



Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency

A satellite map of Southeast Asia, showing the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and the Indonesian archipelago. The map is overlaid with numerous small red dots, which represent the locations of forest fires. These dots are densely clustered in certain areas, particularly in the central and eastern parts of the region, indicating a high frequency of fires in those areas. The map also shows the surrounding oceans and some cloud cover.

The current environmental crisis

driven by unsustainable human activities, is exemplified by global climate change and the escalating occurrence of forest fires, as in Southeast Asia. The region has witnessed a concerning surge in both the frequency and severity of forest fires, primarily due to the practice of **forest clearing for agriculture**. These fires have far-reaching consequences, causing severe smog problems that extend beyond Southeast Asia's borders, affecting health, society, the economy, and the environment.

Statistics from the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) on forest fires throughout Thailand for the 10-year period from 2013 - 2022, a total of 51,265 forest fires occurred. Forest area burned 892,309 rai. **The northern region is the area with the most forest fires in the country.**

Chiang Mai was ranked as the world's worst city for air pollution

Chiang Mai was ranked as the world's worst city for air pollution by Iqair.com yesterday, while forest fires in Chiang Rai were made worse by a drug addict who started a blaze. Iqair.com reported Chiang Mai had an air quality index of 320 with an ultra-fine PM2.5 dust level of 269.2 microgrammes per cubic metre, far beyond the safe exposure threshold of 50ug/m3 set by the Pollution Control Department.

The air quality website said Chiang Mai was the worst air-polluted city in the world. The Centre for Tackling Forest Fires and Haze Pollution in Chiang Mai reported that there were 297 hotspots found yesterday morning, mostly in national parks, forest reserves, agricultural land and communities.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ATON13

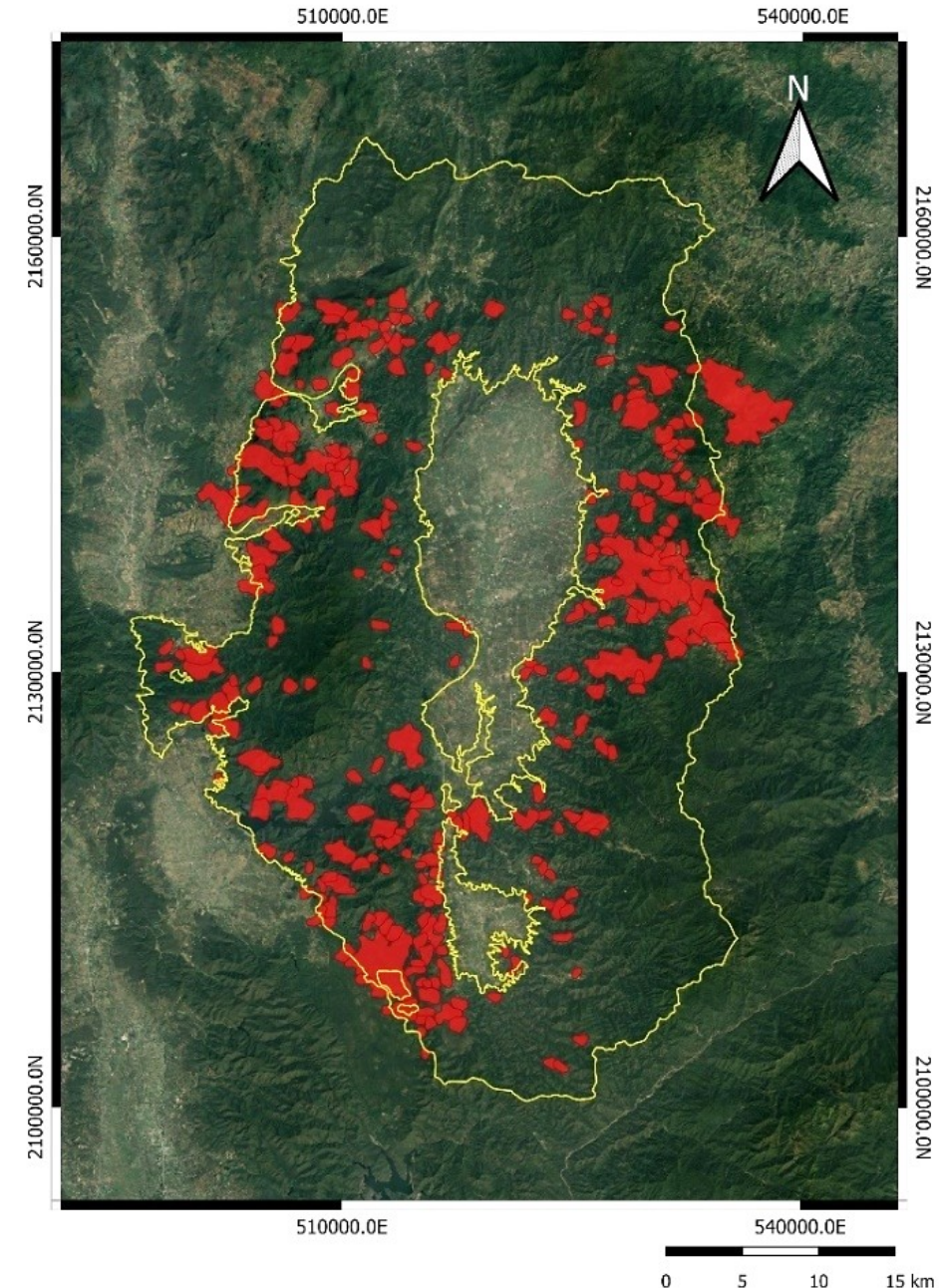


GISTDA's

Solutions

The Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) has satellites with hot spot detection capabilities and unmanned aircraft technology in one of the crisis areas of forest fire notably Sri Lanna National Park in Chiang Mai Province. Collaborating with Sri Lanna National Park, Chiang Mai University, and other government agencies.

Also, GISTDA has been utilizing satellites for forest fire monitoring, developing early warning systems, and identifying open-burning locations via a sensor network and drones. These efforts aim to manage fine particulate matter and mitigate forest fires, smog, and open burning.



The solution of forest fire management for remote forest areas

(GISTDA /Cabinet Office / Sony / NTT Data and Support of MIC)

