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Estimating change in forests: Merging Ground-, Photo-, and Space-Based Observations

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Message from the Guest Editors

Forests across the globe have experienced changes in the frequency, extent, and severity of disturbances events. Understanding the trends in these forest disturbances and their effects on forest land use and tree canopy cover is important for carbon assessments, as well as for forest management decisions and scientific investigations. Forest inventories in many countries track status and trends from ground- and photo-based samples, and tremendous progress has been made in the remote sensing community characterizing disturbance dynamics with space-based information. However, new statistical and operational methods are needed to effectively merge these ground-, photo-, and space-based observations of forest change because of their different spatial, temporal, and thematic grains. In this issue, we feature papers that illustrate effective methods for merging multiple sources of change information to better quantify changes in our forests. Of particular interest are papers that offer practical and immediately applicable solutions for operational forest inventories









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