Global forest change products from remote sensing data

M. Hansen and P. Potapov





Quantifying global land cover





Mixed forest





Loveland et al., 2000 Hansen et al., 2000 * Bartholomé et al., 2005









30m Landsat

Hansen et al., 2013 * Sexton et al., 2013 Gong et al., 2013



30m Landsat

Hansen et al., 2013 * Kim et al., 2014

Data requirements for global land monitoring

- Systematic global acquisitions
- No/low cost
- Easy access
- Minimal pre-processing required



The Landsat Data Archive



L1T data archive (images per year) during woody vegetation growing season



The Landsat Data Archive



Mean cloud fraction in ETM+ acquisitions for each global land scene in 2002

100% 0%

From: Ju J. & Roy D. (2008)

Cloud-free observation frequency for selected 30m pixels in Brazil (P228 R68) and Indonesia (P117 R61)



Daily MODIS image for August 5, 2013



Seasonally cloud-free window over the southern Amazon







Conversely, Central Africa is persistently cloudy



































~2000 image composite





Indonesia



Indonesia, Riau province




- o Raw Digital Numbers
- Top-of-Atmosphere reflectance and Normalization



- o Raw Digital Numbers
- Top-of-Atmosphere reflectance and Normalization
- Cloud masking and Compositing



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Image Process

- o Raw Digital Numbers
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Compositing...



Image Process

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Cloud-free mosaic

- 92 images total
- more then 20 per path/row
- 3 years of data!



Number of clear-sky observations for 1999-2005 time interval

1-7
8-13
14-20
21-30
31-56







Global forest cover change 2000-2014



Forest cover change factor attribution, 2000-2012



Tree cover height



Forest intactness



Pan-tropical stratification of forest cover into carbon stock strata



Pan-tropical aboveground carbon stock loss, 2000-2012



Forest strata average aboveground carbon (AGC) density and loss: a-c, year 2000 aboveground carbon (AGC) density; d-f, estimated 2000-2012 AGC loss. Data are aggregated to 5 km for display purposes.

Tyukavina et al., 2015, Aboveground carbon loss in natural and managed tropical forests from 2000 to 2012, *Environmental Research Letters*



Working with national partners through USAID CARPE/SilvaCarbon

- Peru
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Republic of Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Bangladesh
- Indonesia
- Vietnam

National Implementation of GLAD Forest Monitoring

National forest atlases



Joined peer-review publications

 OPENACCESS
 Environmental Resea

 IOP Publishing
 Environmental Resea

 Environ. Res. Lett. 9 (2014) 124012 (13pp)
 doi:10.1088/1748-8236W

National satellite-based humid tropical forest change assessment in Peru in support of REDD+ implementation

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Regional on-line maps and reports



National Implementation of GLAD Forest Monitoring

National scale forest loss mapping and sample-based validation in Peru



Comparison with official data – recent divergence in forest cover loss estimates for Indonesia



The current reported rate of deforestation by the Indonesian government of 0.45Mha/yr incorporates forest regrowth dynamics and plantation forests in estimating a 'net deforestation'.



Indonesian Ministry of Forestry







Loss inside and outside of primary forests in Sumatra, Indonesia



Margono et al., 2014, Primary forest cover loss in Indonesia, 2000 to 2012, *Nature Climate Change*

Landsat data archive Vietnam land area, 1999-2014 (L1T data only)



Total number of processed images: 13.644 Excluded images: L1G, poor/incorrect registration, sensor anomalies, nearly complete cloud/haze cover







Multi-year metric set (>600 metrics) include:

- a. Metadata layers (dates of observation, observation count, QA)
- b. Rank-based metrics
- c. Trend analysis metrics
- d. Composites for specific dates
- e. Ancillary data (elevation and topography metrics)

Annual metric set (~40 metric/year):

- a. Number of observation
- b. Median, Q1 and Q3, min and max reflectance an VI
- c. Annual and growing season average reflectance and VI







Classification method – Decision tree

Decision tree ("Classification and regression trees" – CART; Breiman *et al.*, 1984) nonparametric hierarchical classifier that predicts class membership by recursively partitioning a data set into more homogeneous subsets. This splitting procedure is followed until a perfect tree (one in which every pixel is discriminated from pixels of other classes, if possible) is created with all pure terminal nodes or until preset conditions are met for terminating the tree's growth.





Analyst-driven supervised change classification is based on "active learning" method. Active learning focuses on the interaction between the analyst (or some other information source) and the classifier. The model returns to the analyst the classification outcome and helps to highlight the most uncertain areas. After accurate labeling by the analyst, these areas are added to the training set in order to reinforce the model. In this way, the model is optimized on well-chosen difficult examples, maximizing its generalization capabilities.



Adding training areas for a decision tree







Total annual gross forest cover loss



Forest loss area experienced second loss event: 21.7% ... third loss event: 1.6%


Step 2. Forest cover and change mapping



Step 2. Forest cover and change mapping

Total annual gross forest cover loss



Total gross forest loss 2001-14: 3.2 million ha.

Forest loss with primary and mature secondary forests



Primary forests contribute 60% of total gross forest loss.

Step 2. Forest cover and change mapping



Re-forestation after forest loss

Tree cover >=60% established after forest loss event

Other forest loss



Forest cover loss data in UTM zone 48 (pixel area 900m²)

Stratum

1 (no loss) 2 (loss) 3 (buffer around loss)

Sampling Frame

Forest cover loss data in UTM zone 48 (pixel area 900m²)

Sample allocation

			Sample allocation		
Stratum	Total pixels	%	proportional	equal	selected
1 no loss	300529055	82	412	167	300
2 loss	35435322	10	49	167	100
3 buffer	29077884	8	40	167	100
Total	365042261		500	500	500



Stratum

1 (no loss) 2 (loss) 3 (buffer around loss)



Annual min NDVI Annual max SWIR reflectance Annual Tree Canopy Cover



Reference data



Validation results

Source validation			loss fraction			
		Stratum	0	0.5	1	
results	1	No loss	294	3	3	300
	2	Loss	6	0	94	100
	3	Loss buffer	57	26	17	100

Map accuracy

		Forest loss class		
Estimation option	Overall accuracy	User's accuracy	Producer's accuracy	
Fractional pixels as no loss	97.24	94	80.73	
Including fractional loss	95.79	94	71.57	
Without "loss buffer" stratum	98.47	94	91.72	

Area of forest loss

		Sample-based area	95% confidence interval
Estimation option	Map loss area (ha)	of loss (ha)	(% loss)
Fractional pixels as no loss	2 1 0 1 7 0	3.713.196	10.53
Including fractional loss	3.189.179	4.188.645	11.12

Accuracy estimation based on Olofsson et al. 2013





-> Jan. 25





-> Mar. 16









-> Jun. 24





-> Aug. 13



-> Sep. 7







-> Nov. 21





Taman Nasional Gunung Palung Located at center



Start 2015

Taman Nasional Gunung Palung Located at center



-> Jan. 25

Taman Nasional Gunung Palung Located at center



-> Feb. 19

Taman Nasional Gunung Palung Located at center



-> Mar. 16

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-> Apr. 10



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-> May 30

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-> Jun. 24








Weekly forest disturbance alerts

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-> Oct. 27

6.5 km



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Operational global land monitoring using multi-spectral data



Spatial resolution

