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7602

28 February 28, 2018

Dear Dr. Ni-Bin Chang

My coauthors and I wish to submit a new manuscript entitled “Regional mapping of spekboom canopy cover using very high resolution aerial imagery” for consideration by the Journal of Applied Remote Sensing.

We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

In this paper, we report on the application of remote sensing techniques for producing large area, very high resolution (VHR) spekboom canopy cover maps from aerial imagery. This is significant because it successfully addresses commonly encountered problems of unwanted spatial variation due to radiometric and habitat variations over large regions. It is also significant as the maps can assist with the planning and monitoring of thicket restoration in South Africa. The paper should be of interest to readers in the areas of machine learning, vegetation mapping and VHR image analysis.

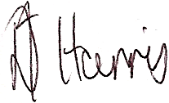
Spekboom is a succulent tree that occurs in the semi-arid Little Karoo area in South Africa. [Please explain in your own words the significance and novelty of the work, the problem that is being addressed, and why the manuscript belongs in this journal. Do not simply insert your abstract into your cover letter! Briefly describe the research you are reporting in your paper, why it is important, and why you think the readership of the journal would be interested in it.] I believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by the *Journal of Applied Remote Sensing* because it presents a technique useful for environmental quality monitoring and ecological restoration.

is concerned with remote sensing data collection and theory. Specifically, it proposes a calibration technique for reducing unwanted radiometric variation in aerial imagery of the earth surface. I believe the study is suited to the Journal of Applied Remote Sensing as it deals with application of radiometric calibration and machine learning methods for environmental quality monitoring and ecological restoration.

Please address all correspondence concerning this manuscript to me at dugalh@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,



Dugal Harris