



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

UN   
environment  
programme



YOU HAVE A WORKSPACE.  
**WHAT NOW?**

 UNBiodiversity  
Lab

# WELCOME TO YOUR UNBL WORKSPACE

Thank you for requesting a workspace on UNBL! Your workspace serves as a shared data repository where you can build a community of practice and transform your own spatial data and data available on UNBL into action.

Below is an outline of the core functionalities to get you started.

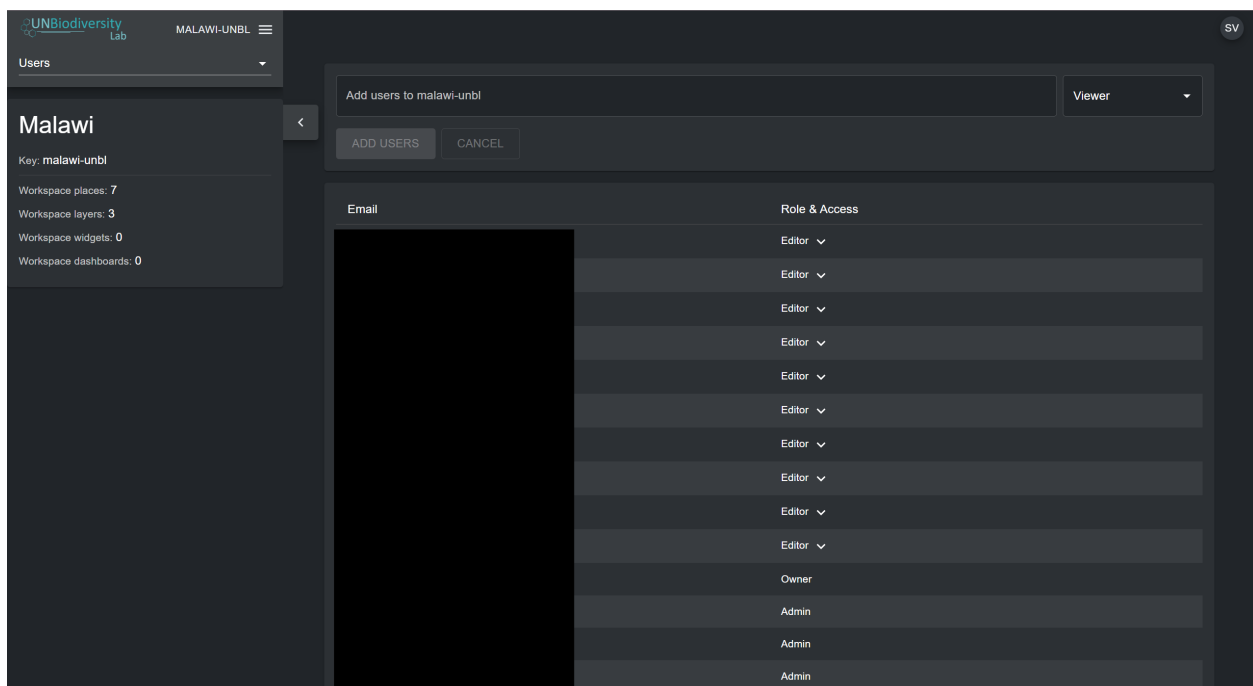
## 1. ADD COLLABORATORS

- Add users to your workspace
- Manage access privileges at the click of a button

### Why?

To share datasets and analyses. To foster collaboration between stakeholders.

### See an example on UNBL



Users can easily be added to a workspace through the UNBL administrator interface, using an e-mail address that they sign up on UNBL with. In this example for Malawi, several users already exist with various privileges ranging from editor to owner.

### How can I learn more?

See [Managing Users in Your Workspace](#).

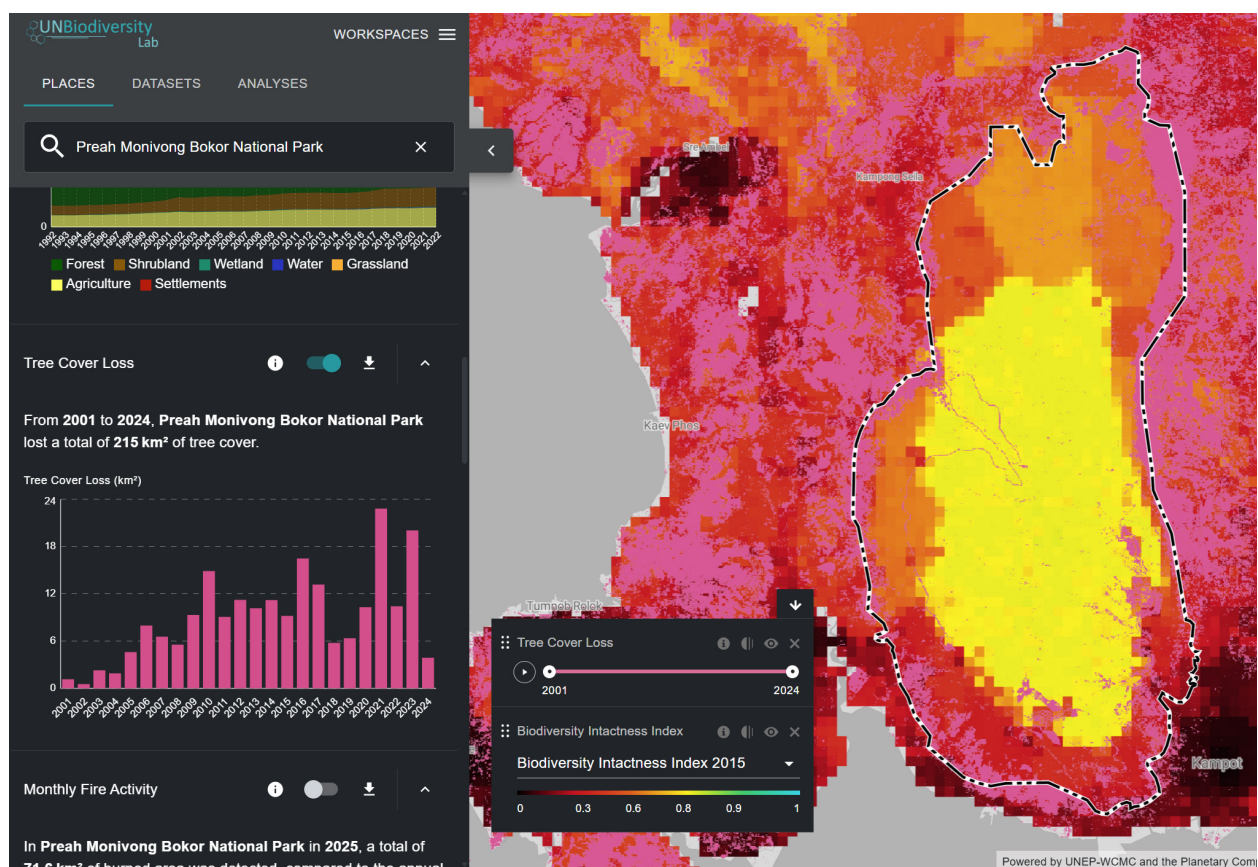
## 2. ADD PLACES & DISPLAY DYNAMIC METRICS

- Upload any geographic area of interest to your workspace via a vector file
- Clip layers to your place
- View dynamic metrics for your place

### Why?

To learn more about your region of interest. To inform monitoring and reporting for nature-based policy.

### See an example on UNBL



Tree cover loss and the biodiversity intactness index metrics have been selected here within Preah Monivong Bokor National Park in Cambodia, and their associated data layers are displayed on the map. The user has uploaded a vector file for Preah Monivong Bokor National Park, thereby allowing dynamic metrics to be displayed for this area of interest by searching for and selecting it in the 'PLACES' tab.

## *How can I learn more?*

See [Adding Places to Your Workspace and Viewing Dynamic Metrics for Them](#).

On UNBL, there are several available metrics that can be displayed for any geographic area uploaded as a vector file to your workspace. To view these metrics for your uploaded region of interest, search for it and select it in the 'PLACES' tab. These metrics are:

- Global Land Cover (2022)
- Land Cover Change (1992-2022)
- Tree Cover Loss (2001-2024)
- Monthly Fire Activity (2023)
- Biodiversity Intactness Index (2015)
- Terrestrial Carbon Density (2010)
- Enhanced Vegetation Index (2001-2022)
- Terrestrial Human Industrial Index (2000, 2013)
- Coastal Eutrophication (2007-2024)

In addition, we offer several metrics that are made available directly from data providers and provide national level statistics:

- Protected Areas (kept up-to-date based on the most current version of the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas)
- Protected Connected Index (kept up-to-date based on the most current version of the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas)
- Sustainable Agriculture (Headline Indicator 10.1)
- Sustainable Forest Management (Headline Indicator 10.2)

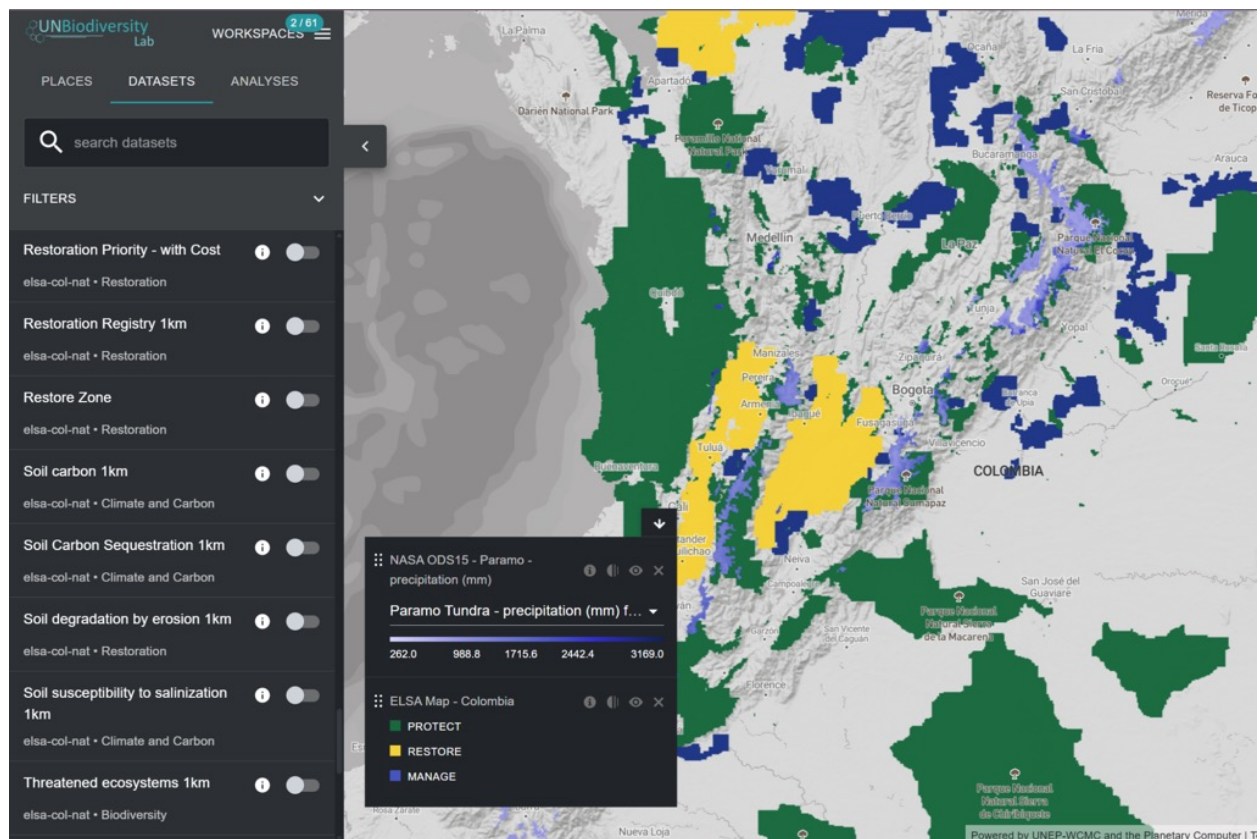
### 3. ADD YOUR OWN DATA

- Add/link to your own geospatial data within your UNBL workspace
- Upload a raster GeoTIFF file
- Link to your existing data repositories via WMS, WMTS, GEE, STAC, and more

#### Why?

To increase visibility and uptake of your own national data. All workspace members will have the ability to view your data on the UNBL map without needing any prior GIS experience. You also have the option to make your data viewable to people outside your workspace by means of a URL.

#### See an example on UNBL



Average precipitation in páramo ecosystems has been selected here to overlay with an Essential Life Support Area (ELSA) map identifying priority areas for protection, restoration and sustainable management in Colombia. The ELSA map for Colombia was obtained by running a spatial prioritization analysis using the ELSA Integrated Spatial Planning Tool, enabled in the country's dedicated workspace.

#### How can I learn more?

See [Adding Your Own Geospatial Data to Your Workspace](#).

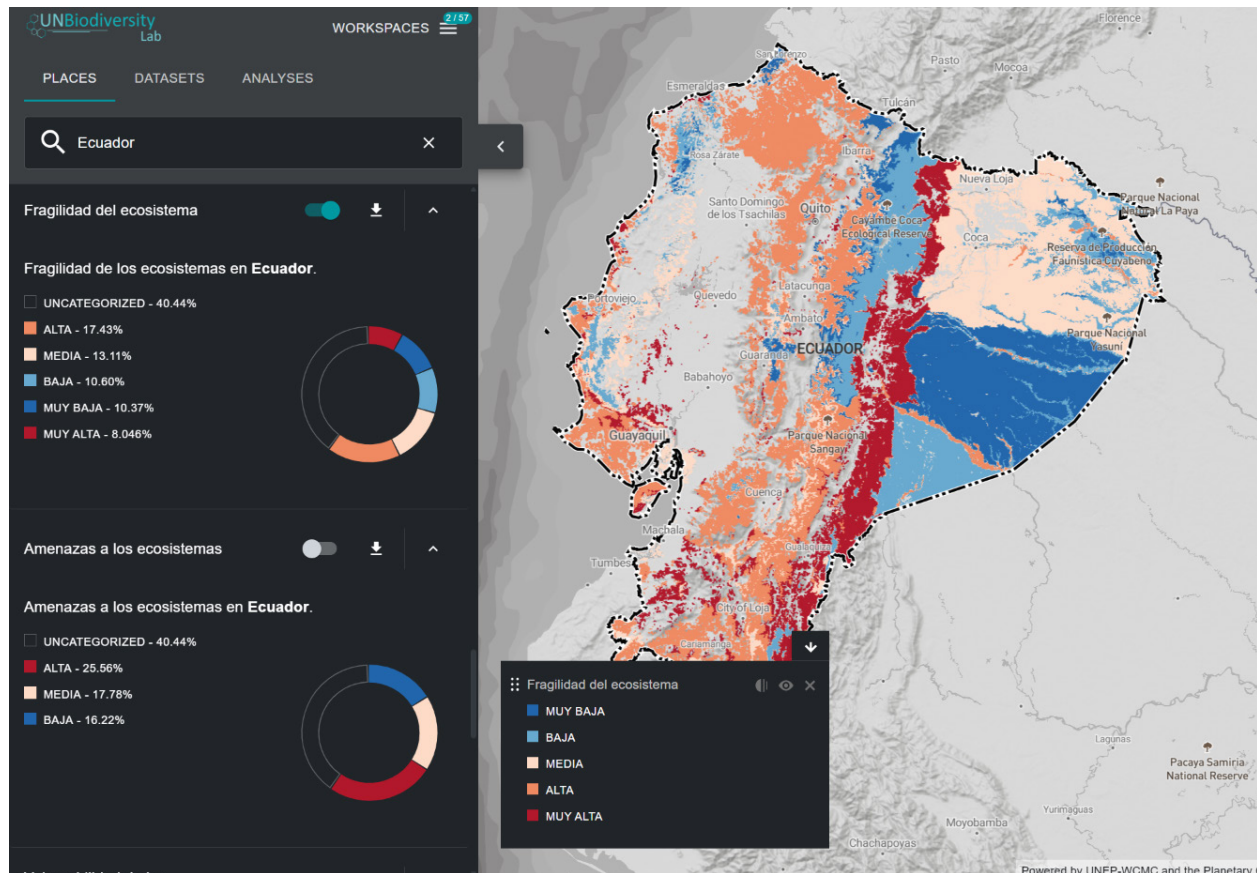
## 4. CREATE YOUR OWN CUSTOM METRICS

- Configure custom metrics for user's own geospatial data layers and places

### Why?

To run on-the-fly calculations to display statistics for own uploaded data and areas of interest. With this functionality, users are enabled to use data that is most relevant to their needs. Custom metrics can be used to obtain key monitoring data that can serve as inputs to update NBSAPs, national reports, and other priority policy documents.

### See an example on UNBL



Geospatial data on ecosystem fragility for Ecuador has been configured as a custom metric. The metric has been computed using a national geospatial raster layer uploaded by a user to their workspace, and a vector boundary file uploaded as a place to their workspace. For example, the image above shows a pie chart built on-the-fly in the user's workspace to display the proportion of Ecuador's land area covered by mildly fragile, partially fragile, and severely fragile ecosystems.

### How can I learn more?

See [Adding Your Own Custom Metrics to Your Workspace](#).

## 5. ACCESS THE ESSENTIAL LIFE SUPPORT AREA (ELSA) INTEGRATED SPATIAL PLANNING TOOL

- Access the state-of-the-art ELSA tool, which brings together cutting-edge spatial data technology with systematic spatial planning science
- Identify priority areas in your country where action to protect, manage, and restore nature can best support goals related to biodiversity, climate, and human well-being

### Why?

Leverage spatial analyses to guide policy and decision-making, with a specific focus on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### See an example on UNBL



Results of a spatial prioritization analysis shown for the urban coast of Brazil. The ELSA map has been created using the ELSA tool in Brazil's dedicated workspace.

### How can I learn more?

Send us an email at [support@unbiodiversitylab.org](mailto:support@unbiodiversitylab.org) with a request for an ELSA tool for your workspace, and what country you would like the tool for, and we will set it up for you. For a deep dive into the ELSA tool, see the [ELSA Integrated Spatial Planning Tool User Guide](#).

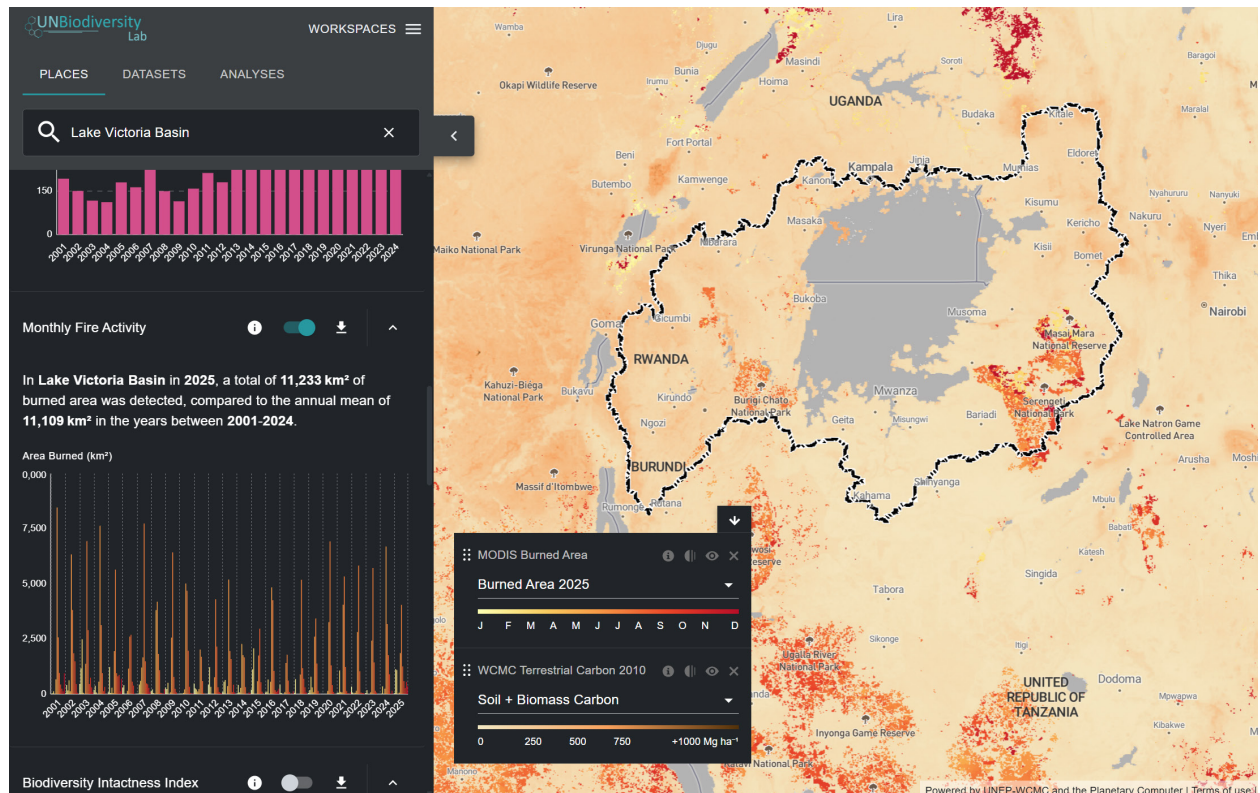
## 6. SHARE YOUR OWN MAPS!

- Create your own map using UNBL
- Utilize the URL data sharing option to easily make the map available publicly

### Why?

To share your workspace datasets, as well as all UNBL datasets, with anyone on the web. Alternatively, any maps you create using UNBL can be included in policy reports, scientific articles, and on social media.

### See an example on UNBL



The MODIS Burned Area metric and its associated data layer, as well as a layer showing terrestrial carbon density for 2010 is shown for the Lake Victoria Basin, uploaded to a custom workspace. A screenshot of this map view could be used in various communication and/or policy products.

### How can I learn more?

See [How do I publish my layer and share it with external users?](#) and [How do I make a map for inclusion in reports and communication products?](#).

## NEED MORE HELP?

Message us at [support@unbiodiversitylab.org](mailto:support@unbiodiversitylab.org) to take part in our weekly scheduled lab sessions for all questions related to UNBL.

[www.unbiodiversitylab.org](http://www.unbiodiversitylab.org)