WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE
THE ROLE OF RESEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE SDG IMPLEMENTATION
RISING TO THE CHALLENGE
Kitty van der Heijden,
Director Europe, Director Africa
World Resources Institute
RESEARCH FAIR, SWITZERLAND, 9 NOVEMBER 2016
KittyvdHeijden
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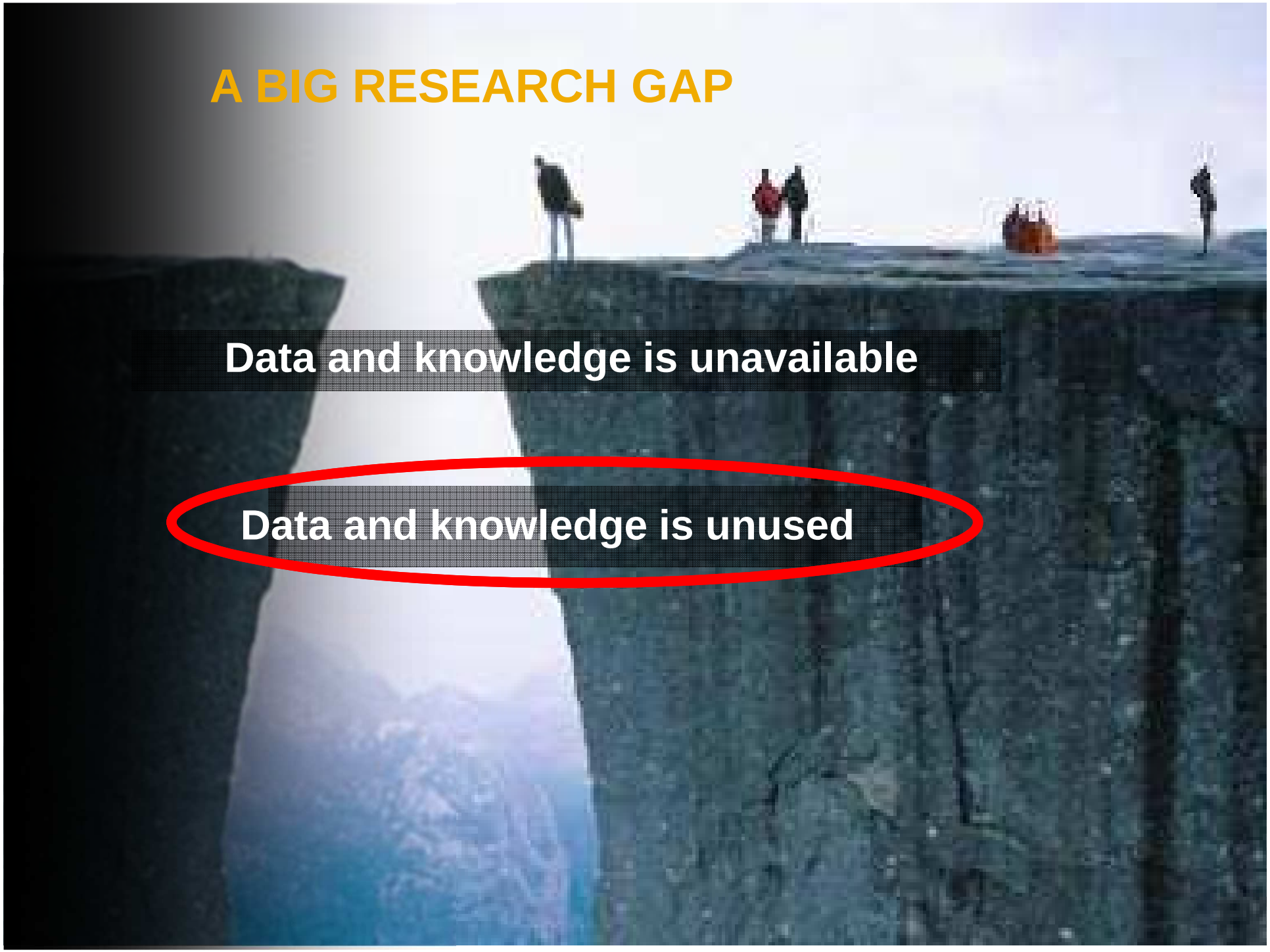
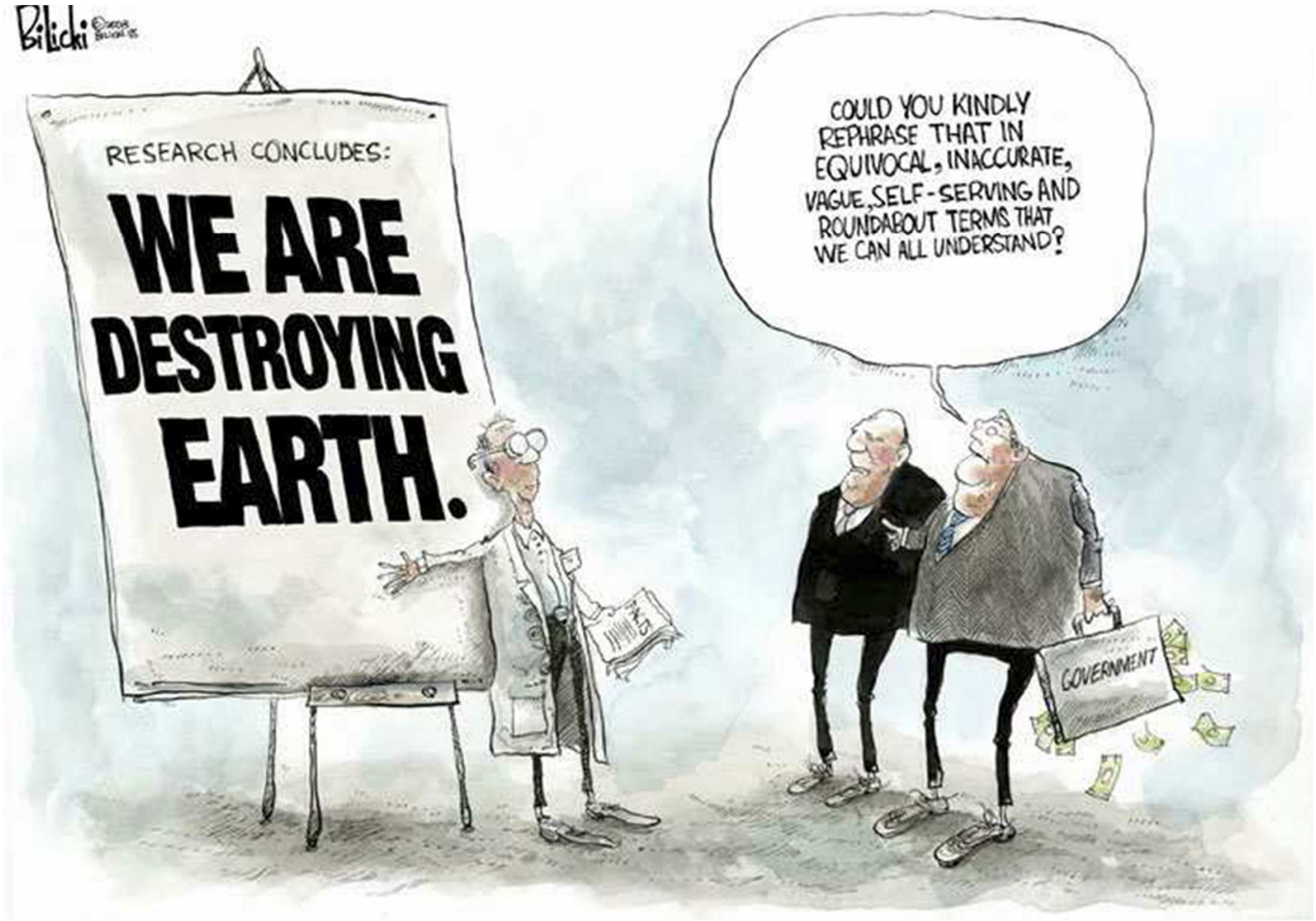
A BIG RESEARCH GAP

Drowing in Data
RESOURCEWATCH


A BIG RESEARCH GAP
Data and knowledge is unavailable
Data and knowledge is unused

1. MORE RESEARCH ON INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN 3 PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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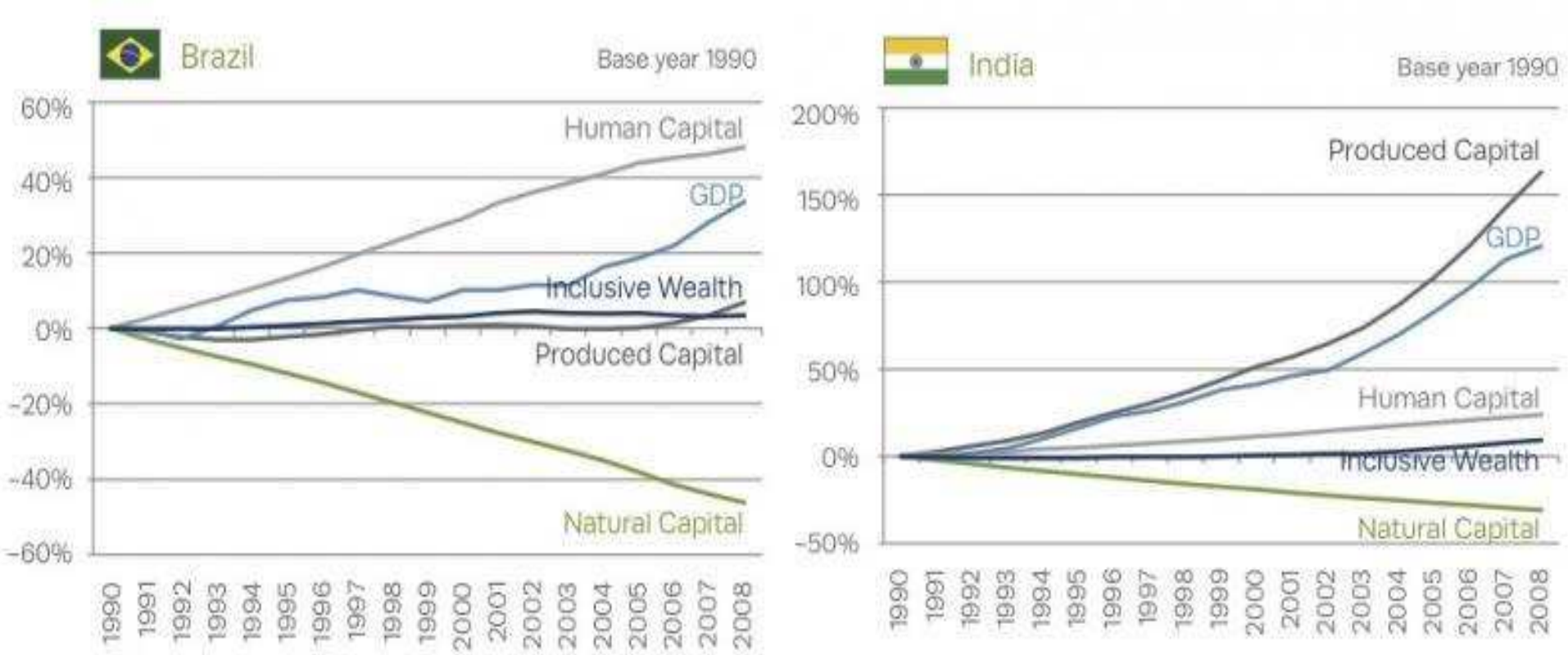
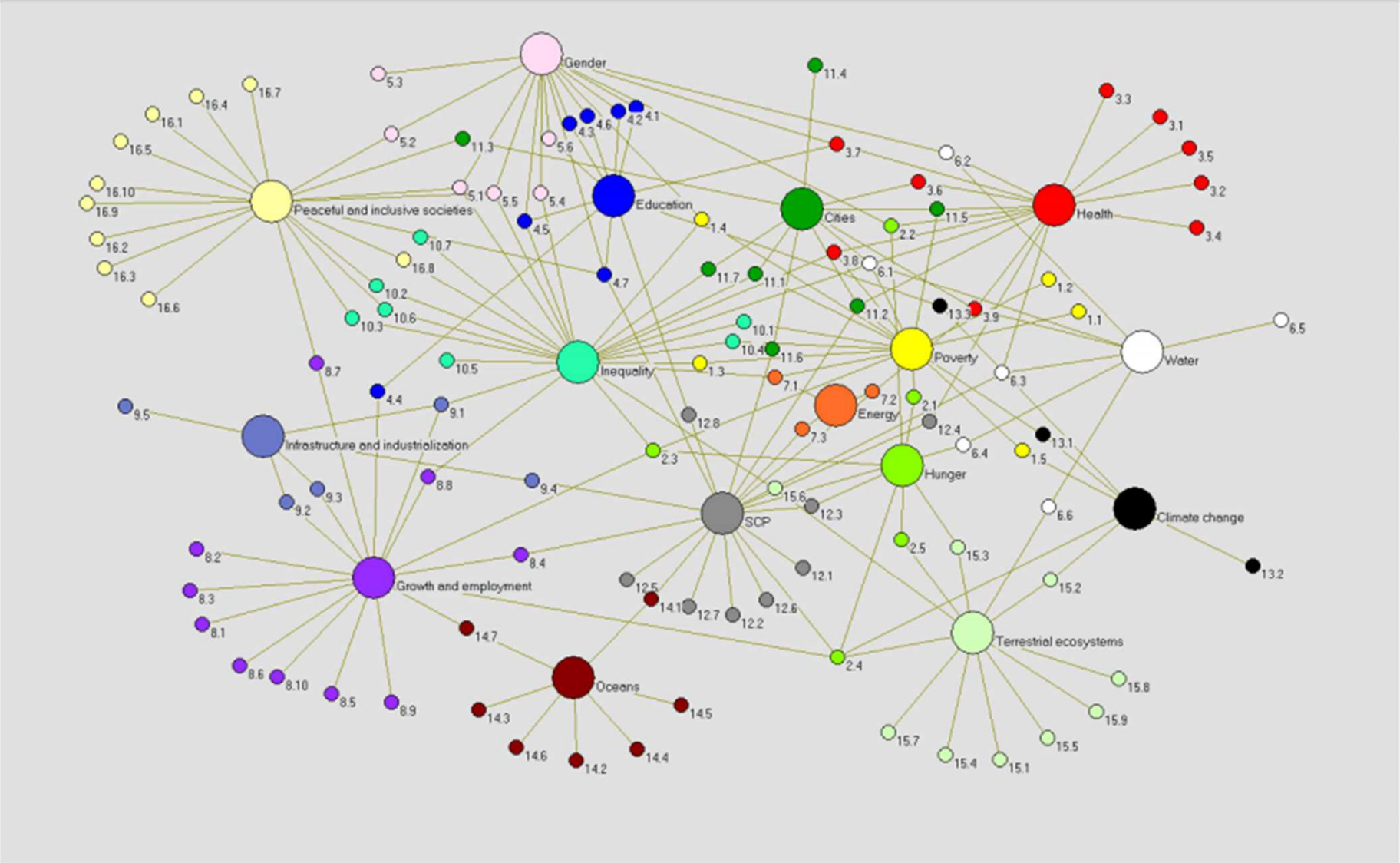
UNECONOMIC GROWTH



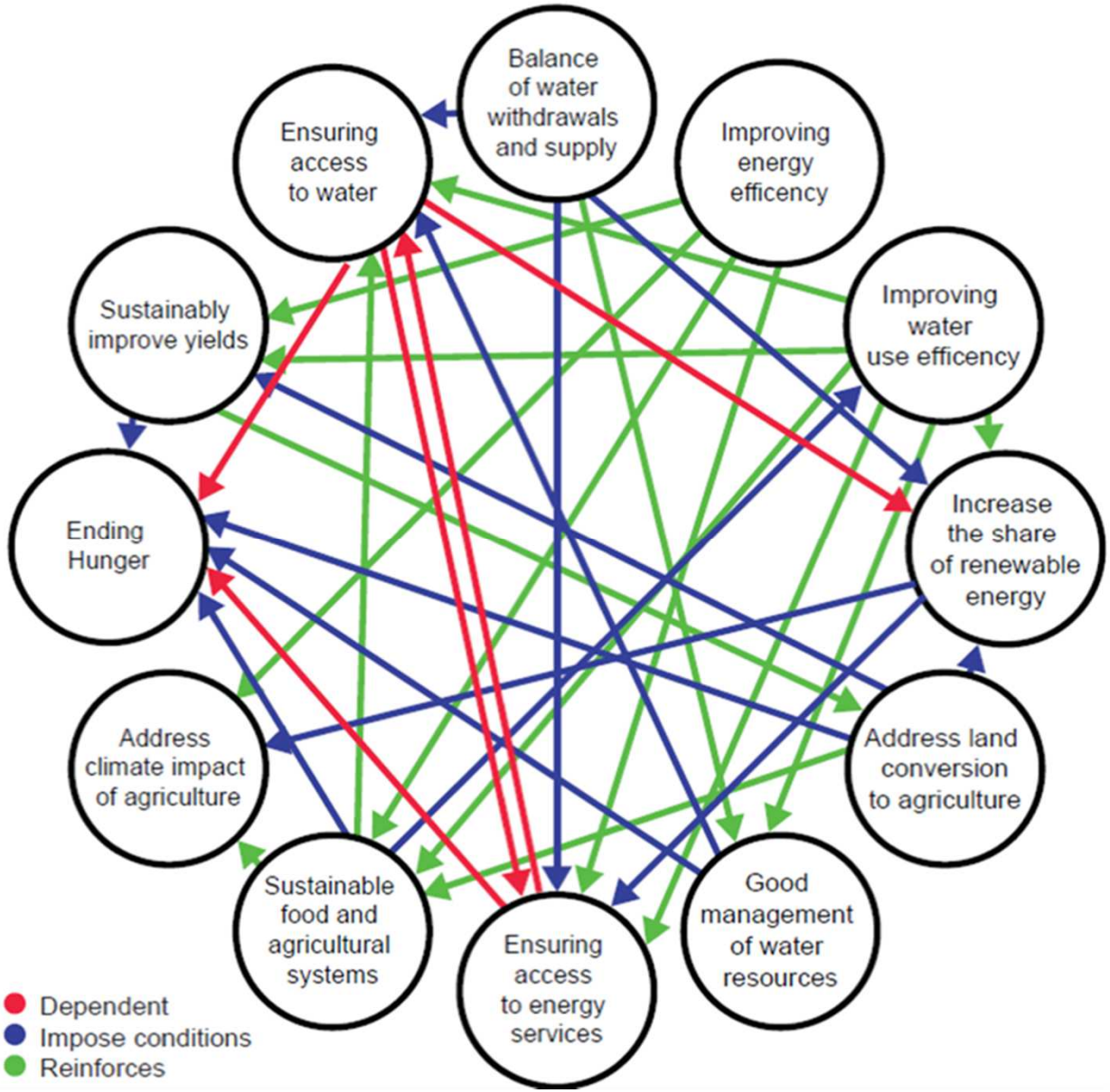
Source: UNU-IHDP, 2012

SDGS AS ARE AN INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM



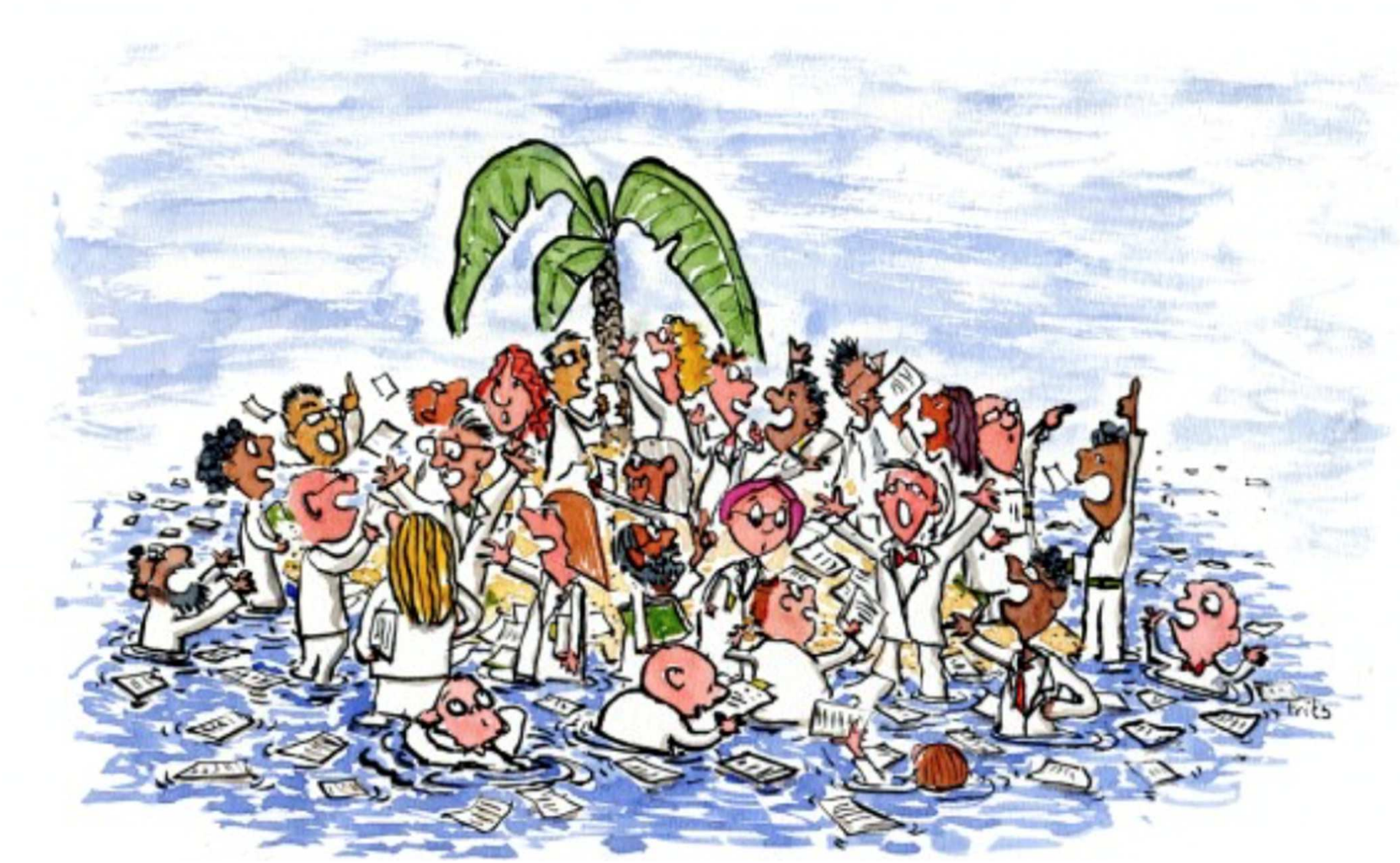
Source: David Le Blanc, Rio+20 Working Paper 4,
"Towards Integration at Last? The SDGs as a Network of Targets"

INTERDEPENDENCIES IMPLY NEW RESPONSIBILITIES



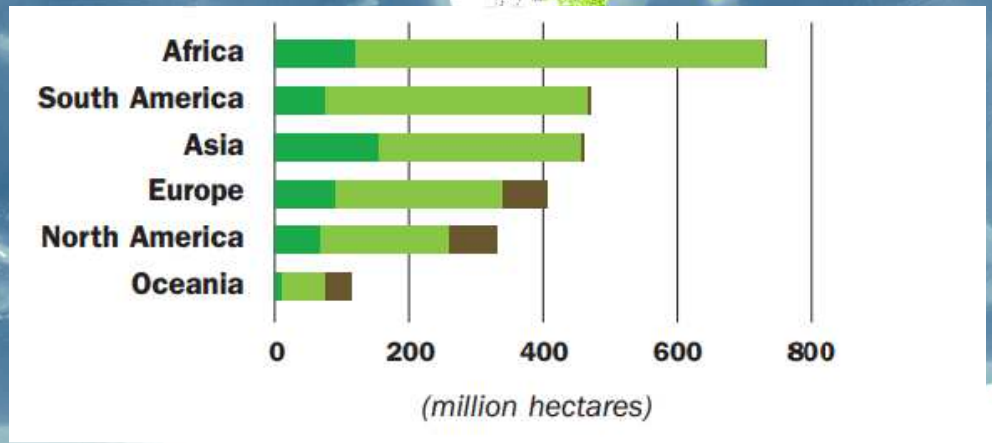
Source: SEI, Weitz *et al.* (2014).

Accelerate multi-disciplinary research that break down traditional academic silos and the corresponding governance silos



Example: restoration

More than 2 billion hectares have opportunity for restoration globally



Is it about restoring the benefits that trees provide in the landscape ….

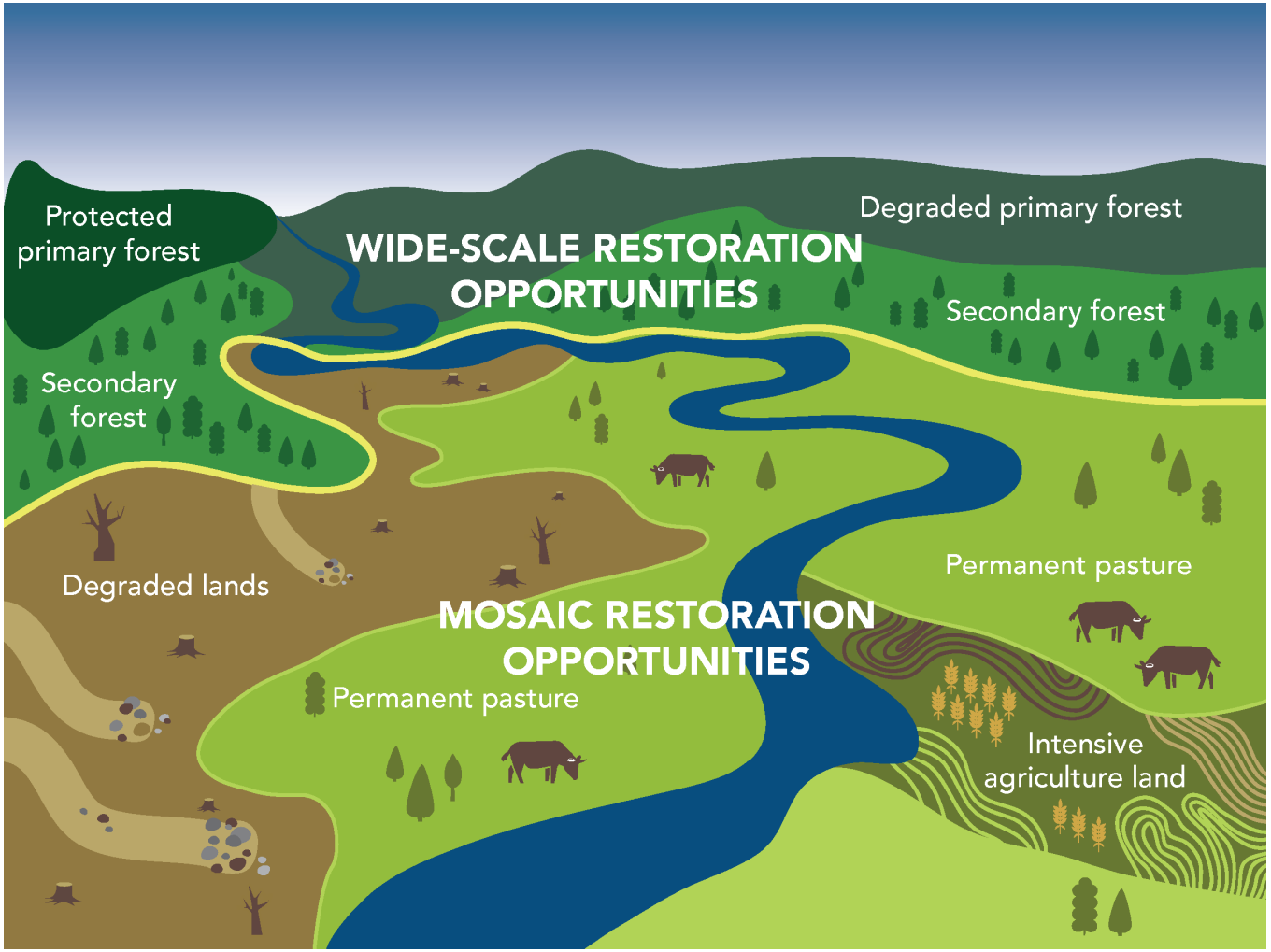
Food

Forests

Water

Energy

Climate change mitigation



or also …

Livelihoods

Gender

Economic growth & jobs

Sustainable business

Climate adaptation

Resilience

Benefits of restoring 150 mln hectares:
• $84 billion in economic benefits annually
• 47 gigatons of CO_2e captured (up to 15% reduction in emissions gap)
• Cultural benefits
kr/CIFOR; ource: IUCN
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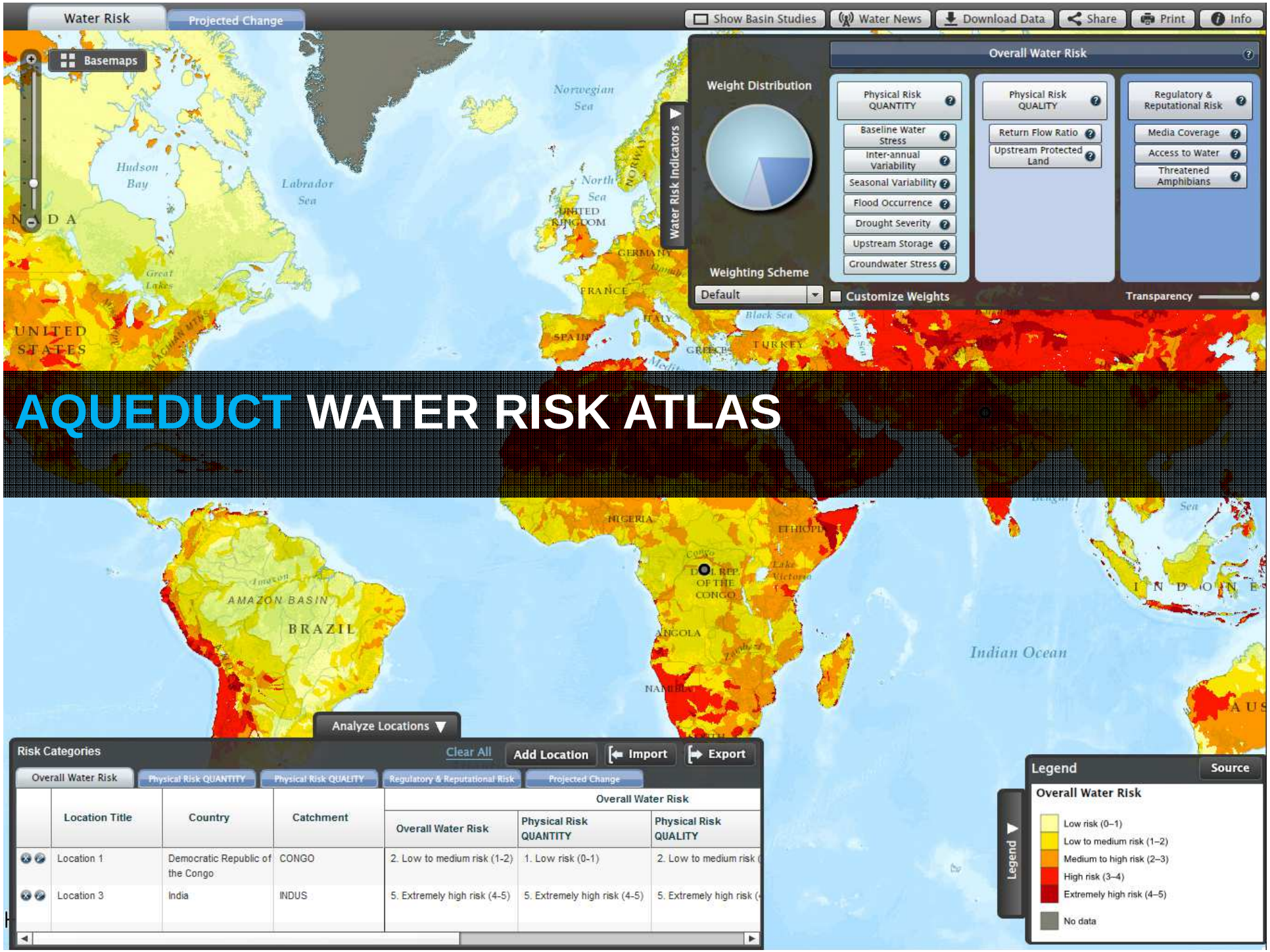
2. CO-CREATE INDEPENDENT, DATA-DRIVEN, OPEN & OBJECTIVE LEARNING AND MONITORING SYSTEM

Data drives impact
Data
Transparency
Transparency
Accountability
Accountability
Responsibility
Better Decisions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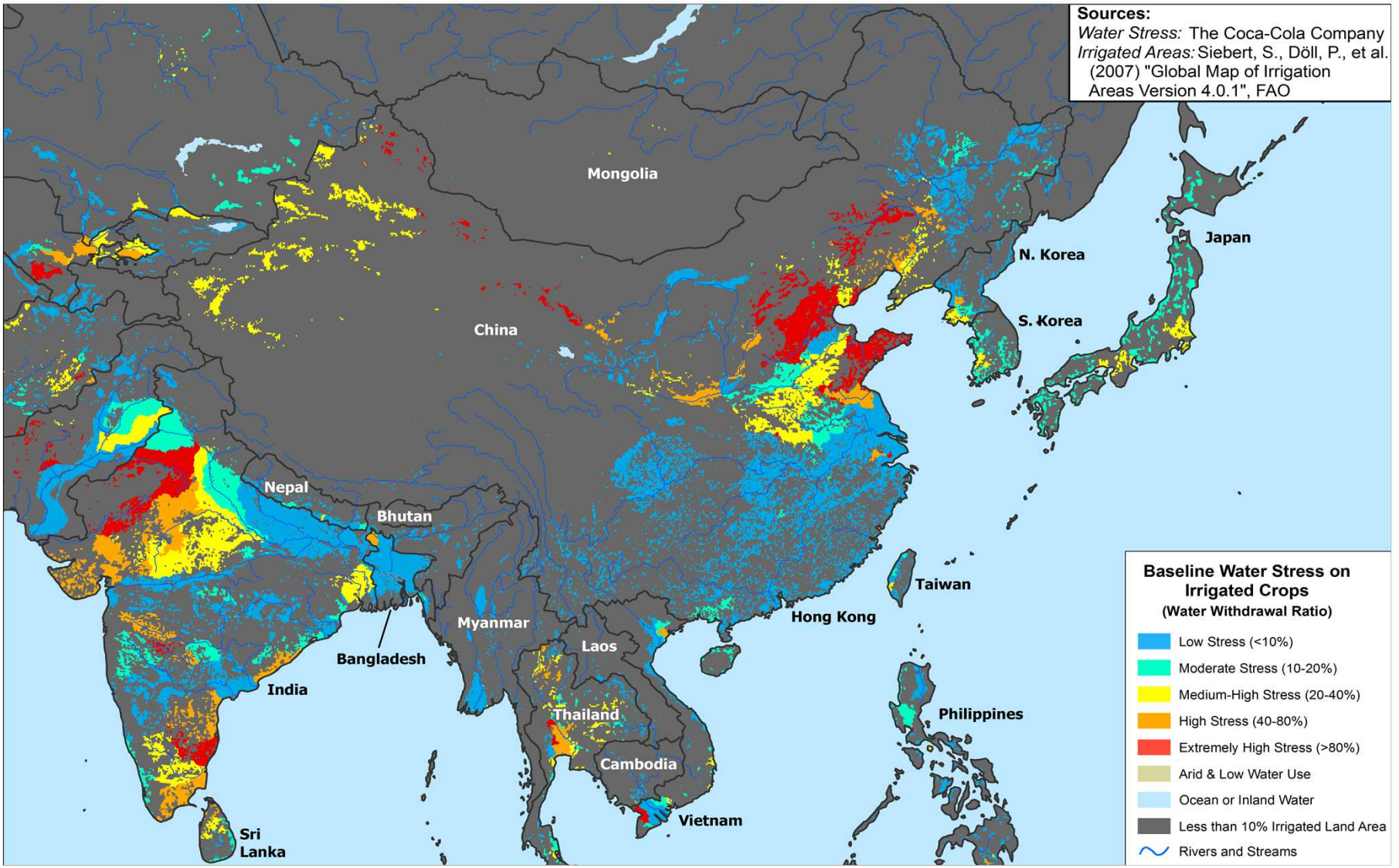
Projected Change
Show Basin Studies
Water News
Download Data
Share
Print
Info
Basemaps
Overall Water Risk
Weight Distribution
Physical Risk QUANTITY
Baseline Water Stress
Inter-annual Variability
Seasonal Variability
Flood Occurrence
Drought Severity
Upstream Storage
Groundwater Stress
Physical Risk QUALITY
Return Flow Ratio
Upstream Protected Land
Regulatory & Reputational Risk
Media Coverage
Access to Water
Threatened Amphibians
Water Risk Indicators
Weighting Scheme
Default
Customize Weights
Transparency
AQUEDUCT WATER RISK ATLAS
Analyze Locations
Risk Categories
Clear All
Add Location
Import
Export
Overall Water Risk
Physical Risk QUANTITY
Physical Risk QUALITY
Regulatory & Reputational Risk
Projected Change
Location Title
Country
Catchment
Location 1
Democratic Republic of the Congo
CONGO
2. Low to medium risk (1-2)
1. Low risk (0-1)
Location 3
India
INDUS
5. Extremely high risk (4-5)
Legend
Source
Low risk (0–1)
Low to medium risk (1–2)
Medium to high risk (2–3)
High risk (3–4)
Extremely high risk (4–5)
No data

39% of irrigated cropland in this region is located in areas of water stress concern

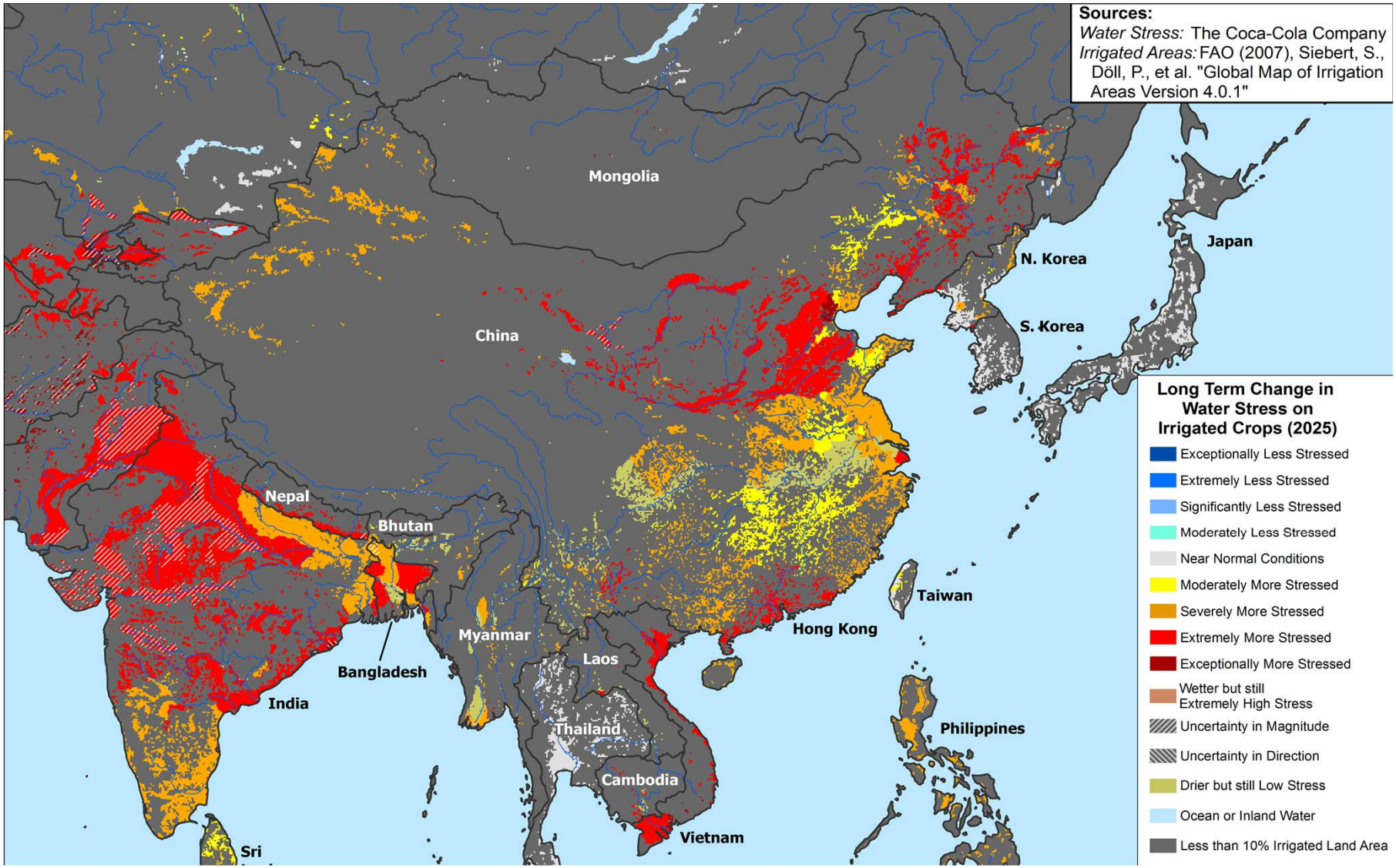
Baseline Water Stress in areas with Irrigated Agriculture



75% of current irrigated cropland in this region would see water stress grow 2 to 8 times worse by 2025

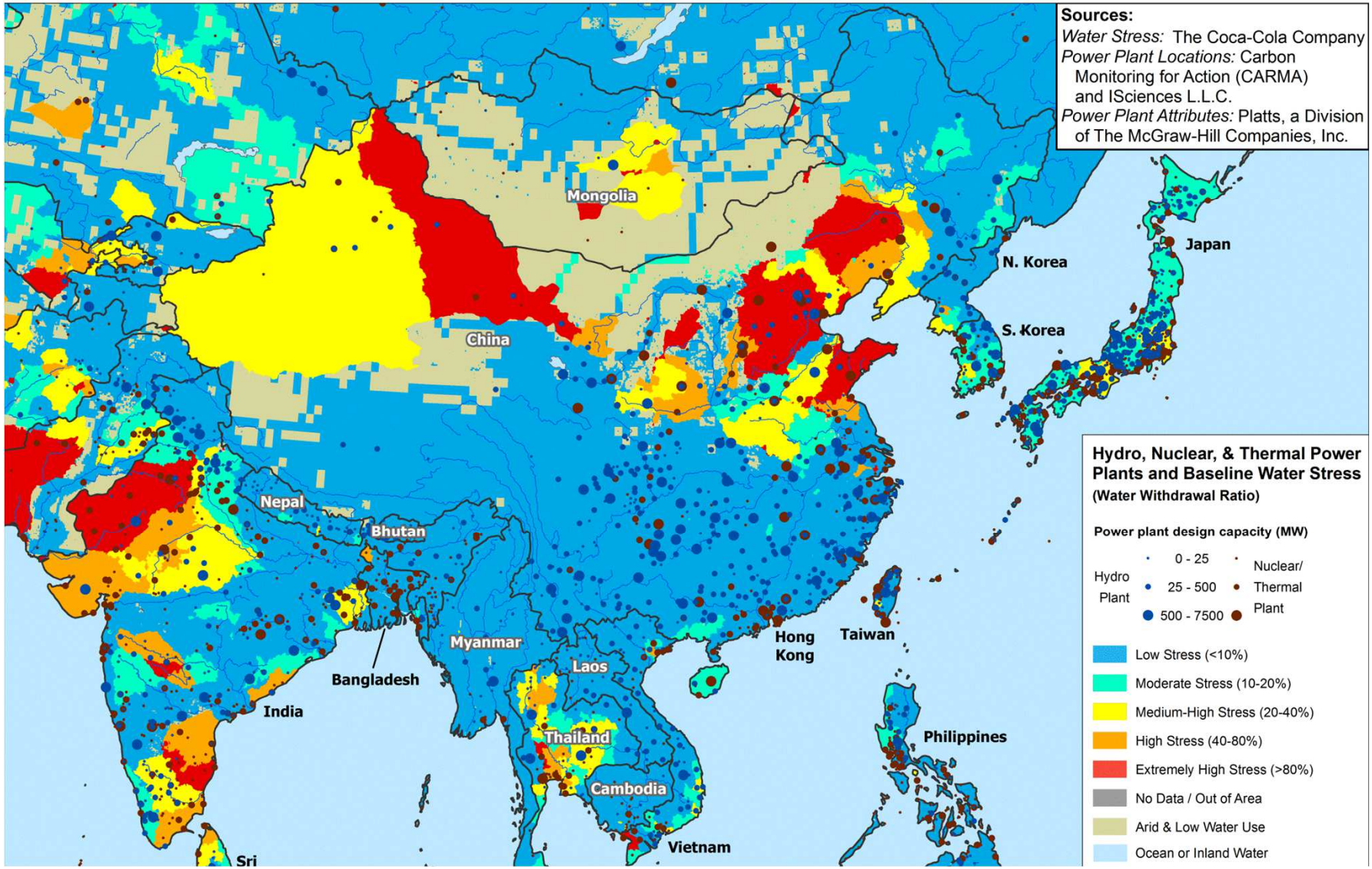
Change in Water Stress by 2025 in areas with Irrigated Agriculture

(IPCC Scenario A1B)



19% of power plant design capacity in this region is located in areas of water stress concern

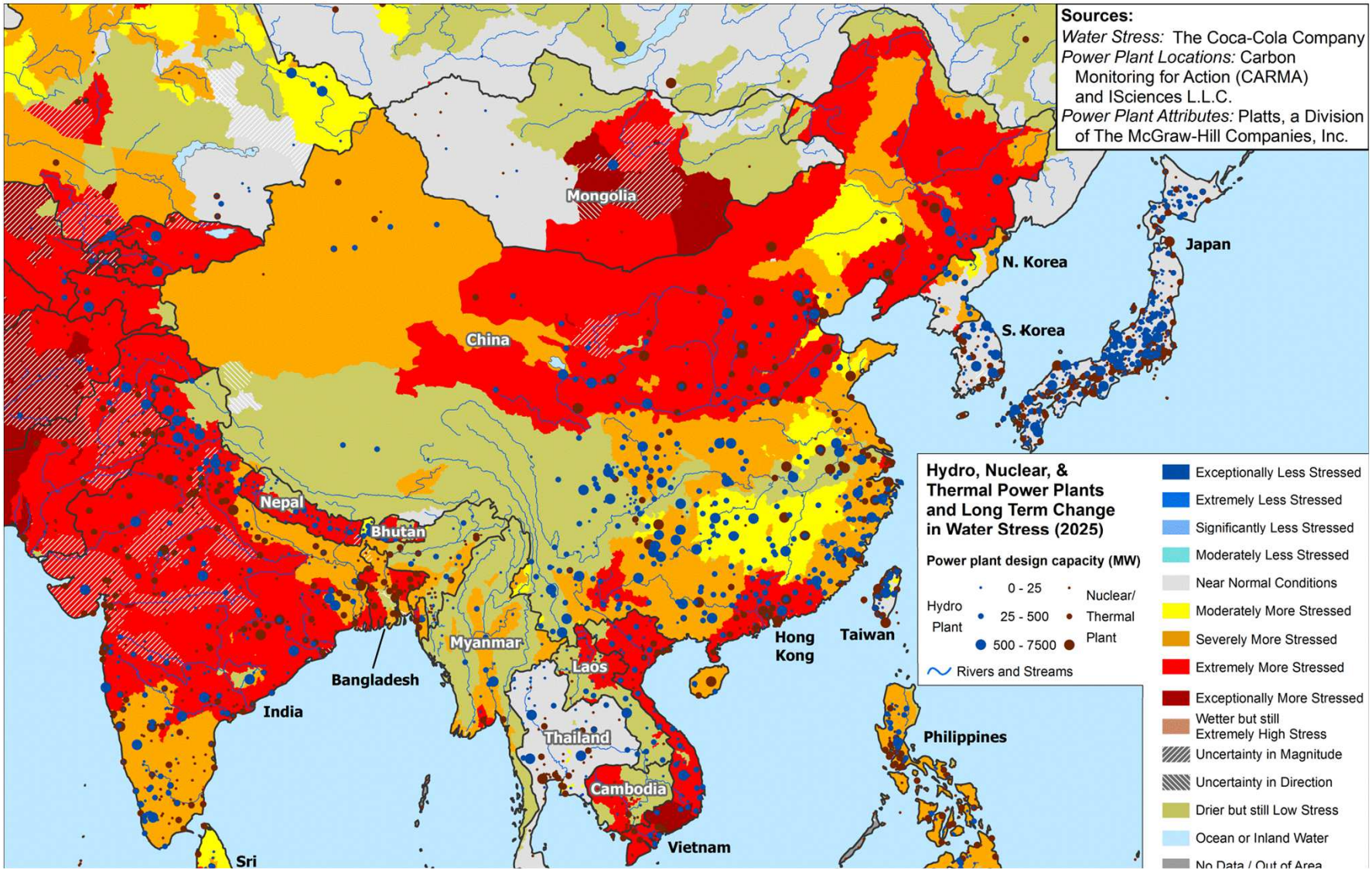
Baseline Water Stress and Power Plants

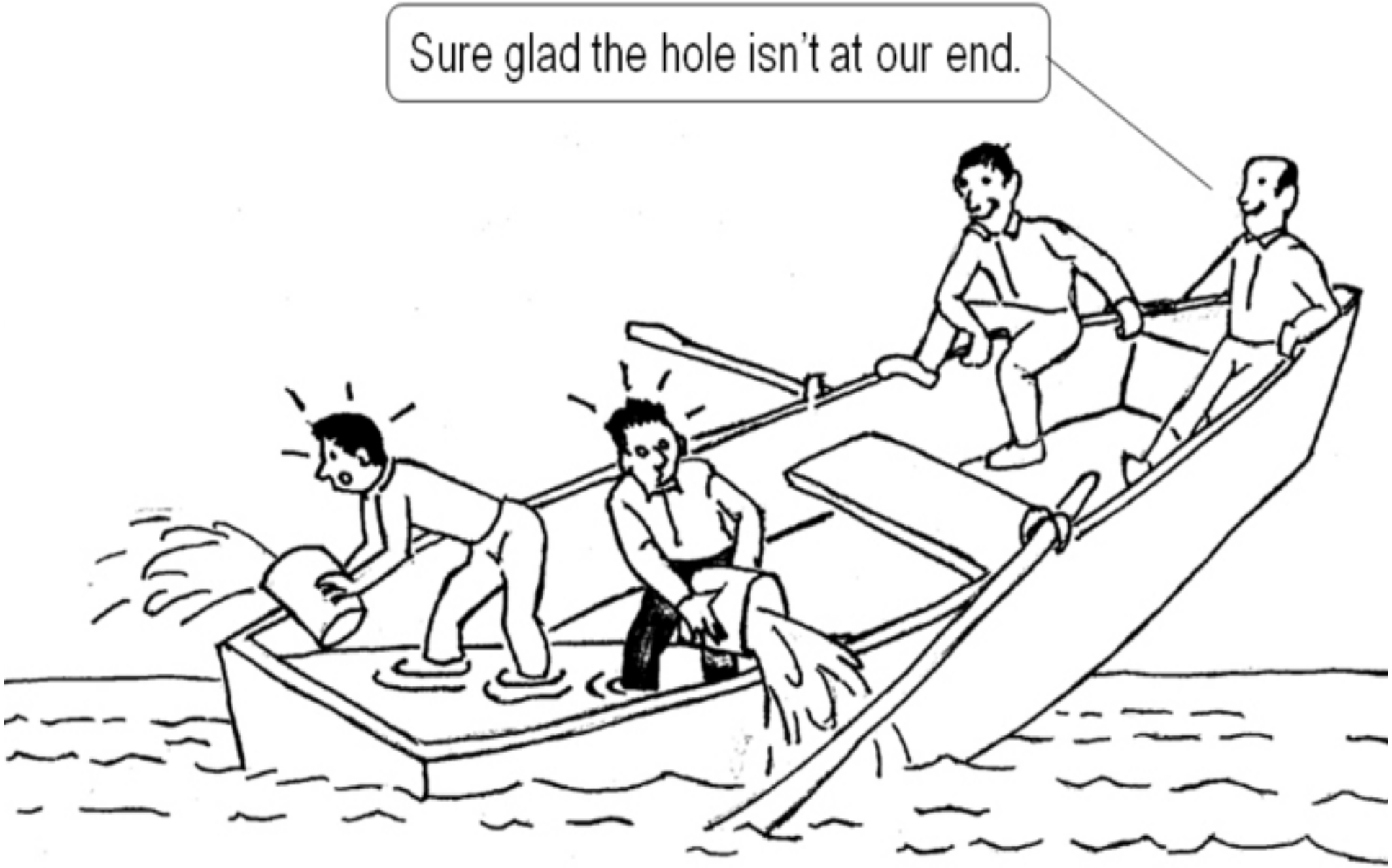


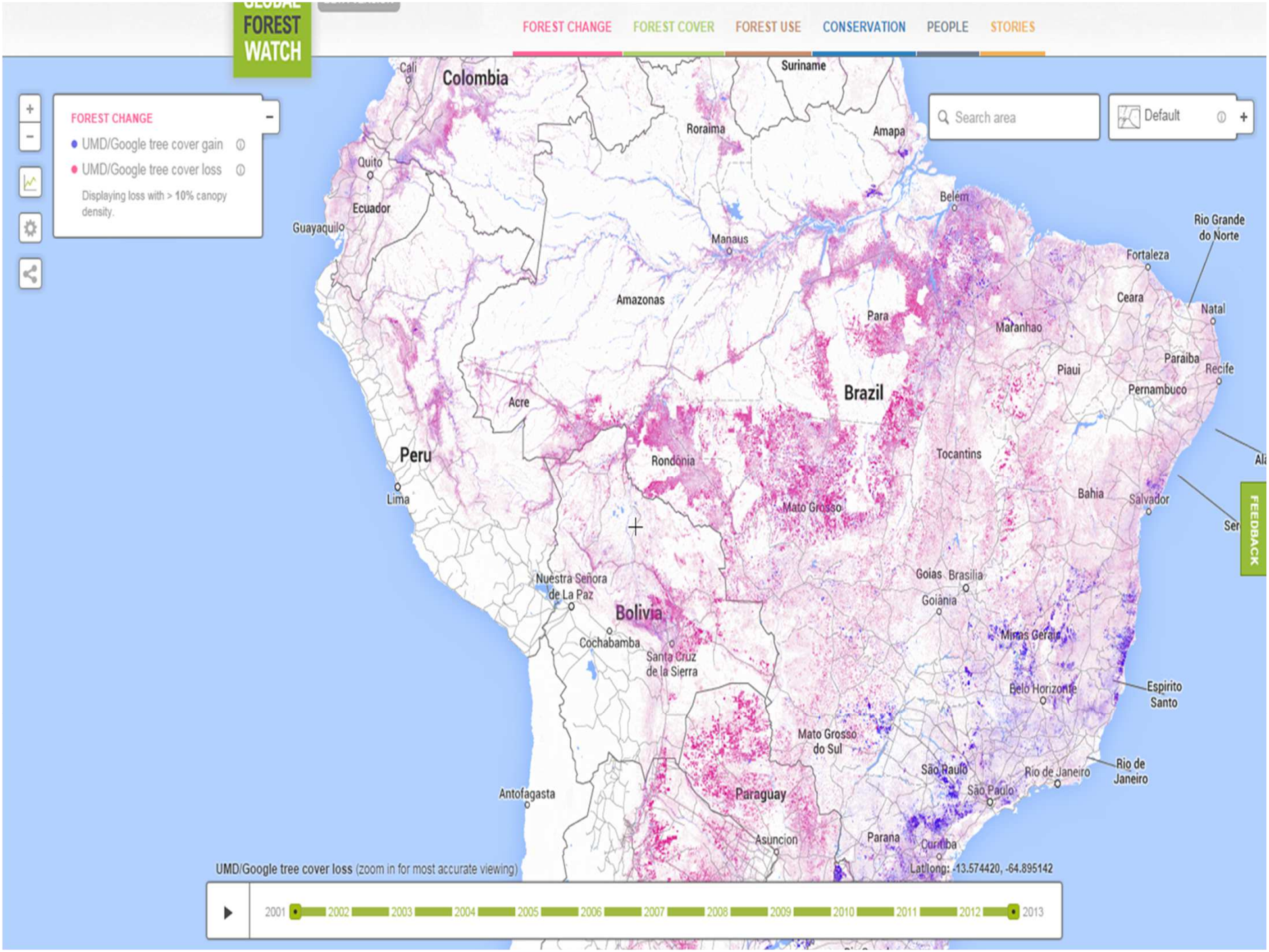
55% of current power plant design capacity in this region would see water stress grow 2 to 8 times worse by 2025

Change in Water Stress by 2025 and Power Plants

(IPCC Scenario A1B)




Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.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FOREST CHANGE
FOREST COVER
FOREST USE
CONSERVATION
PEOPLE
STORIES
FOREST CHANGE
UMD/Google tree cover gain
UMD/Google tree cover loss
Displaying loss with > 10% canopy density.
Search area
Default
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Bolivia
Brazil
Paraguay
Suriname
Cali
Quito
Guayaquil
Lima
Roraima
Amapa
Manaus
Belém
Amazonas
Acre
Rondonia
Para
Maranhao
Tocantins
Mato Grosso
Nuestra Señora de La Paz
Cochabamba
Santa Cruz de la Sierra
Goias
Brasilia
Goiânia
Minas Gerais
Belo Horizonte
Mato Grosso do Sul
São Paulo
Rio de Janeiro
Espirito Santo
Antofagasta
Asuncion
Parana
Curitiba
Rio Grande do Norte
Fortaleza
Ceara
Natal
Paraiba
Recife
Pernambuco
Piaui
Bahia
Salvador
FEEDBACK
UMD/Google tree cover loss (zoom in for most accurate viewing)
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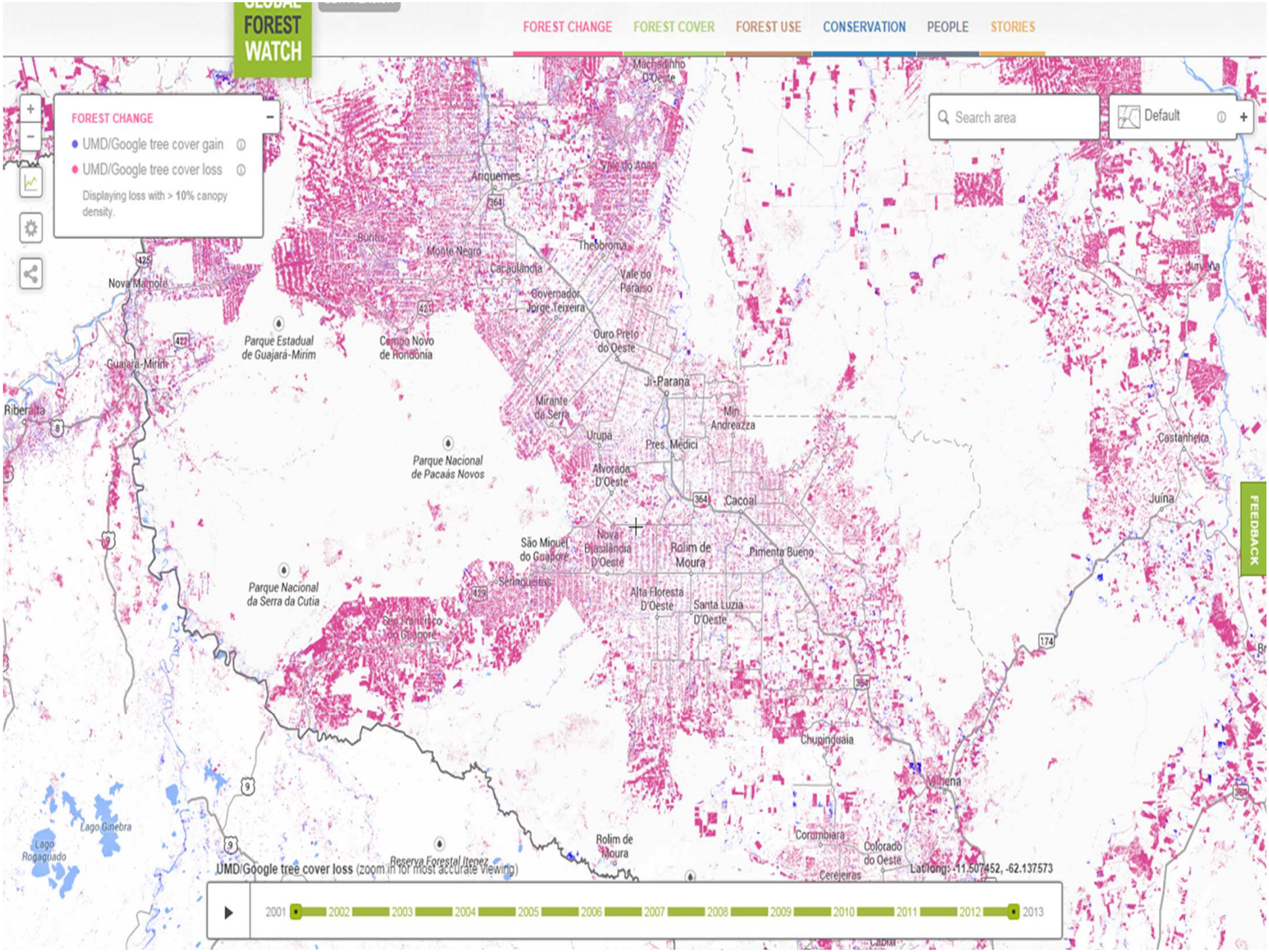
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Search area
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Vale do Anari
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Monte Negro
Theobroma
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UMD/Google tree cover loss (zoom in for most accurate viewing)
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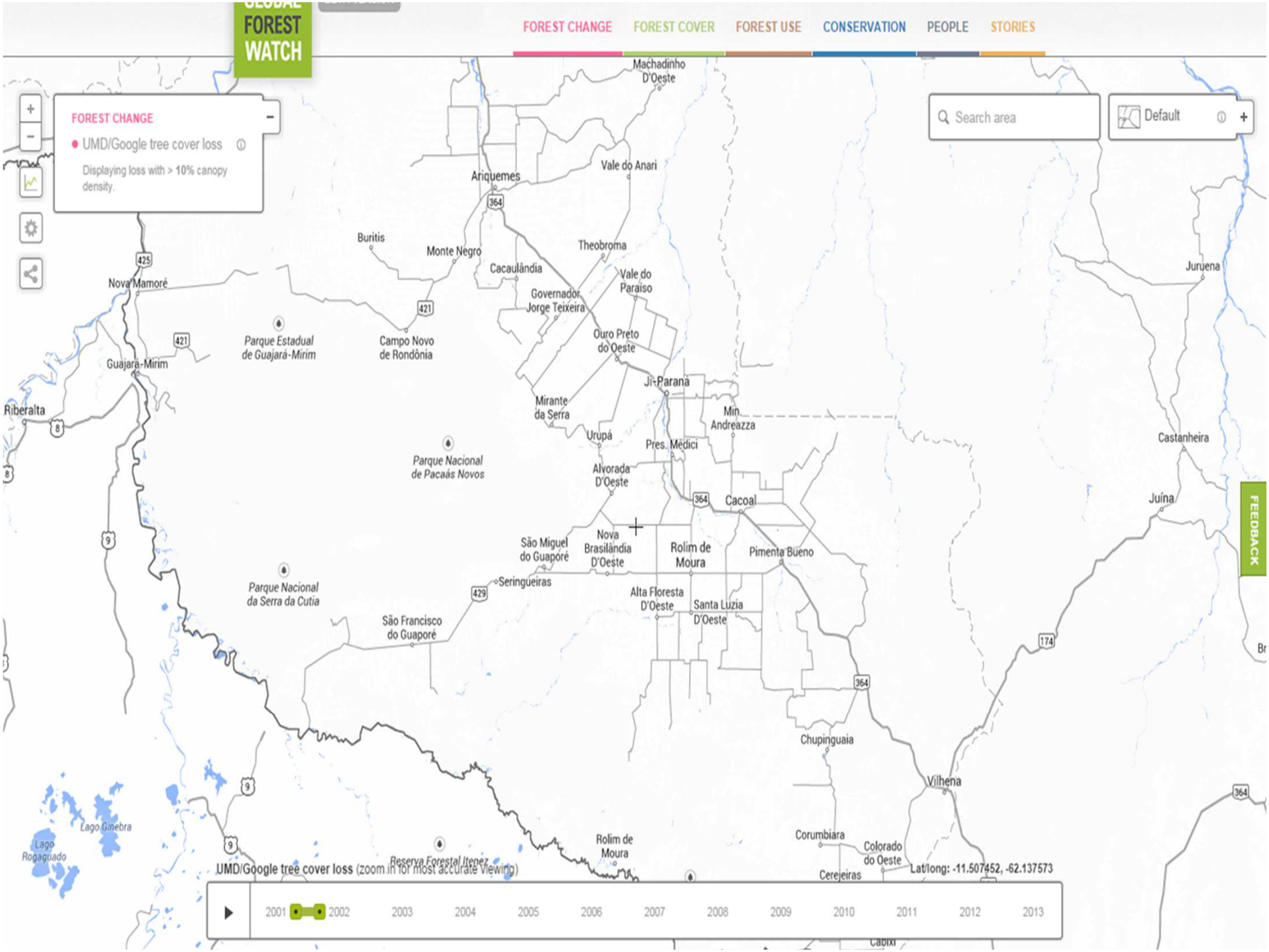
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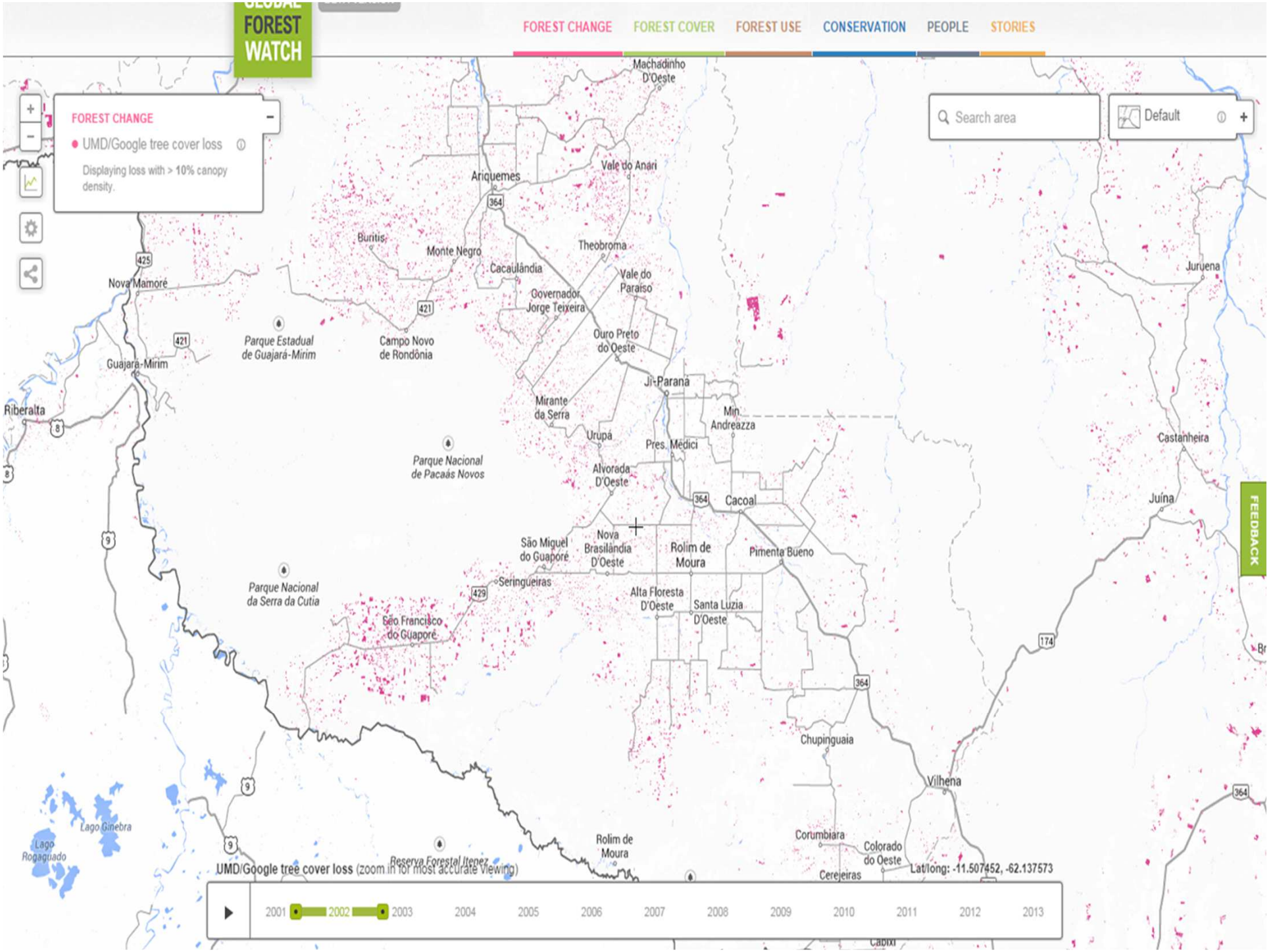
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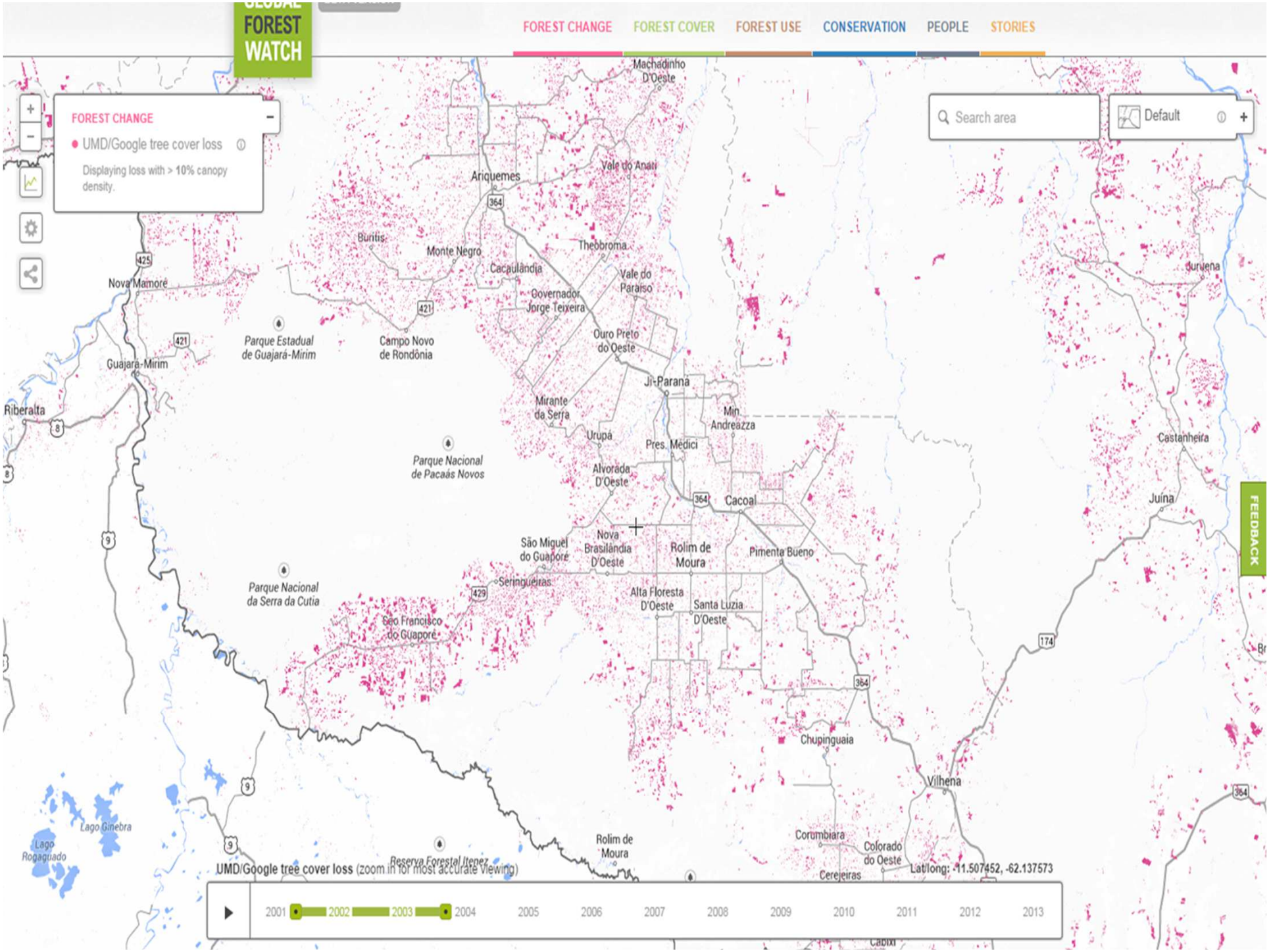
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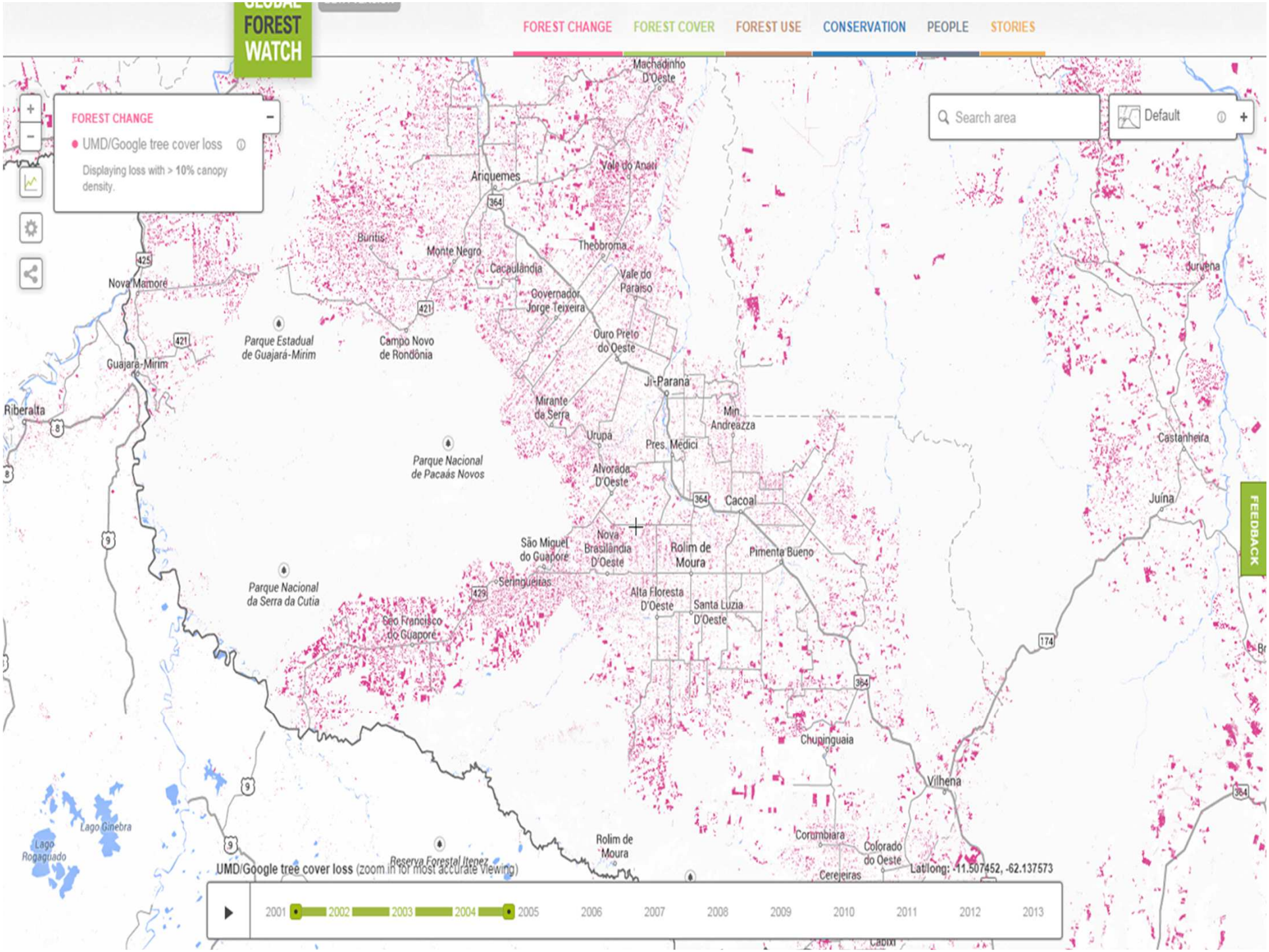
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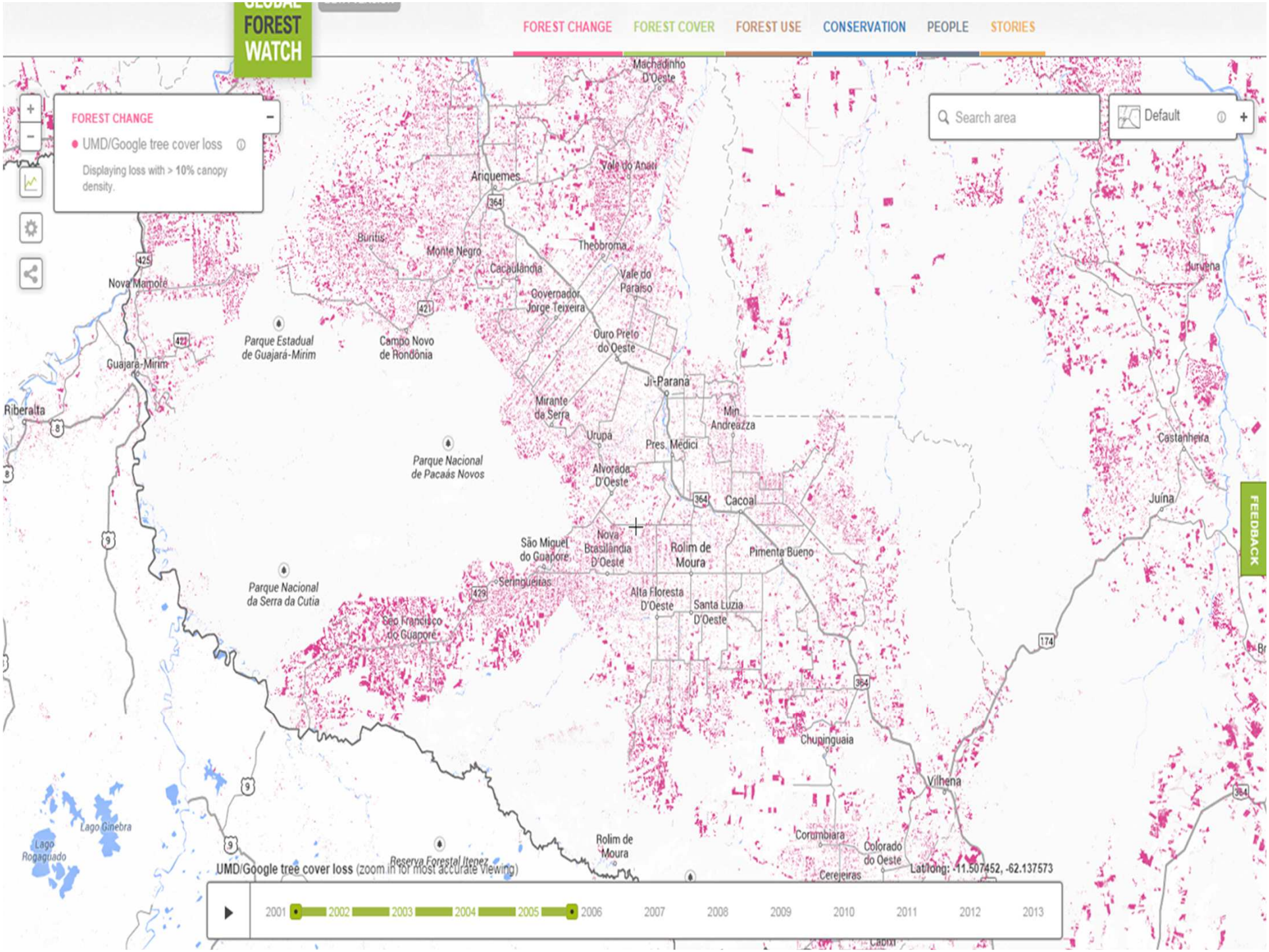
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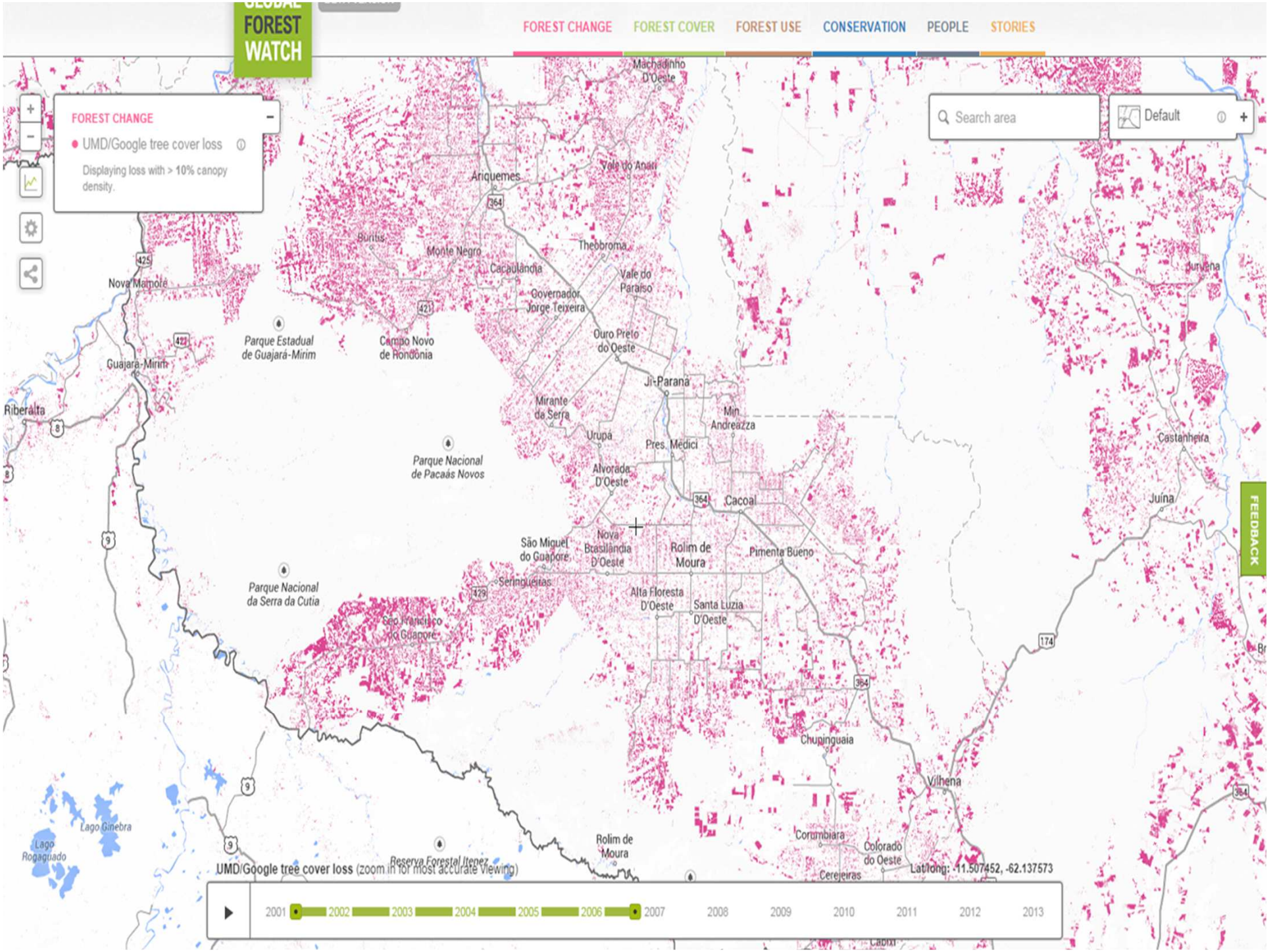
FEEDBACK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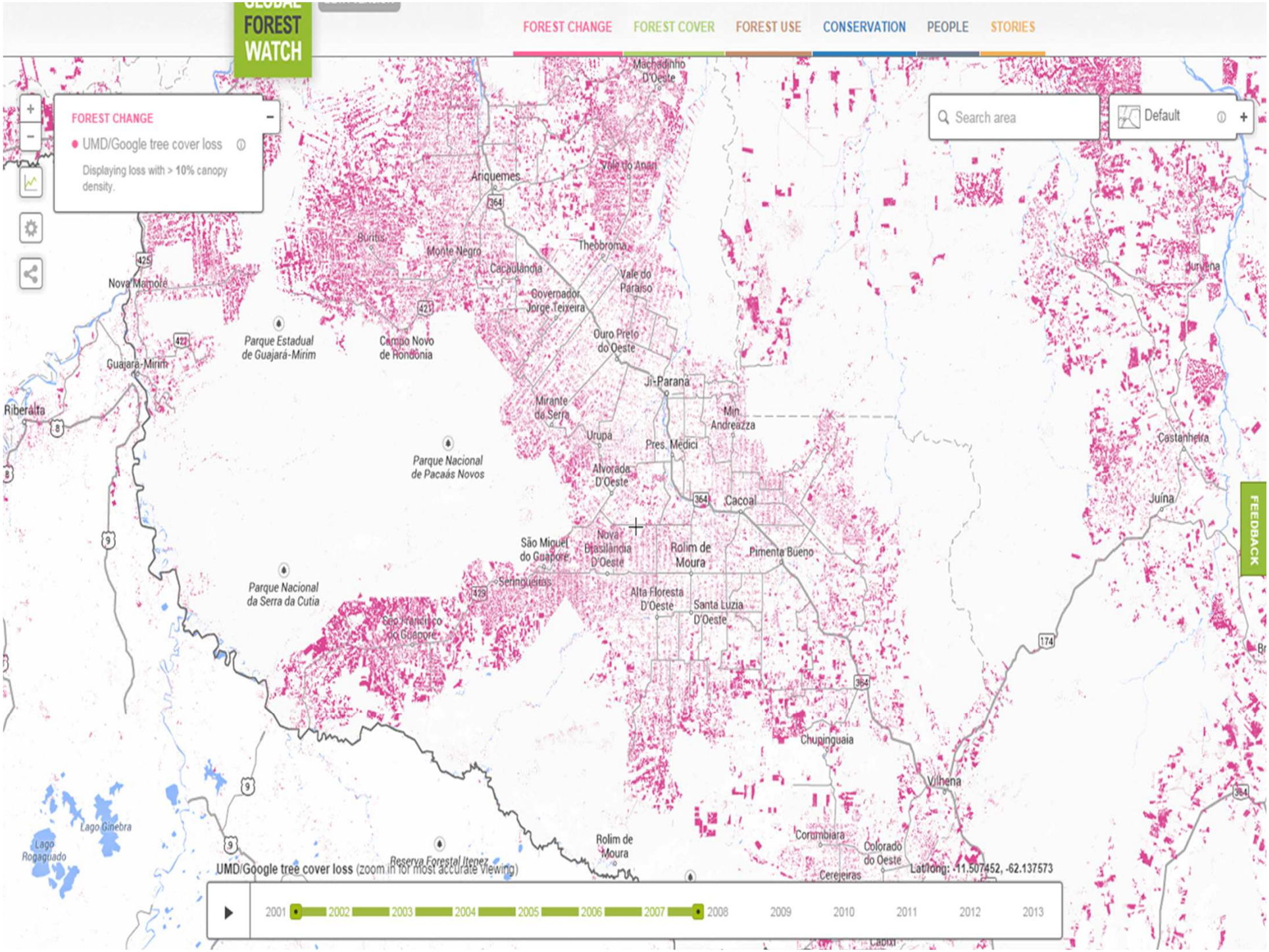
GLOBAL FOREST WATCH
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UMD/Google tree cover loss
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Search area
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Machadinho D'Oeste
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Monte Negro
Cacaulândia
Thebbroma
Vale do Paraíso
Governador Jorge Teixeira
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FEEDBACK
UMD/Google tree cover loss (zoom in for most accurate viewing)
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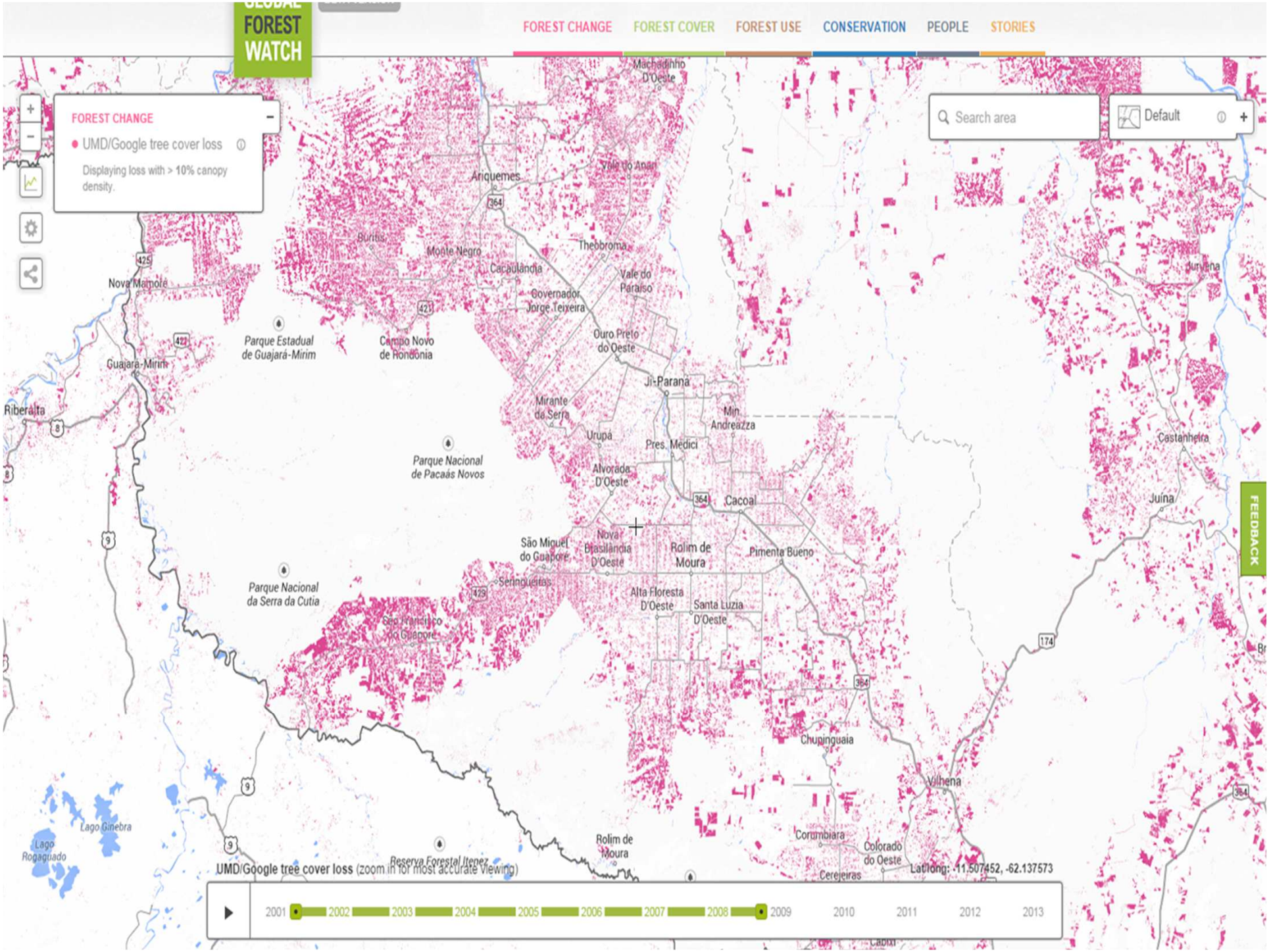
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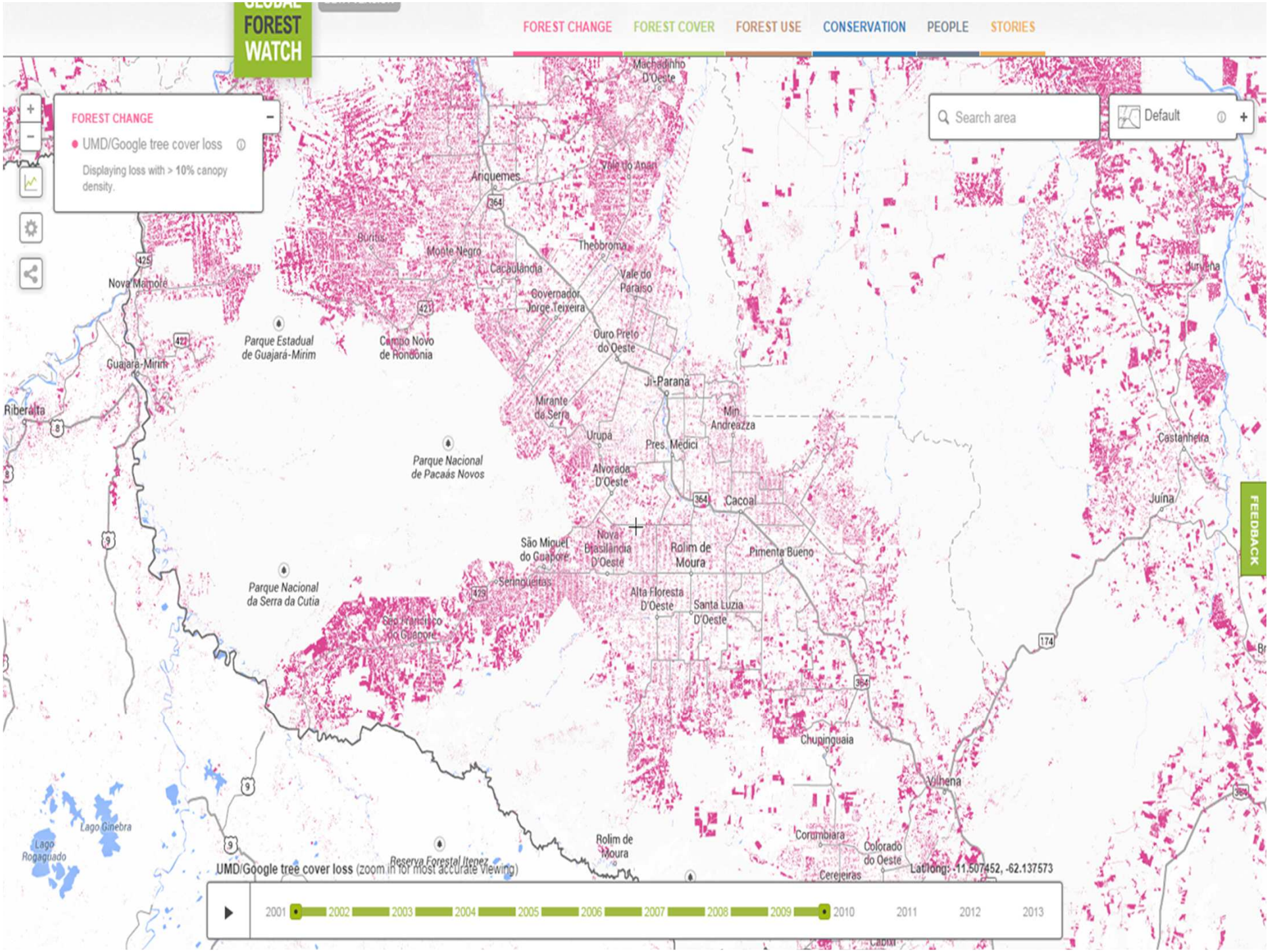
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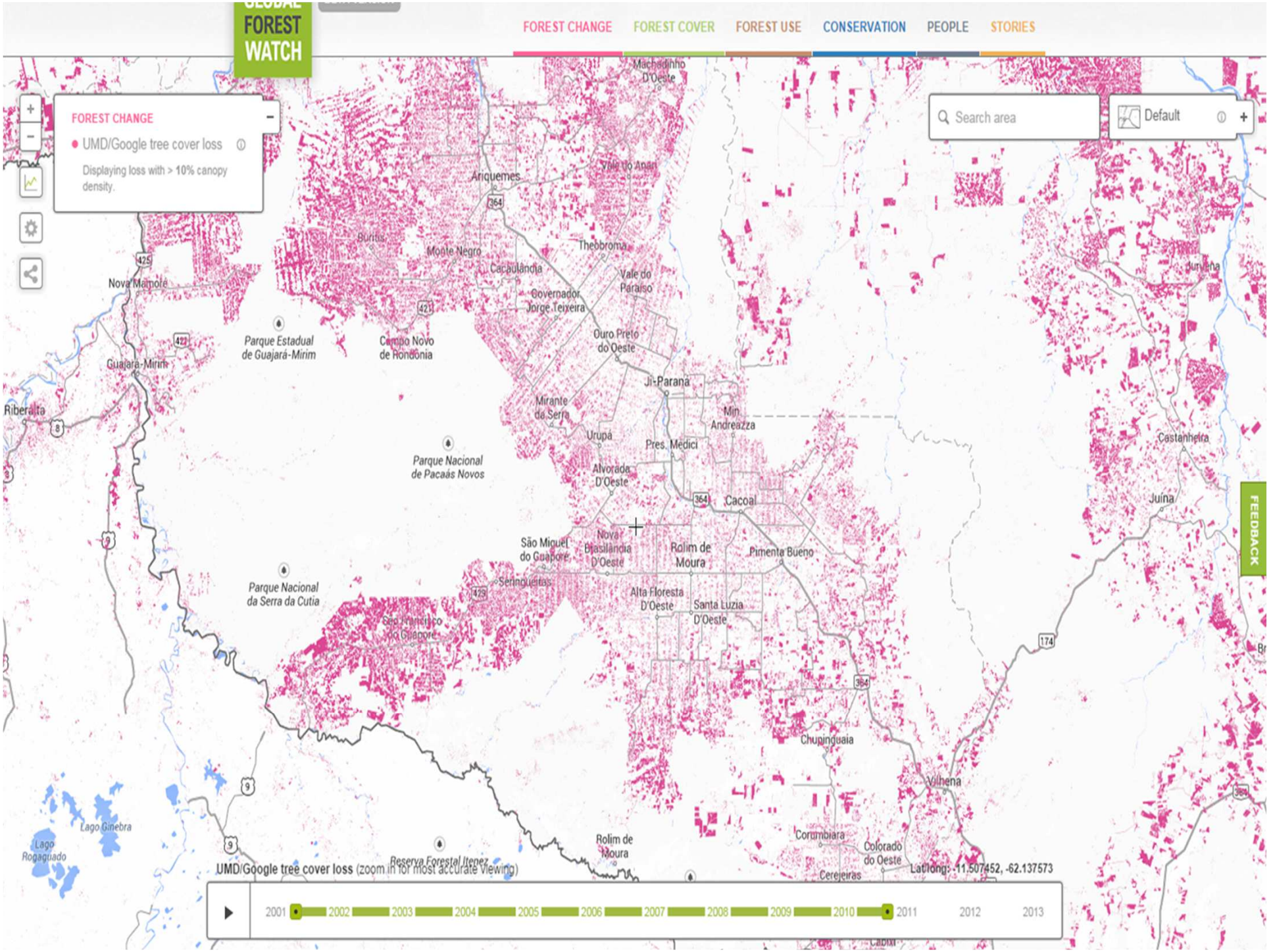
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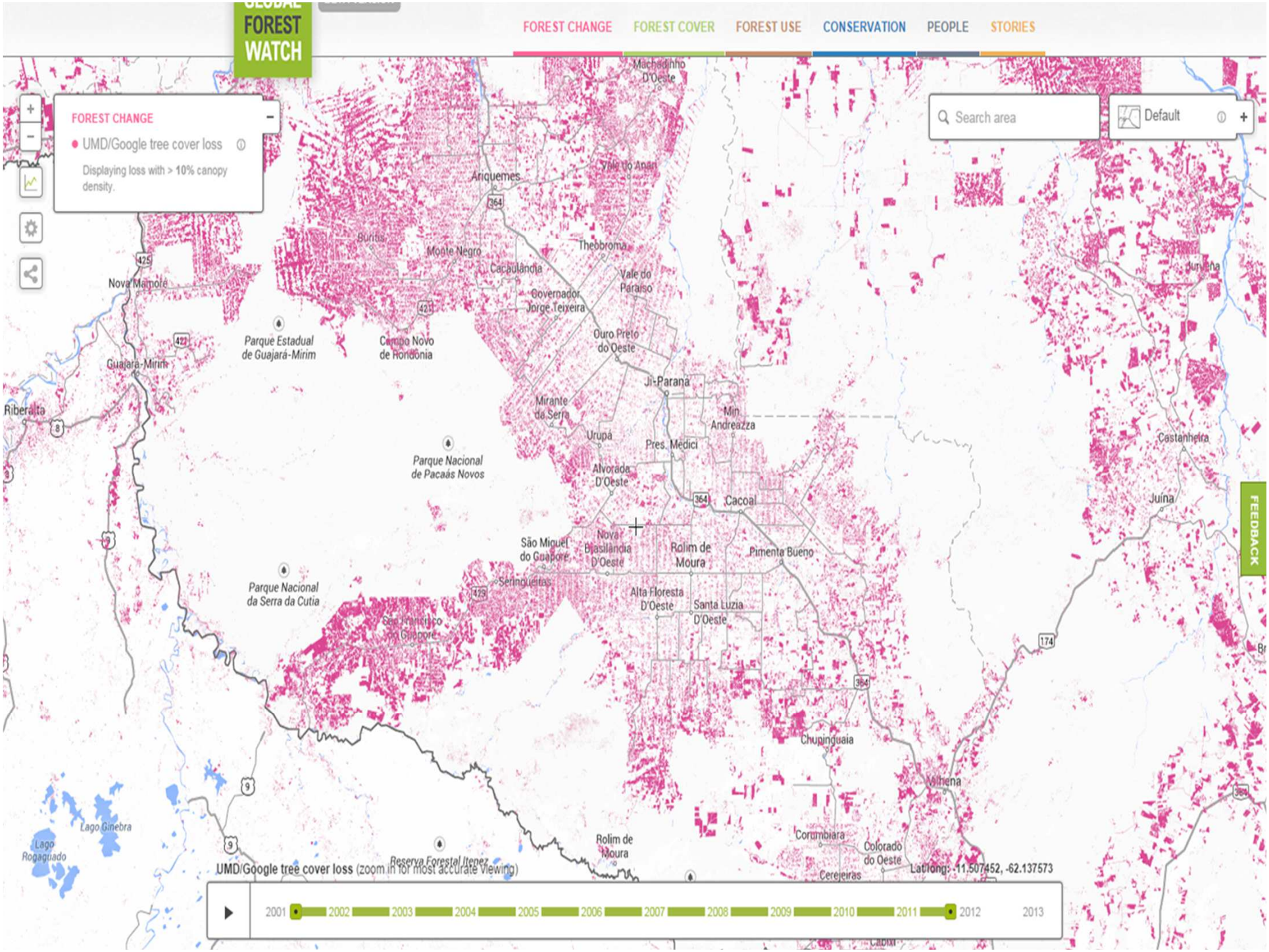
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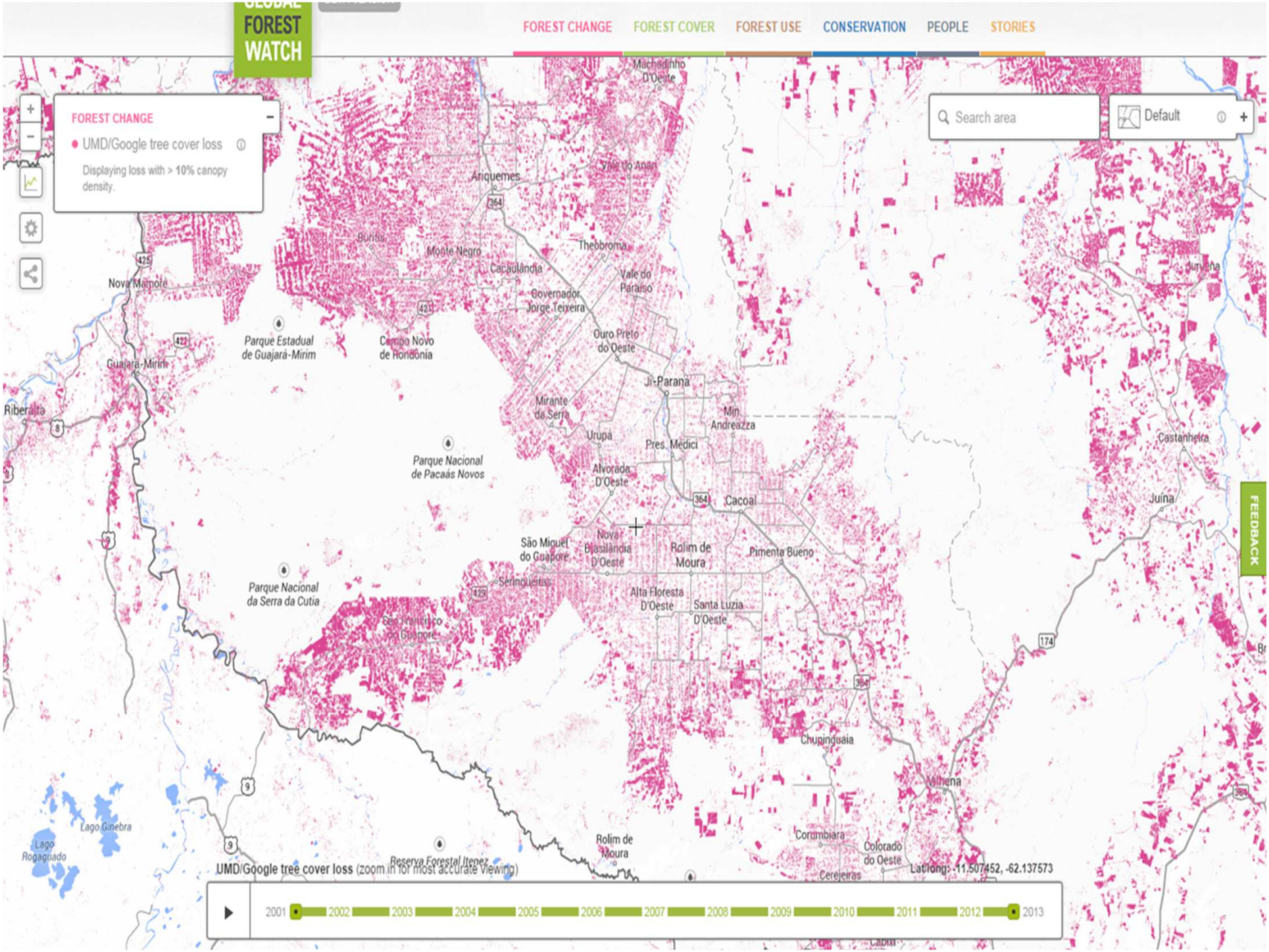
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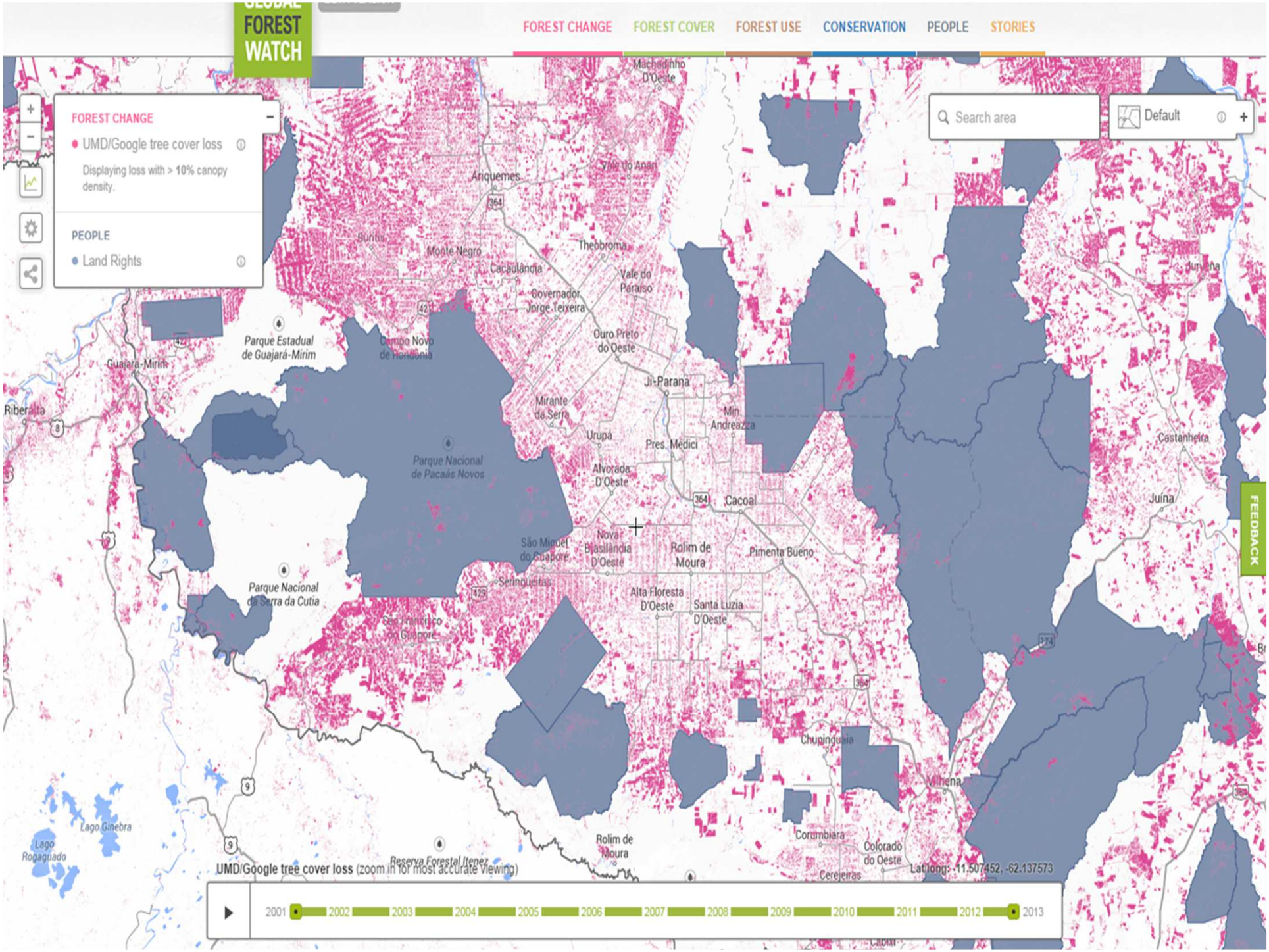
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3. INVESTIGATING THE ECONOMIC RATIONALE OF INVESTING IN ECOSYSTEMS

Source: FAO 2015; Photo: Alexander Edward/Flickr

WRI'S RESEARCH STANDARDS GO BEYOND THE USUAL …..

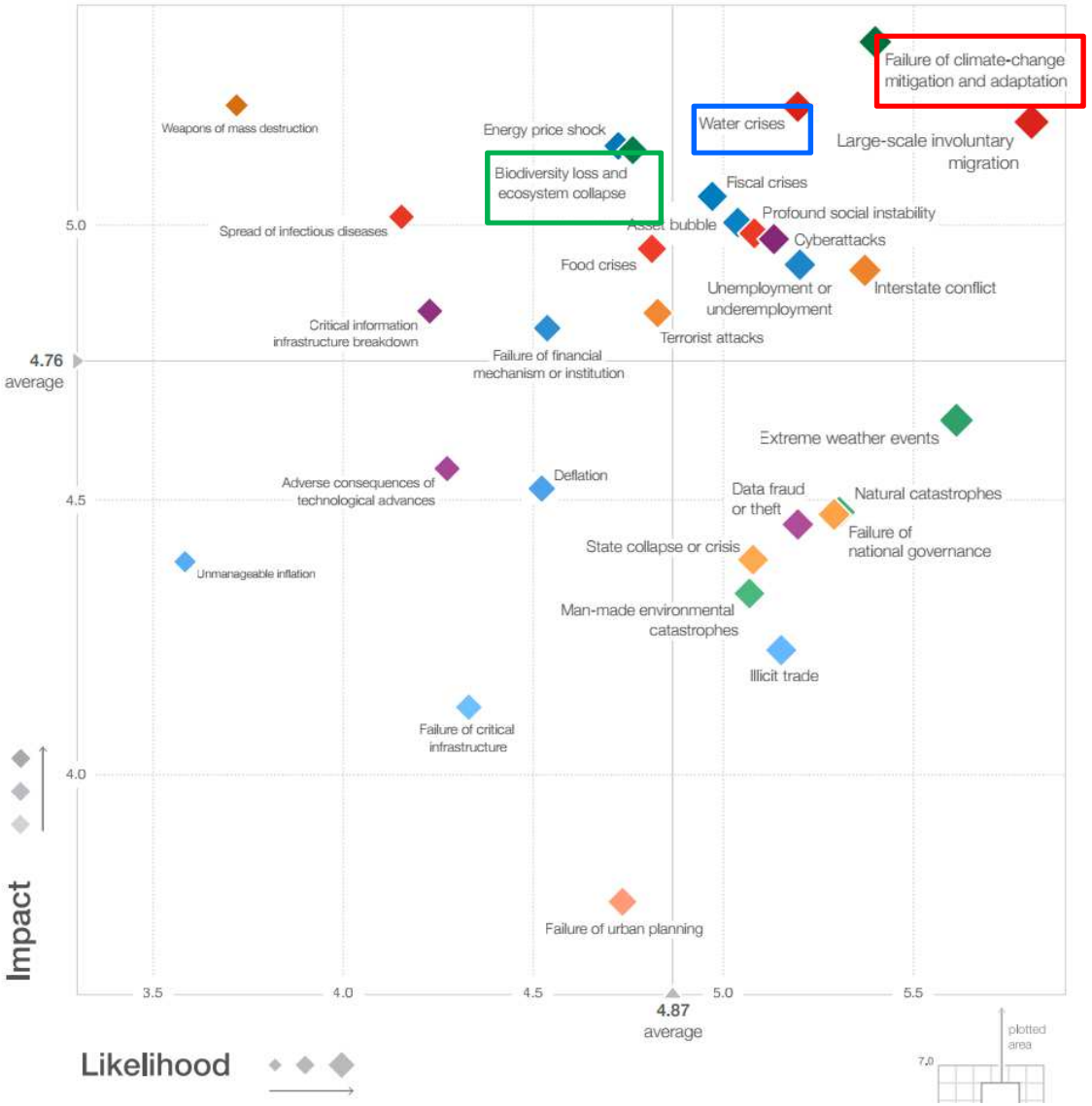
Think tank

- ✓ Robust
- ✓ Well written & presented
- ✓ Independent of bias
- ✓ Value added

Do tank

- ✓ Fit for audience
- ✓ Timely
- ✓ Institutionally coherent
- ✓ Actionable

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM: ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION IS A GLOBAL RISK



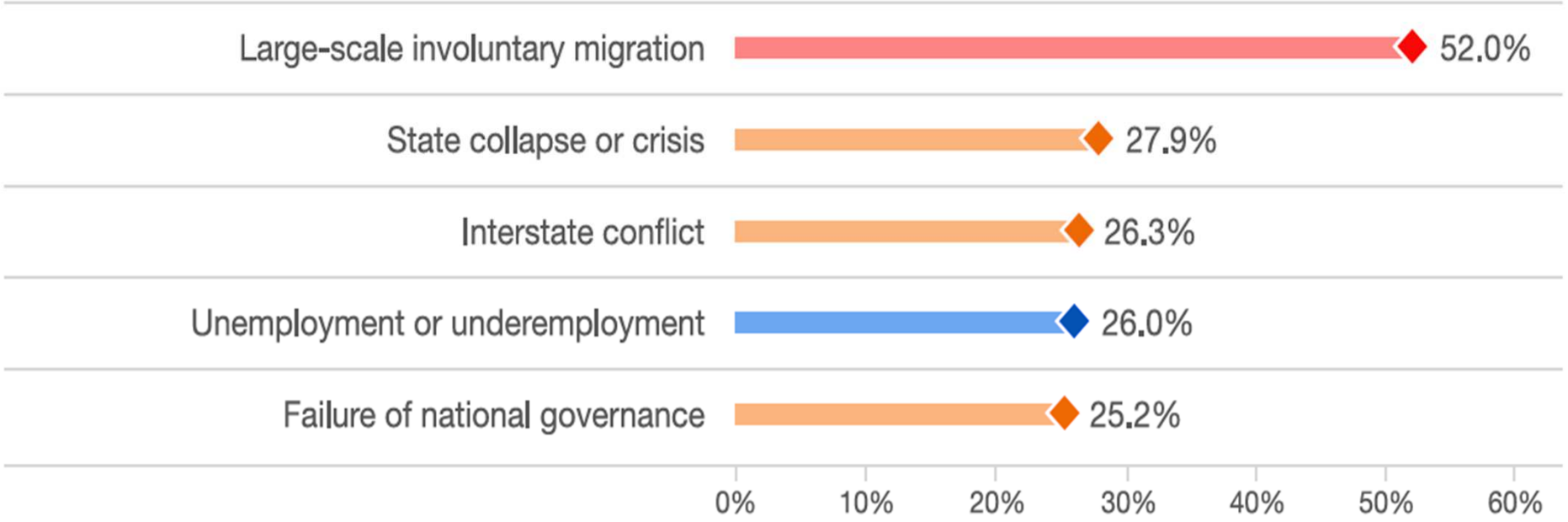
Top 10 risks in terms of

Impact

1. Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation
2. Weapons of mass destruction
3. Water crises
4. Large-scale involuntary migration
5. Energy price shock
6. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
7. Fiscal crises
8. Spread of infectious diseases
9. Asset bubble
10. Profound social instability

WHAT WORRIES YOU?

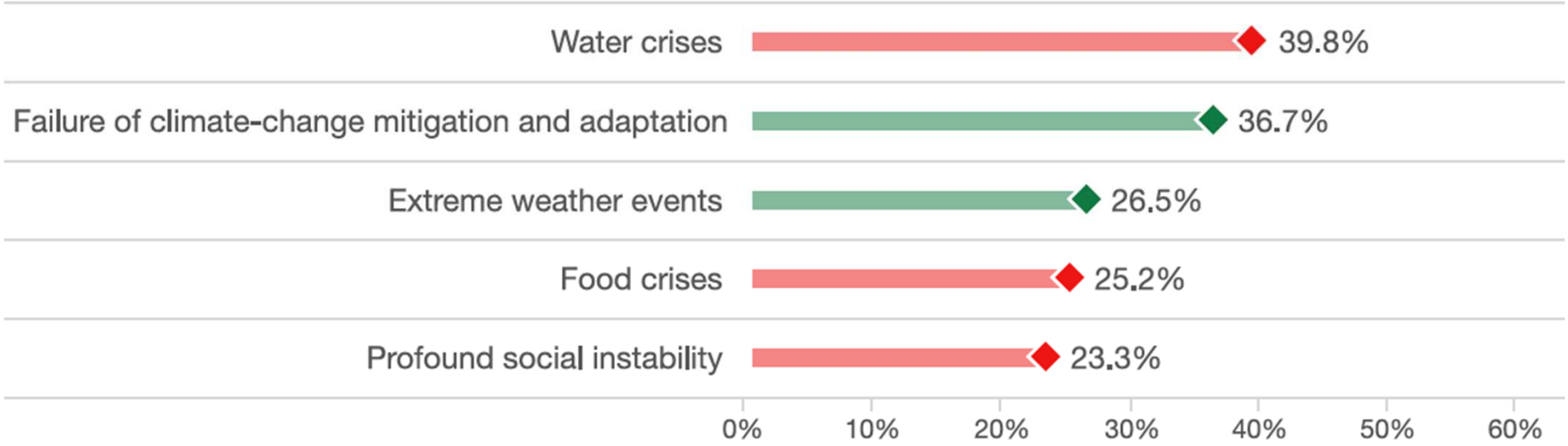
Global Risks of Highest Concern: For the Next 18 Months



Source: " The Global Risks Report 2016." Figure 1.2. World Economic Forum
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/Media/TheGlobalRisksReport2016.pdf

WHAT WORRIES YOU?

Global Risks of Highest Concern: For the Next 10 Years



Note: Percent of participants mentioning the respective risk to be of high concern for the time frame of 18 months or 10 years, respectively. Participants could name up to five risks in each time frame. In each category, the risks are sorted by the total sum of mentions.

Source: " The Global Risks Report 2016." Figure 1.2. World Economic Forum
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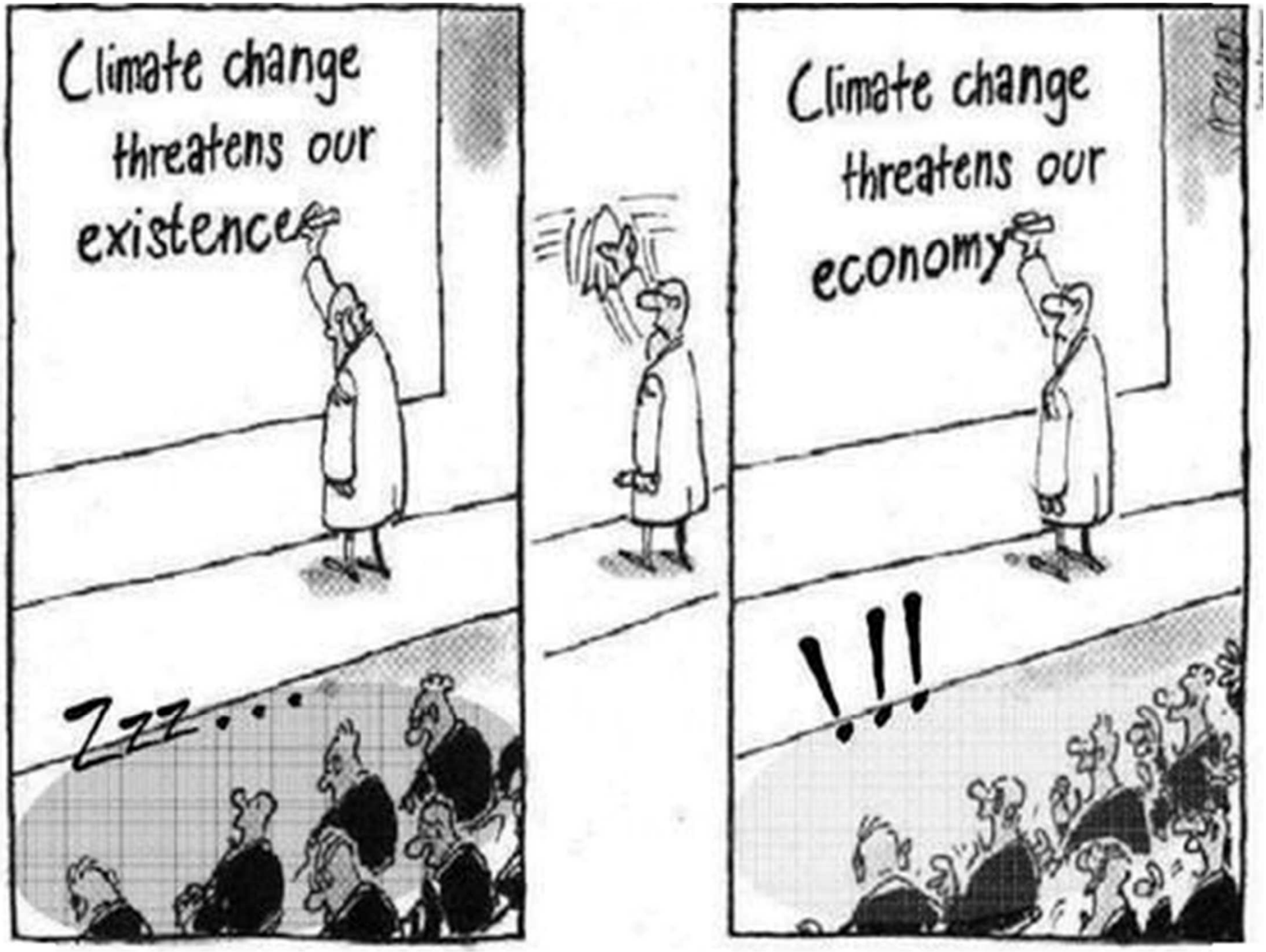

Climate change threatens our existence
Zzz...
Climate change threatens our economy
!!!

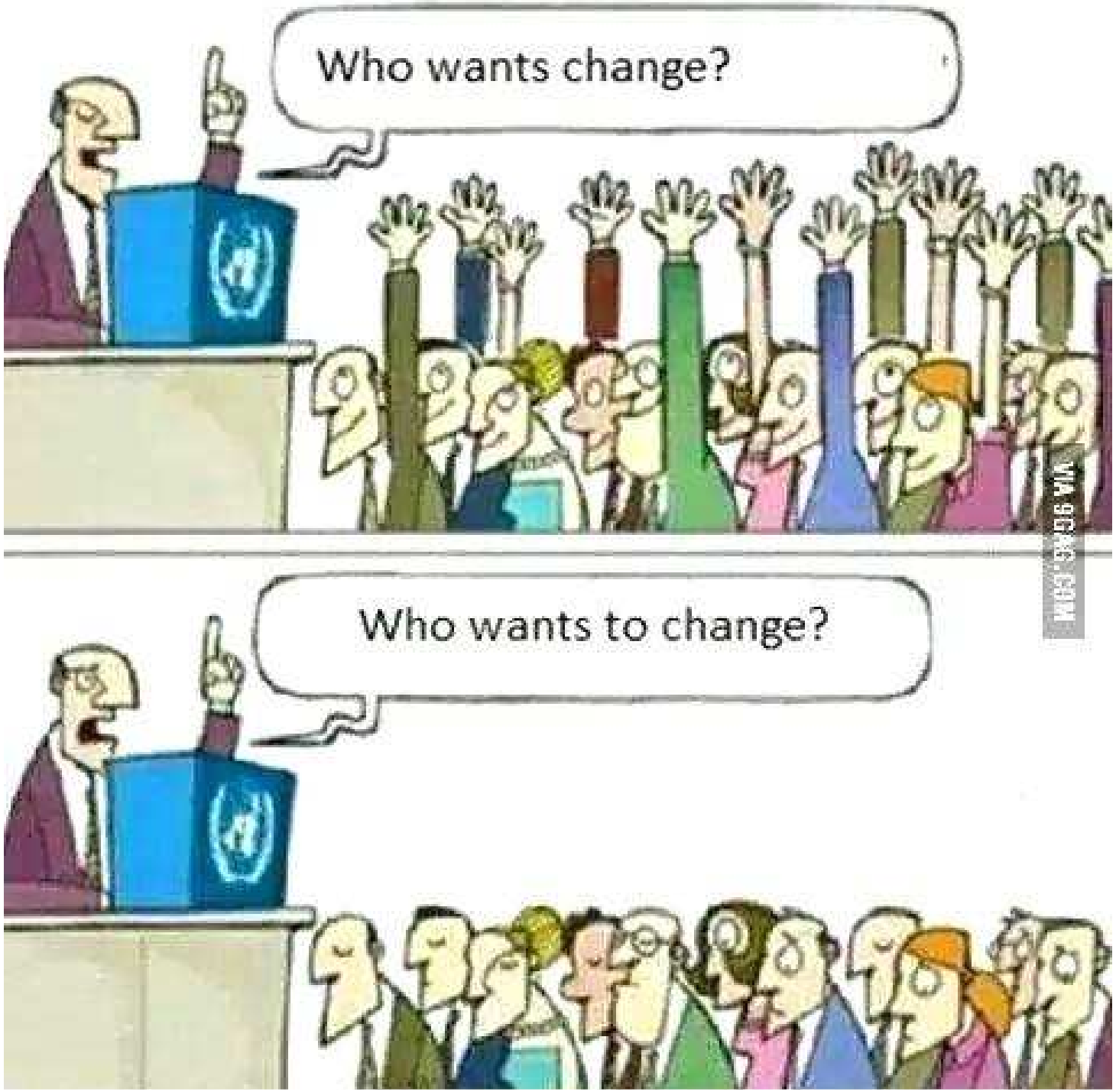
THE GLOBAL COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE

Better Growth, Better Climate: The New Climate Economy Report

CONCLUSION:
RESEARCH HAS MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY

BUT IT NEEDS TO BE:

1. **INTEGRATED**
2. **UNLOCKING 'BIG DATA' OPPORTUNITIES**
3. **FOCUSED ON ACCELERATING CHANGE**


Who wants change?
Who wants to change?