



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)

1. **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.



Sentinel sites: Batang Lupar, Mentebah, Sarolangun, Merangin

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**

Thank you



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