

THE IDEA

Saving the world is a big challenge, which is what makes the World Challenge so great.

When we sat down for the first time a year ago to discuss how we could tackle such an enormous challenge, our first thought was prediction.

After all, if you can predict something bad is going to happen, you can take precautions early on to stop the bad thing ever happening.

This principal was what drove us towards the idea of predicting wildfires. At the time wildfires were raging across the world. Each year wildfires destroy communities and take innocent lives. And this issue is a world issue - from Canada, to Indonesia, wildfires wreck havoc to those most vulnerable.



Even in the most developed of countries, it can take weeks to put a large forest fire out. The amount of money, resources and lives this takes is astronomical. And with global warming truly taking its grip on the Earth over the coming decades, it's only going to get worse.

Between the three of us in the team, we knew we could attack this problem using data. If we could find a way of retrieving weather data and

then throw it into an artificial intelligence model, we could begin predicting wildfires.

If wildfires can be accurately predicted, residents in nearby towns and cities can prepare evacuation plans before it's too late. In addition, authorities can begin taking preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire starting - such as damping the trees with water, or monitoring the forests with drones.



We hope that with wildfire prediction the cities of tomorrow will be more resilient to potential wildfires, and thus make our way of life more sustainable.