EO Browser

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Script Used : Historic NDVI Changes with Landsat 4-5TM and Landsat 8

- This script was developed by Monja B. Šebela @ Sinergise, to show how NDVI values have changes over a span of years. It does not refer to change in cropping cycles (hence it is important to compare images within the same time of year for the different years you analyse), rather the potential long term de-vegetation and revegetation of land.

- The script uses **data-fusion** technique, by analytically comparing historic Landsat 4-5 Level 2 imagery with contemporary Landsat 8-9 Level 2 imagery.

- Vegetation reduction (pink) could be indicative of on urban growth, or deforestation, and an increase (green) may imply agricultural land expansion, or reforestation.

- In my example, I applied this script to the city of **Salzburg, Austria** and **Ikorodu, Nigeria** with significantly different results.
  - While I found less significant changes in the vegetative cover of Salzburg, which could be indicative of little to no changes in the land use over the years (Salzburg being an ancient city has seen most of its urban growth even before remote sensing became a thing), the situation is significantly different for Ikorodu, which over the past 30 years (1984 - 2021), has seen significant de-vegetation, and surprisingly revegetation in some parts.

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How it works:

NDVI is calculated for both collections, and returned in RGB to display changes. In the output, the recent Landsat 8 NDVI is displayed in the green channel, and the historic Landsat 4-5 TM NDVI in both red and blue channels.

The resulting RGB image shows green, where vegetation cover was high on a more recent image and low on an older one, thus indicating vegetation cover increase. Pink color indicates high vegetation cover on the older date and low on a newer one, thus indicating reduction in vegetation cover.

The script

The first part of the script sets up the samples list for both datasets (Landsat 4-5 and Landsat 8).

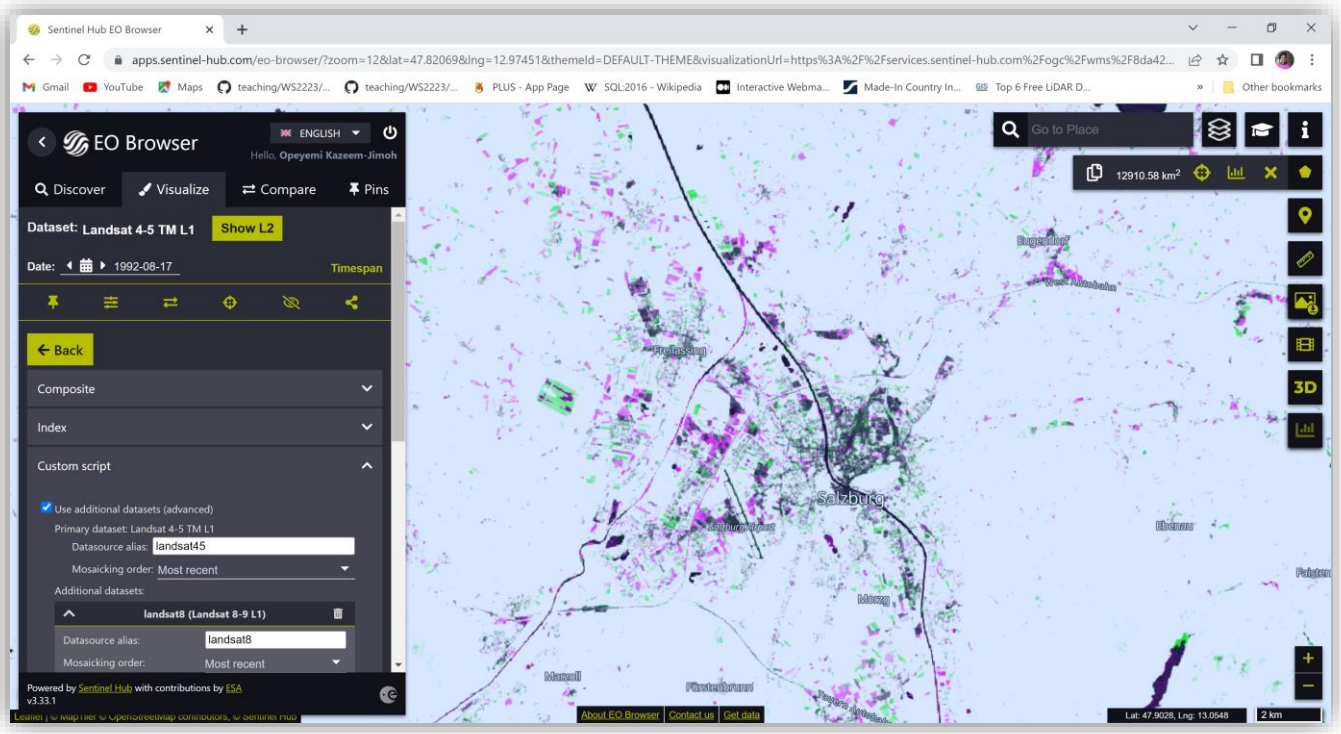
```
function setup() {
  return {
                input: [
                 {datasource: "landsat45", bands:["B04", "B03","dataMask"], mosaicking: "ORBIT"},
                 {datasource: "landsat8", bands:["B05", "B04","B03","dataMask"], mosaicking: "ORBIT"}
                ],
                output: [
                 { id: "default", bands: 3, sampleType: SampleType.AUTO }
                ]
  };
```

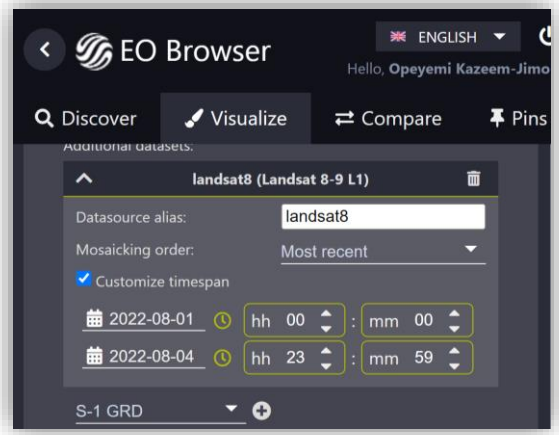
The second part calculates the NDVI for both current and historic datasets individually, the outputs RGB values with the historic NDVI in R and the newer one in Green and Blue.

```
function evaluatePixel(samples, inputData, inputMetadata, customData, outputMetadata) {
 var L8 = samples.landsat8[0]
 var L45 = samples.landsat45[0]
 let oldNDVI = (L45.B04 - L45.B03) / (L45.B04 + L45.B03)
 let newNDVI = (L8.B05 - L8.B04) / (L8.B05 + L8.B04)

 let val = [2*oldNDVI, 2*newNDVI, 2*oldNDVI];
 return {
   default: val
 }
}
```

Salzburg



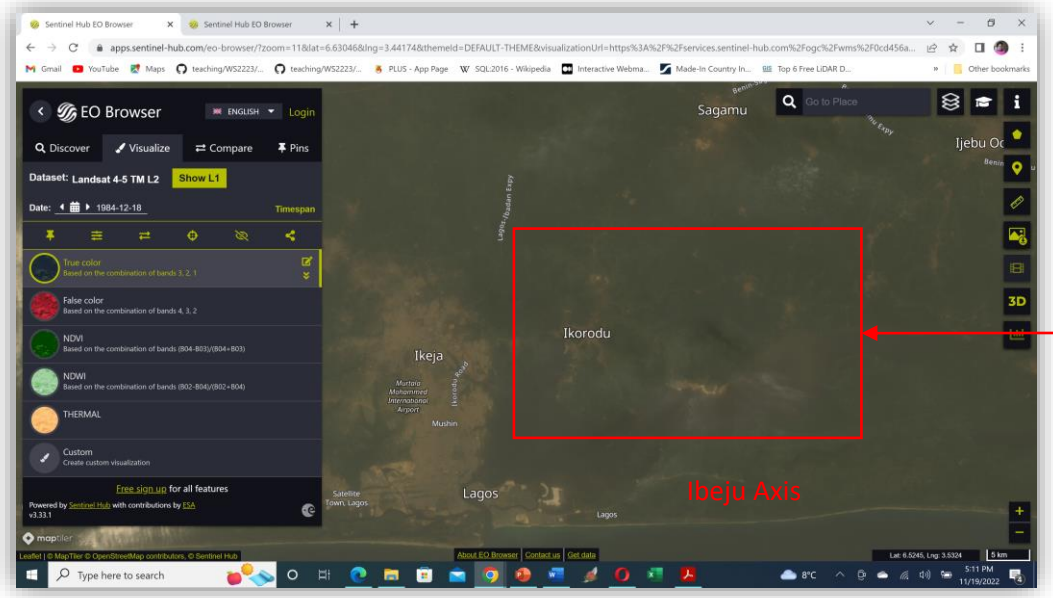


Salzburg from 1992-08-17 to 2022-08-04 shows areas where the vegetative cover has reduced. Although this does not happen on as large a scale as Ikorodu for example, mainly because the city structure has been established long before remote sensing became a thing, it indicates that many vegetative parcels of land have since become repurposed.

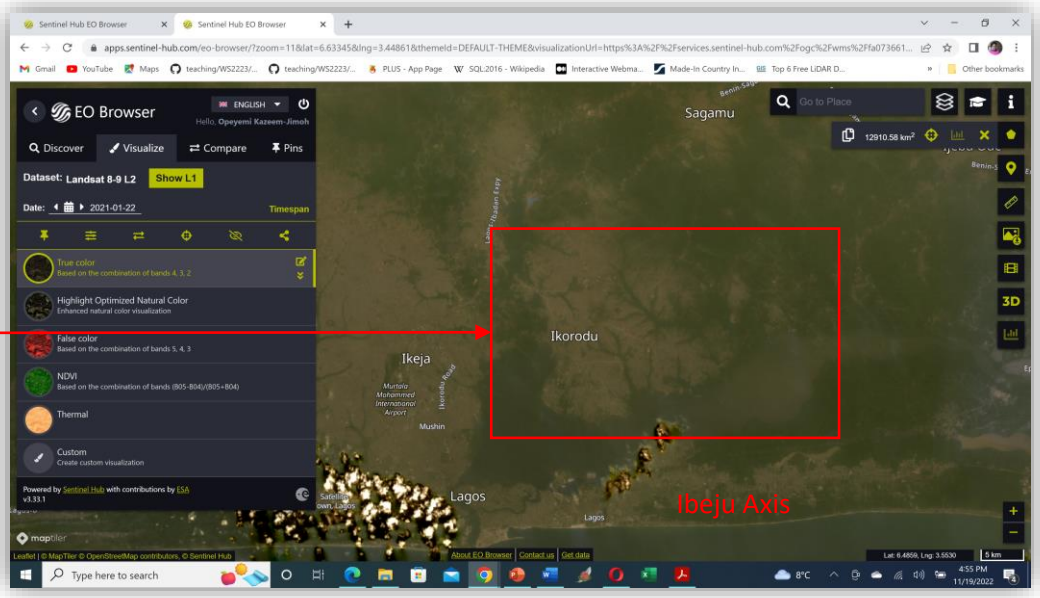
Overall, there is a higher degree of de-vegetation than re-vegetation.

Ikorodu, Lagos

- Ikorodu is a metropolitan city in the heart of Lagos Mainland, and has seen significant growth and urbanization in the past 30 years. This coupled with the fact that I grew up here prompted me to run this analysis, mainly to see how the urban center has grown over time.
- Ibeju's growth happened in the past 10 years mainly, but this is also captured here.

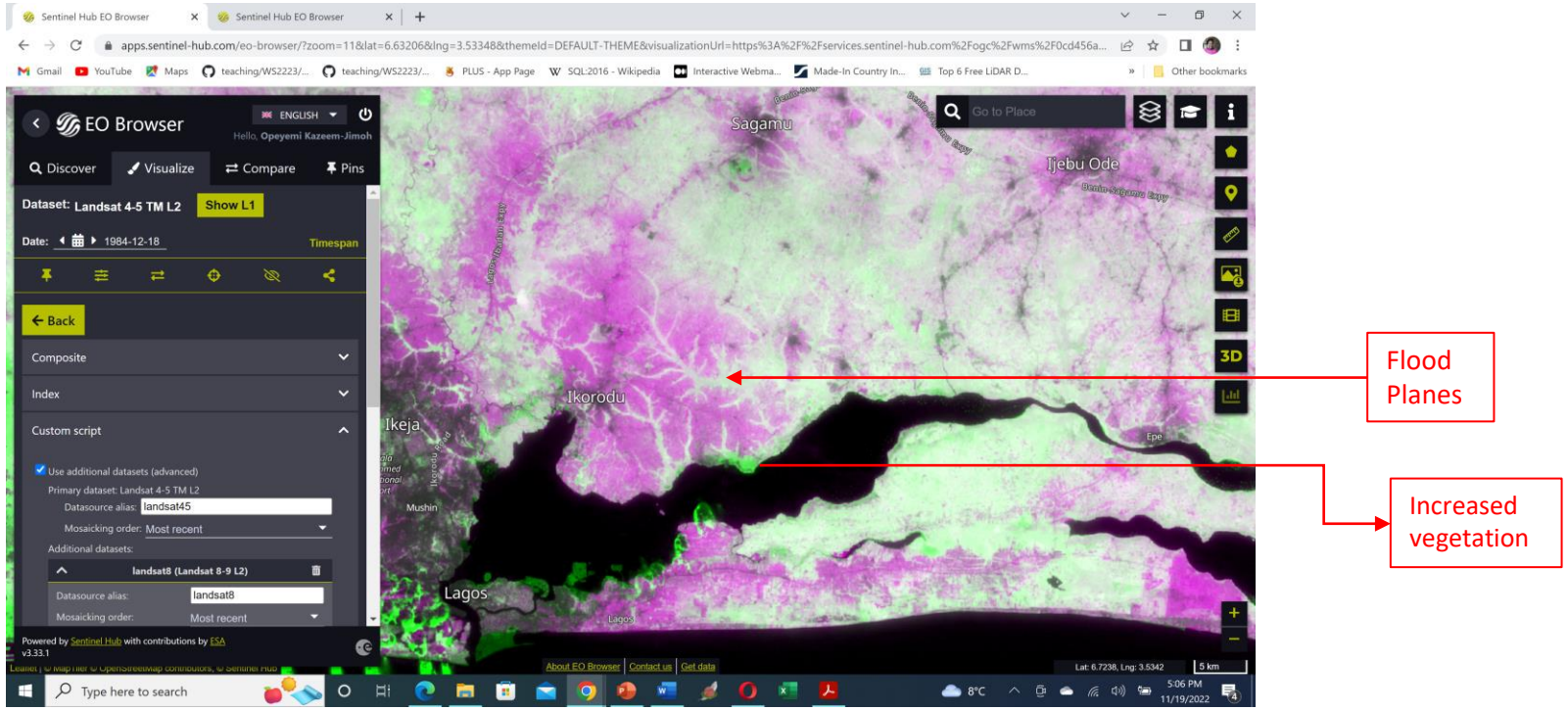


Landsat 4-5 Level 2
Imagery of Ikorodu
(date: 1984-12-18)



Landsat 8-9 Level 2
Imagery of Ikorodu
(date: 2021-01-22)

Ikorodu Result



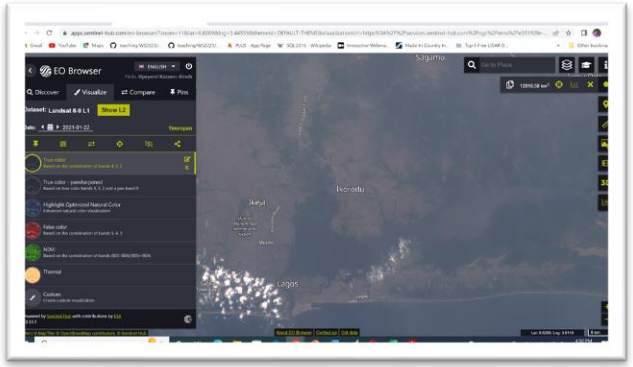
Ikorodu and Ibeju clearly show significant reduction in vegetation over time. Like I said in the previous slide, this can be alluded to widespread human settlement and growth in the urban area. The places that remain relatively unchanged are the lowland flood planes.

Something I find particularly curious is the increased vegetation in the south eastern tip of Ikorodu. On closer inspection it looks like reforestation from baren/sandy land and not agricultural land expansion, which I find peculiar, because this would mean that the are was abandoned and reclaimed by nature, something that is not common in that part of the world, for its lack of conservation prowess. Unfortunately I could not find any historical records to explain this, as at the time of submission.

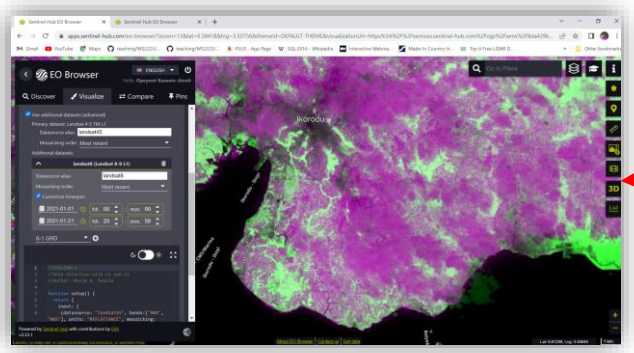
Overall, there is a higher degree of de-vegetation than re-vegetation.

What I did differently;

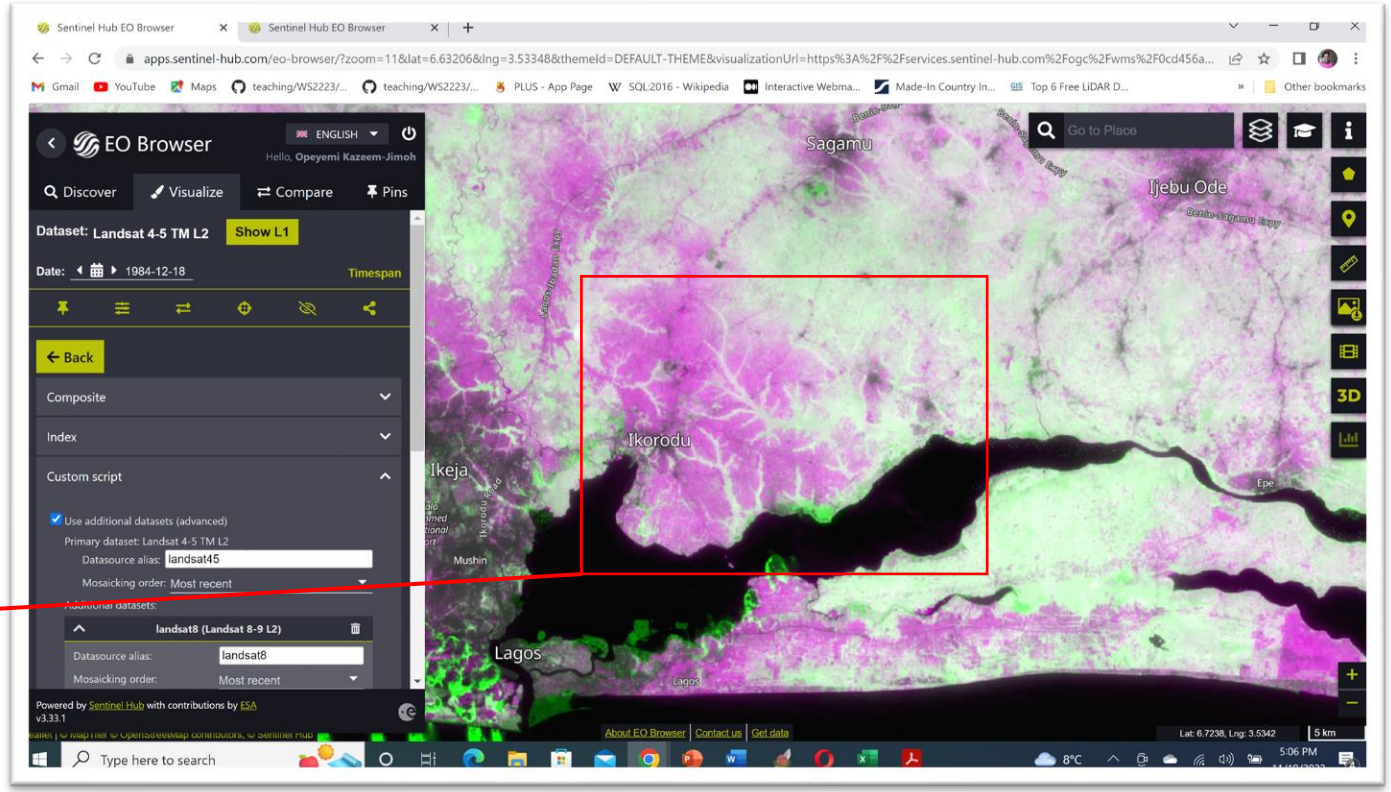
- Although the example uses Landsat 4-5 and Landsat 8 TM Level 1 imagery, I used Leve 2 of both because I realize that it give more accurate values and is less affected by shadows as the imagery is much sharper.
- Also, I have noticed that clouds cause false estimates, therefore, it is pertinent that cloud free imagery is use.



Level 1 True color



Level 1 Output



Level 2 Output