

Supplementary

Satellite imagery used in the study

The satellite imagery used in the analysis are listed in Table S1. Sentinel images were derived from Copernicus open access hub by ESA. Landsat-8 derived NDVI time series and STRM DEM were accessed through Google Earth Engine.

Table S1. Satellite imagery and ancillary geospatial dataset used.

Product	Orbit	Date	Images	Bands	Resol.	Pass direct
Sentinel-1A	57	30.8.2017	850E, 0411, C9AB	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1A	57	11.9.2017	3B49,BEDB,ECC7	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1B	79	19.9.2017	759B,8EBF, E07B	VH,VV	10	Desc
Sentinel-1A	57	23.9.2017	3696,DB8C, 3726	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1B	79	7.9.2017	FEA9, A794, 59E9	VH,VV	10	Desc
Sentinel-1A	130	4.9.2017	90D6, 5EEA, 1AB6, 04C6	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1A	130	16.9.2017	AD7B, C54D, 3282, 36A3	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1A	130	28.9.2017	BBE1, 2D43, 343A, FFCE	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1	28	28.8.2018	3DE3, D38B	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1	28	9.9.2017	C23E, 4A17	VH,VV	10	Asc
Sentinel-1	28	21.9.2017	E947, 3CD8	VH,VV	10	Asc

Sentinel-2A	92	16.9.2017	37LBL, 37MBM, 37MBN, 37MBP, 37MCQ, 37MBQ, 36MZV, 36MZT, 36LZR, 36MZS, 36MYS, 36LYR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	49	18.10.2017	37MCQ	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	6.1.2017	37MDQ	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	26.1.2017	37MDQ, 37MDS	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	49	27.12.2017	37MCR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	23.9.2017	37MDS	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	15.7.2017	37MCM	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	28.7.2017	37LBL	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	49	25.2.2018	37MDQ	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	92	18.2.2018	37MCR, 37MCS	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	13.2.2018	37MCR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	21.1.2018	37MCR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	49	16.1.2018	37MCR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	23.7.2018	37LBL	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2B	92	27.8.2018	37LBL	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc

Sentinel-2A	49	20.7.2016	37MDR, 37MDQ, 37MCP, 37MCM, 37LBL	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	23.7.2016	37MCP, 37MZS	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	30.7.2016	37MDR, 37MCP, 37MCN, 37MCM, 37LBL, 37MBM	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	49	10.8.2016	37MDR, 37MCP	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	22.8.2016	36LYR	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Sentinel-2A	92	2.8.2016	36MZS	B2-B8A, B11-B12	10,20	Desc
Landsat-8OLI		11.4.2013- 31.3.2019		NDVI	30	
SRTM DEM		Feb 2000		DEM, SLOPE, ASPECT	30	

Training data collection

3000 Training samples were randomly distributed to the landscape constrained by the area of EAM blocks (Platts et al. 2011) and stratified based on tree coverage percentage (50–70; 70–100) (Sexton et al. 2013) and aspect derived from global SRTM DEM (Jarvis et al. 2008) (North, East, South, West) to cover the variance within the natural forests in the reference samples. We used 500m minimum distance between the samples to avoid the effect of spatial autocorrelation. The distribution of the samples per strata is shown in Table 2 and Fig.1.

Table S2. Training sample distribution based on tree cover and aspect. Area of each strata in brackets.

Tree cover	East (45-135)	South (135-225)	West (225-315)	North (315-360, 0-45)	Total
50-70	418 (16.9%)	442 (19.4%)	450 (17.9%)	316 (11.5%)	1626 (65.8%)
70-100	248 (10.2%)	329 (9.6%)	250 (7.8 %)	249 (6.6%)	1076 (34.2%)
Total	666	771	700	565	2702

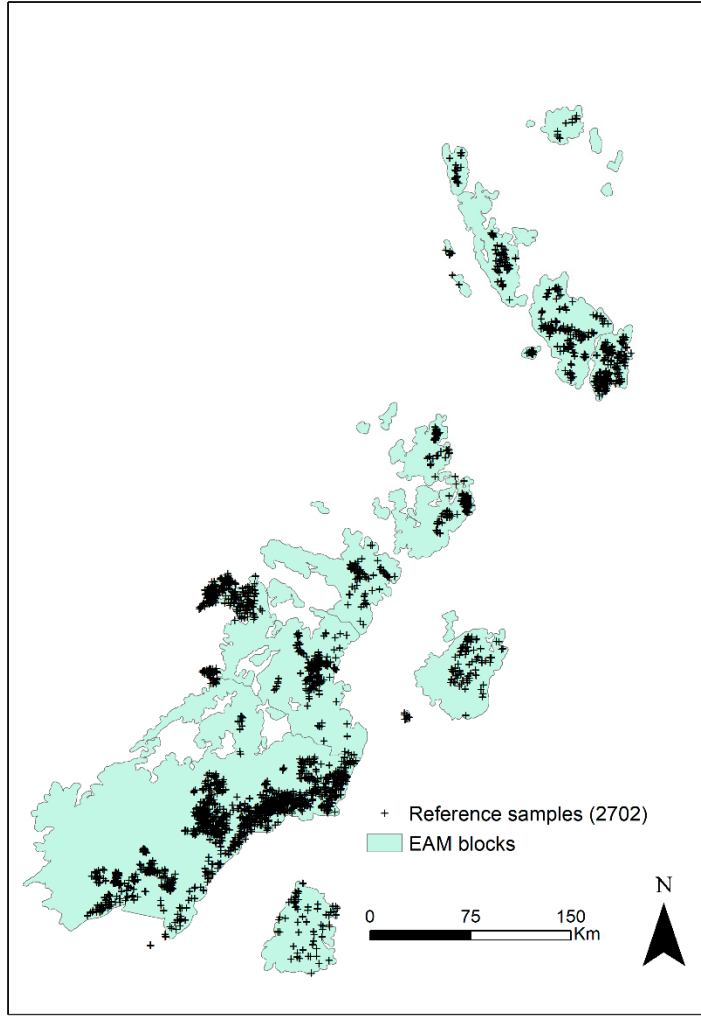


Figure S1. Spatial distribution of the training samples.

Validation samples for accuracy assessment

An independent accuracy assessment is recommended to use even though RF is an ensemble approach (Millard and Richardson 2015). The number of samples for independent accuracy assessment was calculated based on the equation given by Olofsson et al. (2014):

$$n = \left[\frac{\sum w_i s_i}{S(\hat{O})} \right]^2 \quad (1)$$

where w_i is the mapped proportion of a stratum and s_i is the standard deviation of the stratum and $S(\hat{O})$ is the standard error of the estimated overall accuracy.

We specified the target overall accuracies for native forest and other vegetation for CCEF model 0.8 and 0.7, respectively. The thresholds were set referring to previous tropical forest mapping accuracies in Africa (Hansen et al. 2008, Gessner et al. 2015) and to the knowledge that mapping the natural forests in the EAM is challenging due to the varying types of other forested covers such as woodlands and plantations. Thus, although we have only two classes (natural forest/other vegetation) we expect misclassifications within the CCEF model. The standard error was set to 0.01 for high confidence. The three forest cover layers (CCEF model, Eastern Arc Forest Baseline (FBD 2006) and Forest Fragments of Eastern Arc (Newmark and McNeally 2018) were stacked as one forest layer and the number of samples was calculated based on the coverage of the stacked forest layer. These settings

result in total 1950 samples for the whole area but for the small blocks (Taita, North Pare and Malundwe) we increased the number of samples to 50 resulting in total 2076 samples. The samples were distributed to each block according to the CCEF model coverage per block (Table S3, Fig. S2).

Table S3. Validation sample distribution to the Easter Arc forest blocks.

	TA	NP	SP	WU	EU	NG	NR	UL	MW	UK	RU	UD	MA	TOT
Area (%)	0.3	0.8	3.2	6.8	6.9	3.9	6.6	6.3	0.2	3.7	10.4	47.8	3.1	100
Nat. Forest (CCEF)	33	33	51	104	104	55	96	113	33	59	138	522	40	1378
Other veget. (CCEF)	17	17	26	52	52	35	48	57	17	30	70	265	21	698
TOT	50	50	77	156	156	90	144	170	50	89	208	787	61	2076

TA = Taita Hills NP = North Pare, SP = South Pare, WU = West Usambara, EU = East Usambara, NG = Nguu, NR = Nguru, UL = Uluguru, MW = Malundwe, UK= Ukaguru, RU = Rubeho, UD = Udzungwa, MA = Mahenge

49, 50, 77,148,179,99,167,148,

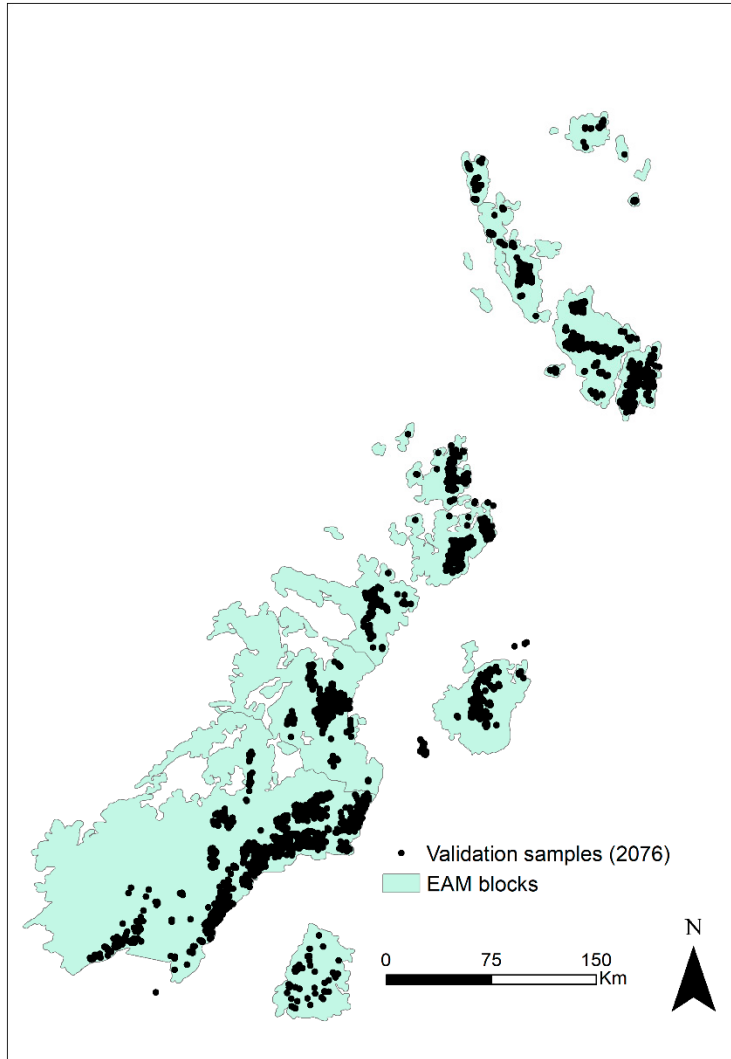


Figure S2. Spatial distribution of the validation samples.

Tuning the Random forest model

The effect of Random forest model parameter tuning on model performance was tested on the best variable set. Once the mtry setting was 3, the TSS results remained above 0.62, except for few exceptions with low ntree settings (< 500). Although the number of trees had only minor effect on the model performance the model was more stable with a higher number of trees. Highest TSS (0.647) was achieved with 3000 trees and 17 variables per node. However, highest computationally feasible result (0.641) was reached with 500 trees and 6 variables per node.

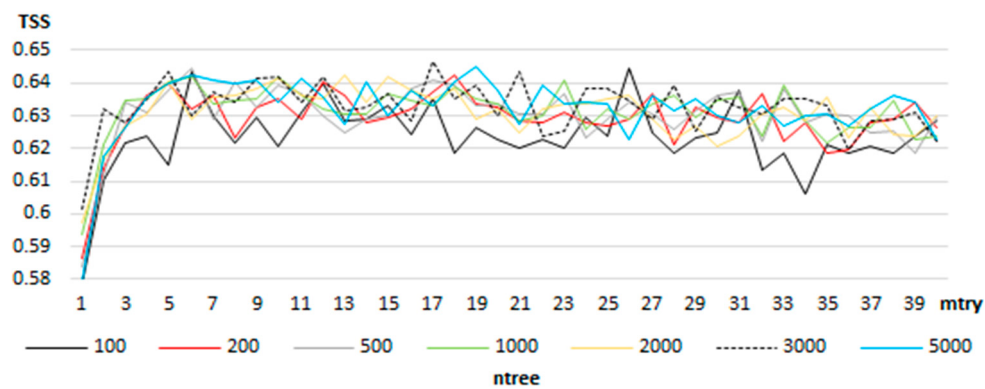


Figure S3. TSS values of all the tested mtry and ntree combinations using the best variable group selection.

Accuracy assessment

The error matrices for each EAM mountain block, populated by the proportional class distribution are reported below in Tables S4-S16. The sample distribution is given in table S3.

Table S4. Error matrix of Taita populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories. EAM forest map by FBD (2006) does not cover Taita.

Taita				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.61	0.14	0.76	0.81
CCEF other	0.10	0.14	0.24	0.58
veg.	0.71	0.29	1.00	
Total Prop.	0.86	0.50		
Producer acc.	OA	0.76		
	TSS	0.36		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and	0.63	0.12	0.76	0.84
McNeally NF				
Newmark and	0.12	0.12	0.24	0.50
McNeally				
other veg.	0.76	0.24	1.00	
Total Prop.	0.84	0.50		
Producer acc.	OA	0.76		
	TSS	0.34		

Table S5. Error matrix of North Pare populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

North Pare				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.44	0.22	0.7	0.7
CCEF other veg.	0.08	0.26	0.3	0.8
Total Prop.	0.52	0.48	1.0	
Producer acc.	0.85	0.54		
	OA	0.70		
	TSS	0.39		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.50	0.18	0.7	0.7
FDB other veg.	0.02	0.30	0.3	0.9
Total Prop.	0.52	0.48	1.0	
Producer acc.	0.96	0.63		
	OA	0.80		
	TSS	0.59		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.38	0.06	0.4	0.9
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.14	0.42	0.6	0.8
Total Prop.	0.52	0.48	1.0	
Producer acc.	0.73	0.88		
	OA	0.80		
	TSS	0.605769		

Table S6. Error matrix of South Pare populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

South Pare				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.62	0.05	0.68	0.92
CCEF other veg.	0.03	0.30	0.32	0.92
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.96	0.85		
	OA	0.92		
	TSS	0.81		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.57	0.10	0.68	0.85
FDB other veg.	0.27	0.05	0.32	0.16
Total Prop.	0.84	0.16	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.68	0.33		
	OA	0.62		
	TSS	0.01		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.58	0.09	0.68	0.87
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.13	0.19	0.32	0.60
Total Prop.	0.71	0.29	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.82	0.68		
	OA	0.78		
	TSS	0.50		

Table S7. Error matrix of West Usambara populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

West usambara				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.58	0.09	0.67	0.87
CCEF other veg.	0.08	0.26	0.33	0.77
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.88	0.74	0.58	0.09
	OA	0.83	0.08	0.26
	TSS	0.62		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.54	0.23	0.78	0.70
FDB other veg.	0.11	0.12	0.22	0.51
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.83	0.33		
	OA	0.66		
	TSS	0.17		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.58	0.17	0.76	0.77
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.07	0.17	0.24	0.71
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.89	0.50	0.58	0.17
	OA	0.76	0.07	0.17
	TSS	0.39		

Table S8. Error matrix of East Usambara populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories.

East usambara				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.46	0.03	0.49	0.95
CCEF other veg.	0.26	0.26	0.51	0.50
Total Prop.	0.72	0.28	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.64	0.91		
	OA	0.72		
	TSS	0.55		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.46	0.15	0.62	0.75
FDB other veg.	0.26	0.13	0.38	0.33
Total Prop.	0.72	0.28	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.64	0.45		
	OA	0.59		
	TSS	0.10		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.69	0.11	0.79	0.86
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.03	0.17	0.21	0.84
Total Prop.	0.72	0.28	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.96	0.61		
	OA	0.86		
	TSS	0.57		

Table S9. Error matrix of Nguu populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Nguu				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.50	0.00	0.50	1.00
CCEF other veg.	0.11	0.39	0.50	0.78
Total Prop.	0.61	0.39	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.82	1.00		
	OA	0.89		
	TSS	0.82		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.58	0.28	0.86	0.68
FDB other veg.	0.03	0.11	0.14	0.77
Total Prop.	0.61	0.39	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.95	0.29		
	OA	0.69		
	TSS	0.23		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.56	0.17	0.72	0.77
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.06	0.22	0.28	0.80
Total Prop.	0.61	0.39	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.91	0.57		
	OA	0.78		
	TSS	0.48		

Table S10. Error matrix of Nguru populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Nguru				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.57	0.09	0.66	0.86
CCEF other veg.	0.07	0.27	0.34	0.79
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.89	0.75		
	OA	0.84		
	TSS	0.63		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.56	0.23	0.79	0.71
FDB other veg.	0.08	0.13	0.21	0.62
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.88	0.35		
	OA	0.69		
	TSS	0.23		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.62	0.25	0.87	0.71
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.02	0.11	0.13	0.84
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.97	0.31		
	OA	0.73		
	TSS	0.28		

Table S11. Error matrix of Uluguru populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Uluguru				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.63	0.11	0.75	0.85
CCEF other veg.	0.05	0.20	0.25	0.79
Total Prop.	0.69	0.31	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.92	0.63	0.63	0.11
	OA	0.83	0.05	0.20
	TSS	0.56		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.56	0.14	0.70	0.80
FDB other veg.	0.13	0.17	0.30	0.58
Total Prop.	0.69	0.31	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.82	0.56	0.56	0.14
	OA	0.74	0.13	0.17
	TSS	0.38		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.64	0.08	0.72	0.89
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.05	0.23	0.28	0.83
Total Prop.	0.69	0.31	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.93	0.75	0.64	0.08
	OA	0.87	0.05	0.23
	TSS	0.68		

Table S12. Error matrix of Ukaguru populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Ukaguru				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.62	0.02	0.64	0.96
CCEF other veg.	0.04	0.31	0.36	0.88
Total Prop.	0.66	0.34	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.93	0.93		
	OA	0.93		
	TSS	0.87		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.52	0.26	0.78	0.67
FDB other veg.	0.15	0.08	0.22	0.35
Total Prop.	0.66	0.34	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.78	0.23		
	OA	0.60		
	TSS	0.01		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.60	0.13	0.73	0.82
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.07	0.20	0.27	0.75
Total Prop.	0.66	0.34	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.90	0.60		
	OA	0.80		
	TSS	0.50		

Table S13. Error matrix of Rubeho populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Rubeho				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.60	0.07	0.67	0.90
CCEF other veg.	0.05	0.28	0.33	0.85
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.92	0.81		
	OA	0.88		
	TSS	0.73		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.57	0.24	0.81	0.71
FDB other veg.	0.07	0.11	0.19	0.61
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.89	0.32		
	OA	0.69		
	TSS	0.21		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.60	0.19	0.79	0.76
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.05	0.16	0.21	0.78
Total Prop.	0.65	0.35	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.93	0.45		
	OA	0.76		
	TSS	0.38		

Table S14. Error matrix of Malundwe populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Malundwe				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.6	0.06	0.66	0.909091
CCEF other veg.	0.04	0.3	0.34	0.882353
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1	
Producer acc.	0.9375	0.833333		
	OA	0.9		
	TSS	0.770833		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.22	0.06	0.28	0.785714
FDB other veg.	0.42	0.3	0.72	0.416667
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1	
Producer acc.	0.34375	0.833333		
	OA	0.52		
	TSS	0.177083		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.5	0.28	0.78	0.641026
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.14	0.08	0.22	0.363636
Total Prop.	0.64	0.36	1	
Producer acc.	0.78125	0.222222		
	OA	0.58		
	TSS	0.003472		

Table S15. Error matrix of Mahenge populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Mahenge				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.62	0.11	0.73	0.85
CCEF other veg.	0.11	0.16	0.27	0.58
Total Prop.	0.73	0.27	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.85	0.58		
	OA	0.78		
	TSS	0.43		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.09	0.64	0.73	0.12
FDB other veg.	0.00	0.27	0.27	1.00
Total Prop.	0.09	0.91	1.00	
Producer acc.	1.00	0.29		
	OA	0.36		
	TSS	0.29		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.13	0.60	0.73	0.18
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.13	0.13	0.27	0.50
Total Prop.	0.27	0.73	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.50	0.18		
	OA	0.27		
	TSS	-0.32		

Table S16. Error matrix of Udzungwa populated by the estimated proportion of area for each category. Rows represent map categories and columns represent reference categories

Udzungwa				
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
CCEF NF	0.45	0.10	0.56	0.82
CCEF other veg.	0.15	0.30	0.44	0.67
Total Prop.	0.60	0.40	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.76	0.75		
	OA	0.75		
	TSS	0.50		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
FBD NF	0.35	0.15	0.49	0.70
FDB other veg.	0.25	0.25	0.51	0.50
Total Prop.	0.60	0.40	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.58	0.63		
	OA	0.60		
	TSS	0.21		
	Ref NF	Ref other veg.	Total Prop.	User acc.
Newmark and McNeally NF	0.53	0.27	0.79	0.66
Newmark and McNeally other veg.	0.07	0.13	0.21	0.64
Total Prop.	0.60	0.40	1.00	
Producer acc.	0.88	0.33		
	OA	0.66		
	TSS	0.21		

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