# Advancing global land mapping and monitoring

M. Hansen, P. Potapov, S. Turubanova, A. Krylov, A. Tyukavina, X. Song, A. Hudson, P. Amani, Q. Ying, V. Zalles and B. Adusei





## Quantifying global land cover



DeFries et al., 1994





DeFries et al., 1998



Evergreen needleleaf forest

1km AVHRR

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



250m MODIS

Friedl et al., 2002 \* Hansen et al., 2002 Arino et al., 2008



30m Landsat

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



Tree cover 100%



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



Year of forest loss 2013 2001 From 360 by 180 pixels in 1994 to 720,000 by 1,400,000 now

30m Landsat

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



#### **The Landsat Data Archive**



- Systematic global acquisitions
- Free of charge
- Easy access
- Minimal preprocessing required



Total archive of 30-m observations, average number of images per year per scene

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#### Daily MODIS image for August 5, 2013



#### Seasonally cloud-free window over the southern Amazon







#### Conversely, Central Africa is persistently cloudy



































#### ~2000 image composite










tree cover loss, 2000 to 2014
cropland 2000
new cropland, no tree cover loss
new cropland, tree cover loss

new cropland in tree cover, 2000-2005
 new cropland in tree cover, 2006-2010
 new cropland in tree cover, 2010-2014







15.7Mha of mapped gross forest cover loss 14.4 ± 2.0Mha of reference gross forest cover loss

6.2Mha mapped primary forest loss 7.5 ± 2.2Mha of reference primary forest loss

#### 10.7Mha of forest loss by Ministry of Forestry



Annual primary forest loss disaggregated by landform for Indonesia as a whole, and the island groups of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua. Dashed lines are linear fits to the data



wetland forest loss 00-05
 wetland forest loss 05-10
 wetland forest loss 10-12
 lowland forest loss 00-05
 lowland forest loss 05-10
 lowland forest loss 00-05
 montane forest loss 00-05
 montane forest loss 05-10
 montane forest loss 05-10

wetland forest degradation 00-05
 wetland forest degradation 05-10
 wetland forest degradation 10-12
 lowland forest degradation 00-05
 lowland forest degradation 05-10
 lowland forest degradation 10-12
 montane forest degradation 00-05
 montane forest degradation 05-10
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Margono et al., 2014, Primary forest cover loss in Indonesia, 2000 to 2012, *Nature Climate Change* 



**15.7Mha** of mapped gross forest cover loss **14.4 ± 2.0Mha** of reference gross forest cover loss

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01/16/2014

### National Implementation of GLAD Forest Monitoring





Republic of Congo Ministry of Forestry

National forest extent and change baseline data sets





Peru Ministry of Environment

Joined peer-review publications

change assessment in Peru in support of

P V Potapov<sup>1</sup>, J Dempewolf<sup>1</sup>, Y Talero<sup>1</sup>, M C Hansen<sup>1</sup>, S V Stehman<sup>2</sup>, C Vargas<sup>3</sup>, E J Rojas<sup>3</sup>, D Castillo<sup>4</sup>, E Mendoza<sup>5</sup>, A Calderón<sup>3</sup>, R Giudice<sup>3</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA <sup>2</sup> Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, State University of New York, Syracuse, NY tol:10.1088/1748-9326/9/12/12401

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N Malaga<sup>\*</sup> and B R Zutta<sup>\*</sup>

5 Conservation International, Lima, Peru

<sup>3</sup> Proyecto REDD+ Ministerio del Ambiente, Lima, Peru <sup>4</sup> Programa Nacional de Conservación de Bosques, Lima, Peru

13210, USA

**REDD+** implementation







Bangladesh Ministry of Forests and Environment

On-line maps and reports



#### Vegetation continuous fields



### Global bare ground



100%

÷.,

0%

Permanent bare ground, 2000-2012

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## Percent bare ground times-series



## Urbanization











Crop type mapping

June

example from Ohio – soybean and corn



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South America southern hemisphere growing season soybean cultivated area



# Surface water dynamics





### **Big data = time-series**



## Operational land monitoring using multi-spectral data



Spatial resolution



# A few conclusions

- Big data is a given for global land monitoring, but not everyone works at the global scale
  - How do we most efficiently share methods in advancing accurate and transparent knowledge of our changing earth system?
  - We borrow from the MODIS Land Science team and focus on data reduction and characterization methods, as with our forest monitoring work in support SilvaCarbon, while some advocate 'all observation' applications
  - Online cloud-based solutions are increasingly popular, i.e. Google Earth Engine
- Global land cover and land use mapping and monitoring is rapidly maturing
  - Advances in relevant themes, spatial detail, and timeliness of product generation
  - Using maps as area estimators needs to be demonstrated per theme via good practice accuracy assessment
  - Repeatable, turn-key methods are needed to move from research to operations
- From-to changes by cover type/condition, as well as change factor (primary forest -> mechanical clearing -> palm oil) are a priority
  - Generate per pixel land use histories
  - Differentiate ephemeral from permanent change dynamics
- Operational earth observing systems with open data policies are required for long-term monitoring of global land change
  - Landsat + Sentinel will offer sub-weekly cadence
  - How do commercial systems approximate global public EO systems in data acquisition, access and processing?
- Operational time-series data should leverage other data as warranted
  - Lidar for calibration of structure, radar for overcoming limitations of optical data