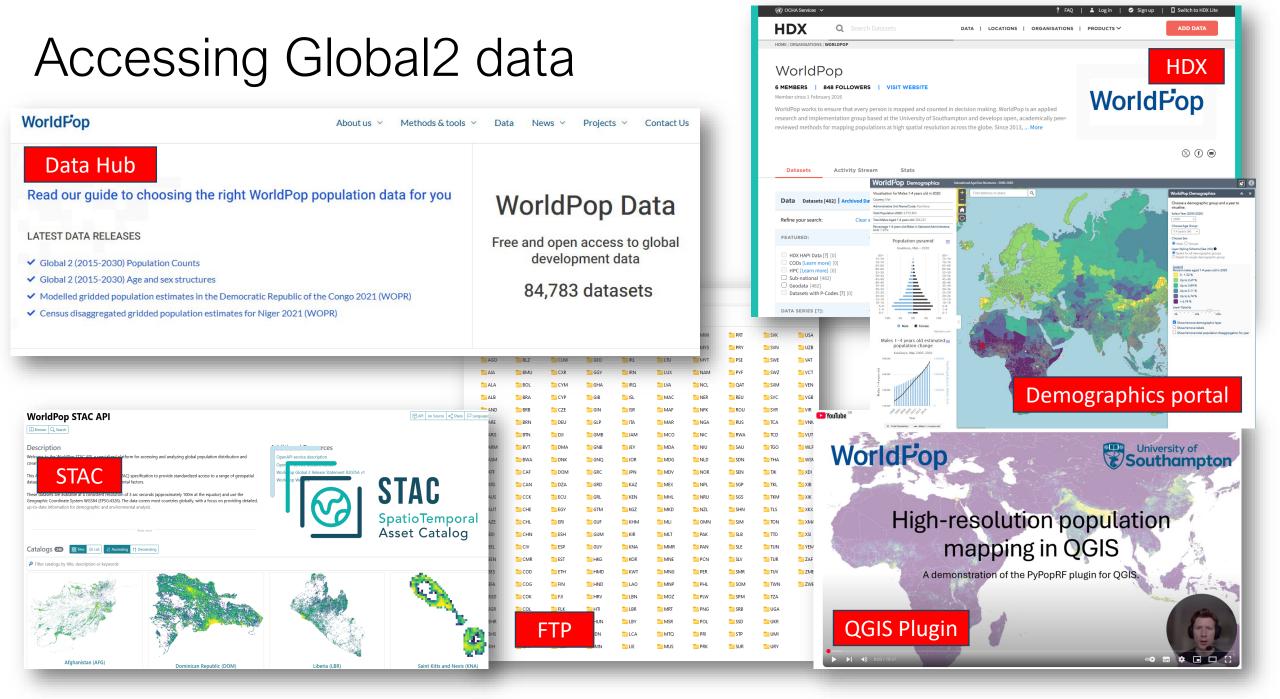




Limitations

- These are 'top-down' disaggregations, so uncertainties and errors in input estimates feed through to the gridded outputs
- Each country is modelled separately leading to some inconsistencies between countries, depending on inputs
- Population projections can be highly uncertain, especially at subnational scales and for countries without recent censuses
- See the Global2 release statement for further details, and read our page on data choices to check which data make sense for your application



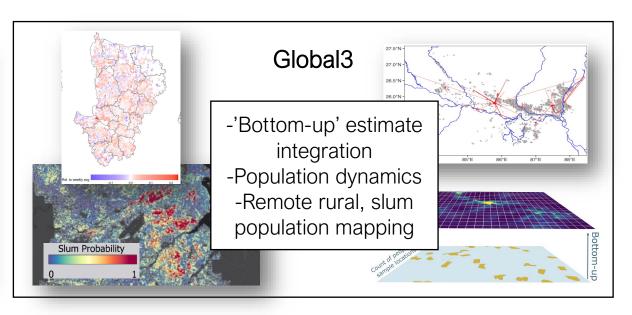


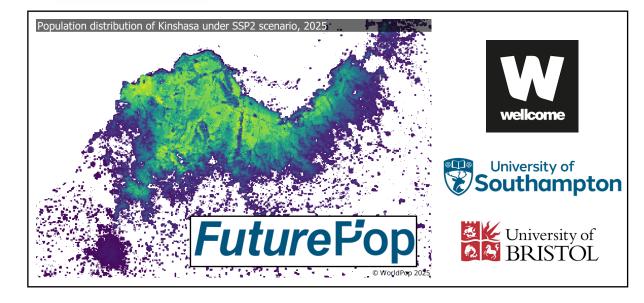
What next?



Global2
-Pop density
-Admin unit totals
-Degree of
Urbanization
-Integer versions
-Additional age
classes









Acknowledgements



www.worldpop.org

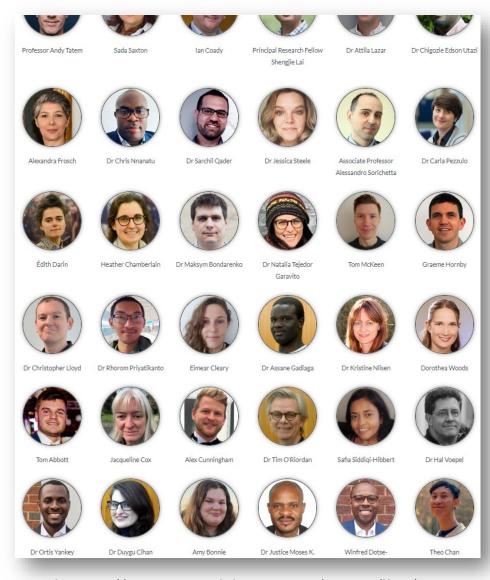








Center for International Earth Science Information Network
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



https://www.worldpop.org/team/list/

Part 1 - From research to real world

Panel & Guest speakers



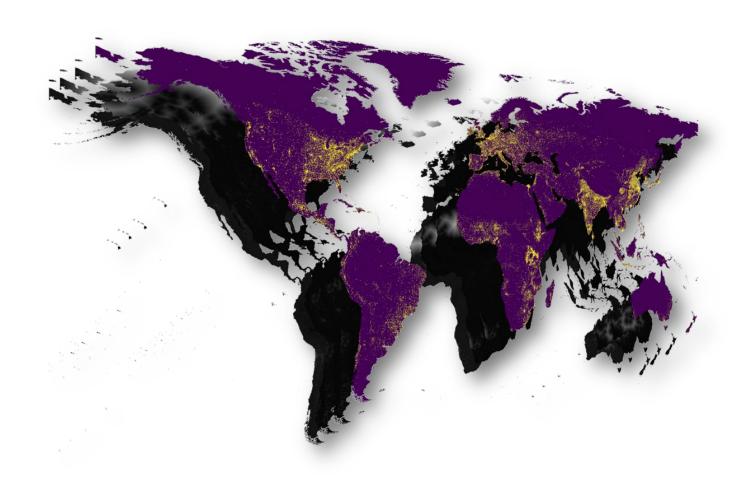
Part 2 – Hands-on discovery





The Power of Population Data: Introducing WorldPop Global 2015–2030

Dr. Maksym Bondarenko



Hands-on discovery

Input data, tools, technical deep-dive & country use cases

The Random Forest model



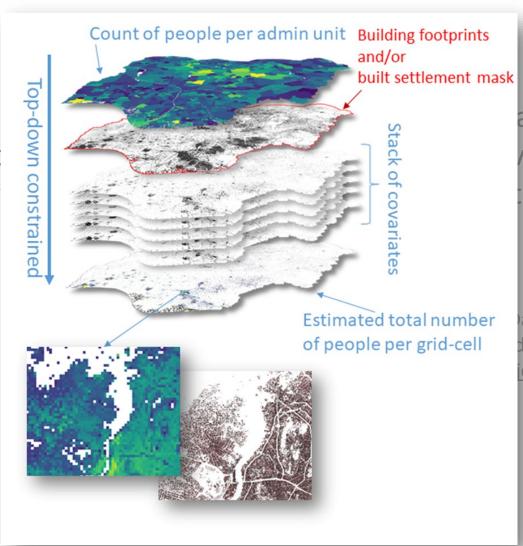
Random forest is a machine learning algorithm that builds an ensemble of individual regression trees to predict values of a response variable (e.g. population density) based on its relationships with geospatial covariates.

Stevens et al (2015) Disaggregating Census Data for Population Mapping Using Random Forests with Remotely-Sensed and Ancillary Data. PLoS ONE 10, e0107042 https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107042

The Random Forest model

WorldFop

Random forest is a individual regressic population density



an ensemble of variable (e.g. tial covariates.

lata for Population Mapping d and Ancillary Data. PLoS <u>journal.pone.0107042</u>

Global 2: MasterGrid





Global 2

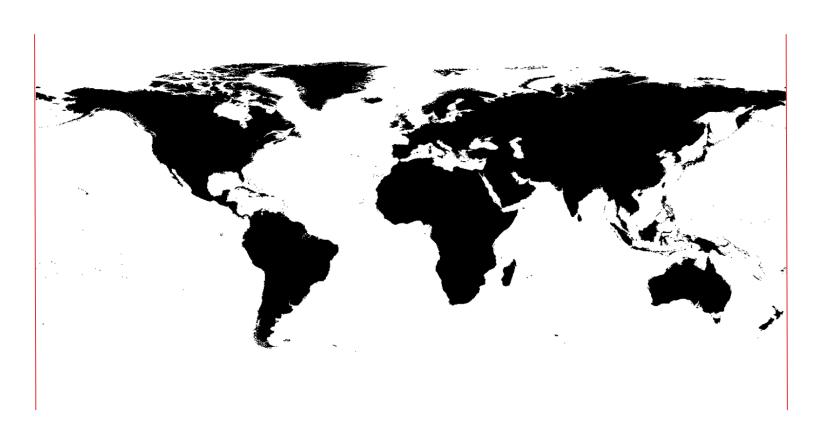
Extent -180, -59.999999424 , 179.999998559, 84

Dimensions X: 432000 Y: 172800

Pixel Size 0.000833333329, 0.000833333329

Global 2: MasterGrid





Global 2

Extent

-180, -59.999999424 , 179.999998559, 84

Dimensions X: 432000 Y: 172800

Pixel Size 0.000833333329, 0.000833333329

Global 1

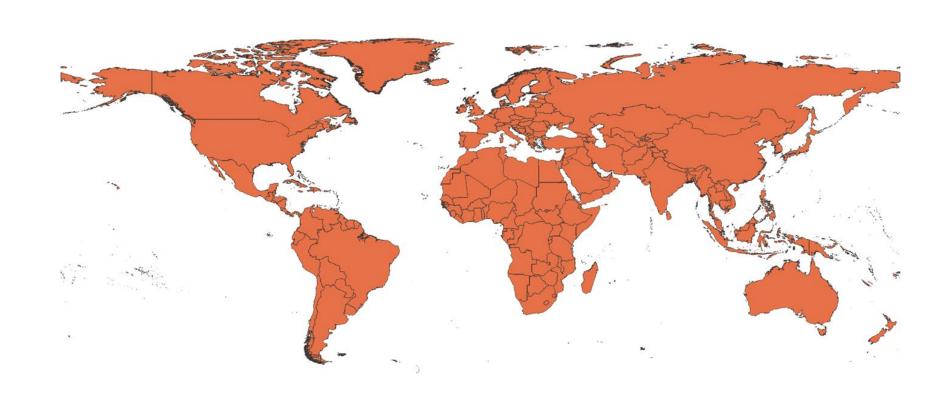
Extent -180.00124, -72.0, 180.00124, 84

Dimensions X: 432003 Y: 187203

Pixel Size 0.000833333329, 0.000833333329

Global 2: MasterGrid

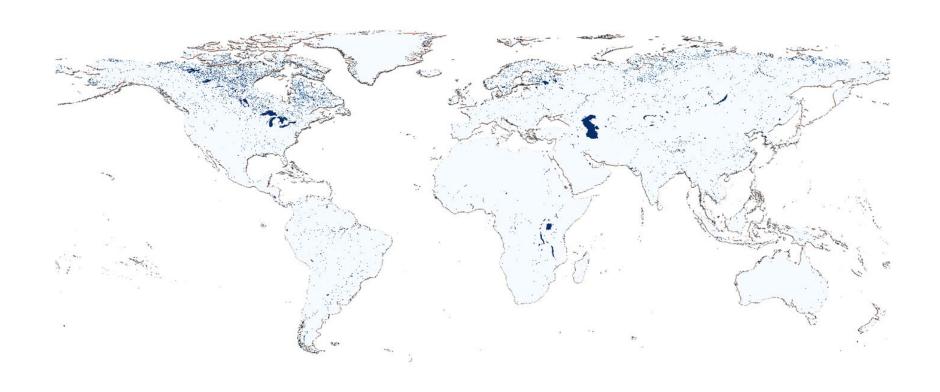




The Large Scale International Boundaries (LSIB)

The Office of the Geographer and Global Issues at the U.S. Department of State https://geonode.state.gov/layers/catalog:geonode:LSIB





WorldCover global land cover at 10 m resolution based on Sentinel-2 data.

Global 2: WaterMask and Coastline



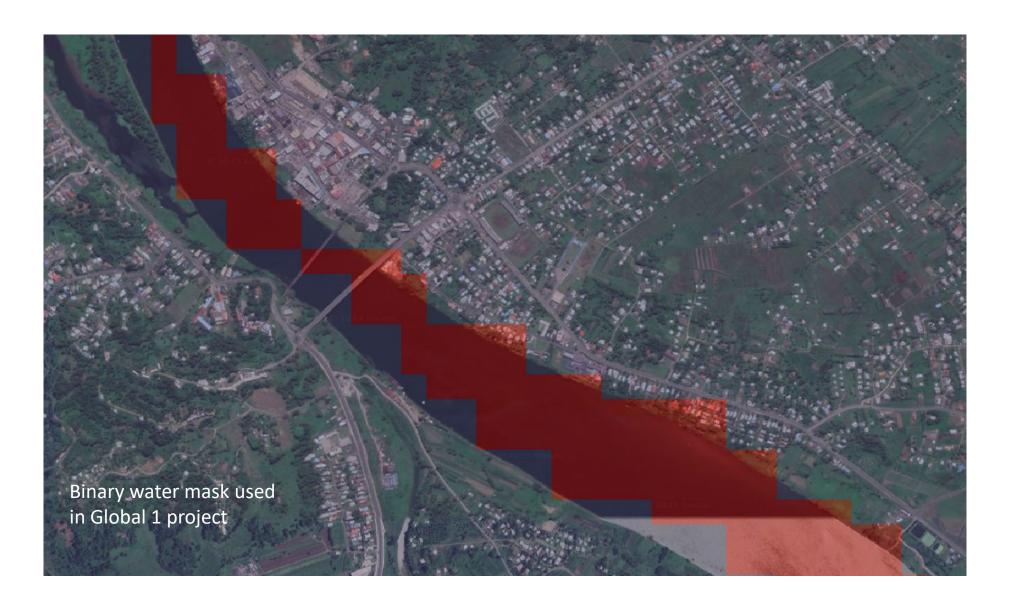


Coastline defined as if a pixel has less then 75% water

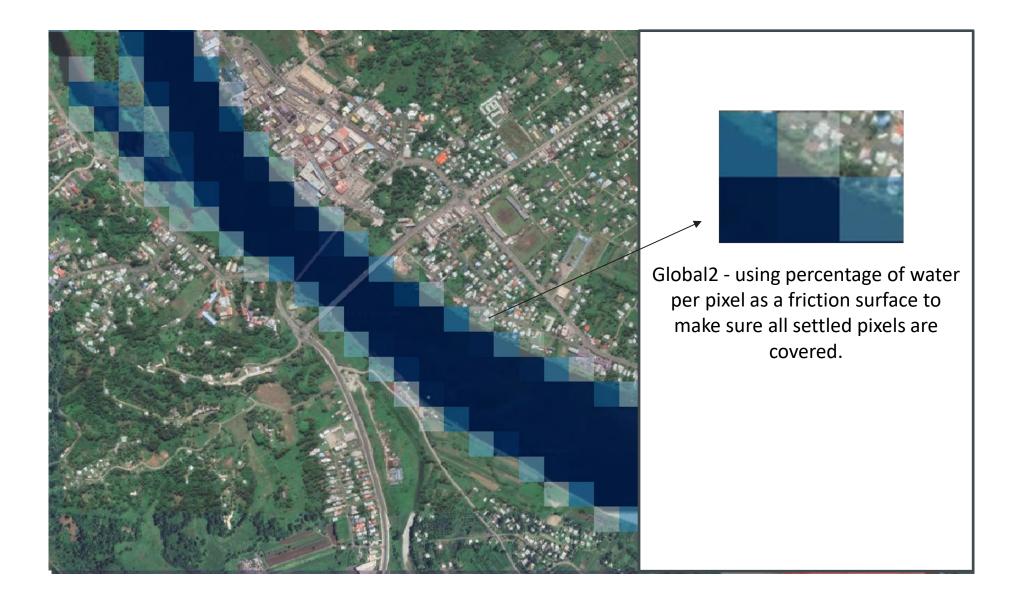




Coastline defined as if a pixel has less then 75% water



WorldPop

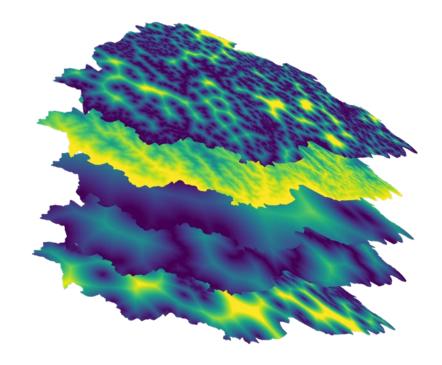


Global 2: Covariates

WorldPop

Covariates

- Distance to ESA-CCI-LC inland water per country
- Distance to IUCN strict nature reserve and wilderness area edges
- Distance to open-water coastline per country
- Distance to OSM major road intersections
- Distance to OSM major roads
- Distance to OSM major waterways
- Resampled DMSP-OLS night-time lights
- Resampled VIIRS night-time lights
- SRTM-based elevation per country
- SRTM-based slope per country
- Distance to edges of reclassified ESA-CCI-LC classes for
- Distance to ESA-CCI-LC cultivated area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC woody-tree area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC shrub area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC herbaceous area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC sparse vegetation area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC aquatic vegetation area edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC artificial surface edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC bare area edges



Datasets are provided as global, annual time series, where pertinent at the timescale of population analyses and where data is available, for use in the construction of population distribution layers.

"Distance to" is one of the important measure for understanding and global analysis of population distance to a different covariate.

All data are gridded to 3 arc-second (0.00083333333 decimal degree) spatial resolution.

https://www.worldpop.org/datacatalog/

Global 2: Covariates

WorldFop

Covariates

Distance to ESA-CCI-LC inland water per country

 Distance to IUCN st edges

- Distance to open-w
- Distance to OSM m
- Distance to OSM m
- Distance to OSM m
- Resampled DMSP
- Resampled VIIRS r
- SRTM-based elevat
- SRTM-based slope
- Distance to edges
- Distance to ESA-CC
 - Distance to Es
 - Distance to ES
 - Distance to E
 - Distance to Es
 - Distance to Es
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC artificial surface edges
 - Distance to ESA-CCI-LC bare area edges



DATA NOTE &

Global gridded multi-temporal datasets to support human population distribution modelling

[version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]

Dorothea Woods 🖸 🗓, Tom McKeen, Alexander Cunningham, Rhorom Priyatikanto, Andrew J. Tatem, Alessandro Sorichetta,

Maksym Bondarenko

This article is included in Gates Foundation gateway

BILL&MELINDA GATES fondacio

Undergoing Peer Review

e pertinent at the ble, for use in the

tanding and global

All data are gridded to 3 arc-second (0.00083333333 decimal degree) spatial resolution.

https://www.worldpop.org/datacatalog/

Global 2: Covariates

WorldFop Hub

Geospatial covariate data layers

Covariates

- Distance to ESA-CCI-LC
- Distance to IUCN st
- Distance to OSM m
- Distance to OSM m
- Distance to OSM m

- SRTM-based elevat
- Distance to edges
- - Distance to Es

 - Distance to E
 - Distance to E
 - Distance to E
 - Distance to E
 - Distance to ESA-
 - Distance to ESA-

WorldPop high resolution, harmonised annual global geospatial covariates. R2024 Version 1.0

Geospatial covariate data layers play an important role in the production of gridded population estimates where they are used as ancillary datasets to capture, inform and explain the variabilities in population densities and distributions at small area scales. WorldPop systematically collated this extensive geospatial collection of 73 annual, spatio-temporally harmonised datasets aimed at driving improvements in mapping small area population density variation. The gridded datasets address topography, climate, nighttime lights, land cover, inland water, infrastructure, protected areas as well as the built-up environment on a global level at a spatial resolution of 3 arc-seconds (approximately 100 metres). Datasets are available as annual time series from 2015 up to and including at least 2020, and as recent as 2023 where source datasets allow. Such datasets not only support population modelling but also applications across environmental, economic, and health sectors. Further details on the methods can be found in Woods D, McKeen T, Cunningham A et al. Global gridded multi-temporal datasets to support human population distribution modelling [version 1]. VeriXiv 2025, 2:149 (https://doi.org/10.12688/verixiv.1078.1)

Recommended data citation

D. Woods, T. McKeen, A. Cunningham, R. Priyatikanto, A. Sorichetta, A.J. Tatem and M. Bondarenko. 2024 "WorldPop high resolution, harmonised annual global geospatial covariates. Version 1.0." University of Southampton: Southampton, UK. DOI:10.5258/SOTON/WP00772

nttps://www.woriapop.org/datacatalog/

Older datasets produced for specific individual countries and continents are still available for download here: Global 1

Annual Mean Surface Temperature 2015-2023

Distance to Built-up Surface 2015-2030

Distance to inland water 2021

Do

Distance to open-water coastline 2021

Annual Mean Precipitation 2015-2023

Built-up Surface 2015-2030

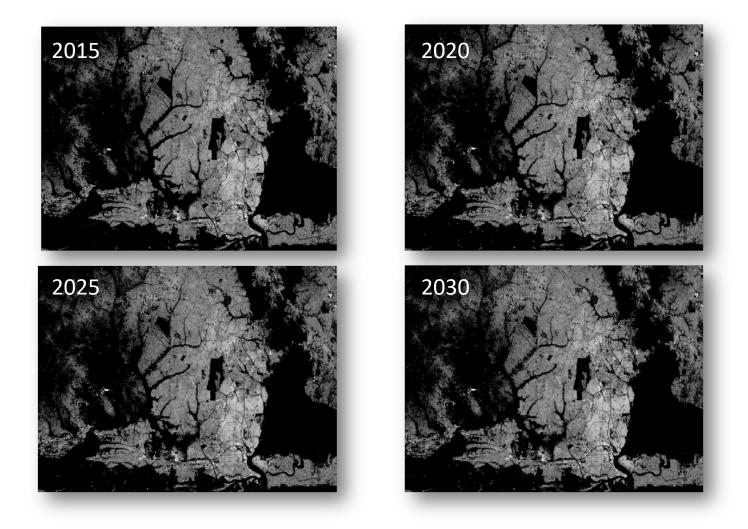
pertinent at the ble, for use in the

tanding and global

ecimal degree) spatial

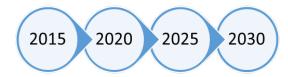
Global 2: Settlement - GHSL – 100m Height/Volume/Surface (residential / non residential)





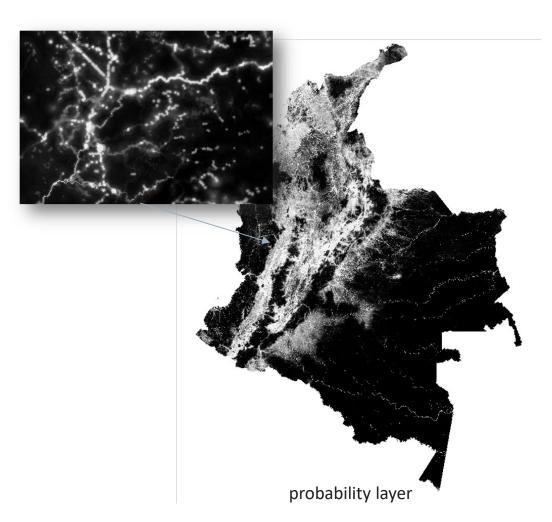
Built-settlement growth modelling





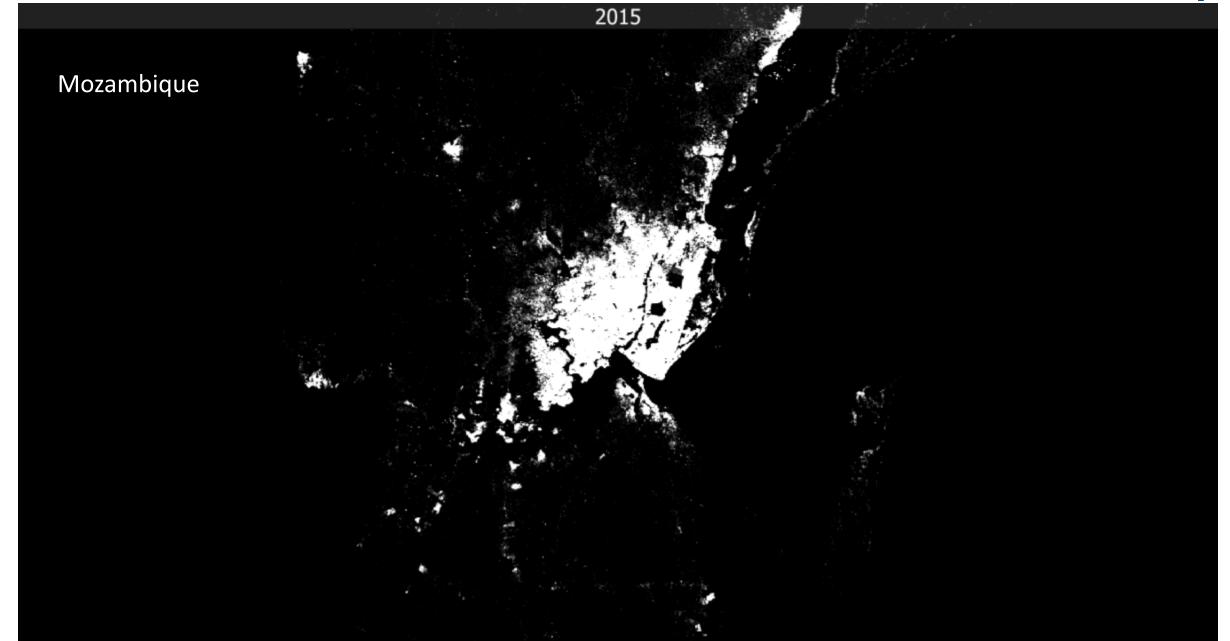
Built-Settlement Growth Model (BSGM *) interpolation for years 2015-2030 was done. We have used Random Forests with environmental covariates to predict the probability of non-settlement-to-settlement transitions and autoregressive time-series models with population growth curves to predict subnational changes in built-settlement area between the time-specific observations of the urban feature datasets. Original methods was improved using World Settlement Footprint (WSF) 2015 historical development of build-up surface 1985-2015.

^{*}Nieves, J.J., Bondarenko, M, Annually modelling built-settlements between remotely-sensed observations using relative changes in subnational populations and lights at night. 2020 Computers, Environment and Urban Systems, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compenvurbsys.2019.101444.



Global 2: Built-up Settlement









Global 2: Built-up Settlement

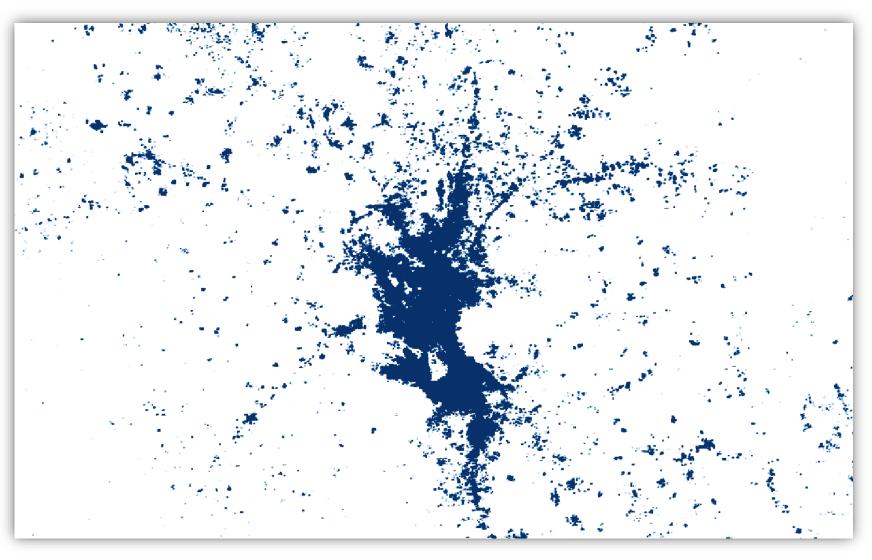
Microsoft and google building footprint

WorldFop



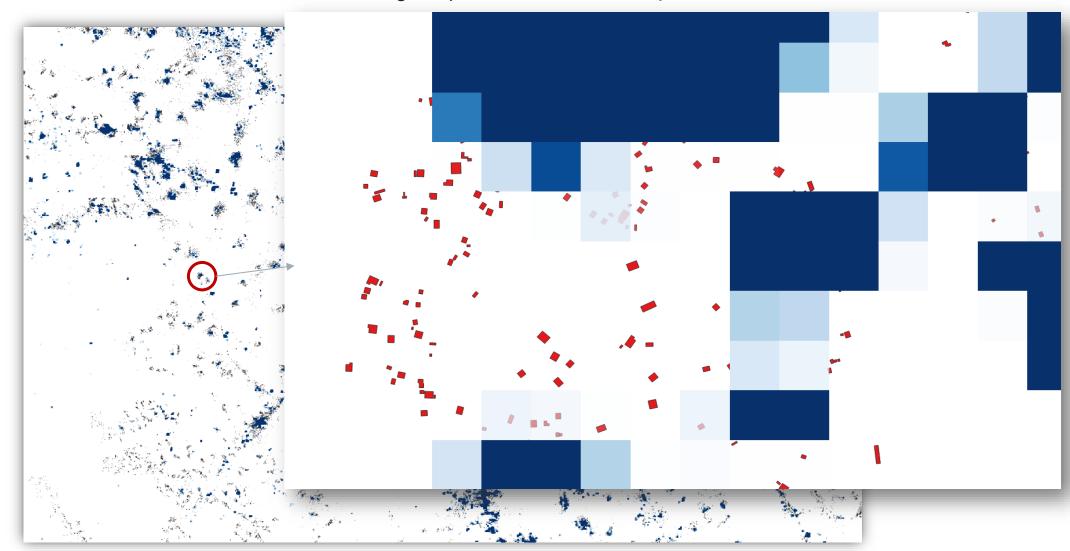


GHS built-up surface



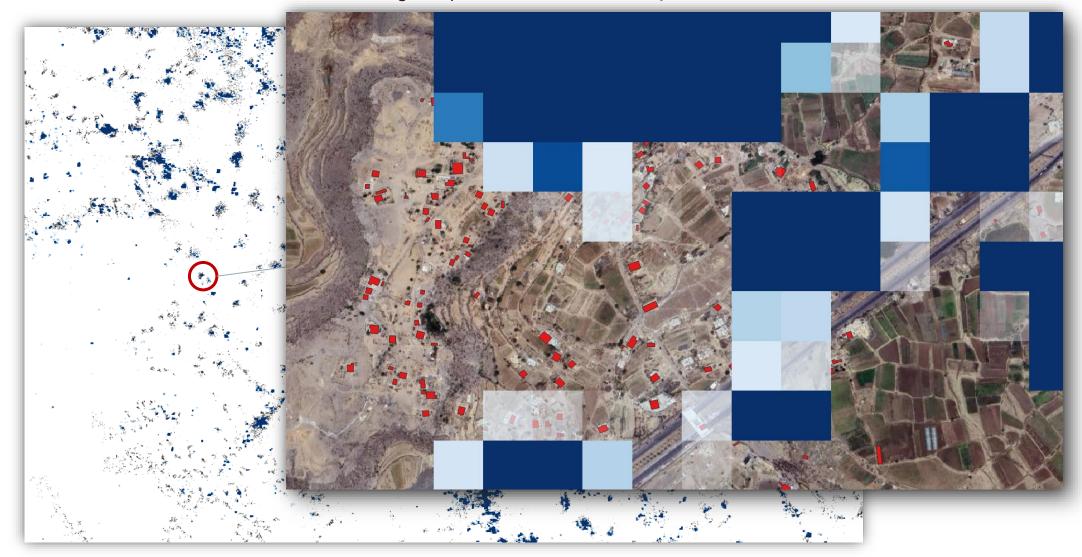


Microsoft building footprint and GHS built-up surface



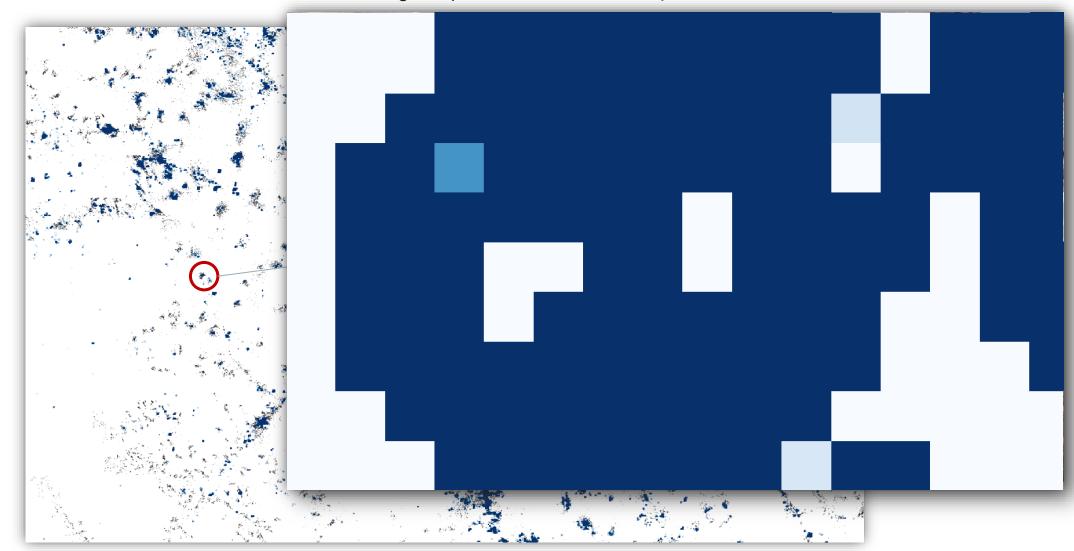


Microsoft building footprint and GHS built-up surface

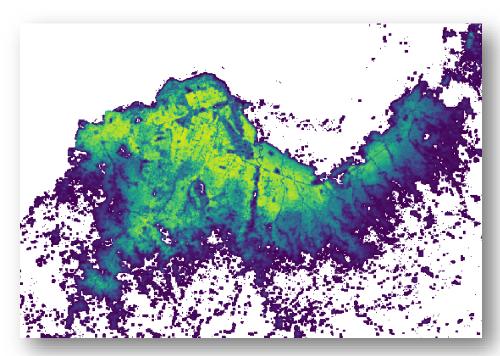




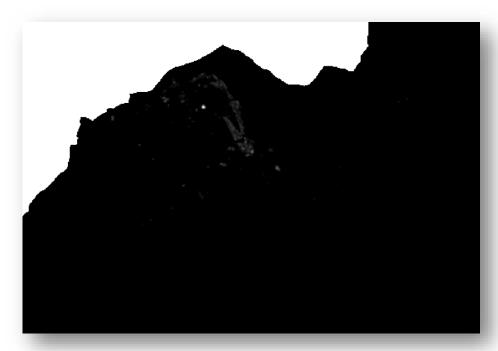
Microsoft building footprint and GHS built-up surface



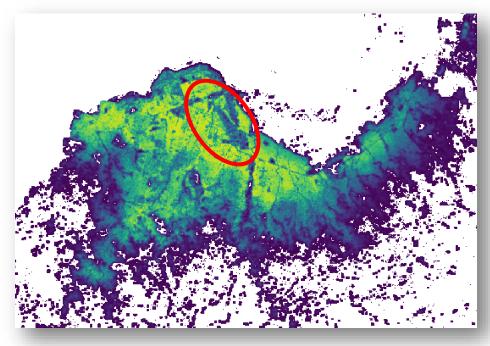
WorldFop



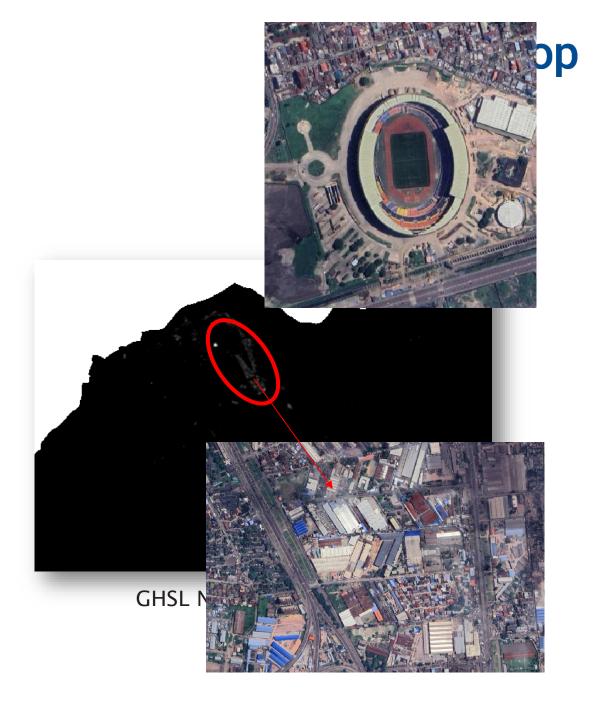
Democratic Republic of the Congo - Kinshasa



GHSL NRES + OSM (2024)



Democratic Republic of the Congo - Kinshasa







Colombia, Bogotá (grey - built-up surface, red- NRES)

WorldPop



Colombia, Bogotá (grey - built-up surface, red- NRES)





VIIRS 2023 area in Nigeria









VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)





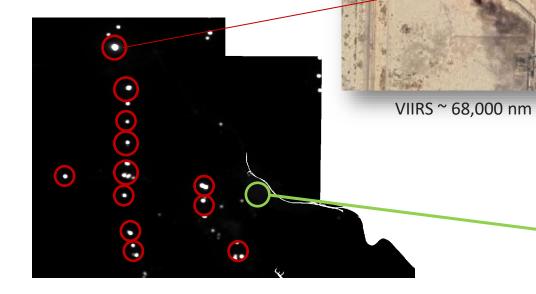
VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)

Global 2: Night-time light covariate VIIRS ~ 68,000 nm

VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)

WorldPop



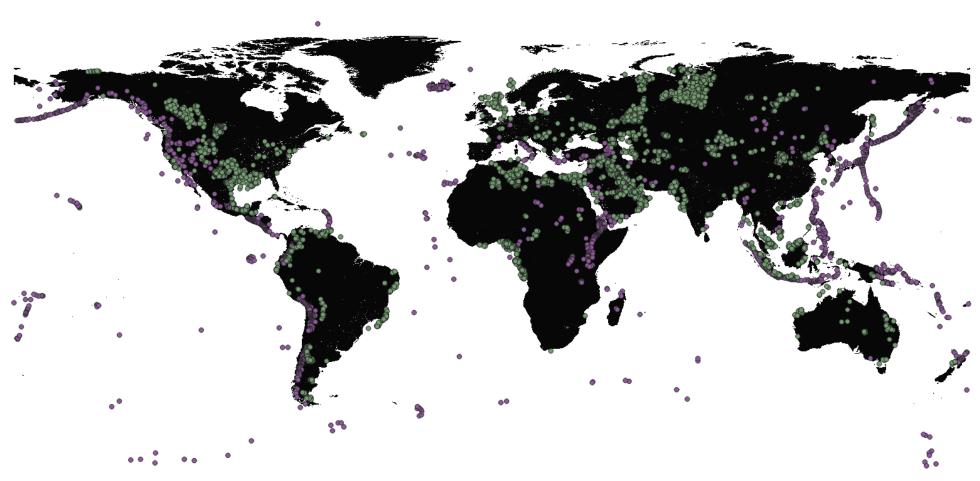


VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)



VIIRS ~ 150 nm





We used "Global Gas Flaring Data Database" from WorldBank and location of volcanoes "Global GIS: volcanoes of the world". We used the outlier removal algorithm developed for DMSP-OLS night-time lights (Baugh et al. 2010).



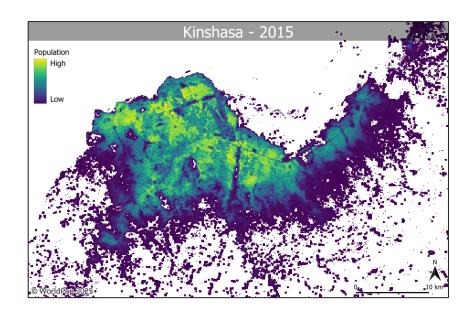


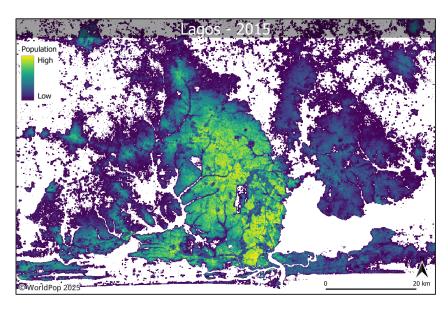
VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)



Filtered VIIRS 2023 area in Iraq (Basrah)

Improving method to filter night-time light data from flares and volcanoes and other abnormal reflections (e.q solar panels, greenhouses).

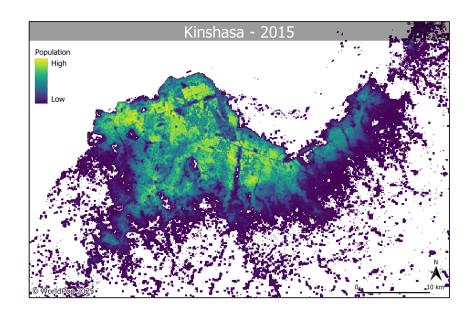


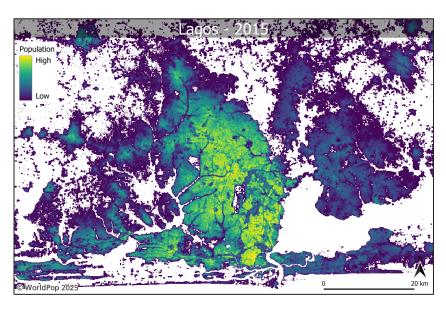


WorldPop Global 2015–2030

R2025A version

- Population Counts at 100m 2015-2030 (individual countries)
- Population Counts at 1km 2015-2030 (individual countries and global mosaicked)
- Estimates of total number of people per grid square at 100m and 1km broken down by gender and age groupings (including 0-1 and by 5-year up to 90+)
- Estimates of total number of people under the age of 18 years old and broken down by male and female.





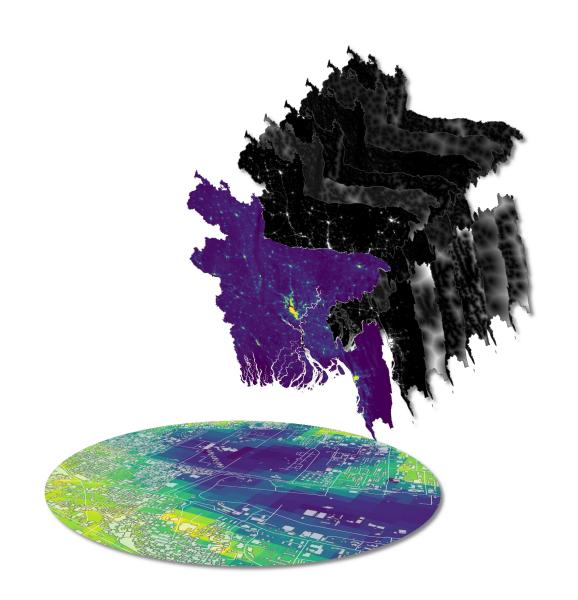
WorldPop Global 2015–2030

R2025A version

- Population Counts at 100m 2015-2030 (individual countries)
- Population Counts at 1km 2015-2030 (individual countries and global mosaicked)
- Estimates of total number of people per grid square at 100m and 1km broken down by gender and age groupings (including 0-1 and by 5-year up to 90+)
- Estimates of total number of people under the age of 18 years old and broken down by male and female.
- Population Density (coming soon)

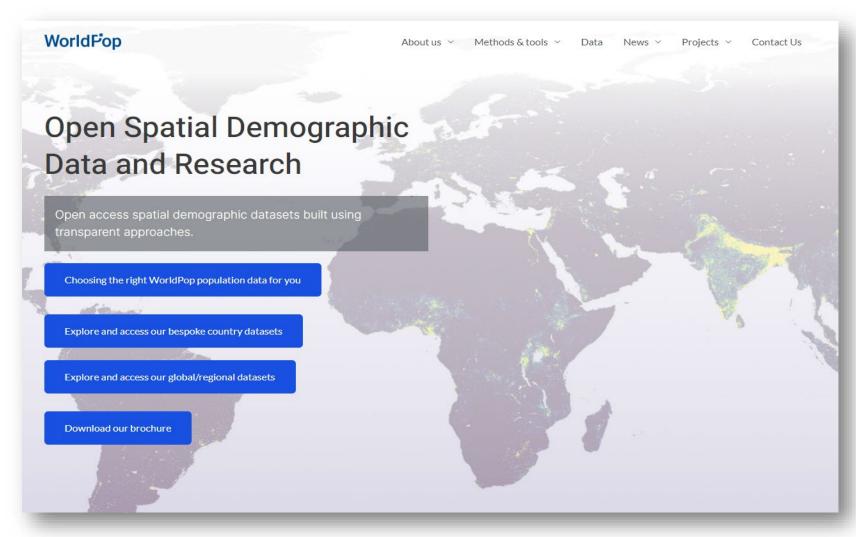
Hands-on discovery

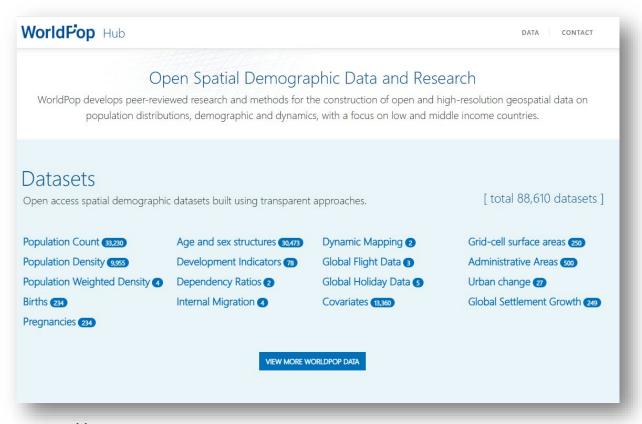
Tools and technical deep-dive





WorldPop website https://www.worldpop.org

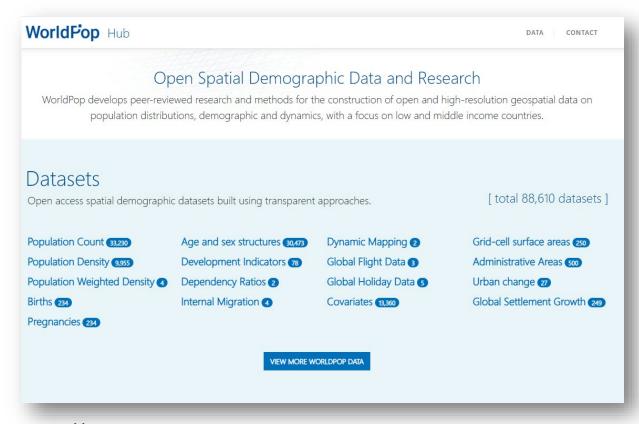




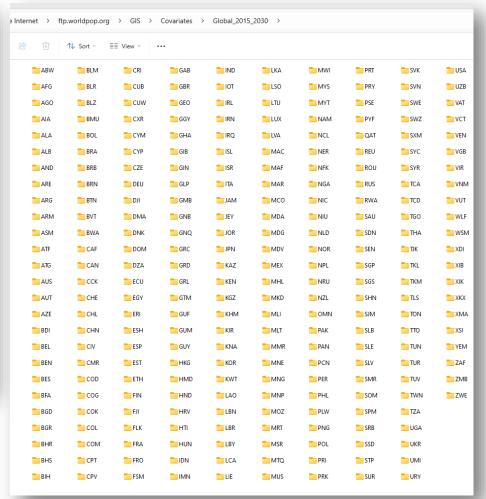
https://worldpop.org

WorldFop



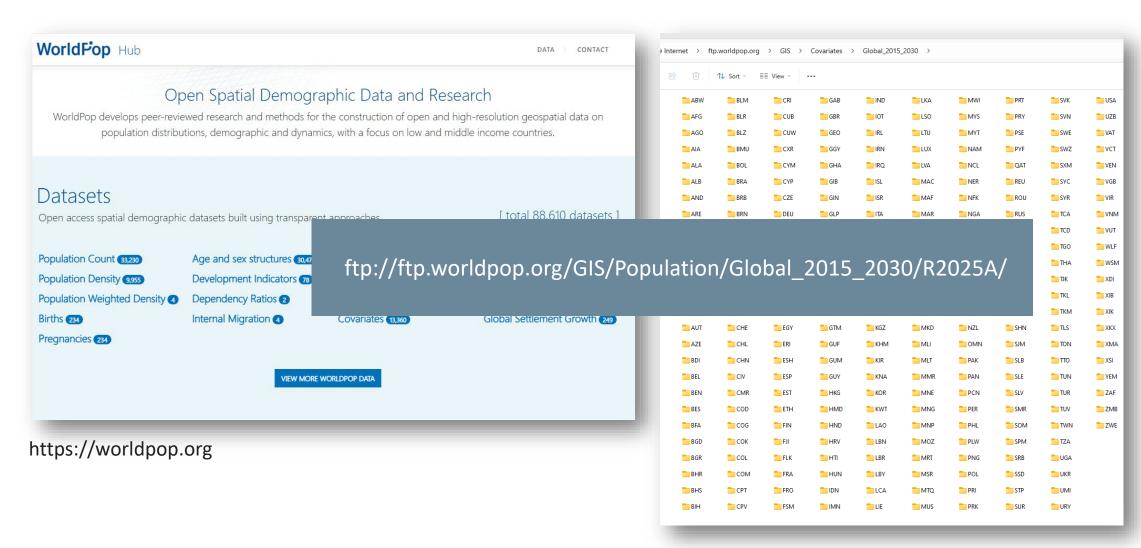


https://worldpop.org

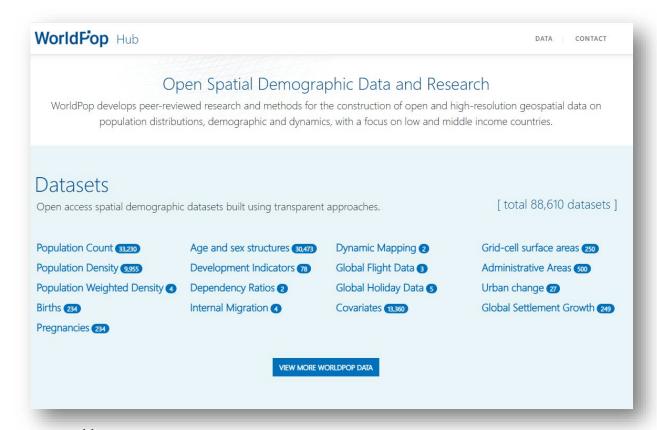


ftp://ftp.worldpop.org



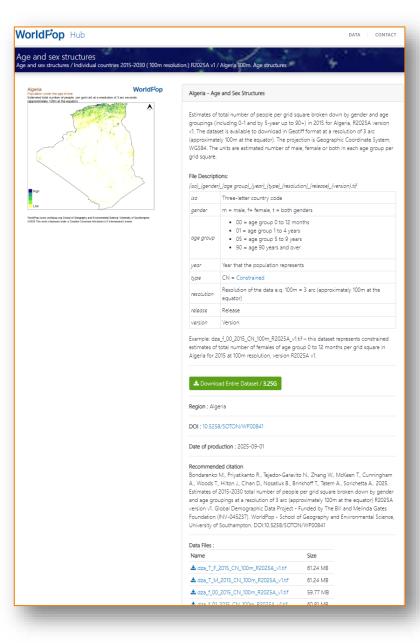


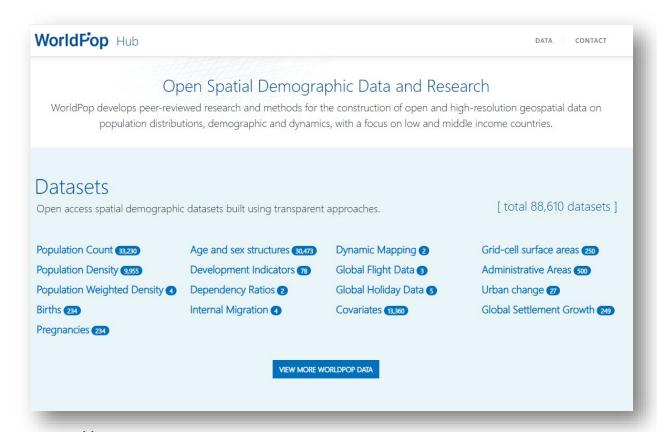
ftp://ftp.worldpop.org



https://worldpop.org

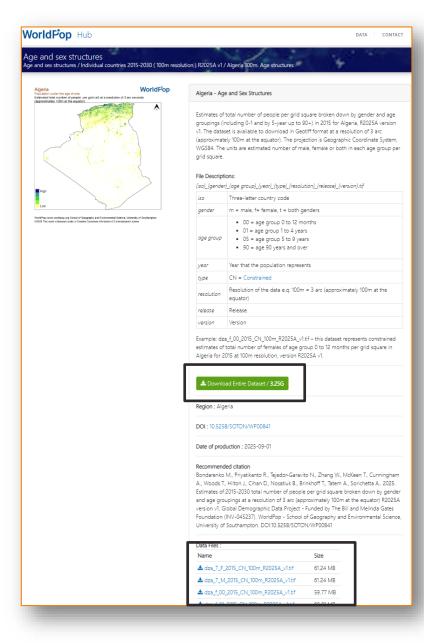
WorldFop





https://worldpop.org

WorldFop





The STAC specification is a **common language to describe geospatial information**, so it can more easily be worked with, indexed, and discovered https://stacspec.org/en/about/datasets/

STAC was created for

- Simplified data discovery and access
- Standardized metadata structure
- Enhanced interoperability
- Improved data sharing capabilities
- Better collaboration opportunities

https://stac.worldpop.org

https://api.stac.worldpop.org

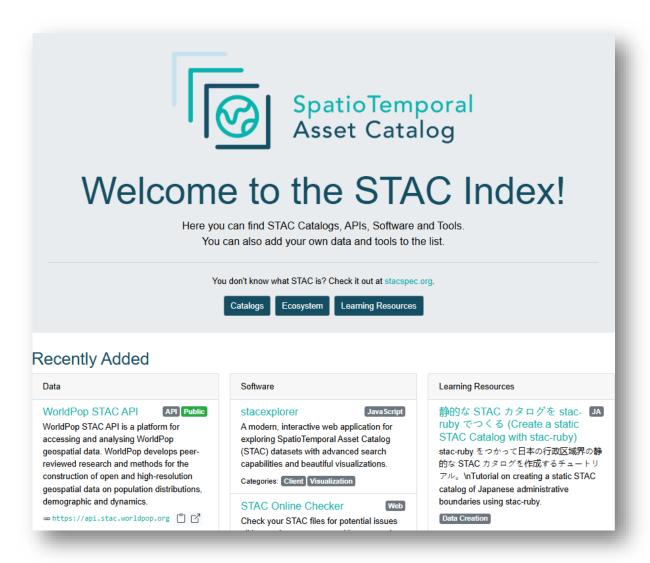
```
"type": "Catalog",
"id": "worldpop-stac-api",
"title": "WorldPop STAC API",
"description": "Welcome to the WorldPop STAC API, a specialized platf
"stac_version": "1.0.0",
"conformsTo": [
  "https://api.stacspec.org/v1.0.0/core",
  "https://api.stacspec.org/v1.0.0/ogcapi-features",
  "https://api.stacspec.org/v1.0.0/collections",
  "https://api.stacspec.org/v1.0.0/item-search",
  "http://www.opengis.net/spec/ogcapi-features-1/1.0/conf/core",
  "http://www.opengis.net/spec/ogcapi-features-1/1.0/conf/oas30",
  "http://www.opengis.net/spec/ogcapi-features-1/1.0/conf/geojson'
"links": [
    "rel": "self",
    "type": "application/json",
    "href": "https://catalog.worldpop.org/"
"stac extensions": []
```



WorldPop STAC API has been listed on STAC Index

https://stac.worldpop.org

https://api.stac.worldpop.org

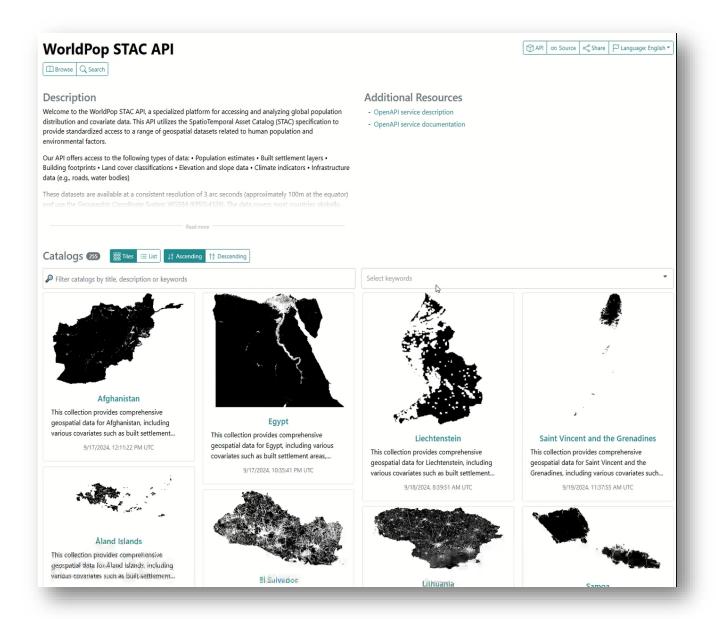


https://stacindex.org/

WorldFop

STAC Browser Interface

- Intuitive data exploration
- Visual preview capabilities
- Advanced filtering options
- Direct data access





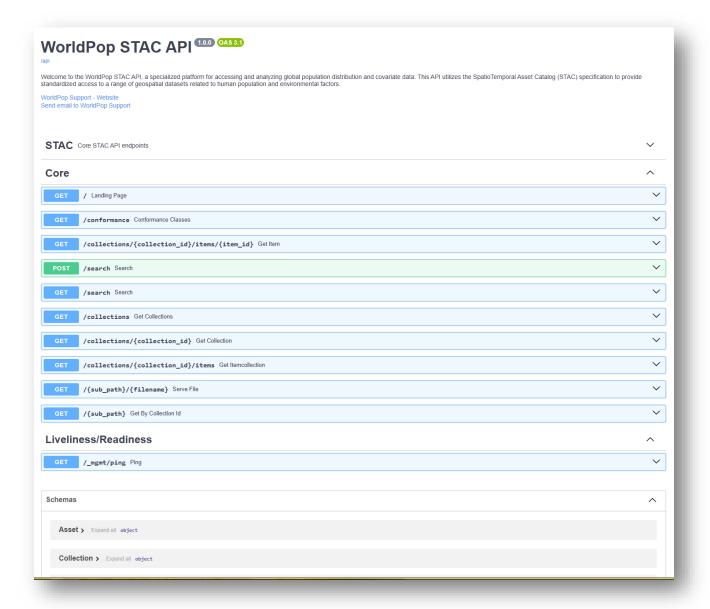
Swagger Integration

Interactive API documentation

Real-time testing capability

Clear endpoint descriptions

Easy integration for developers





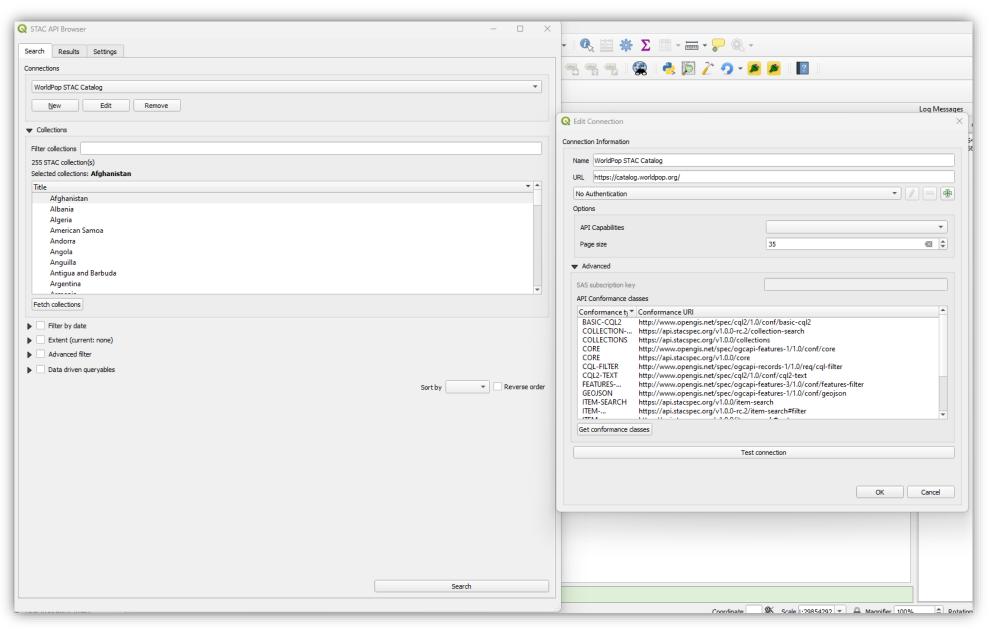
Using STAC

- STAC & Python
- STAC & QGIS
- STAC & R
- STAC & CLI



Using STAC

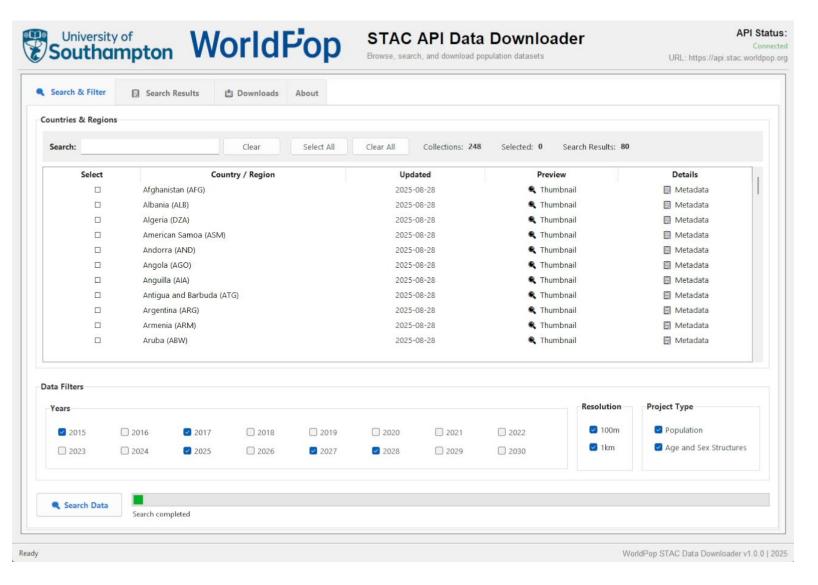
- STAC & Python
- STAC & QGIS
- STAC & R
- STAC & CLI





WorldPop STAC Data Downloader

A desktop application for downloading WorldPop population data through the STAC API.

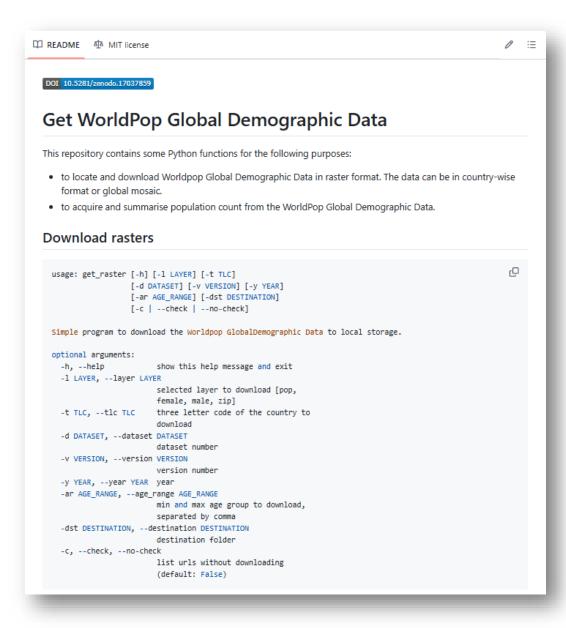


https://github.com/wpgp/worldpop-stac-data-downloader

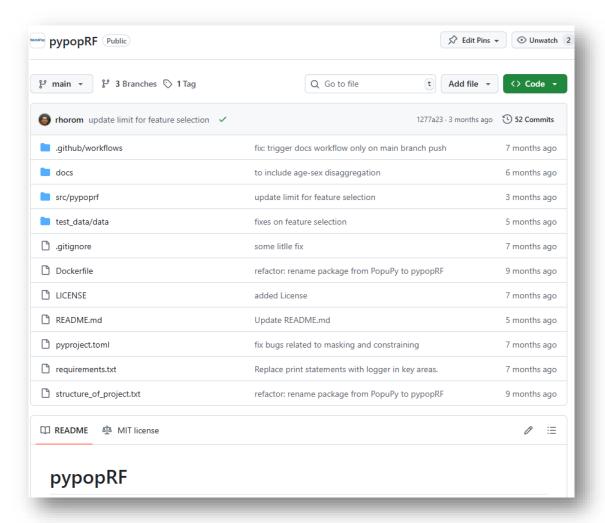
Python package to locate and download Worldpop Global Demographic Data and acquire/summarise population count from the WorldPop Global Demographic Data.

https://github.com/wpgp/get_wp_global

WorldFop



pypopRF



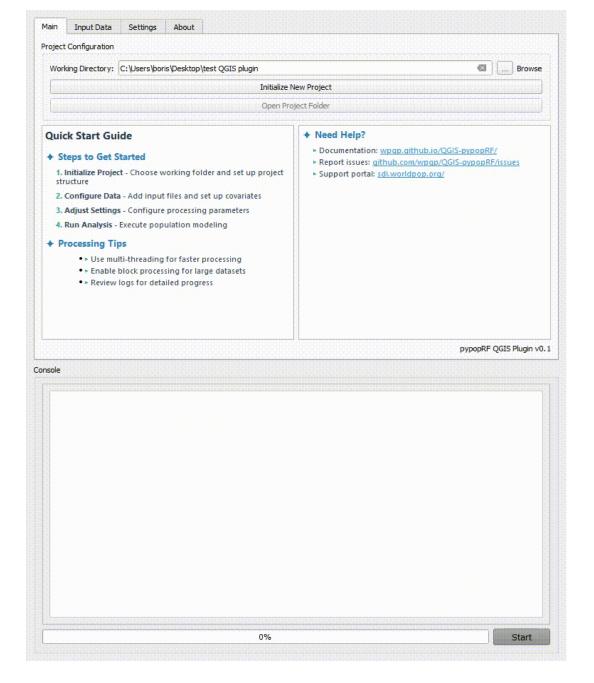


Python package for top-down population disaggregation using Random Forest

pypopRF is a Python package for population prediction and dasymetric mapping using machine learning techniques. It provides a comprehensive toolkit for processing geospatial data, training models, and generating high-resolution population distribution maps.

- Feature extraction from multiple geospatial covariates
- Random Forest-based population prediction with automatic feature selection
- Parallel processing support for large datasets
- Dissymmetric mapping for high-resolution population redistribution
- Visualization tools for analysis and validation
- Command-line interface for easy project management

https://github.com/wpgp/pypopRF





QGIS pypopRF Plugin

QGIS plugin for population prediction and dissymmetric mapping.

- 1. Project Setup
 - Initialize workspace
 - Configure output directory
 - Set processing parameters
- 2. Data Management
 - Mastergrid integration
 - Covariate handling
 - Census data import
 - Optional masks & constraints

https://github.com/wpgp/QGIS-pypopRF

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPStOdqE8xE&t=13s

The team behind the project.

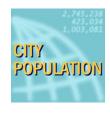
Andy Tatem, Alessandro Sorichetta, Natalia Tejedor Garavito, Jason Hilton, Thea Woods, Tom McKeen, Alexander Cunningham, Rhorom Priyatikanto, Thomas Brinkhoff, Duygu Cihan, Wenbin Zhang, Alexandra Frosch, Jacqui Cox, Tim O'Riordan, Maksym Bondarenko















Gates Foundation

iSolutions and HPC team at the University of Southampton

Thank you.
Any questions?

www.worldpop.org

Interactive Q&A

Thank you!

Survey: tinyurl.com/wp-survey0925



