



Sentinel Landscapes: the challenge of building long-term research networks

Sentinel Landscape uses the concept of "Tree cover transitions" as unifying concept for livelihoods, landscape and governance

SL: A site or a network of sites, geographically or issue bounded, in which a broad range of biophysical, social, economic and political data are monitored, collected with consistent methods and interpreted over the long term.



Key SL Research Questions (2012)

 Is there a relationship between the variation in Tree cover/Tree quality and the variation of any of the four system level outcomes



reduction in poverty



increased global food security



improvement of nutrition.



better management of natural resources.

2. What explains spatial and temporal variation of tree cover?



Implementation and achievements Year 1 and 2 (2012-2013)

- Detailed analysis of existing networks and opportunities for collaboration
- Workshop to select sites (Nairobi, 2012)
- Creation of a working group on methods
- Develop partnerships with relevant partners
- Workshop method & data collection procedures (Ouagadougou, January 2013)
- Start carry out measurement campaign



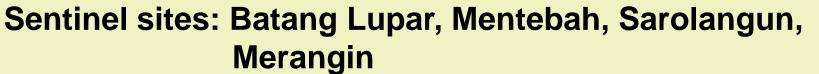
Implementation and achievements Year 3 and 4 (2014-2015)

- Method and Analysis workshop (Costa Rica, March 2014)
- Progress Meeting (Rome, Oct 2014)
- Workshop on institutional mapping (Montpellier, Dec 2014)
- Data collection implemented at each sentinel landscapes sites (2014-2015)
- Outreach, World Forestry Congress 2015



Borneo-Sumatra SL: 4 selected sentinel sites, each measuring 10 x10 km², representing a variation in tree cover along the transition curve.







Challenges

- No analysis of existing ILTER networks
- Partners not involved at the beginning
- In most sites partners did not show much interest (or loose it quickly) = link with partners and donors not secured
- Not same level of assistance for local teams between sites (some sites receive trainings, some not)
- Data and feedback not given to the potential users at the end
- Poor cooperation between FTA CG Centers
- Unequal level of science (remote sensing and tree diversity)
- "Participatory" workshops



For consideration

- Limitation in funding is the usual big constraint for LT research network, still...
- Harmonization in methods and instrumentation needed
- Already existing datasets, even not using the same methods should be considered (appropriate statistical tools that address differences in method)
- Focus on the geographical gaps of ILTER
- Set up regional group and partnership to join ILTER or ILTSER





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