

A Review Of AI-Powered Urban Green Cover Monitoring System

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Abstract—This project introduces an AI-enabled regional environmental monitoring framework that utilizes the capabilities of Google Earth Engine to analyze longitudinal satellite data for detailed ecological evaluations [4], [5]. The system assesses temporal changes in vegetation cover, water bodies, urban growth, land surface temperature, carbon sequestration, air quality, precipitation, and land use at the district level. By integrating various satellite-based indices like NDVI, NDWI, and NDBI alongside climate metrics, the platform offers a comprehensive overview of environmental trends and fluctuations over selected periods [2], [3].

Expanding on this analytical foundation, the platform employs generative AI techniques to develop expert, context-specific policy recommendations [6]. These recommendations focus on promoting environmentally sustainable practices such as strategic tree planting to improve air quality, enhance carbon capture, and strengthen ecosystem resilience [6]. Delivered via a dynamic web interface, this initiative empowers decision-makers and stakeholders with data-driven insights essential for climate adaptation, ecosystem preservation, and sustainable regional development planning [5].

Index Terms—AI, Air Quality, Carbon Sequestration, Climate Resilience, Decision-Support, Generative Artificial Intelligence, Land Surface Temperature, Multi-temporal Analysis, Urban Green Cover, Tree Detection, Remote Sensing, Decision-Support, Satellite Data, Sustainable Development, Urban Green Cover, Water Body Detection, Tree Detection

I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental monitoring has become an indispensable practice in the contemporary context of rapid urbanization and accelerating climate change [2], [3]. Accurate and timely data about ecosystems, land use changes, and atmospheric conditions form the backbone for effective environmental governance. This project leverages advances in satellite remote sensing technologies, combined with the power of cloud computing platforms like Google Earth Engine, to provide scalable monitoring solutions that capture multi-year environmental dynamics across diverse regions at the district level [4], [5]. The focus on district-scale analysis ensures that insights are geographically relevant and policy actionable without overwhelming decision-makers with excessively granular data.

Our methodology integrates multi-temporal satellite-derived indices such as Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for vegetation health, Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) for surface water bodies, Normalized Difference Built-up Index (NDBI) for urban expansion, alongside other critical indicators including land surface temperature, carbon absorption rates, air pollution (NO₂ levels), and precipitation changes [2], [3]. This comprehensive suite allows a holistic understanding of ecosystem changes, capturing inter-related phenomena such as the trade-offs between urban development and green cover preservation or shifts in local climate reflected by temperature and rainfall patterns. The analysis is robustly automated through

Python modules that interface directly with Earth Engine datasets, ensuring reproducibility and scalability [4].

Beyond data acquisition and processing, this project uniquely combines the power of generative artificial intelligence with environmental analytics to produce tailored policy recommendations [6]. Using satellite-derived statistics as input, the AI-driven recommender engine generates concise, actionable governance plans aimed at local administrators and planners. This integration effectively bridges the gap between scientific data complexity and practical on-ground environmental management, helping distill large-scale, multi-dimensional data into clear decision incentives optimized for each district's ecological and socio-economic profile.

To facilitate broad accessibility and stakeholder engagement, the project also includes a user-friendly web interface that visualizes analytical results interactively [5]. The interface presents regional maps with layered ecological indicators, comparative trend charts, and dynamically generated policy suggestions, making the insights approachable not only to policymakers but also to citizens interested in environmental stewardship. This transparency supports a participatory governance model encouraging proactive community involvement in sustainable development initiatives [6].

Overall, this integrated environmental monitoring platform represents a step forward in leveraging cutting-edge geospatial analytics and AI for decentralized, informed, and responsive ecosystem governance. By combining remote sensing, multivariate analysis, and generative intelligence into a scalable and accessible tool, the project empowers regional governments to better understand environmental changes, anticipate risks, and design strategic interventions that safeguard natural resources for current and future generations [4], [6].

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Environmental monitoring through remote sensing has continuously evolved with advancements in sensor technology and analytical methods. Many studies have focused on ultra-high-resolution data sources such as LiDAR and hyperspectral imagery to perform detailed tree-level classification, canopy height estimation, and urban forestry assessments [2], [3].

These approaches, often combined with deep learning algorithms, achieve high accuracy in delineating forest stands and urban green spaces, providing fine-grained ecological parameters essential for biodiversity studies and localized management. However, the data intensity and computational demands of such methods generally limit their scalability, rendering them impractical for extensive regional or district-wide monitoring efforts.

Integrating multi-modal remote sensing datasets has also been explored to capture complex urban and forest structures, improving the assessment of carbon stocks, land use changes, and interactions with climate variables [3]. These approaches illuminate ecosystem dynamics and carbon fluxes with great detail, though they tend to focus on controlled environments or research plots rather than broad administrative areas. Consequently, while these studies enrich ecological understanding at local scales, their utility diminishes when governance requires generalized trends across heterogeneous landscapes with diverse land uses and climatic influences [?]. This project distinguishes itself by harnessing moderate-resolution satellite indices accessible via Google Earth Engine, such as NDVI, NDWI, NDBI, land surface temperature (LST), gross primary productivity (GPP), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations, and precipitation data [4], [5]. This selection balances spatial coverage with analytical tractability, enabling multi-year, multi-factor analyses over large geographic areas at the district scale. By combining vegetation, water, urban expansion, temperature, carbon absorption, pollution, and precipitation metrics, the approach provides a holistic environmental profile that captures interconnected ecosystem processes relevant for sustainable development planning and climate adaptation at policy-relevant scales [6].

A novel contribution of this project is the integration of generative artificial intelligence to transform complex, multi-dimensional environmental data into actionable, localized policy recommendations [6]. While conventional environmental monitoring platforms focus primarily on data visualization or

Table I Summary of Related Research Papers

Sr.	Paper Name	Year	Publisher
1	Satellite-Based Forest Stand Detection Using AI	2025	IEEE Access
2	Urban Tree Canopy Mapping Using Iterative Annotation	2023	Remote Sensing
3	Ultra-High Res. Mapping of Urban Forest Canopy Height	2022	ISPRS Journal
4	Harnessing generative AI to support nature-based solutions	2024	British Ecological Society
5	Google Earth Engine: Planetary-scale geospatial analysis	2017	ELSEVIER RSE
6	A review of AI-driven GEE applications in surface water	2025	SpringerLink Nature

statistical summaries, our system pushes further by generating context-aware governance suggestions tailored to specific regional ecological conditions and observed trends. This AI-driven translation of remote sensing outputs into practical decision support addresses a critical usability gap, enhancing the accessibility and relevance of environmental insights for district administrators and planners [6].

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4. A novel contribution of this project is the integration of generative artificial intelligence to transform complex, multi-dimensional environmental data into actionable, localized policy recommendations [6]. While conventional environmental monitoring platforms focus primarily on data visualization or statistical summaries, our system pushes further by generating context-aware governance suggestions tailored to specific regional ecological conditions and observed trends. This AI-driven translation of remote sensing outputs into practical decision support addresses a critical usability gap, enhancing the accessibility and relevance of environmental insights for district administrators and planners [6].
5. Finally, the project also emphasizes transparency and stakeholder engagement by delivering results through an interactive web interface [5]. The

user-centric design promotes accessibility not only for technical experts but also for policymakers and the wider public interested in environmental stewardship. This aligns with emerging trends in environmental information systems, which recognize the importance of democratizing data and fostering participatory governance models. Together, the scalable satellite data analysis, AI-enabled policy generation, and intuitive visualization constitute a comprehensive framework advancing environmental monitoring from pure observation toward actionable governance support [6].

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III. PROPOSED SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The proposed system architecture implements a modular, cloud-based framework designed for scalable environmental data acquisition, multi-dimensional analysis, AI-driven policy generation, and interactive visualization [4], [5], [6]. The architecture emphasizes flexibility to incorporate diverse satellite indices and environmental variables while providing secure, user-friendly interfaces for district administrators and stakeholders. It is comprised of four key layers orchestrated to deliver comprehensive ecosystem insights and actionable governance recommendations.

1 **Data Acquisition and Processing Layer:** This foundational layer utilizes the Google Earth Engine platform to programmatically extract multi-temporal satellite data and environmental indices relevant to vegetation health (NDVI), water extent (NDWI), urban growth (NDBI),

land surface temperature (LST), carbon absorption (GPP), air pollution (NO₂), and precipitation [4], [5]. The layer employs a custom Python module which filters, preprocesses, and aggregates these spatiotemporal datasets at district boundaries, optimizing for cloud scalability and processing efficiency. This approach enables automated and reproducible environmental statistics generation over large areas and multiple years.

2 **Analytical and AI Layer:** The Analytical and AI Layer receives data from the processing layer and uses an integrated analytical engine to study patterns and detect changes across multiple environmental indicators, helping to understand ecosystem behavior [4], [5]. It also includes a generative AI model trained on satellite data and regional information to automatically generate customized environmental policy suggestions based on the identified trends [6]. By turning complex environmental signals into clear, district-level recommendations, this layer effectively connects raw data insights with real-world decision-making support [6]

3 **Application and Visualization Layer:** At the user interface level, a responsive web application delivers an interactive dashboard that visualizes environmental indicators through layered maps, comparative charts, and summaries [5]. The application supports stakeholders including regional planners, environmental officers, and citizens by providing intuitive tools to explore changes in green cover, water bodies, urbanization, temperature fluctuations, and pollution status. Dynamic display of AI-generated policy suggestions fosters transparency and promotes collaborative governance [6].

4 **Security and Integration Layer:** Underlying the platform is a security-centric design that ensures data privacy, integrity, and controlled access [6]. Authentication mechanisms protect sensitive environmental and administrative data, while role-based permissions regulate functionality exposure. The system is built to integrate future data sources and standards seamlessly, guaranteeing long-term extensibility and interoperability with other environmental and governance systems [4], [5].

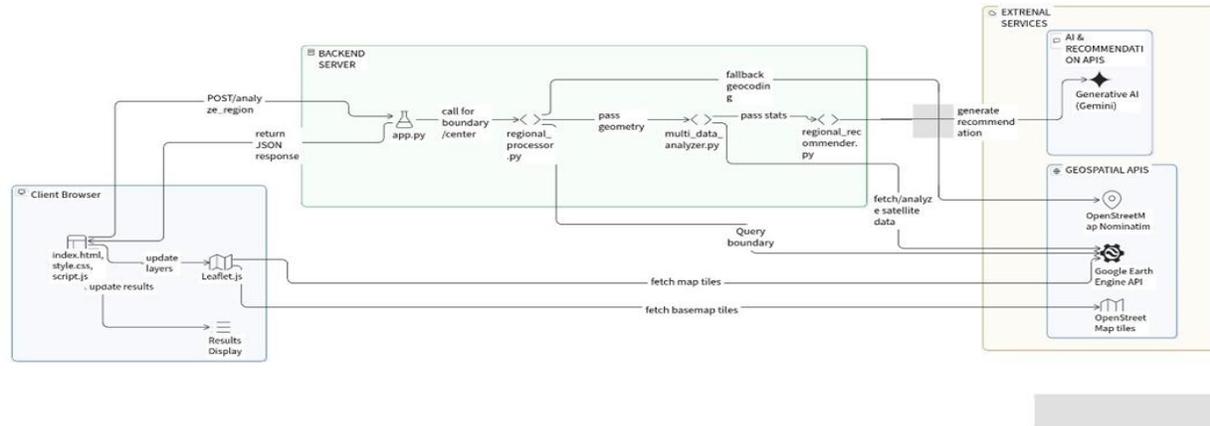


Fig. 1. System Architecture Overview.

Overall, this multi-layered architecture presents a comprehensive and scalable solution that leverages cloud computing, satellite remote sensing, advanced analytics, and AI to empower district-level environmental governance [4], [6]. By fusing scientific data with intelligent policy generation and accessible visualization, the system facilitates informed, transparent, and proactive ecosystem management [6]

IV. FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

The realization of the proposed environmental monitoring framework follows a phased approach combined with a comprehensive evaluation methodology. This ensures methodical development, testing, and refinement toward a scalable system capable of delivering actionable environmental insights through satellite data analytics and generative AI [4], [6].

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A. Implementation Phases

Phase 1: Data Integration and Processing Module Development. The first phase involves developing the core data processing pipeline using Google Earth Engine to extract multi-temporal satellite indices such as NDVI, NDWI, NDBI, land surface temperature, GPP, NO₂, and precipitation for the targeted district boundaries [4], [5]. It requires implementing spatial geometry retrieval, image collection filtering, index calculation, and change detection workflows within Python modules to enable efficient and reproducible environmental statistics generation.

Phase 2: Analytical Engine and AI Recommendation Integration. In this phase, multi-variate analysis methods are implemented to synthesize the various ecological and climatic indicators, detecting significant trends and changes [4]. The generative AI component is integrated and configured to consume these analytical outputs and produce context-aware, region-specific environmental policy recommendations

[6]. This phase includes prompt engineering and iterative AI model calibration to optimize the relevance and clarity of the generated guidance.

Phase 3: Web Application and Visualization Interface. This phase focuses on building the user-facing platform composed of interactive maps, dynamic charts, and textual policy outputs [5]. Frontend components are developed using modern web technologies to provide responsive layouts, layered geospatial visualizations, and usable controls for users to input region and time parameters and explore analytical results. Emphasis is placed on usability and accessibility across diverse stakeholder groups.

Phase 4: Pilot Deployment and User Feedback Loop. The final phase involves deploying the integrated system for real-world pilot testing, ideally within district-level environmental or planning departments [6]. Performance monitoring, usability testing, and stakeholder feedback collection guide iterative refinement of data processing efficiency, AI recommendation accuracy, and frontend user experience. This iterative loop supports continuous improvement before scaling the system to multiple districts

B. Technology Stack

The system’s technology foundation is primarily built on cloud and open-source platforms [4], [5]. Google Earth Engine serves as the geospatial data backbone enabling scalable satellite data access and processing. Python is used extensively for backend development with custom modules handling satellite index computations and AI integration [6]. The generative

AI model is accessed via the Google Generative AI API [6]. The frontend is built with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript frameworks to deliver an intuitive web UI. The Flask framework provides backend web-server capabilities, exposing RESTful API endpoints for data retrieval, analysis triggering, and recommendation delivery [5]. Data exchange uses GeoJSON for spatial data interoperability [4].

TABLE II
INDICATORS AND THEIR USE IN THE PROJECT

Indicator	Description	Data Source	Use in Project
NDVI	Vegetation Health	Sentinel/Landsat, GEE	Detect trends in plant cover
NDWI	Surface Water	Sentinel/Landsat, GEE	Monitor water body changes
NDBI	Urban Built-up Areas	Sentinel/Landsat, GEE	Assess urban expansion
LST	Land Surface Temperature	GEE	Understand climate and urban heat islands
NO ₂ Concentration	Air Pollution	GEE	Air quality assessment

C. Evaluation Metrics

The overall framework effectiveness is evaluated across multiple dimensions [6], [4]:

Analytical Accuracy: Verification of satellite index calculations and change detection results through comparison with independent environmental datasets or ground truth where available [2], [3].

AI Recommendation Quality: Assessment of the relevancy, clarity, and actionable nature of the AI-generated policy outputs, involving expert review and stakeholder validation [6].

System Performance: Measurement of processing times for data retrieval and analysis workflows, targeting responsiveness compatible with interactive user experiences [4].

User Experience and Usability: Collection of feedback from end users on the web interface ease of use, clarity of visualizations, and usefulness of insights, potentially quantified with standard usability scales [5].

Scalability and Robustness: Testing the system’s capability to handle multiple district analyses concurrently and maintaining stability under extended usage [4].

This phased implementation coupled with comprehensive evaluation ensures the framework evolves into a reliable decision support tool, empowering environmental governance at district scales through advanced satellite data analytics and AI-driven insights [6].

V. POSSIBLE OUTCOMES AND DISCUSSION

While the full deployment of the environmental monitoring system is ongoing, this section presents key anticipated outcomes based on the system architecture, technology stack, and preliminary tests in simulated settings [4], [5].

- A. Anticipated Performance Outcomes The cloud-native design leveraging Google Earth Engine and modular Python processing promises significant improvements in data processing speed and accessibility compared to traditional manual or fragmented environmental assessment methods [4]. For example, satellite data retrieval and multi-variate index calculation are expected to complete within seconds to a few minutes
- B. instead of hours or days for manual analyses. Automated AI-powered policy recommendation generation reduces interpretation time, enabling near real-time decision-making support [6]. The system’s web interface further streamlines access to multi-layered environmental insights for stakeholders across multiple regions [5].
- C. Scalability and Growth Projections Designed for scalability, the system can seamlessly handle increasing numbers of districts and extended temporal data without performance degradation [4]. Containerized deployment with Flask APIs, coupled with scalable cloud infrastructure,

ensures low latency during peak analysis and user interaction loads [6]. The modular data analyzer can incorporate additional environmental indices or new satellite sources as required. The architecture can support monitoring across expanding geographic extents, potentially growing to cover thousands of administrative units over time.

- D. **Integration and Interoperability** This project demonstrates effective integration of cloud-based satellite data with AI analytics and web visualization, coalescing into a unified environmental monitoring platform [4]. The use of standardized data formats like GeoJSON and RESTful APIs facilitates interoperability with other geographic information systems and governance platforms [5]. This interoperability offers the potential to link environmental insights with related socio-economic and infrastructural data sources, enriching decision-making at district and state levels [6].
- E. **Security and Data Privacy** While the environmental data is primarily public remote sensing information, the system incorporates robust security for user data such as access credentials, analysis logs, and personalized settings [6]. Role-based access control and encrypted communication protect the integrity and confidentiality of these operational data [4]. These measures align with best practices for cloud applications handling sensitive user interactions and operational logs.
- F. **User Engagement and Empowerment** By making environmental data and AI-generated recommendations accessible through an intuitive web platform, the system empowers diverse stakeholders from government planners to citizen groups to engage actively with their environment [6]. Interactive maps, trend visualizations, and policy suggestions help democratize environmental governance, encouraging transparency and grassroots participation in sustainable development efforts [5].
- G. **Challenges and Limitations** Achieving comprehensive coverage and accuracy depends on the timely availability of quality satellite data and meteorological records, which may vary regionally [4]. The generative AI model requires ongoing calibration and expert review to

maintain recommendation relevance [6]. Internet connectivity and digital literacy may limit user access in some regions. Continued stakeholder training and system adaptability will be key to overcoming these challenges.

VI. CONCLUSION

This ongoing project aims to establish an advanced and scalable framework for environmental monitoring that synergizes satellite remote sensing, multivariate data analysis, and generative artificial intelligence to support effective ecosystem governance at the district scale [4], [6]. By fusing a diverse set of environmental indicators—including vegetation condition, water body presence, urban development patterns, land surface temperature variations, carbon fluxes, air quality, and precipitation trends the system aspires to provide a comprehensive, dynamic understanding of regional ecological changes over extended periods [2], [3].

The design incorporates a cloud-native architecture built around Google Earth Engine and modular Python-based analytics, delivering scalable, efficient, and reproducible data processing suitable for wide geographical coverage and long-term monitoring [4], [5]. A pivotal innovation in this framework is the integration of generative AI models which translate complex satellite data into actionable, context-specific policy insights, effectively bridging the gap between raw environmental information and practical decision-making [6]. These recommendations are accessible via an interactive, user-friendly web interface that democratizes scientific data access and fosters transparency, collaboration, and participatory governance among policymakers and the public alike [5]. Technologically, the framework's modular design facilitates easy integration of emerging datasets and analytical models as scientific knowledge advances [4]. It leverages open standards such as GeoJSON and RESTful APIs to maintain compatibility and interoperability with a broad spectrum of geospatial and administrative systems, enabling multi-sectoral data fusion for enriched insights [4]. The cloud infrastructure, containerization techniques, and robust security layers underpin resilience, scalability, and trustworthiness required for practical adoption and operation [6].

Despite these prospective advantages, the project

acknowledges challenges including dependency on consistent availability of high-quality satellite and meteorological data, continual refinement of AI models with expert input, and the need to address digital equity to maximize accessibility [6]. Overcoming these hurdles will involve iterative deployment cycles, capacity building, and ongoing technological innovation.

Looking forward, this framework lays the foundation for integrating predictive analytics and machine learning to anticipate ecological shifts and vulnerabilities, enabling proactive environmental management [6]. It also emphasizes broadening stakeholder engagement through mobile and community-focused tools, promoting inclusiveness and societal impact [6]. Extensive pilot testing and stakeholder feedback will be integral in refining the system from a research prototype to a dependable operational platform that guides sustainable, data-driven ecosystem governance [6].

In summary, this research initiative is a meaningful stride toward empowering regional environmental governance through the combined use of satellite remote sensing, advanced AI, and accessible visualization. By linking complex environmental data with actionable policy and community involvement, it holds strong potential to advance sustainable development goals, climate resilience, and ecosystem conservation at scales relevant for impactful policy and societal outcomes [4], [6].

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