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Supplementary Materials for

Long-term (1990–2019) monitoring of forest cover changes in the humid tropics

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Supplementary Text

Supplementary information on ancillary datasets

Three ancillary datasets were used to spatially attribute disturbances to (i) conversion to commodities or tree plantations (mainly oil palm and rubber), (ii) conversion to water bodies (mainly due to new dams), and (iii) specific changes within mangroves.

1. Conversion to commodities or tree plantations

In the transition map, commodities (oil palm) or tree plantations (rubber) appear either as deforested land or other land cover when established during the monitoring period or before the initial period, respectively. They can also appear as undisturbed forest or forest regrowth when established a long time before the initial period with a spectral signature similar to a forest or forest regrowth, e.g. in the case of old oil palm plantations.

In order to reduce these commission errors, we created a mask of commodities or tree plantations from two external data sources: (i) the planted tree datasets from the World Resources Institute (WRI) (60,61), which cover 14 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia, Malaysia and Peru) and several plantation types, from which we only used ‘Large industrial plantations’ and ‘Clearing/very young plantation not mosaic,’ and (ii) the oil palm dataset from Duke University (62), which covers a few plantation zones in the tropics.

Both datasets have been checked visually against high-resolution (HR) images available from Google Earth Engine (GEE) (22). Areas that are validated by the photo interpreter as being

covered with commodities and with a correct delineation are incorporated into the commodities mask. Commodities that are well identified in the HR images but with a wrong delineation have been manually re-delineated by the interpreter and incorporated into the commodities mask.

Then we carried out another check of the transition map to identify and delineate missing areas of commodities that are not identified from existing databases. This was done through a systematic analysis within the transition map for all areas with specific geometric shapes corresponding to plantations. These commodities were delineated visually by the photo interpreter and incorporated into the commodities mask.

This new class of commodities also makes it possible to assess the area of conversion from moist forests to such commodities. All pixels of the commodities mask are reassigned to the classes of conversion to commodities, e.g. a pixel that was initially labelled as deforested is reclassified as “conversion to commodities” with three subclasses: establishment before 2000, in 2000–2009, and in 2010–2019.

2. Conversion to water

To identify conversion from moist forests to water bodies – usually due to the creation of a dam – we used the Global Surface Water (GSW) dataset derived from Landsat time series over the period 1984–2015 (44) and the GSW updates for the period 2016–2019. This allowed us to create two additional classes of deforestation: (i) forest conversion to a permanent water body and (ii) forest conversion to a seasonal water body. The GSW time series also provided information on the start date of forest conversion (flooding) when the forest was directly flooded without prior clearance. We have also integrated the inter-annual variations of the

water bodies in our annual change product by discriminating between permanent water and seasonal water from other land cover classes.

3. Changes within mangroves

We created a specific class of mangroves to assess the status and changes of this specific forest ecosystem. We used the Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) dataset (63) to create an initial map of mangroves. As the GMW dataset covers the years 1996 and 2006, we first produced a maximum extent mask of mangroves during the period 1996–2006 and then reassigned the transition classes under the maximum extent mask to produce a map of changes in mangroves. As an example of reassignment, “undisturbed TMF (Class 10 of the transition map)” is reclassified as “undisturbed mangrove (Class 12).” Eight classes of changes within mangroves (including degradation, regrowth and deforestation) have been documented with subclasses for each period of disturbance.

Supplementary information on specific tropical forest types

- The tropical moist forest areas with bamboo dominance might be misclassified as disturbed forests due to seasonal or occasional defoliation of the bamboo. Therefore, we use a specific approach to map (as Class 11 of the transition map) the bamboo-dominated forests (*pacales*) in two specific zones where they are present over large areas: the Brazilian state of Acre, and of eastern Peru. We first created a spatial mask for reclassifying false disturbances in these two zones. The spatial mask is created from the South-America regional component of the Global Land Cover 2000 (GLC 2000) map (64) combined with a visual interpretation of recent high-resolution imagery. Dedicated decision rules are then applied for pixels classified as disturbed forest cover within this mask based on the disruption events' recurrence, intensity and distance from roads and rivers in order to separate false disturbances from real disturbances (e.g. disturbances within 120 m of roads are retained).
- Our tropical moist forest domain includes semi-deciduous forests that appear as evergreen forests throughout a full year. However, specific types of forest transitions between the humid and dry ecosystem domains, e.g. the Chiquitania forests of northern Bolivia (64,65) can behave alternatively as evergreen or seasonal forests during specific years depending on the yearly amount and distribution of precipitation (65). If these forests behave as evergreen at the beginning of the Landsat archive, temporary defoliation due to drier conditions in the second part of the archive may be misclassified as a disturbance, e.g. as degradation when defoliation is observed for a duration of less than 900 days. Here we also apply dedicated classification rules to avoid such misclassifications due to the variable

seasonal character of this specific forest type. The rules are based on the recurrence and intensity of the disruption events and are combined with a spatial mask that is created from the South-America regional component of the GLC 2000 map (64) and visual interpretation of high-resolution imagery.

- Some savanna wetlands (wet meadows or marshes) can be misclassified as forest or disturbed forests due to the scarcity of dryness periods. Such errors are expected to be limited due to (i) the consideration of a minimum duration for the initial period and (ii) the use of the GWS dataset that documents the water seasonality. A region that is regularly flooded since the beginning of the observation period is assigned to the permanent or seasonal water class and hence cannot be classified as a TMF. However, for regions with geographic and temporal discontinuities in the Landsat archive that are occasionally or never detected as water – and/or with gaps caused by persistent cloud cover – periods of dryness may not be well covered with Landsat imagery during the initial reference period. To avoid these commission errors, wetland areas have been identified using the Global Wetlands atlas (<https://www2.cifor.org/global-wetlands/>) and the GLC 2000 map (64), with a further visual check of HR imagery. When misclassification was detected, these areas were visually delineated and reassigned to the ‘other land cover’ class (# 90 in the transition map).

Supplementary information on the transition map

The transition map shows the spatial distribution of moist forest at 30 m resolution for the year 2019 and allows the identification of small logging impacts – such as skid trails or logging decks in concessions (fig. S3A-D) – and small linear features, such as gallery forests (fig. S4C).

Various types of deforestation and degradation events are mapped. In particular, the impacts of logging activity are captured with different intensity levels: from selective logging impacts, which are mapped as degraded forests with a short duration of disturbance detection (Fig. S3A-D), to the conversion of forest cover to another type of land cover (mainly pasture or crops) (fig. S4A and B) or vegetation regrowth.

Conversion to tree or shrub plantations occurred mainly for oil palm and rubber trees in Africa and Asia (fig. S5B-D).

Small-scale agriculture also contributes significantly to the conversion and degradation of forests. This is the case in both Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where shifting cultivation, small tree plantations, irrigated crops, forest regrowth and dense humid forests are often present together as a ‘rural complex’ in landscapes around villages (fig. S6C) or cover major parts of the landscape (e.g. in Madagascar).

In Ivory Coast, most undisturbed forests that existed in 2008 have disappeared, except in a few remaining protected areas (fig. S4D).

Mining exploitation of metals and precious minerals is also a cause of deforestation, such as gold mining within the dense forest, often along river courses (fig. S6D). The infrastructure used for petroleum extraction (drilling, pipelines) in Gabon also causes damage to forests.

Strong El Niño southern oscillation (ENSO) events cause droughts and subsequent fires, which can lead to long-term degradation or be followed by the full death of tree cover, such as in

Cambodia, where a semi-evergreen forest dried up in 2016 (fig. S7B). The ENSO event that occurred in 2015–2016 caused extreme drought in the northern Brazilian Amazon and induced the burning of forest cover (fig. S7D).

Other extreme natural events with very short durations can also cause forest damage. Such events include Cyclone Debbie in Australia in April 2017 (fig. S7A), Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017 and Cyclone Hudah in Madagascar in April 2000 (fig. S7C).

Transport infrastructure, such as main roads and railways, is well captured on the transition map within the dense humid forest (fig. S4C). The impacts of new dams are identified as conversion from undisturbed forest to seasonal or permanent water (fig. S6A). Finally, the significant differences in forest cover patterns between bordering countries illustrate differences in resource management policies (fig. S6B).

Supplementary information on the annual change dataset

The annual change dataset is a collection of 30 maps depicting – for each year from 1990 to 2019 – the spatial extents of undisturbed forests and disturbances. The annual maps depict the following 13 classes: (i) moist forest, (ii) moist forest before the establishment of a tree plantation, (iii) bamboo-dominated moist forest, (iv) new degradation (disruptions detected for the first time during the considered year), (v) ongoing degradation (disruptions started before the considered year and are still detected), (vi) degraded forest (disruptions started before the considered year and are not detected anymore), (vii) new deforestation (disruptions detected for the first time during the considered year), (viii) ongoing deforestation (disruptions started before the considered year and are still detected), (ix) new regrowth (deforestation occurred the year before and disruptions are not detected anymore), (x) regrowth (deforestation occurred at least one year before and disruptions are not detected anymore), (xi) water (permanent or seasonal), (xii) other land cover, and (xiii) invalid observations.

To obtain the annual classes, we combined the transition map with the following spatial layers: (i) number of disruption observations per year, (ii) first and last year of a disturbance period (YearMin and YearMax), (iii) recurrence of disruption observations (iv) start year of the archive (first year after the initial period), and (v) number of valid observations per year. The creation of annual maps is based on the following rules (where Year_i stands for year 1990 to 2019):

- Deforestation that occurs after degradation is separated from direct deforestation, using the recurrence value. The starting years of the disturbances (two in the case of degradation before deforestation) are recorded (YearMin and YearMin2, respectively).

- A disturbance is classified as new disturbance in YearMin (for degradation or deforestation of undisturbed forest) or YearMin2 (for deforestation of a degraded forest).
- A disturbance is classified as ongoing disturbance after YearMin or YearMin2 until YearMax.
- In the case of a degradation disturbance, a pixel is classified as degraded forest after YearMax.
- A disturbed pixel of the TMF domain is characterized into one of the three following timing periods: (i) when Year_i is before StartYear, (ii) when Year_i is after the StartYear and the pixel is within tree plantation areas, (iii) when Year_i is after the StartYear and the pixel is outside tree plantation areas.
- In the case of a deforestation disturbance, a pixel is classified as new regrowth on YearMax + 1, and then as ongoing regrowth from YearMax + 2.
- A pixel is classified as permanent water or as seasonal water if located within the permanent water area or within the seasonal water area in the GWS annual dataset, respectively.
- A pixel is classified as other land cover for Year_i if located outside the moist forest domain and with at least one valid observation available during Year_i .
- A pixel is classified as no data for Year_i if no valid observations are available for Year_i .

In order to discriminate between ‘deforestation without prior degradation’ and ‘deforestation occurring after degradation,’ we applied two conditions to establish that deforestation occurred after degradation: (i) a recurrence value lower than 58%, or (ii) a recurrence value lower than 70%

with at least six years without any disruption events between the degradation and the deforestation disturbances. These conditions were determined empirically by analyzing various sequences of logged and deforested areas.

In the case of degradation not followed by deforestation, two temporal sequences may be observed:

(a) only one degradation disturbance is observed with a duration of less than three years and no other disruption events are detected until the end of the observation period, or (b) two degradation disturbances are observed and are separated by a period of at least four years without any disruption events.

Fig. S1 illustrates the changes visible from this dataset looking at two different years for two regions where significant deforestation and degradation occurred during the observation period: southern Cambodia and the Brazilian state of Pará.

Supplementary information on trend analysis

Results at pantropical, continental and subregional levels

Our analysis shows that tropical moist forests (TMF) covered 1070.9 million ha in January 2020, including 964.4 million ha of undisturbed forest. Degraded TMF cover 106.5 million ha and are distributed as follows: 36.9% in Latin America, 40.7% in Asia-Oceania and 22.3% in Africa. The remaining TMF represent 60% of the extent of tropical natural forests reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the year 2015 (31).

During the period 1990–2019, at pantropical level, 189.2 million ha, 29.5 million ha and 106.5 million ha of undisturbed TMF were converted into non-forest cover, forest regrowth and degraded forests, representing 58.2%, 9.1% and 32.8% of total disturbances, respectively (**Table 3**). Hence the overall loss of TMF (i.e. forests converted to another vegetation type or to young forest regrowth) is 218.7 million ha, representing 17.3% of the initial extent of TMF, or the extent of Saudi Arabia. In addition, the degraded forest area at the end of 2019 was 106.5 million ha, accounting for 8.4% of the initial extent of undisturbed TMF. In Asia, the sum of degraded forests and forest regrowth represents 48.5% of forest changes, but only 41.4% and 36.6% of forest changes in Africa and Latin America, respectively. The percentage of edge-affected forests (from the initial extent of undisturbed forest) is also higher in Asia than on other continents, i.e. 43% vs c. 26%.

The extent of undisturbed tropical moist forests has declined by 23.9% since 1990, with a peak rate during the period 1995–1999 at 14.4 million ha/year (**Tables 1 and 5**). This peak rate occurred

in most regions with enough valid observations during the period 1990–1999, i.e. all regions except Central and West Africa, where the peak was in 2000–2004.

Among the three continents, Asia shows the largest relative decline in undisturbed TMF cover since 1990, with a 37.9% decrease compared with 24.4% and 19.9% for Africa and Latin America, respectively (**Table 1**). Continental Southeast Asia lost 53.3% of its undisturbed moist forest area, either through direct deforestation (33.3% of total disturbances), deforestation of degraded forest (35.4%) or through degradation (31.3%) (**Tables 5 to 10**). For this region, the decline in undisturbed forest was slightly faster before 2000 (1.6 million ha/year and 1.3 million ha/year before and after 2000, respectively) (**Table 5**). However, the annual loss rate of undisturbed forest cover increased slightly in the past five years (to reach 1.14 million ha/year), mainly due to degradation.

The Central and West Africa regions also show a faster decline in the past five years compared with the period 2005–2014 (c. 32% and 48% increase respectively for the Central and West African regions). The overall loss of undisturbed forests amounted to 14.5% and 52.6%, respectively, compared with the year 2000 (when such forests covered 216 million ha and 32.8 million ha, respectively).

Latin America shows the largest loss rate of undisturbed forest among the three continents, particularly from 1990 to 2000 (ranging from 6.2 million ha/year to 6.3 million ha/year). However, there was a strong reduction after 2005 (from 6.2 million ha/year in 2000–2004 to 4 million ha/year in 2005–2019), mainly due to a decrease in the direct deforestation rate (from 3.1 million ha/year to 1.7 million ha/year) (**Tables 5 and 8**). The degradation rate fell from 3.1 million ha/year in 2000–2004 to 2.3 million ha/year in 2005–2019.

Central America lost 53% of its undisturbed forest area in 1990 (34.5 million ha).

South America experienced a peak in deforestation during the period 1995–1999 and then a progressive reduction from 4.4 million ha/year in 1995–1999 to 1.9 million ha/year in 2010–2015 (**Table 6**). The degradation rate decreased slightly from 2.6 million ha/year in 1995–2000 to 2.1 million ha/year in 2010–2015.

Asia shows the largest area of forest conversion to commodities (86% of all pantropical plantations), which represents 15.2% of continental disturbances, compared with 1.7% and 0.8% for Latin America and Africa, respectively.

The disturbance types at the end of 2019 were as follows: 3.6% of disturbances were long-duration degradation, 20.7% were short-duration degradation (one stage), 10.4% were short-duration in two to three stages, 53.8% were deforested, and 8.5% were forest regrowth after deforestation.

When we considered a buffer zone around pixels detected as disturbed forests (**15**), our estimate of edge-affected degraded forest area increased by a factor of 3.3 or 5.1 for threshold distances of 120 m or 240 m, respectively.

Area estimates at national level

The three Southeast Asian countries with the largest remaining areas of undisturbed moist forest are Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia, with respective losses of 42.1%, 17.7% and 49.1% of their forest area in 1990. Indonesia was ranked second (after Brazil) for area of undisturbed TMF in the early 1990s, but it is now (in 2019) in third position behind Brazil and the DRC.

All countries in continental Southeast Asia have already lost more than half of their undisturbed moist forest (up to 68% for Vietnam, 65% for Lao PDR, and 61% for Cambodia and Myanmar)

(Supplementary Table 2). In Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, 42%, 29%, 26%, and 23% of overall disturbances, respectively, occurred in the past 10 years. Papua New Guinea is the Asian country with the lowest loss rate (0.24 million ha/year on average over the past 10 years) and is now ranked seventh in the world for undisturbed TMF.

The majority of forest conversion to oil palm and rubber occurred in Asia (18.3 million ha from an overall conversion of 21.3 million ha), with the largest contribution from Indonesia and Malaysia (12.7 million ha and 5.3 million ha, respectively representing 19% and 38% of their overall disturbances).

A few Asian countries were also impacted by the creation of new dams within the moist forest (1.4 million ha of forest conversion across the continent).

All Southeast Asian countries showed a decline in their disturbance rates after 2000 and most of them were particularly affected by the strong El Niño events of 1997–1998 and 2015–2016. The high peak in disturbances in 1997 in Indonesia was mostly caused by forest fires in Sumatra, which led to 3.5 million ha of new degradation (burned forest that had regrown) and 1.7 million ha of direct deforestation (burned forest that was converted to other land cover). Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Cambodia were the Asian countries most affected by the ENSO event of 2015–2016.

Five Latin American countries are among the 10 nations with the largest areas of undisturbed tropical moist forest. Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and Bolivia together represent more than half the remaining tropical moist forests (496 million ha).

Disturbance rates decreased significantly in 2000–2014 compared with 1990–1999 in Brazil and Mexico (reductions of 0.62 million ha/year and 0.16 million ha/year, respectively), and increased

in Colombia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Ecuador (0.23 million ha/year, 0.17 million ha/year, 0.08 million ha/year and 0.09 million ha/year, respectively).

From 1990 to 2019, the area of undisturbed TMF in the Legal Amazon declined by 17%, from 353 million ha in 1990 to 292 million ha in 2019. The annual disturbance rate fell significantly after 2005 (**Fig. 3**), from 3.3 million ha/year and 2.7 million ha/year in 1999 and 2003, respectively, down to 0.9 million ha/year in 2012. By 2015, Brazil had accomplished a 60% reduction in the deforestation rate of its Amazonian forests from the peak in 1995–2000. However, the annual deforestation rates of moist forests in the Brazilian Amazon increased dramatically after 2015, reaching 3.9 million ha/year in 2016.

Our estimate of direct deforestation in Brazil is similar to Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) estimate for the humid domain of the Legal Amazon, particularly from 2004 when INPE implemented a digital processing approach to mapping deforestation (30) (**Fig. 3A**). Among the American countries, Mexico lost the highest proportion of undisturbed forest (a 74% reduction), followed by Nicaragua (66%).

In Brazil, a total of 0.6 million ha of undisturbed forests has been converted into water bodies, including the creation of the Balbina, San Antônio and Belo Monte dams. Peru, Bolivia and Venezuela lost 0.14 million ha, 0.11 million ha and 0.10 million ha of undisturbed forests, respectively, through conversion to water bodies.

In Latin America, 2.5 million ha of moist forests were converted to tree plantations, mostly located in Brazil (1.62 million ha) with minor contributions from Venezuela and Peru (0.07 million ha and 0.04 million ha, respectively).

Peaks in disturbances were observed during strong El Niño events that led to severe droughts in South America, in particular in 1991–1992, 1997–1998, 2009–2010 and 2015–2016 (**Figs. 3 and**

4, and Fig. S11). The warm and dry weather that occurs during El Niño years provides optimal conditions to cause and spread fires in the Amazonian forests (29–30). This is made worse when fires are used as a tool to clear areas of tropical moist forest for agriculture, with blazes sometimes spreading out of control.

In Africa, DRC has the largest remaining extent of undisturbed moist forest at 105.8 million ha and the second largest area of such forests at the pantropical level. Gabon, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo have similar areas of remaining intact forests (between 19.8 million ha and 23.4 million ha in 2019). The Republic of Congo and Gabon show very low rates of decline for the period 2000–2019 with 0.1 million ha/year and 0.03 million ha/year, respectively, compared with the DRC's 1.4 million ha/year.

With the exception of Madagascar and Angola, all African countries show an increase in annual rates of disturbance after 2009.

The African countries with the largest reductions in undisturbed moist forest extent are Ivory Coast (81.5%), Ghana (70.8%), Madagascar and Angola (67%), Nigeria (47%) and Liberia (36%).

In West Africa, the disturbance rate shows a recent increase, with 1.1 million ha/year in the past five years (2015–2019) compared with 0.68 million ha/year for the period 2005–2014.

Much of the forested area converted to tree plantations in Africa is located in the DRC (0.08 million ha), Cameroon (0.07 million ha) and Gabon (0.04 million ha).

Supplementary information on validation

Validation method

The validation approach includes three steps to produce an accuracy assessment: (i) the sampling design, (ii) the response design and (iii) the production of confusion matrices and estimates of uncertainties. The sampling design consisted of defining the spatial distribution of the sample within our study zone. The response design consisted of defining the protocol of measurements over the sample plots, including selecting the dates of Landsat images to be interpreted.

Sampling design

The most frequent sampling approach for validating land cover maps is a stratified random sampling with strata defined from the classes of the map to be validated and with an independent random sample in each stratum (66-68). However, in our case, the transition map depicted temporal land cover changes that made this solution difficult to apply. Here we selected a stratified systematic sampling scheme, which provides unbiased estimators of accuracy, although it led to a non-unbiased and more complex estimation of the variances. The main considerations for this choice are:

- Under spatial correlation decreasing with the distance, systematic sampling is more accurate than random sampling, i.e. the actual sampling variance is lower. However, there is no unbiased estimator for the variance of systematic sampling, and the usual random sampling estimator overestimates the systematic sampling variance, leading to a conservative accuracy assessment (69,70).
- If the sample size or the stratification is modified after plot data collection starts (e.g. because of changes in resources or improvement of the stratification), traditional systematic sampling with independent sampling may lead to a completely new sample (70). Our selected

stratified systematic sampling minimized this drawback by using a common pattern of ranked replicates for all strata.

- Bi-dimensional systematic sampling usually relies on a regular grid, which should be applied in principle on an equal-area projection. Although geographical coordinates do not correspond to an exact equal-area projection, the area distortion of geographical coordinates has a limited impact in tropical regions.

The sample was designed using three steps: (i) the preparation of a two-level systematic grid of potential sample points, (ii) the creation of a stratification layer by combining the transition map with an ancillary layer, and (iii) the selection of a set of second-level replicates to reach the target number of sample plots per stratum and continent.

We first defined a grid of regular blocks of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ latitude-longitude size that covered our study zone. A random location was selected within one block, then the set of points that occupied the same position in each block defined Replicate 1 (Fig. S10). The location of the second replicate was selected randomly within the $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ block among the locations that maximized the distance from Replicate 1. The distance $d(1,2)$ between Replicate 1 and Replicate 2 was the minimum distance between two points from each replicate that could belong to adjacent sampling blocks. For squared sampling blocks, there was only one location that reached the maximum distance for Replicate 2. Replicates 1 and 2 together constituted a new systematic pattern following diagonal lines. Additional replicates could be added to intensify the sampling. To preserve a spatial distribution that was as homogeneous as possible, the location of each additional replicate was selected at random among those that maximized the distance to the previously selected replicates.

Under the assumption that spatial correlation is higher at short distances, by maximizing the distance between replicates, we reduced the redundancy of the information provided by the sample (70). The use of $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ blocks implies that the block size diminishes when moving away from the equator. Although this effect is limited within the tropics, we handled it by reducing the number of plots along each geographical parallel through fraction downgrading between replicates.⁶⁶ The parallel at latitude α has a relative length of approximately $\cos(\alpha)$ compared with the equator. Therefore, a portion of $[1 - \cos(\alpha)]$ plots belonging to Replicate 1 was downgraded to Replicate 2, a portion of $[2 \times (1 - \cos(\alpha))]$ was downgraded from Replicate 2 to 3, and so on.

In the second step, we used the main classes of the transition map as core layers for the stratification, i.e. undisturbed forest, degraded forest, forest regrowth, deforested land, recent disturbances and other land cover. Moreover, in order to better assess potential omission errors in the mapping of disturbances, we added a supplementary (sub)stratum within the *undisturbed forest* stratum using the GFC dataset (24) as an ancillary spatial layer. To compensate for the shorter time coverage of the GFC dataset (compared with our dataset), we enlarged the GFC loss areas using a spatial buffer of 5 km, similarly to (32). This was intended as a proxy for GFC past deforestation (i.e. before 2000), as new deforestation often occurs close to places where deforestation has occurred in the past. This led to the division of the undisturbed forest stratum into two strata: Stratum 1 (undisturbed forest outside the GFC loss buffer) and Stratum 2 (undisturbed forest within the GFC loss buffer). Overall, this resulted in a total of seven strata (fig. S9).

Regarding the availability of information on the structure of the variance relating to the target variables across the strata, there are various criteria that can be used to optimize the sampling

allocation, e.g. the traditional Neyman's rule (71) or multivariate algorithms (72). As we were lacking such knowledge on the variability of target variables per stratum, we allocated the same sample size (250 sample plots) to each stratum and each continent, leading to heterogeneous numbers of plots per replicate, stratum and continent. For example, for the large Stratum 7 in Africa, all 197 sample plots from Replicate 1 were allocated and 53 sample plots in Replicate 2 were selected randomly to meet the target of 250 plots. For a smaller-sized stratum, higher-ranked replicates needed to be considered in order to find 250 plots (e.g. up to Replicate 8 for Stratum 2 in Africa). In spite of this sampling heterogeneity, the sampling algorithm ensured spatial regularity and avoided pairs of sample plots that were very close to each other. The overall sample consisted of 1750 sample plots by continent (7 strata \times 250 plots), i.e. 5250 sample plots for the overall study area (fig. S8).

Response design

The reference dataset of land cover classes was created through visual expert interpretation of Landsat images on several dates and of recent higher-resolution satellite images when available. Each reference sample plot was assessed over a box size of 3×3 Landsat pixels centered on one of the 5250 sample points. For each sample plot, a subset of Landsat images was selected for visual interpretation. For each image and sample plot (0.81 ha size), the interpreter selected one of the following land cover labels: (i) *forest cover*, (ii) *mostly non-forest*, (iii) *minor non-forest*, or (iv) *invalid*. A *forest cover* label corresponds to mature trees or vegetation regrowth (mosaic of shrubs and trees), covering the full plot (nine pixels). The *mostly non-forest* label corresponds to a sample plot including at least five pixels with a *non-forest cover* (including disruption observations and other non-evergreen forest cover, such as savanna, agriculture, and water surface). The interpreter

assigned a *minor non-forest* label to the sample plot when one to four Landsat pixels with *non-forest* spectral signature were observed.

As it was not possible to interpret all the Landsat images available for each sample plot, we selected a subset of Landsat image dates for the visual interpretation, with the aim of optimizing the assessment of commission and omission errors and the resulting uncertainties (fig. S9), as follows:

- The Landsat images were selected from the full archive with at least one image within each of three key periods: (i) very recent years (2014–2017) corresponding to the acquisition period of Landsat 8 data, (ii) recent years (2007–2013) and (iii) historical period (before 2007).
- To assess the commission errors, we validated the detection of *disruption observations* from the same Landsat image that led to its detection. For each sample plot belonging to a disturbed stratum (i.e. Strata 3–6) or to the *other land cover* stratum, the Landsat images corresponding to the dates of first and last *disruption observations* (or the dates of the non-evergreen forest cover observations for Strata 7) were selected for visual interpretation.
- To assess omission errors (i.e. potentially missed *disruption observations*), we validated the periods without *disruption observations* (green boxes in fig. S9), as follows. For Stratum 1 (undisturbed forest with no GFC loss), three dates from the series of existing Landsat images were selected randomly, one for each of the three periods. For Stratum 2 (undisturbed forest within the GFC loss buffer), three dates from the series of existing Landsat images were selected for visual interpretation: one date selected during the GFC loss year when the sample plot was covered by GFC loss pixels, and two dates were selected randomly from Landsat images available during the two remaining periods. For Strata 3–6, one date was selected randomly from available Landsat images during each forest/regrowth period (periods without *disruption observations*). In these cases (Strata 3–6), the year just after or just before a period with *disruption observations* was

preferentially selected in order to validate the duration of the disturbance period; e.g. for Stratum 3, an image from 2007 was selected instead of a random selection from the period 2007–2013 (as the last disruption was observed before 2007).

This selection process for Landsat images led to the choice of two to four images per sample plot and resulted in a total of 14,295 Landsat images to be visually interpreted.

Interpretation interface/tool

To interpret satellite images over the sample plots, a GEE web interface was developed to facilitate the photo-interpretation task by displaying (i) Landsat images on specific dates (see the subsection ‘Response design’ above), (ii) high-resolution (HR) images from the Digital Globe or Bing collections, and (iii) the sample box for each image.

For each sample plot and for each Landsat image, the expert validator had to select one class from the four land cover classes defined in the response design phase (*forest cover, mostly non-forest cover, minor non-forest cover, or invalid*). The expert validator did not have access to the results of our mapping approach (transition map or single-date classification) to avoid potential bias during this interpretation phase.

When an HR image was available, a more detailed land cover legend was used with the following classes: (i) *dense forest* (continuous tree cover with > 90% crown cover); (ii) *open forest* (non-continuous tree cover with > 50% crown cover); (iii) *mostly shrubland*; (iv) *forest/shrubland mosaic* (at least 10% of shrubs); (v) *minor non-forest* (10–50% non-forest cover); (vi) *mostly non-forest* (at least 50% non-forest cover); or (vii) *invalid* (no HR image available or clouds). Unfortunately, the exact dates of HR images are not usually available from GEE. Therefore, the HR interpretations were used in combination with the Landsat interpretations: (i) to support

evidence in the validation process of the single-date classification algorithm, and (ii) to assess the accuracy of the transition classes and uncertainties of area estimates.

Accuracy assessment of the single-date classification algorithm

Our reference sample dataset was first used to assess the performance of the single-date classification algorithm with regard to errors of omission and commission. The accuracy was measured against the Landsat interpretations of the reference sample. The HR interpretations are provided in the detailed confusion matrix as complementary information to enable a better understanding of the commission and omission errors.

The HR interpretations were reclassified into five larger classes to make them comparable with the legend of the Landsat and single-date interpretations: (i) *forest*, (ii) *mostly non-forest*, (iii) *minor non-forest*, (iv) *shrubland*, and (v) *invalid*. The *minor non-forest* and the *open forest* labels were grouped in one class (iii). The *mostly shrubland* and the *forest/shrubland mosaic* were grouped in one class (iv).

Using the full reference sample, a confusion matrix between the Landsat-based visual interpretations and the class values of our transition map was produced (for the three classes *forest cover*, *mostly non-forest*, and *minor non-forest*) from which a simplified two-class confusion matrix was derived with the forest and non-forest (including *mostly non-forest* and *minor non-forest*) classes. This was used to estimate overall accuracy and related omission and commission errors.

As the single-date classification was carried out using different sensors (TM, ETM+ and OLI sensors) on board various satellites, we verified the consistency of classifier performance across the main sensors (L5, L7 and L8) by estimating the omission and commission errors for each

sensor. Finally, the validation results were analyzed by continent and for the different land cover strata, as well as for different disturbance intensities.

Accuracy assessment of the transition map and uncertainties of area estimates

Our reference dataset of sample plots was then used for the accuracy assessment of the transition map and for estimating errors in area estimates. For this accuracy assessment exercise, we considered the land cover classes of the transition map to produce three new classes at the scale of the sample plots (3×3 pixels) in order to make them comparable with the reference dataset: (i) *fully undisturbed forest* (all nine pixels of the transition map within the sample box were classified as undisturbed forest); (ii) *mostly undisturbed* (fewer than five pixels have changed), and (iii) *mostly changed*. The *mostly changed* class corresponds to sample plots with (i) at least five pixels that have changed from forest to non-forest or degraded forest, and (ii) fewer than five pixels that have been classified as other land cover.

From our reference dataset, we used the Landsat interpretations on different dates (from two to four dates) (fig. S9) combined with the HR interpretation to obtain the following potential classes for each reference sample plot:

- (i) *undisturbed forest* (no interpretation of non-forest or mosaic forest/non-forest events) both on Landsat and HR (shrubland or mosaic forest/shrubland or invalid);
- (ii) forest with *major or minor disturbance only on HR* (undisturbed forest on Landsat);
- (iii) forest with *major disturbance*, i.e. with at least one interpretation of major disturbances (at least five pixels) on Landsat, whatever the HR interpretation;
- (iv) forest with *minor disturbance*, i.e. with at least one interpretation of minor disturbances (fewer than five pixels) on Landsat, whatever the HR interpretation.

In addition, for the sample plots with disturbances identified either from the transition map or from the reference dataset of Landsat interpretations, we identified subclasses based on the number of Landsat images interpreted as disturbed. From the transition map, we defined three subclasses based on the number of disruption observations within the box and over the full 36-year period: (i) one disruption observation, (ii) two to three disruption observations, and (iii) more than three disruption observations. For the reference dataset of Landsat interpretations, we identified four subclasses corresponding to the number of images that were interpreted as disrupted (including major and minor disturbances), i.e. 1, 2, 3 or 4.

The numbers of disruption observations in our sample were used to analyze the omission and commission errors between the transition map and the reference dataset.

To estimate the accuracy of the transition map, we used a simplified legend that allowed good correspondence between the classes of the transition map and of the interpretations of the reference dataset. The simplified land cover legend included two target classes: (i) *undisturbed forests* and (ii) *forest changes*. From the transition map, a sample plot was considered *undisturbed forest* when the plot box was fully undisturbed (all nine pixels of the box) and was considered *forest changes* in the other cases, i.e. when the plot box contained at least one pixel of disturbance (i.e. including minor and major disturbances). From the reference dataset, a sample plot was considered *undisturbed* when there were no disturbance interpretations either on Landsat or on HR (or an invalid interpretation on HR), and *forest changes* in the other cases, i.e. when there was at least one disturbance interpretation either on Landsat or on HR.

The contributions of the sample plots were then weighted based on the stratification used in the sampling phase (see the subsection ‘Sampling design’ above). Finally, the user, producer and overall accuracies, the omission and commission errors, the confidence intervals of the estimated

accuracies and the corrected estimates of undisturbed and disturbed forest areas with a 95% confidence interval on this estimation were computed in accordance with the good practices recommended by Olofsson *et al.* (27).

Validation results

The validation was performed using a reference dataset of 5119 sample plots with at least one valid Landsat interpretation per plot (1705 for Africa, 1693 for Asia and 1700 for Latin America) and a total of 12,343 Landsat interpretations (3823 for Africa, 4215 for Asia and 4305 for Latin America) distributed temporally (across the period 1982–2016) and across Landsat sensors (L5, L7, and L8).

The 12,343 Landsat interpretations were compiled from the 5119 sample plots using Landsat images on selected dates with no cloud presence, no sensor artefacts and no doubt about the visual interpretation (from one to four Landsat images per plot). Within the full sample of the 5119 reference plots, 3982 sample plots had one valid recent HR interpretation, 3% of the plots had one valid Landsat interpretation, 30% had two valid Landsat interpretations, 57% had three valid interpretations and 10% had four valid Landsat interpretations.

Two confusion matrices were produced from the reference sample dataset: one from all valid Landsat interpretations (12,343 in total) to assess the performance of the single-date classification algorithm, and another from the 5119 sample plots to assess the accuracy of the transition map.

Performance of the single-date algorithm

The confusion matrix for the single-date classification (tables S2 and S3) reports an overall accuracy rate of 91.4%, with omission and commission errors for *non-forest cover* detection of

9.4% and 7.9%, respectively. At continental level, overall accuracy is higher for Africa (94.6%) than for Latin America (91.0%) or Asia (89.0%). Among the 577 plots that correspond to the omission errors, 86% were classified as forest changes or other land cover on the transition map. Moreover, 71% of these plots were confirmed as changes by the HR interpretations. This shows that most of the omissions of the single-date classification algorithm were ‘temporary’ omissions, as most of these disturbances were then confirmed from the full temporal Landsat time series. These probably correspond to omissions at the beginning of disturbance events. It is also important to mention that 87% of these omissions were plots with *minor non-forest* extent (fewer than five pixels interpreted as non-forest within the sample plot).

The accuracy matrices by continent (table S3) show a higher rate of omission errors for Asia (14.3%) than for Africa or Latin America (6.5% and 7.1%, respectively) but no significant differences were observed among sensors (9.8% for LT5, 9.7% for L8, 9.4% for L7).

These omission errors (in the single-date classification) mainly appear as other land cover on the transition map (49% of these omissions), but also as mostly undisturbed (a spatial majority of undisturbed forest within the box) (25%), deforestation without regrowth (17%) and mostly degraded or regrowth (10% altogether). The 577 sample plots presenting omission errors are sites of intensive disturbances, as 71% of these errors concern sample plots where the total number of disturbances detected over the full period was greater than three.

Among the commission errors in the single-date classification corresponding to *forest cover* in Landsat interpretations and *non-forest cover* in the single-date classification (480 plots), only 22% were interpreted as *forest* using the HR images, whereas 24% were interpreted as mostly or *minor non-forest*, 35% as *shrubland* and 18% as *invalid*. Therefore, a large part of these ‘false detections’

of single-date disturbance events were observed as disturbances in the most recent HR images.

This raises the issue of the potential limitations of the visual interpretation of Landsat images.

Among the sample plots that correspond to these commission errors, 69% were classified in the transition map as spatial minor changes (fewer than five pixels within the 3×3 pixel box) and 31% as spatial major changes (more than five pixels within the 3×3 pixel box). In addition, of the total commission error plots, 67% concern deforestation and other land cover classes; degradation and regrowth represent 18%; and classes of mostly undisturbed forest (between five and eight pixels of undisturbed forest within the 3×3 pixel box) represent 15%.

More commission errors are observed for Latin America (13.2%) than for Asia (8.3%) or Africa (3.2%). These differences can be partly explained by the numbers of Landsat scenes that were processed: 540,634 scenes for Latin America, 482,965 scenes for Asia and 231,087 scenes for Africa. A larger number of scenes may result in a greater number of errors in the final product due to the presence of noise or artefacts within a minor part of the Landsat dataset. These factors cannot fully be eliminated.

Finally, more commission errors were observed for L8 (11.3%) than for L7 (8.2%) or L5 (7.3%) (table S3).

Accuracy of the transition map and area estimates

The accuracy matrix for the transition map shows an overall accuracy (stratum-weighted estimate) of 92.8% for the classes of the moist forest domain (tables S4 and S5). The omission and commission errors for the *forest changes* areas are 19% and 8.4%, respectively.

The commission errors concern mainly (66.3%) minor disturbances on our transition map (fewer than four disturbances detected over the observation period and fewer than five pixels within the

sample plot). Of these commission errors, 24.2% concern major disturbances (more than five pixels within the plot with at least three detections over the full period).

The omission errors concern mainly (74.1%) minor disturbances that were identified only once from the valid Landsat images or disturbances that were identified only using the HR images (15.9%).

The accuracy matrix for the transition map allows us to produce reference-corrected area estimates (table S5). The correction shows that a direct area measurement from the transition map underestimates the forest area changes by 38.4 million ha (325.2 million ha derived from the map versus 363.6 million ha for the corrected estimate), representing a relative bias of 11.8%, with a confidence interval (95%) of this error estimation at 15 million ha.

Supplementary figures and tables

Fig. S1 Subsets (25 x 34 km) of the annual change layer in two different periods (1990 and 2015) for two regions: A, Cambodia (106 ° E, 12.5 ° N); B, Brazil – Pará region (53° W, 6° S).

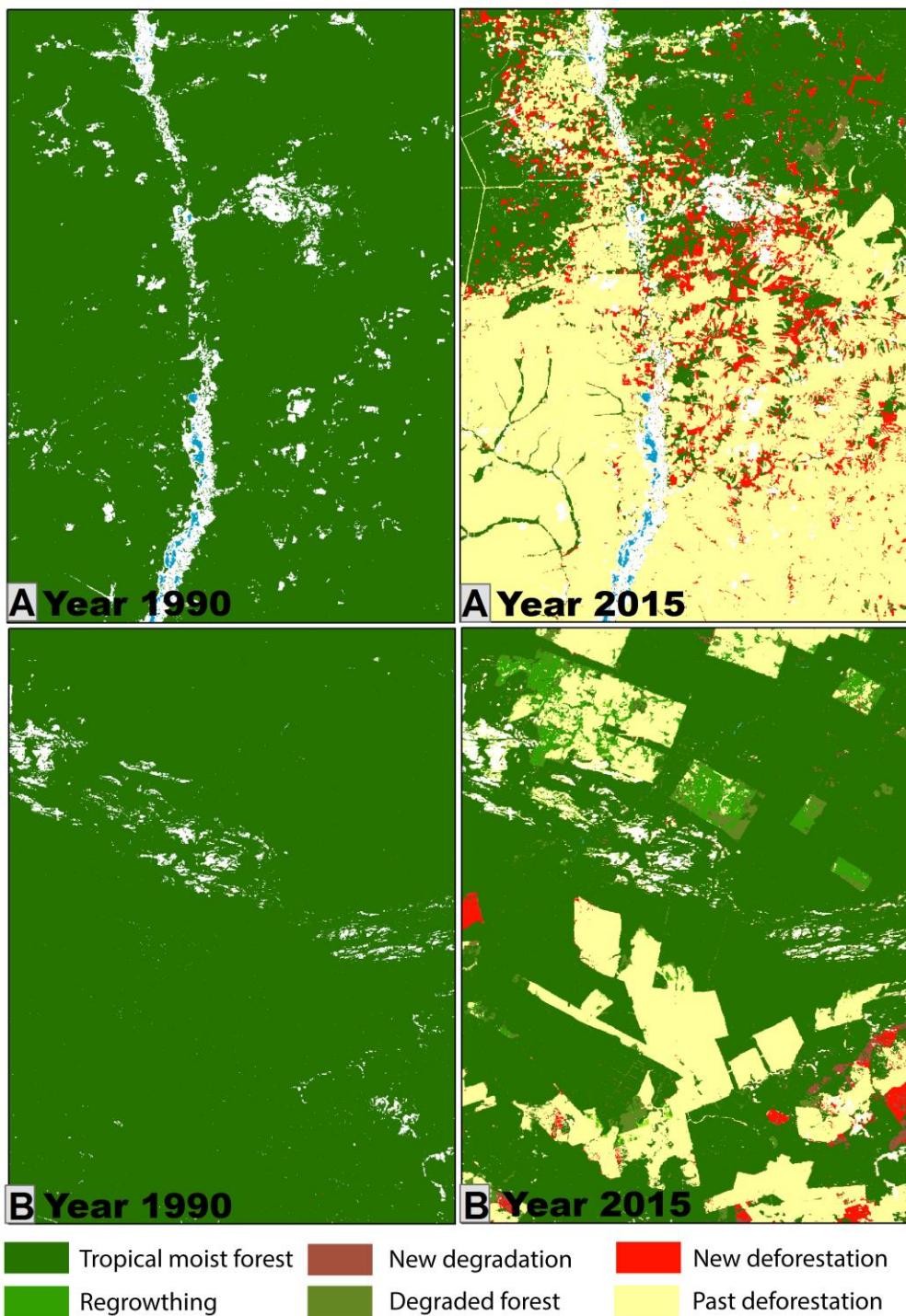


Fig. S2 Methodological steps for the definition of the transition classes.

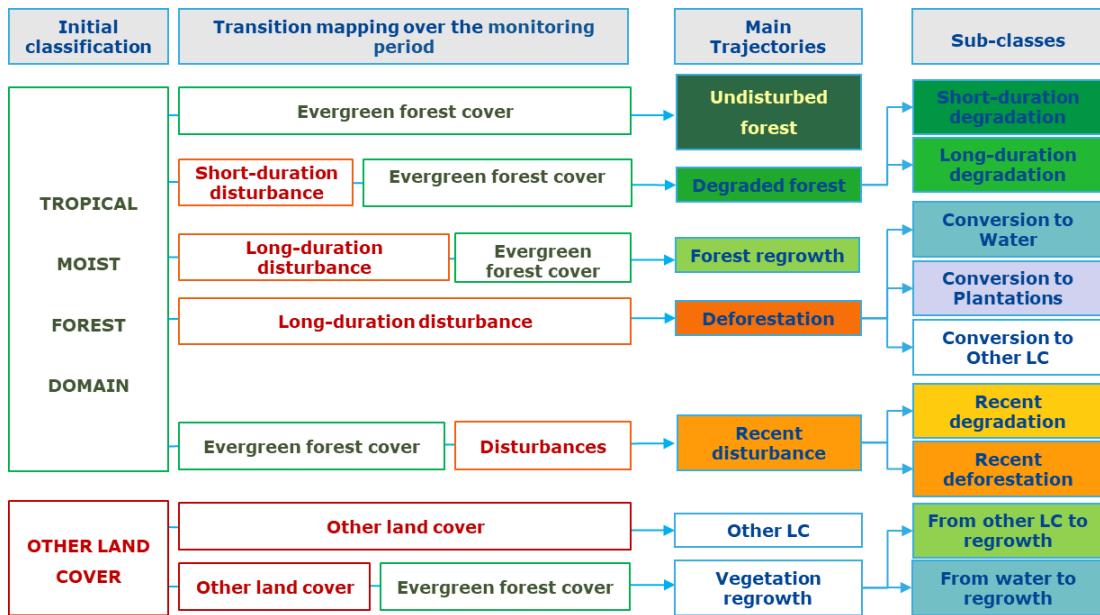


Fig. S3 Subsets ($10 \text{ km} \times 30 \text{ km}$) of the transition map capturing different types of logging areas:
A, logging concession in Ouéssso, the Republic of the Congo; B, selective logging in Pará state,
Brazil; C, logging network in Suriname; D, logging and deforestation in Papua New Guinea.
Short-duration degradation (logging activities) appears in green and deforestation appears in red.

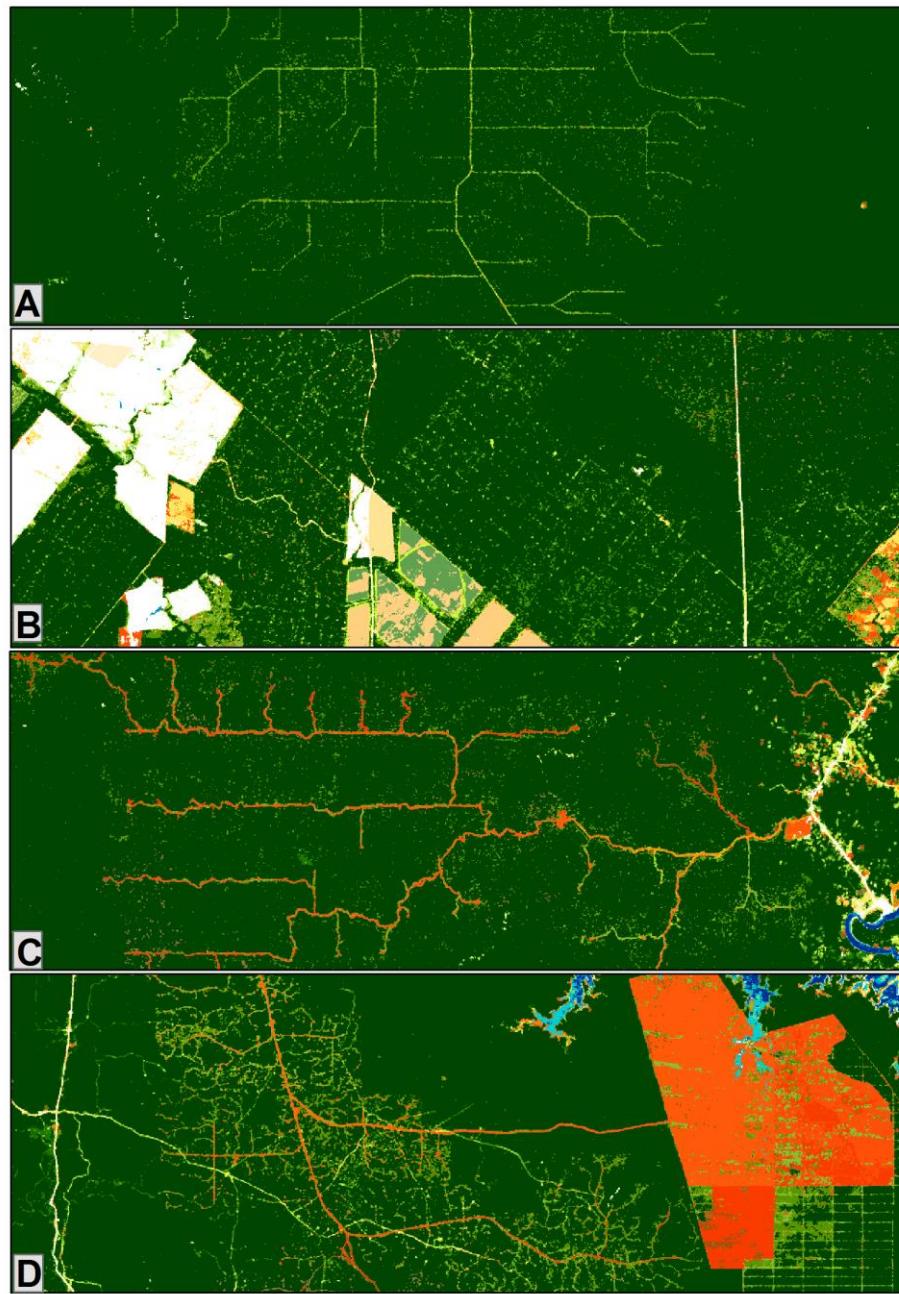


Fig. S4 Subsets ($18 \text{ km} \times 50 \text{ km}$) of the transition map capturing different types of deforestation processes: A, deforestation in the south of Porto Velho (Rondônia state, Brazil); B, deforestation in Roraima state, Brazil; C, deforestation and degradation due to the proximity of the railway in Cameroon; D, degradation and deforestation in a protected area in Ivory Coast.

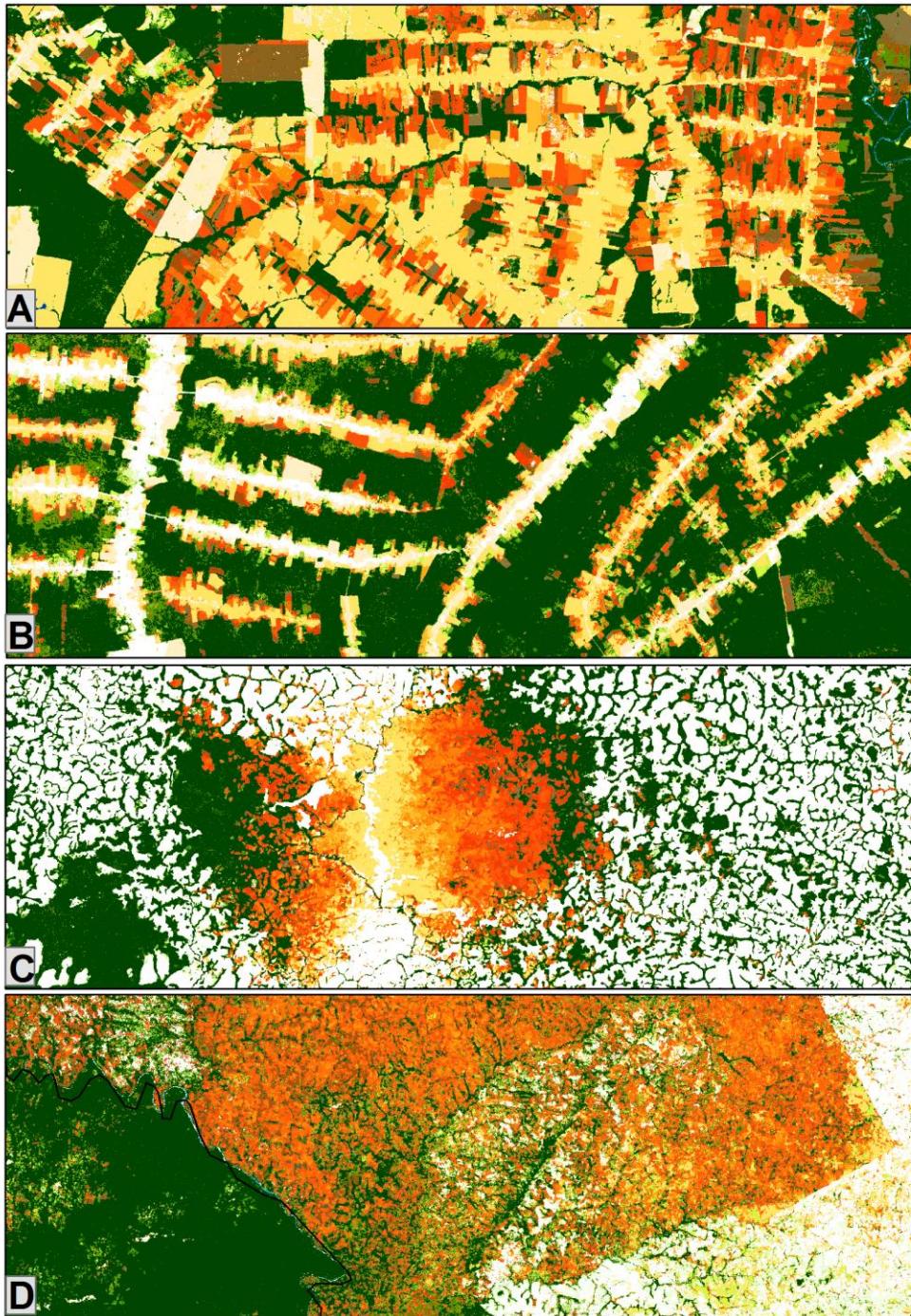


Fig. S5 Subsets ($18 \text{ km} \times 50 \text{ km}$) of the transition map capturing different tree plantation areas: A, cacao plantation in Venezuela; B, recent large oil palm plantation in Gabon (2015–2017); C, massive forest conversion to oil palm plantations in Cambodia; D, oil palm plantations in Indonesia.

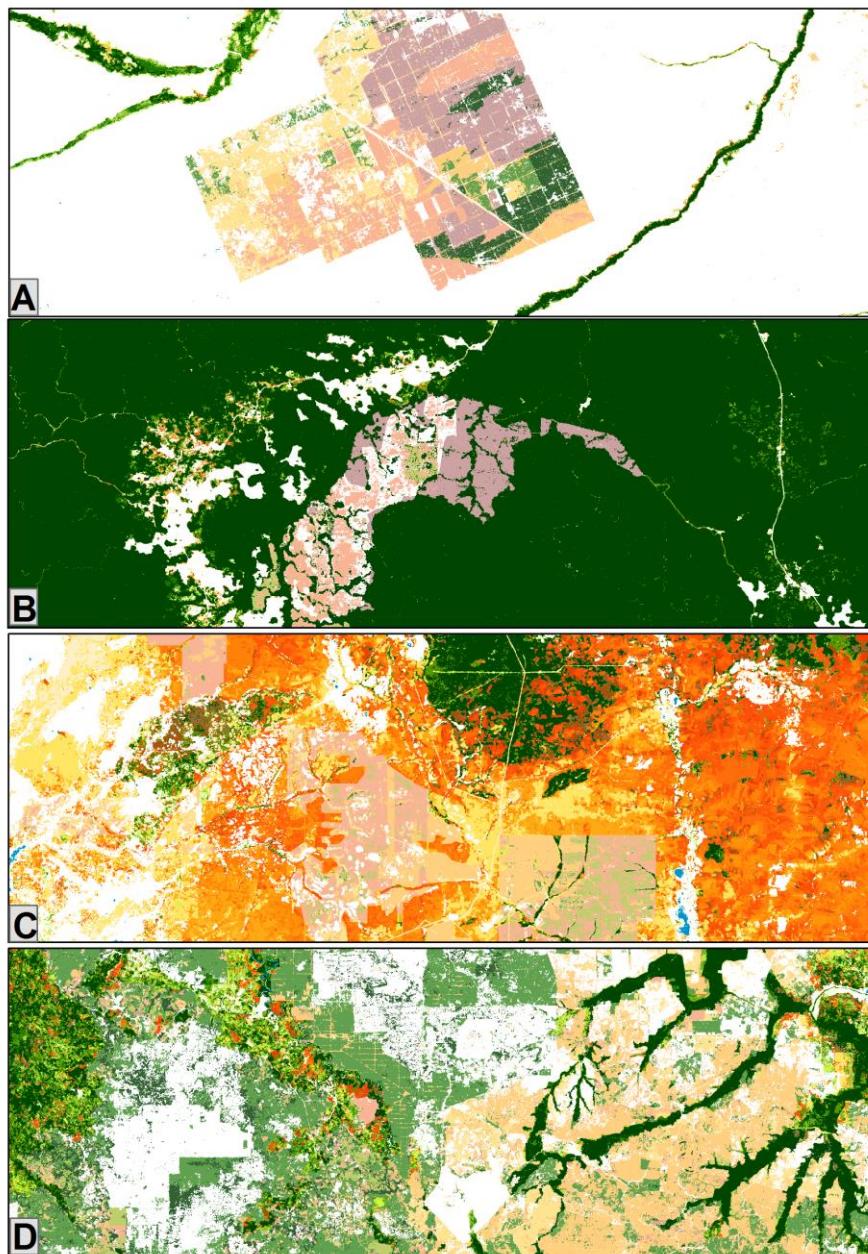


Fig. S6 Subsets ($18 \text{ km} \times 50 \text{ km}$) of the transition map: A, forest conversion to water body due to a new dam in Malaysia; B, road network in Sarawak, Malaysia, at the border with Kalimantan Indonesia; C, rural complex in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; D, gold mining in Peru (Madre De Dios, Mazuco).

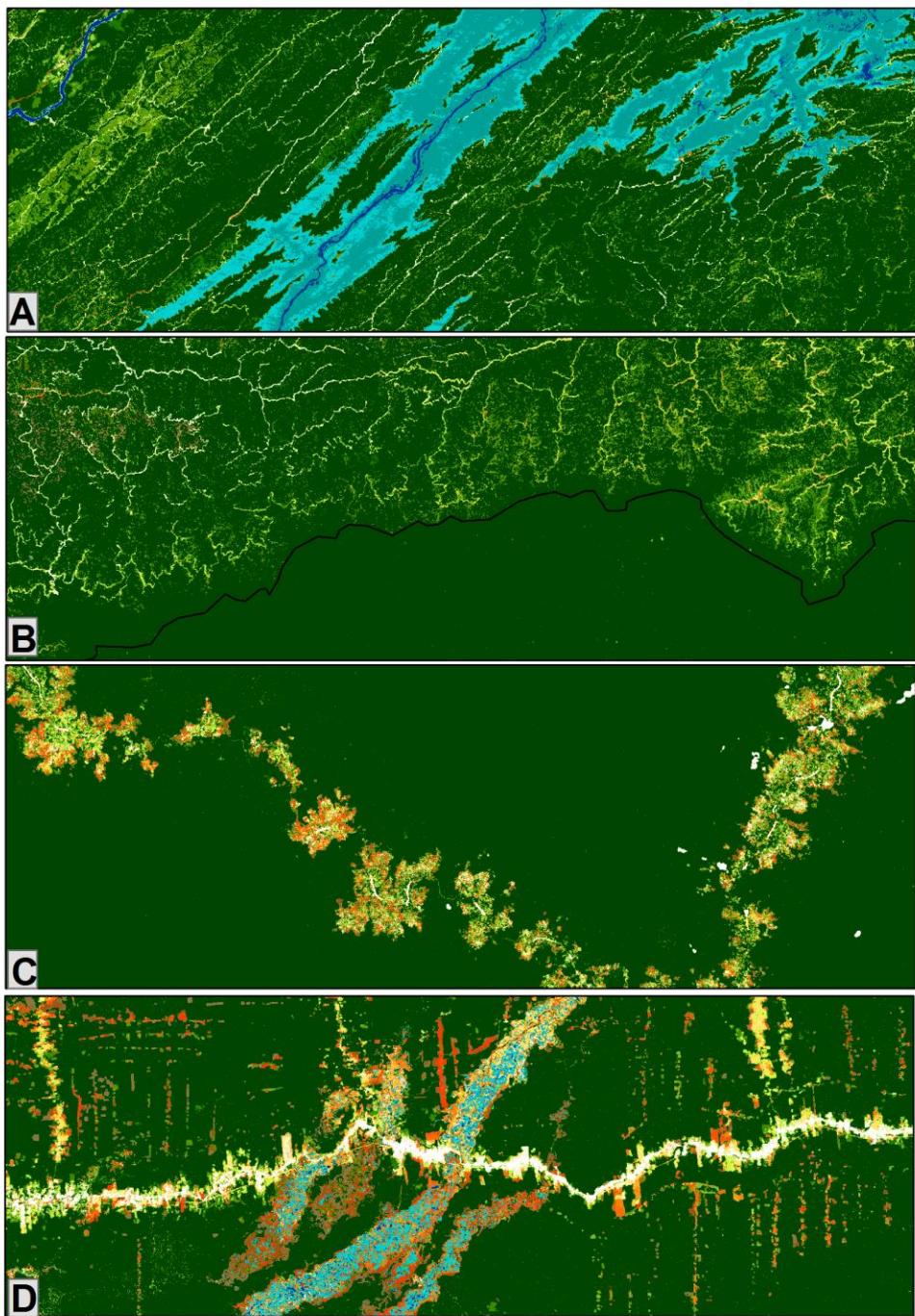


Fig. S7 Subsets (20 x 50 km) of the transition map capturing specific degradation patterns in tropical moist forests due to climatic events: A, Cyclone Debbie in 2017 in northern Australia; B, droughts in 2016 due to ENSO events; C, Cyclone Hudah in Madagascar in April 2000 (north of Antalaha); D, fires related to droughts in the Amazon. Degraded forests appear in light green (if occurred before 2016) or brown (in 2016 or 2017).

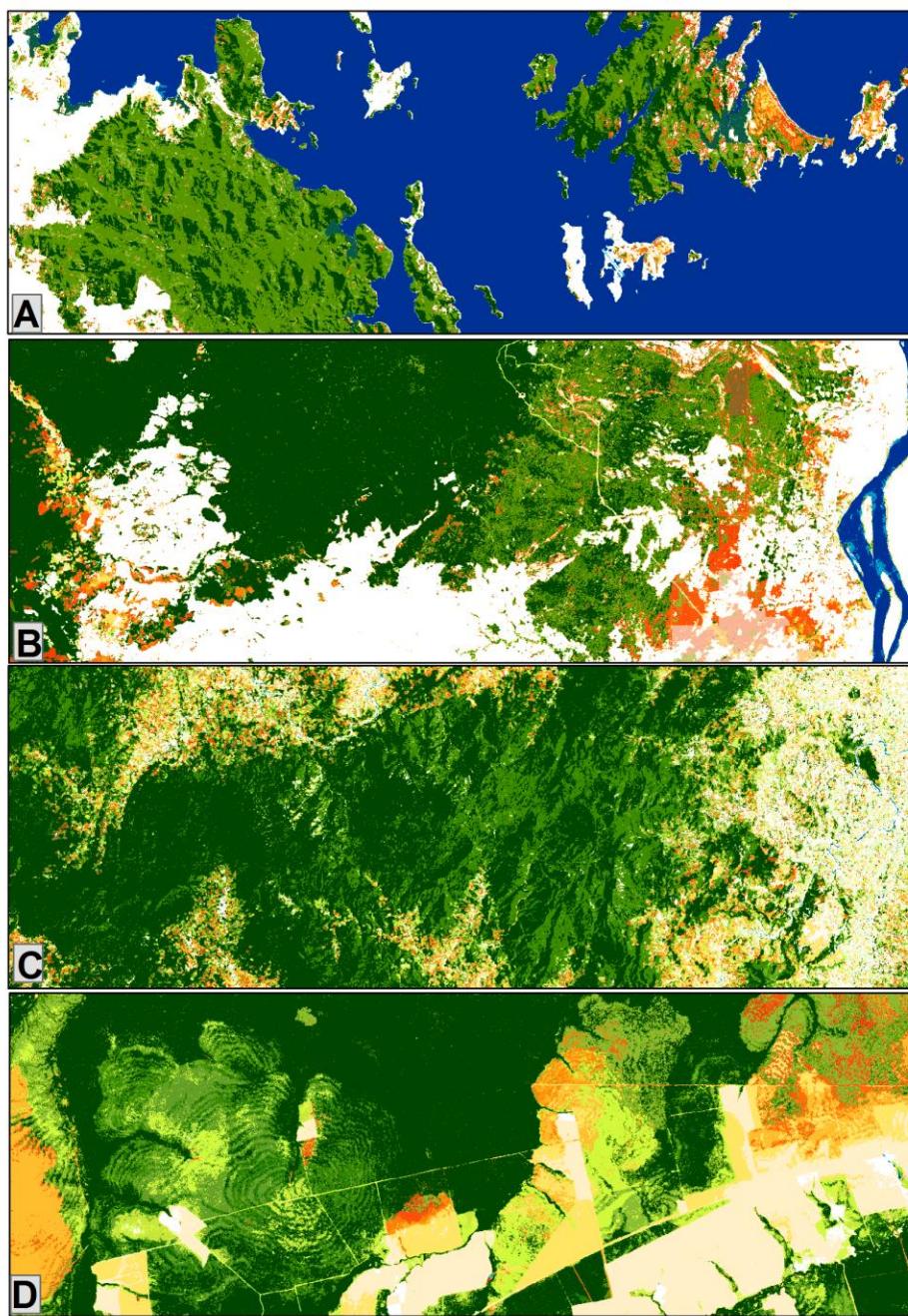


Fig. S8 Sampling plots (5250) used for the validation and accuracy assessment.

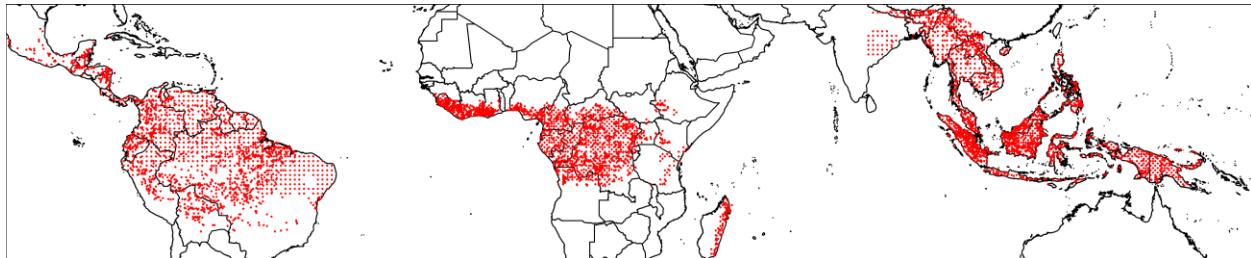


Fig. S9 Validation response design: selection process for dates of Landsat images within the seven strata and three periods, to be interpreted in the reference validation dataset.

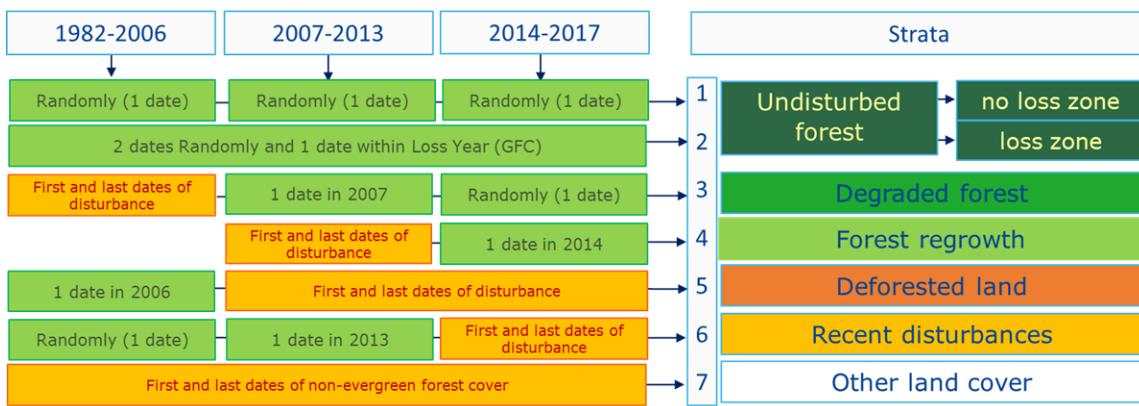


Fig. S10 Example of systematic blocks of $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ longitude-latitude, and Replicates 1 and 2 (one replicate is the set of points that occupy the same position in each block), over an area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (around $350 \text{ km} \times 250 \text{ km}$ in size and centered on 19.5°E , 2°N) with the transition layer in the background.

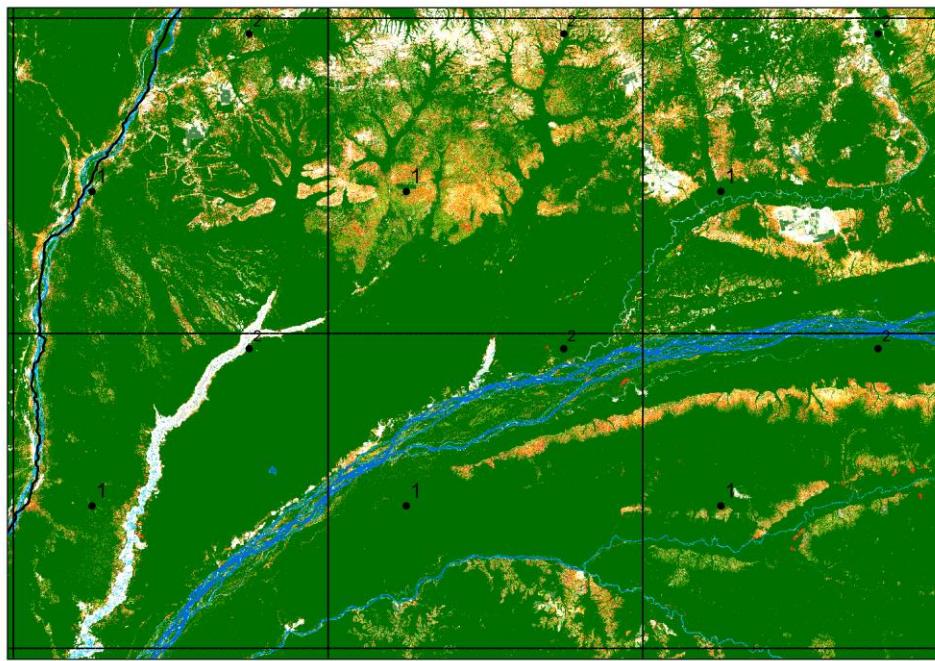
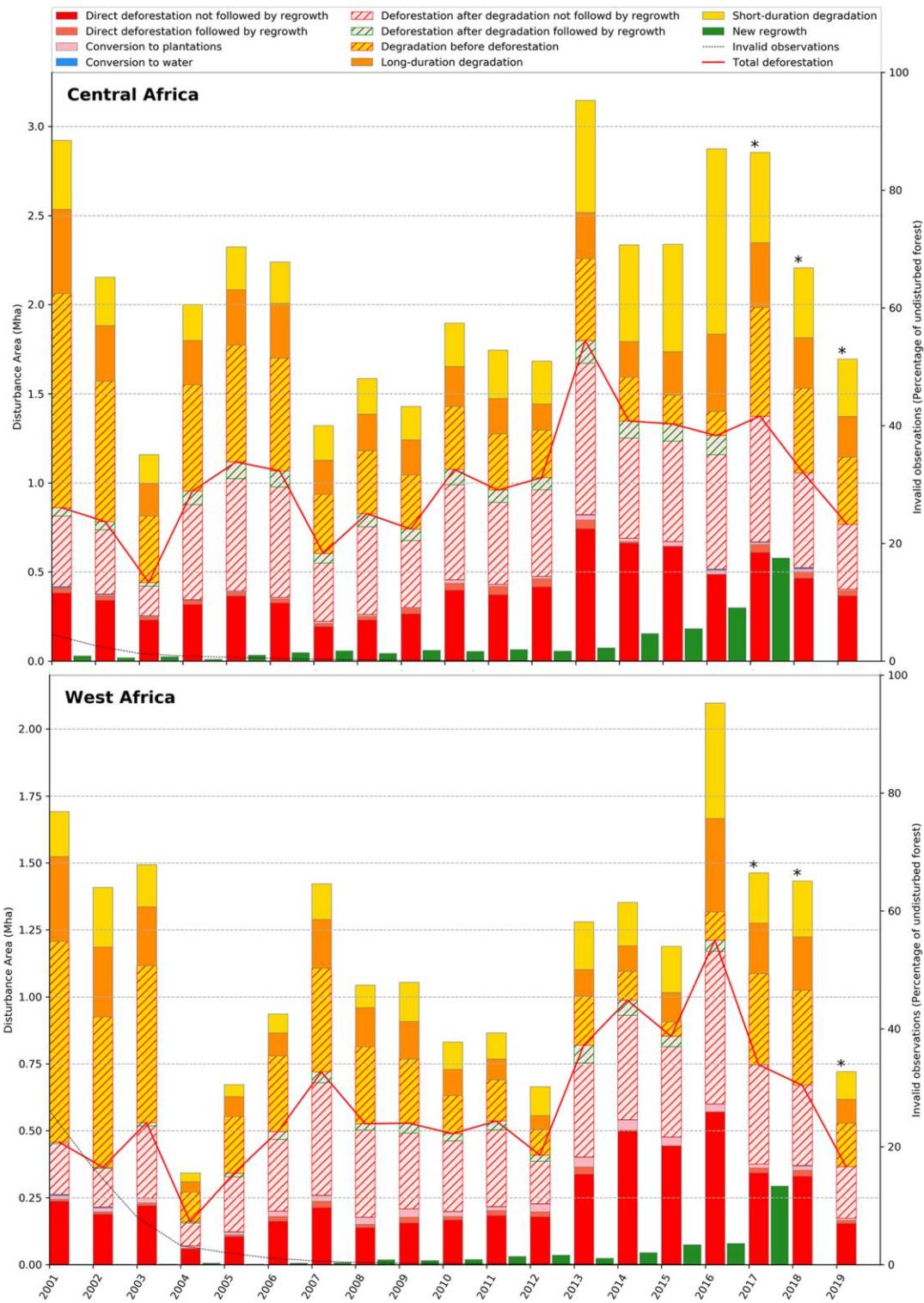
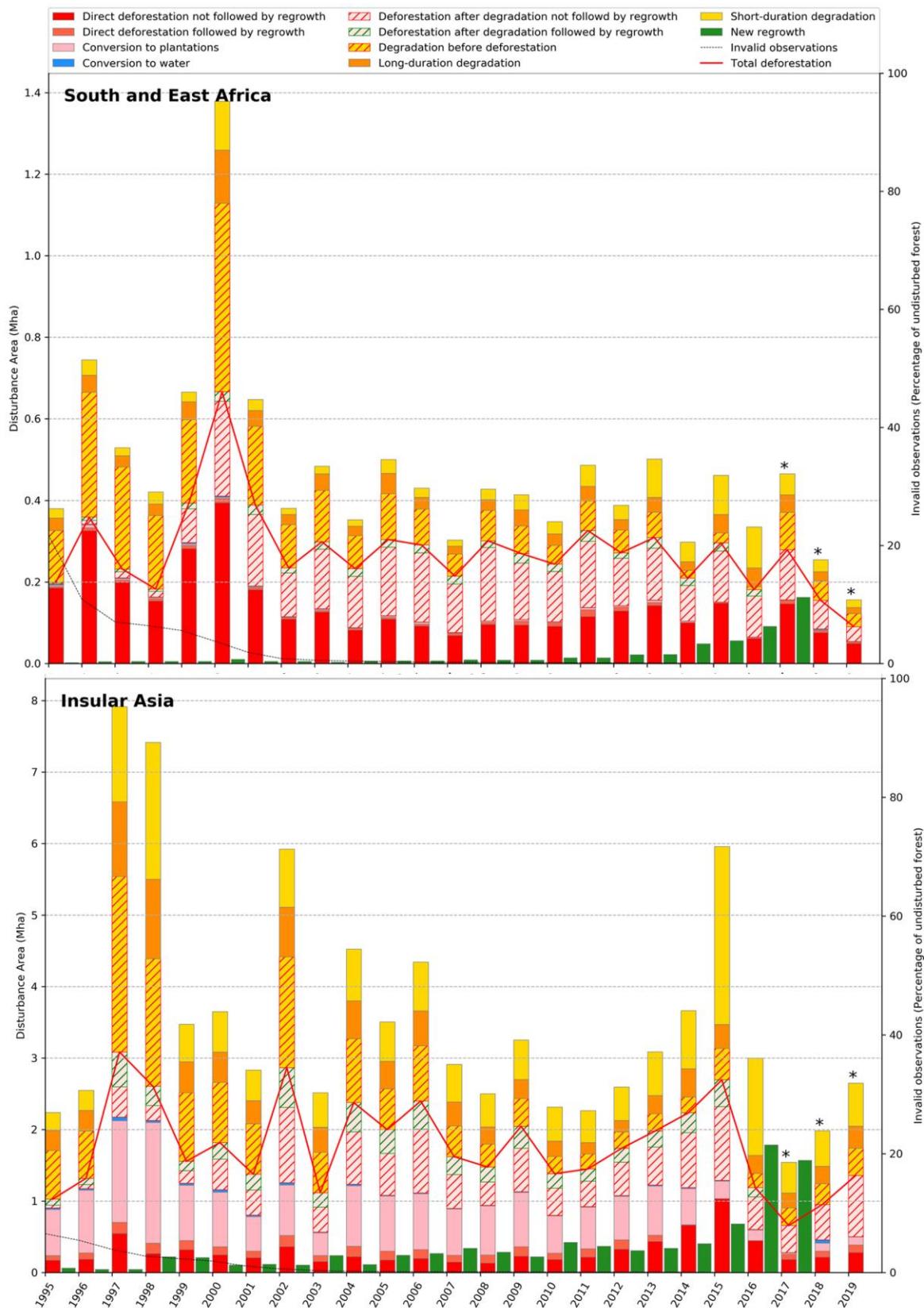
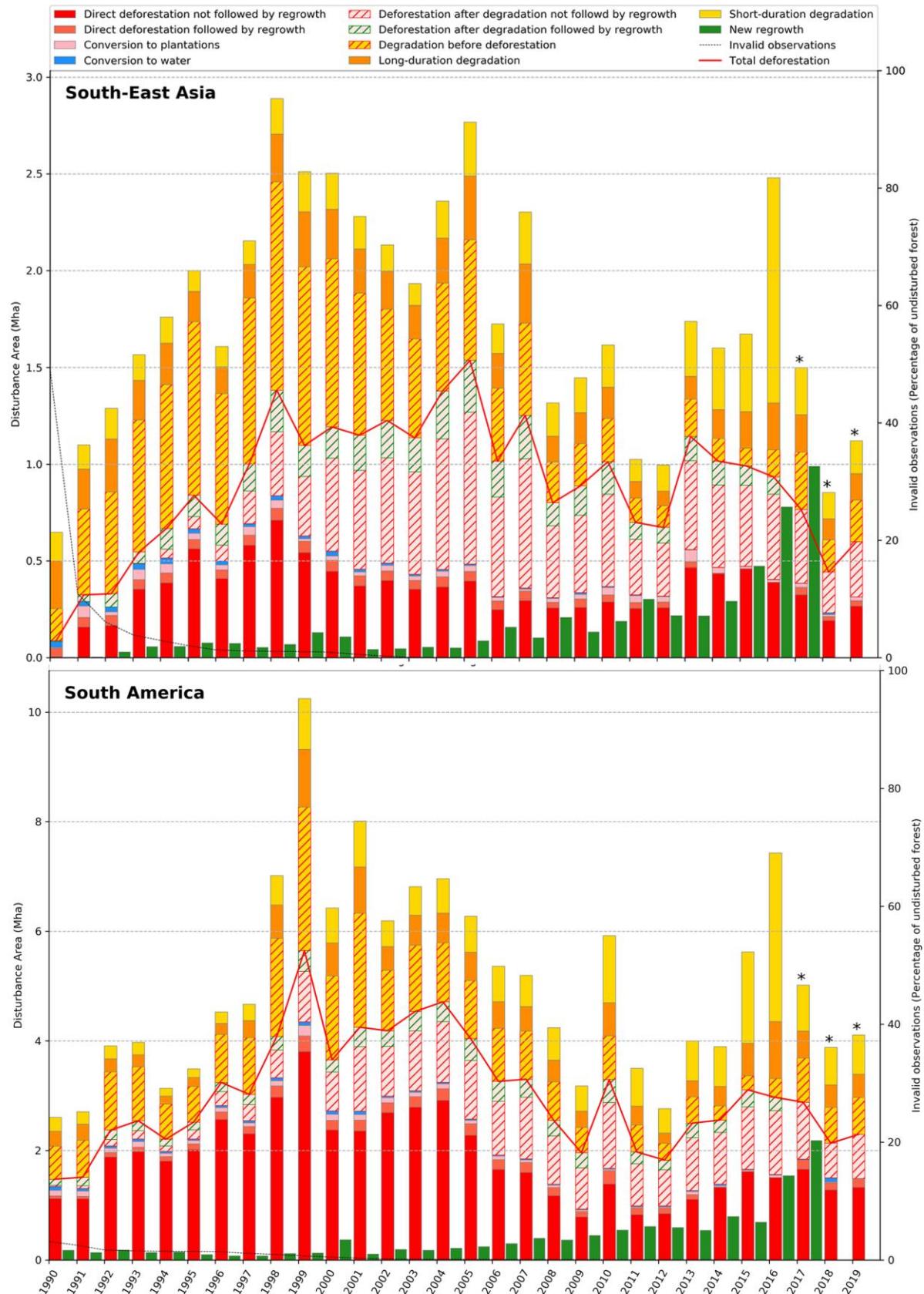
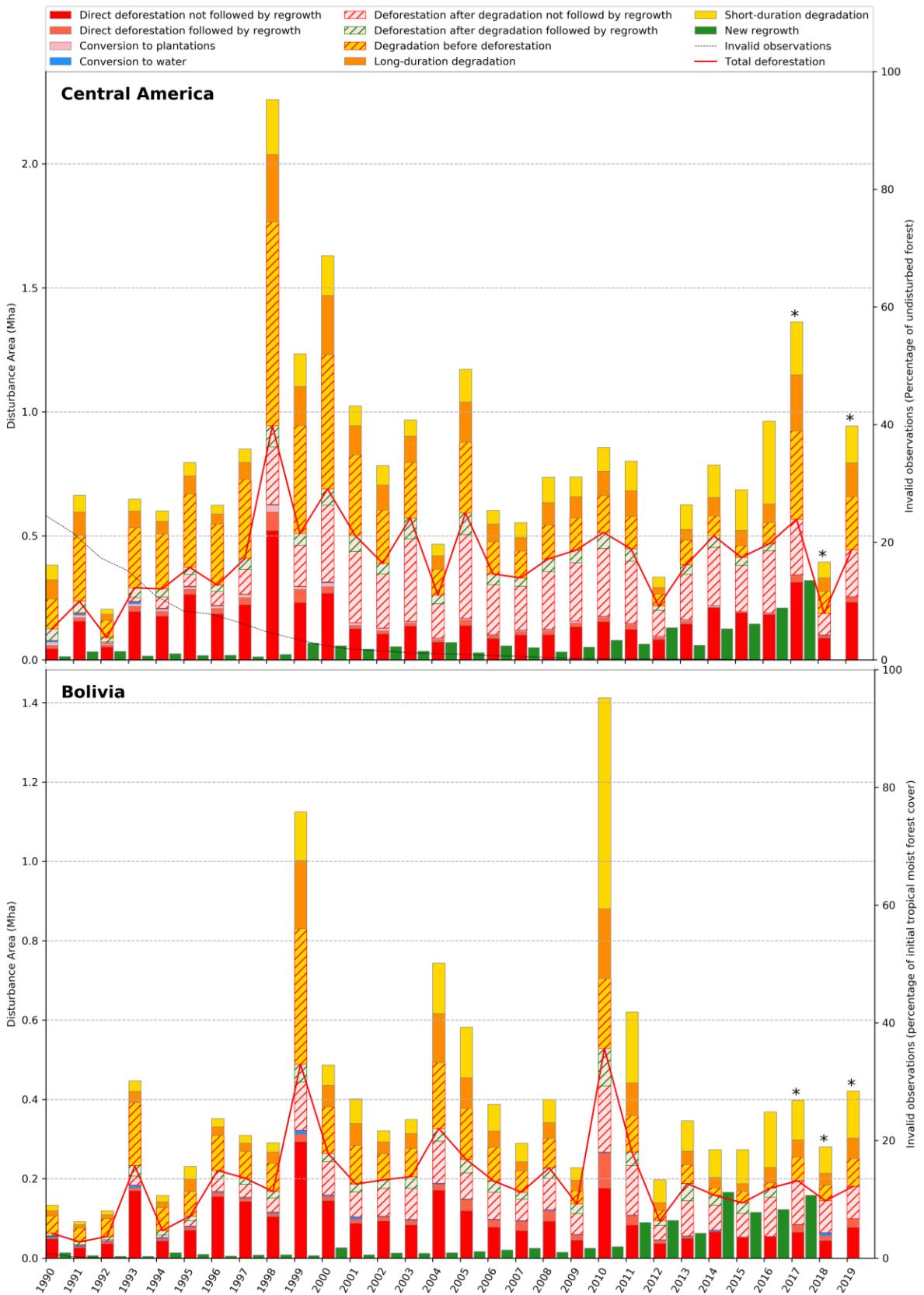


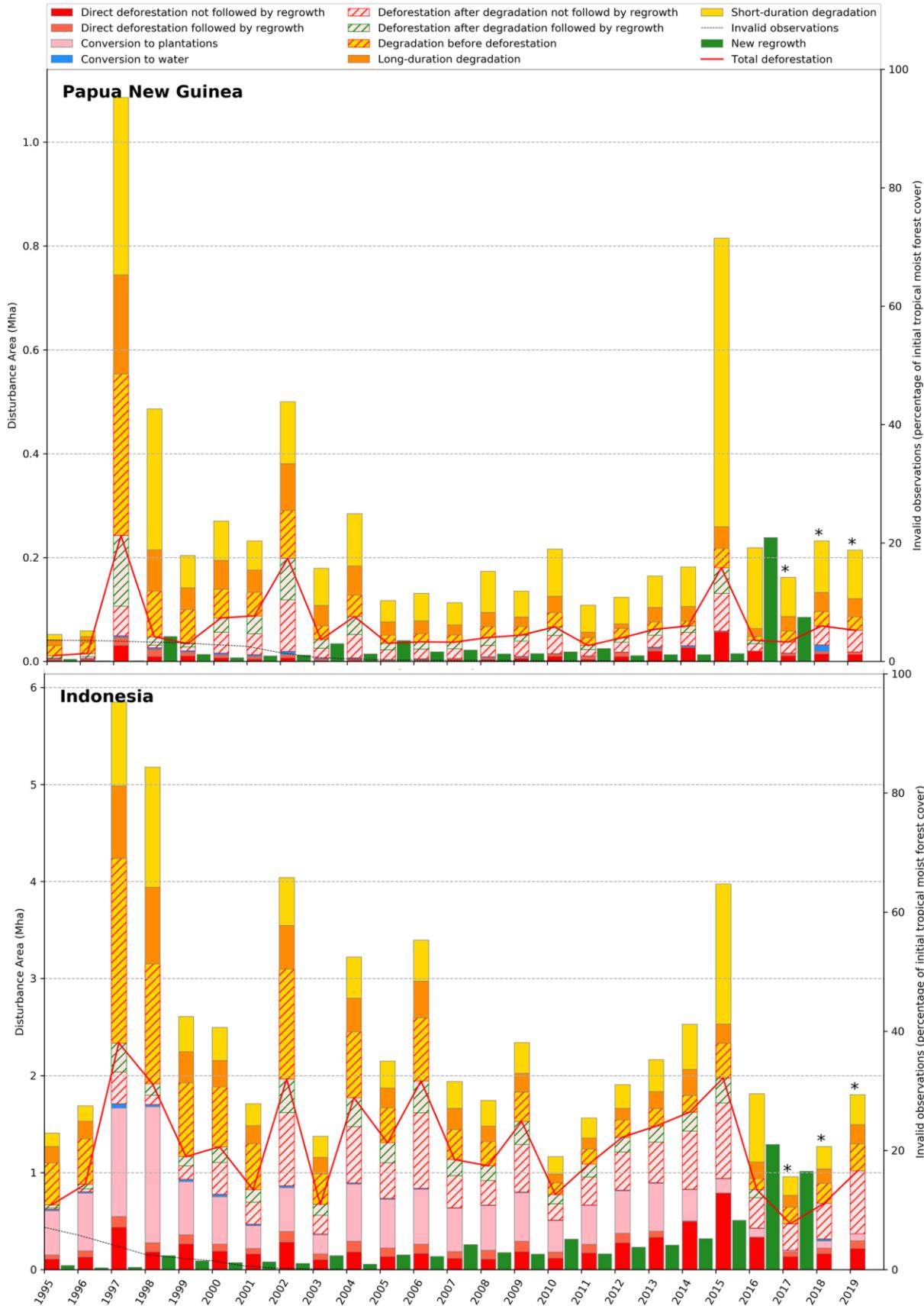
Fig. S11 Annual disturbances from 1990 to 2019 for the seven subregions and the countries with an undisturbed forest area larger than 5 million ha in 1990.

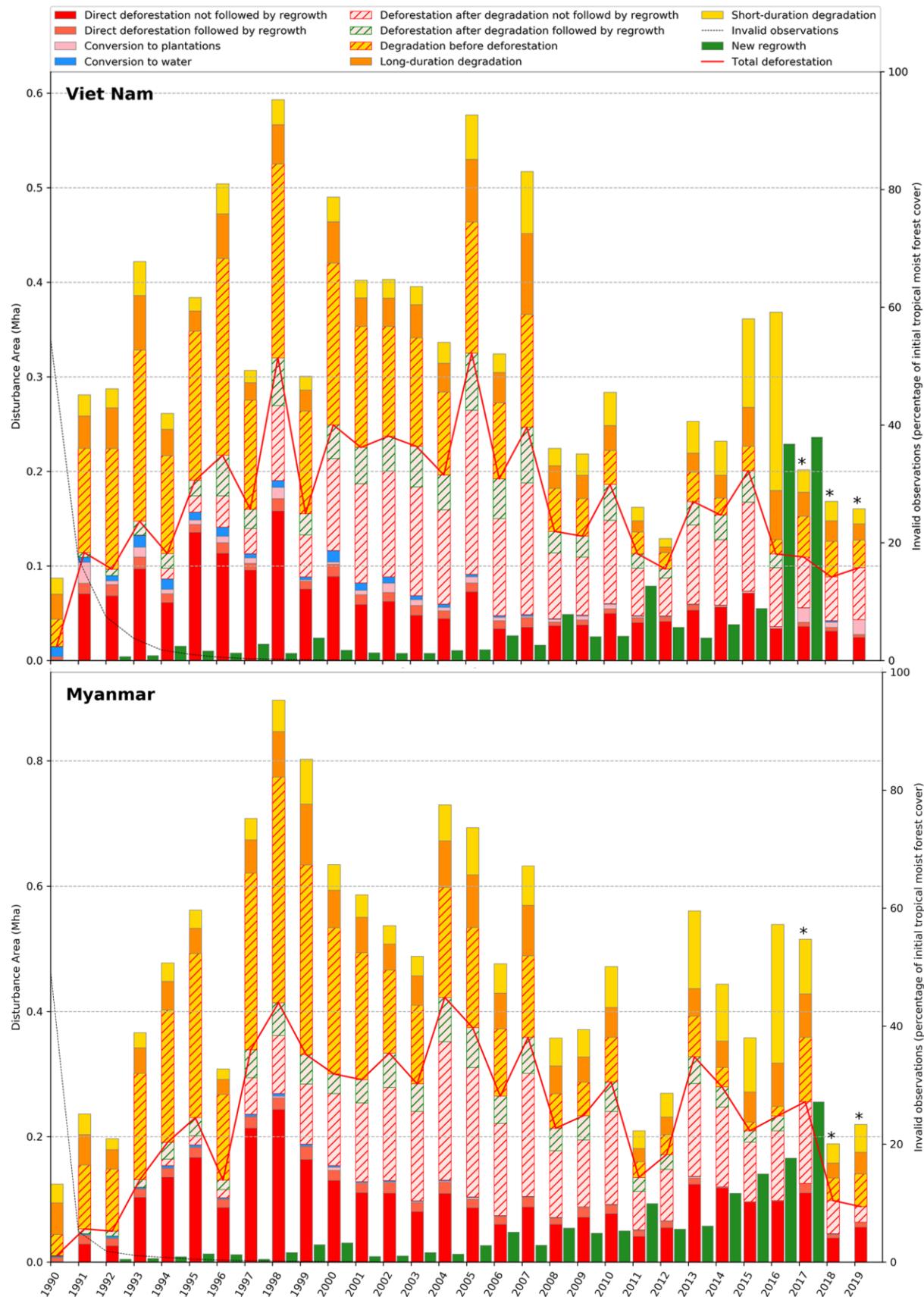


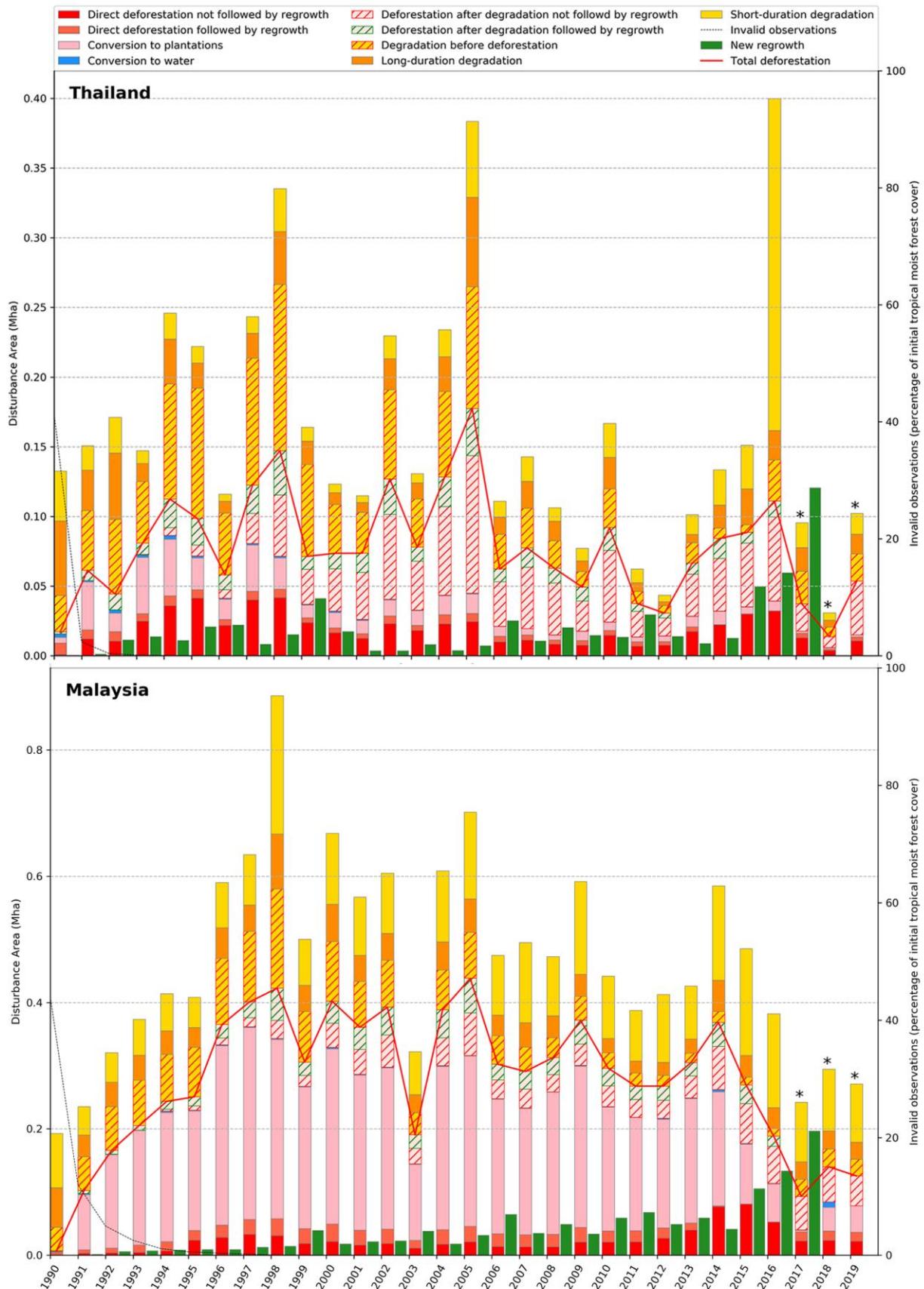


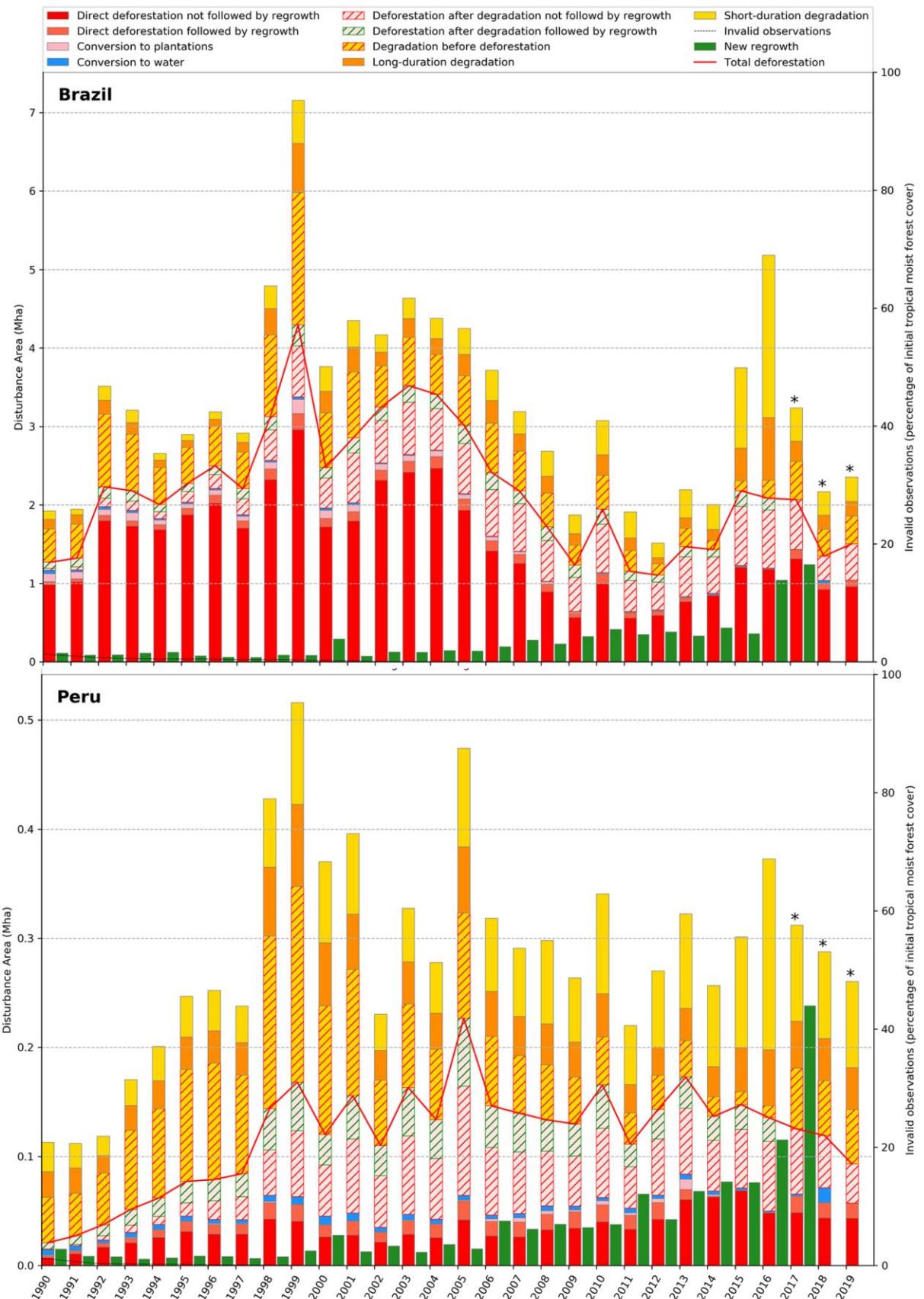


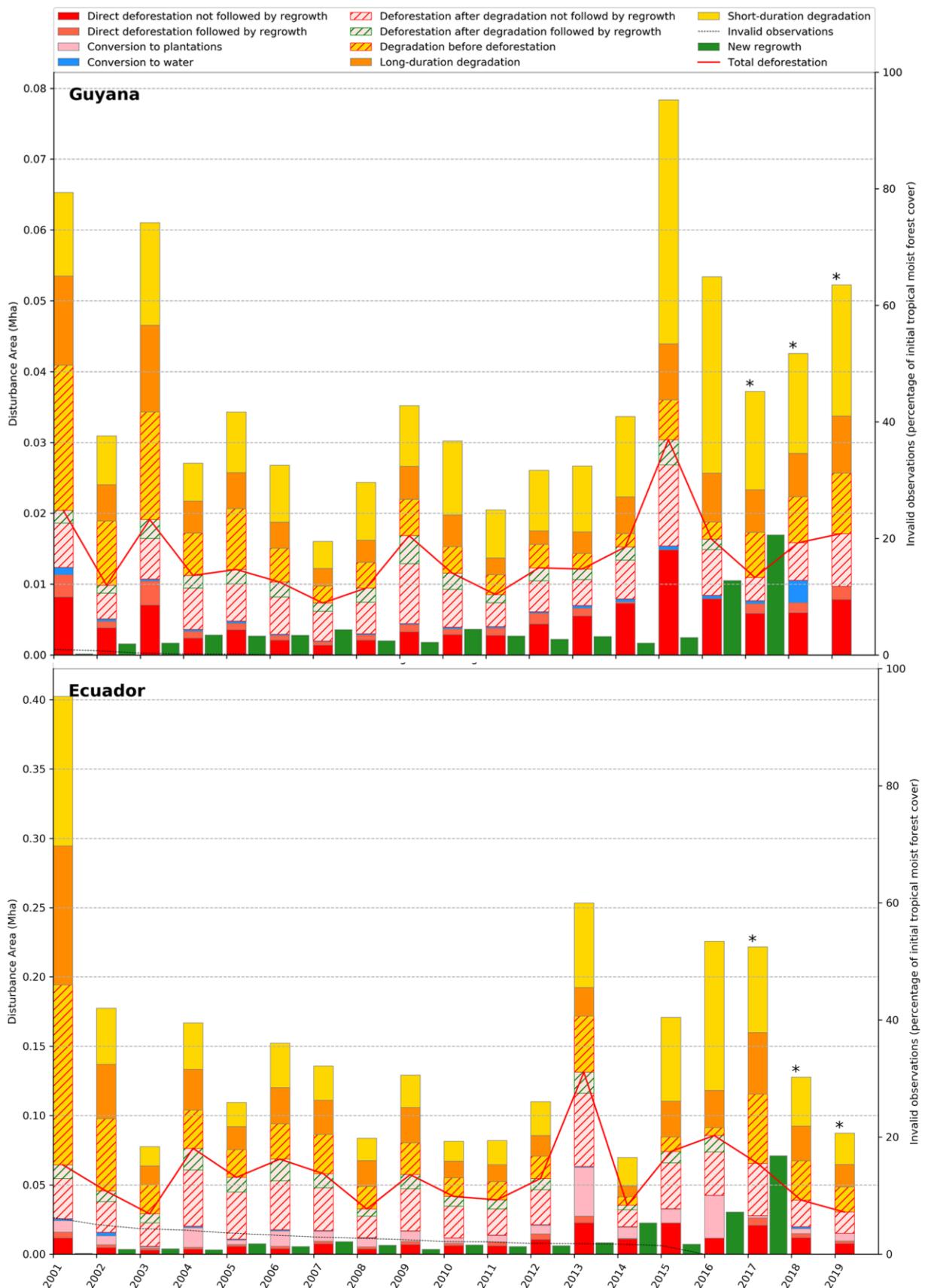


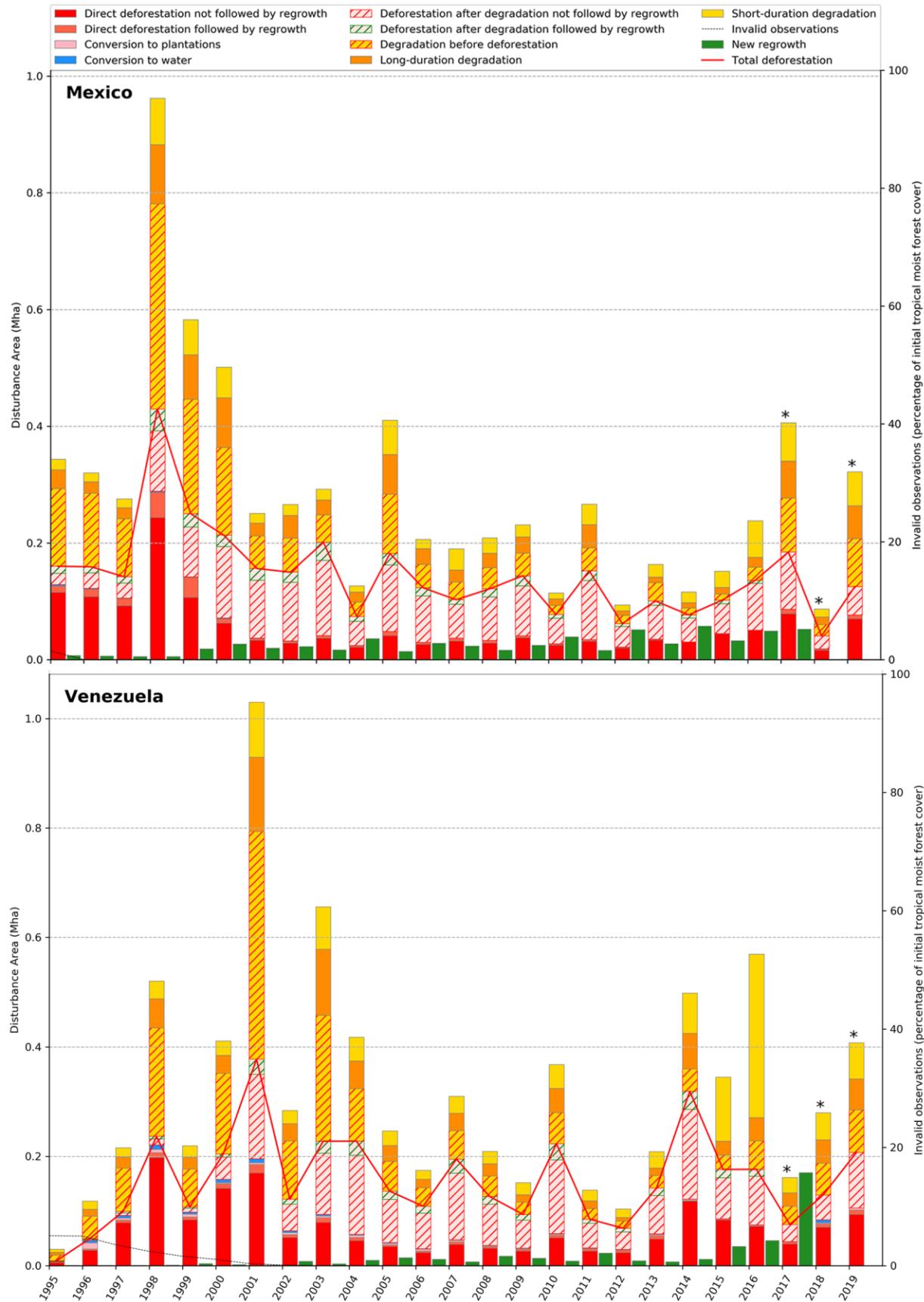


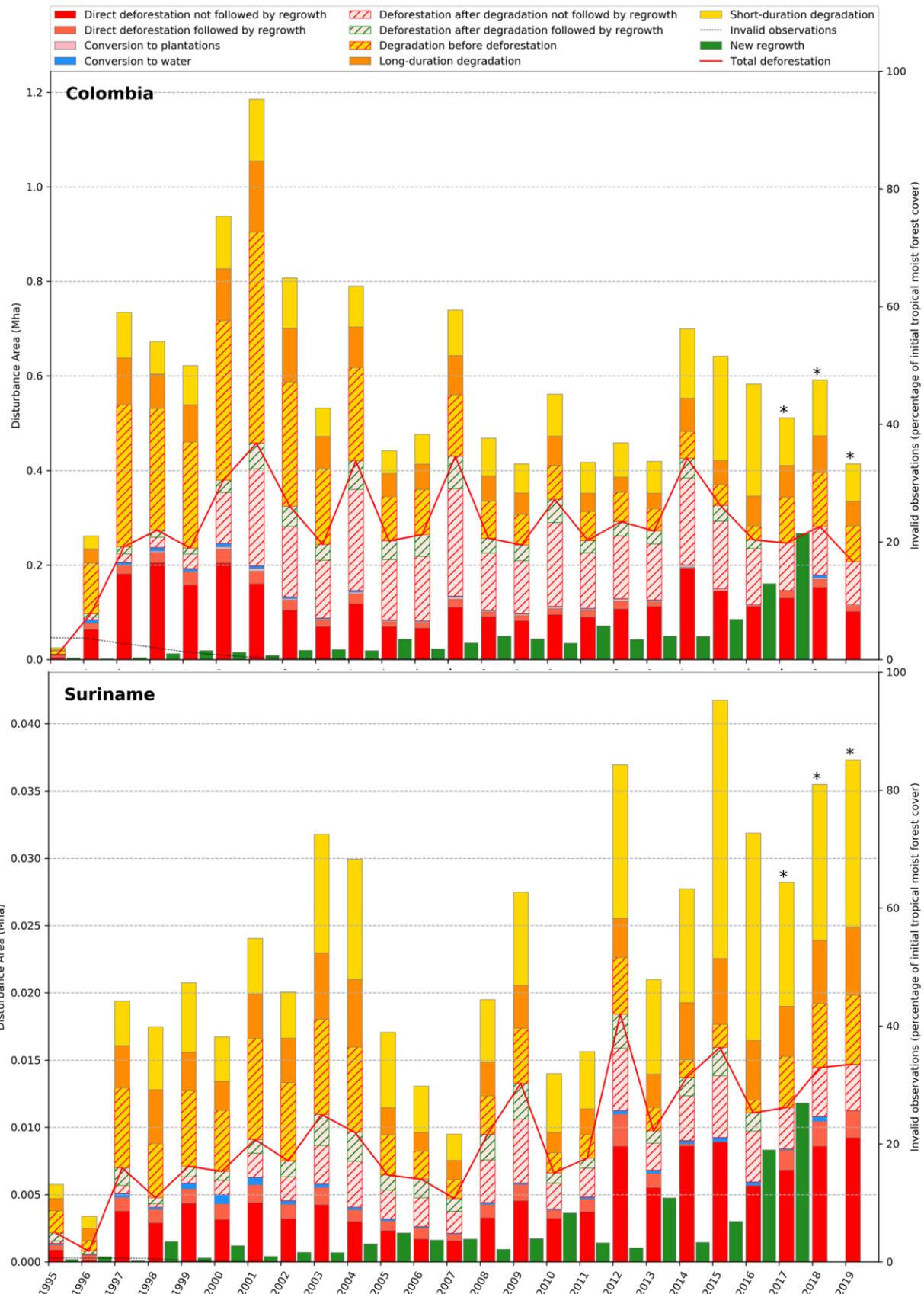


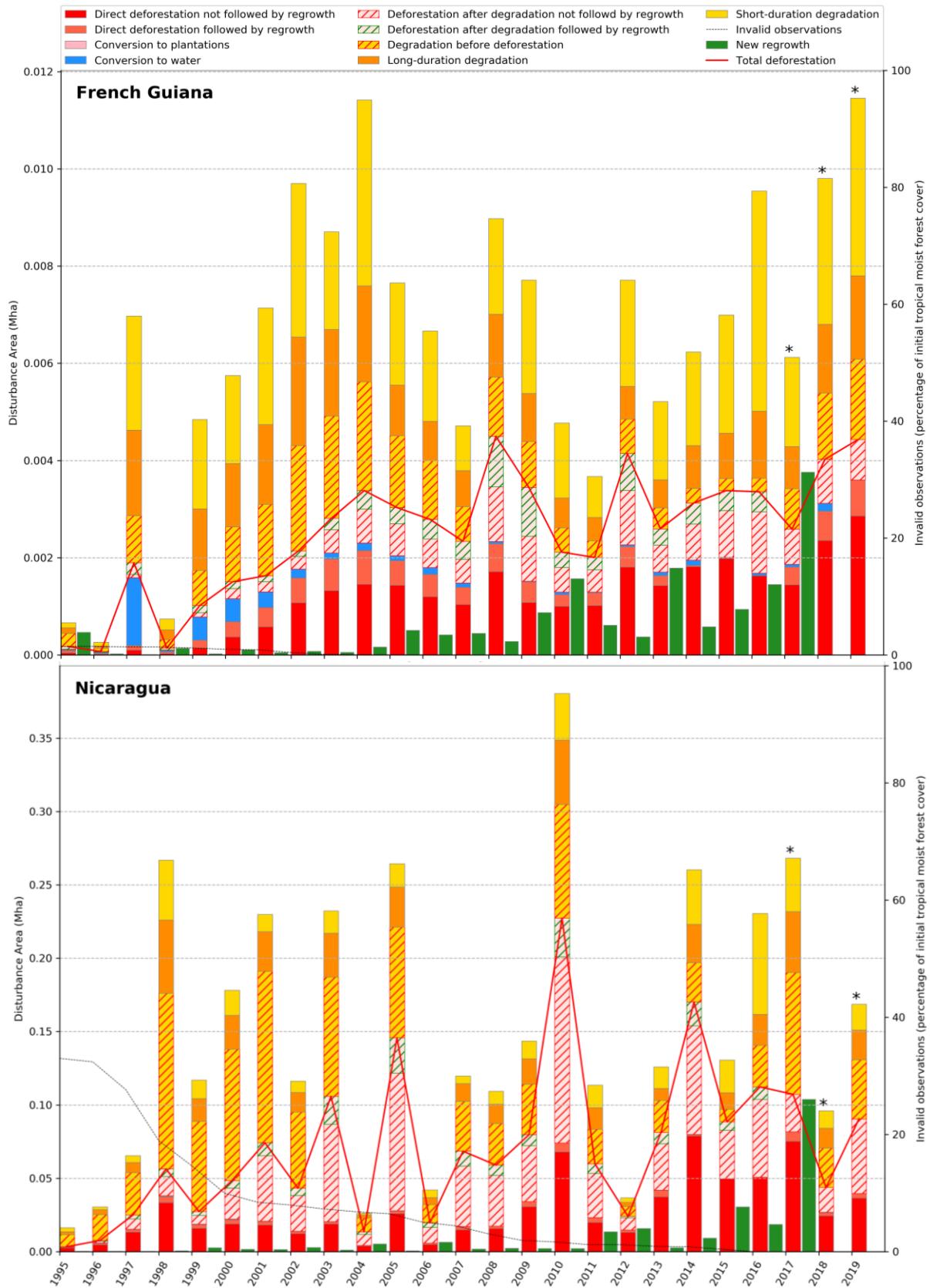


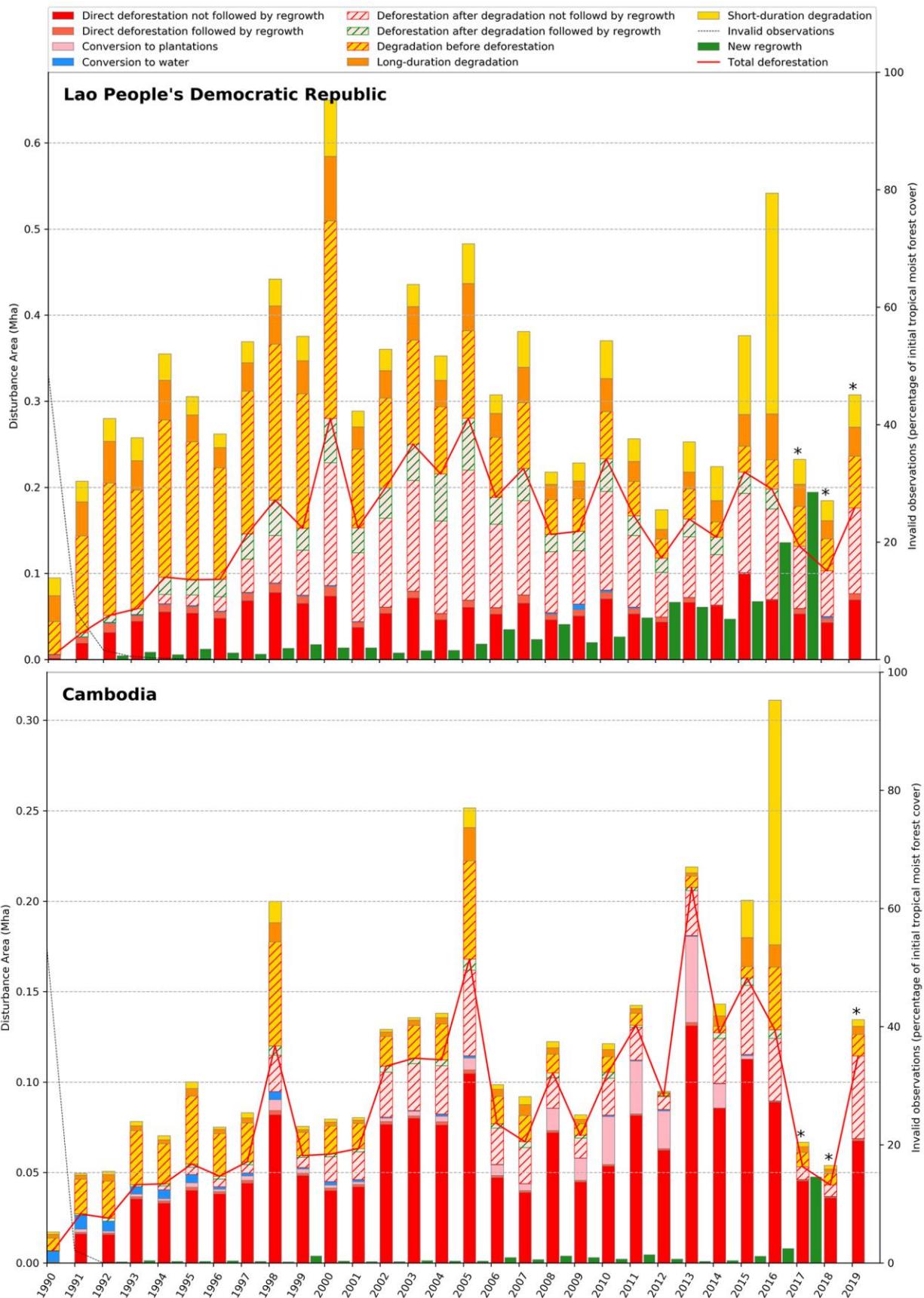


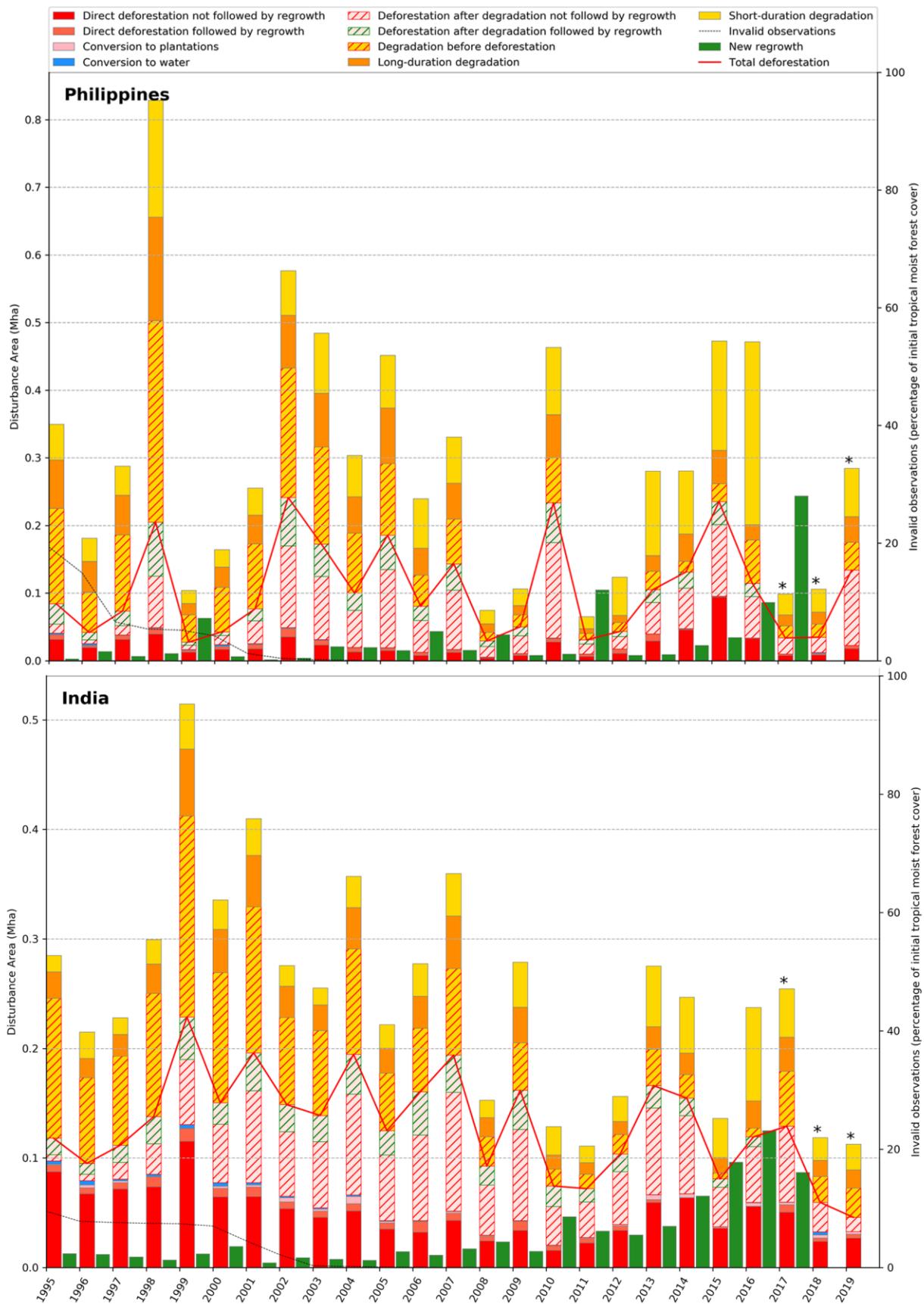


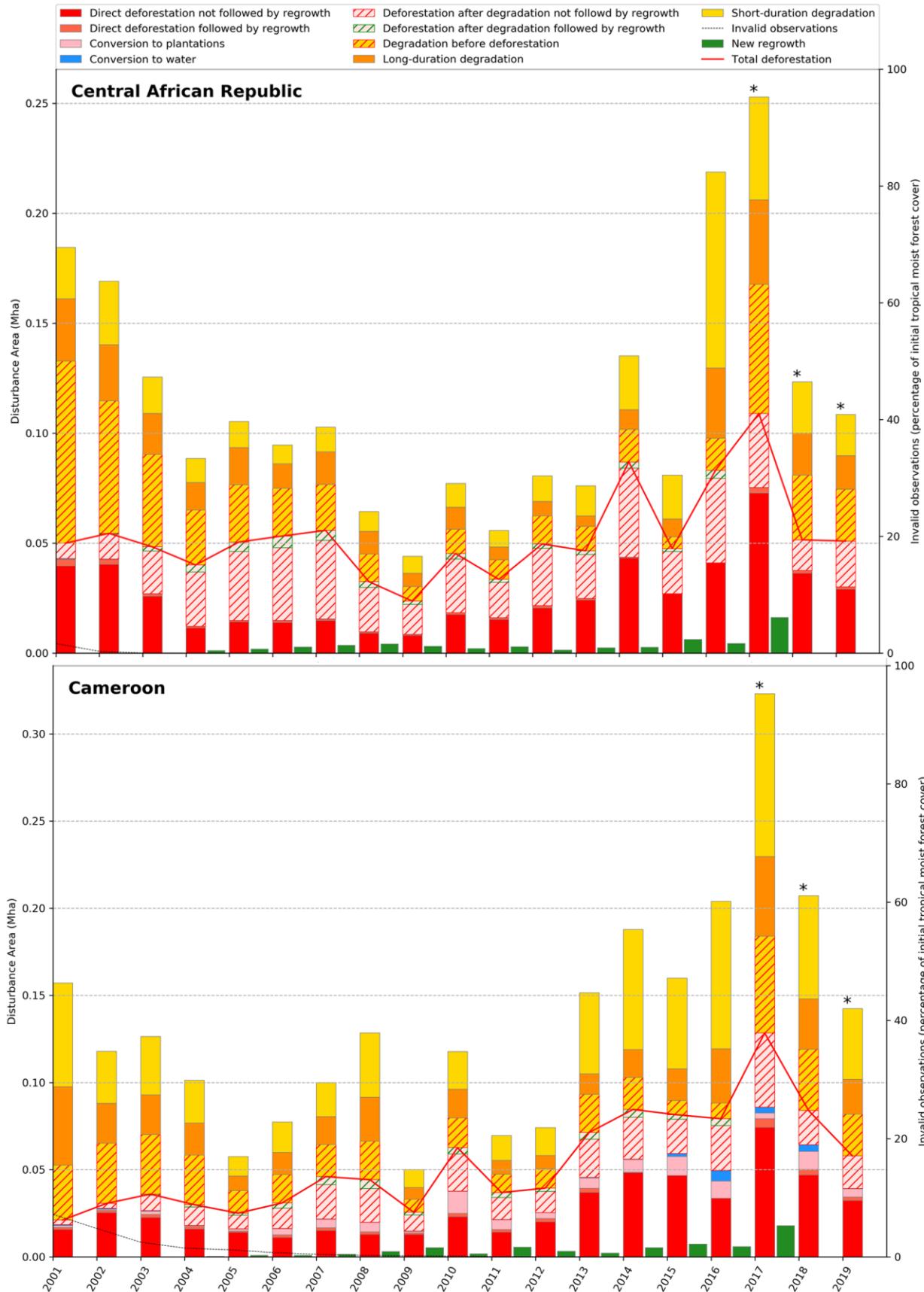


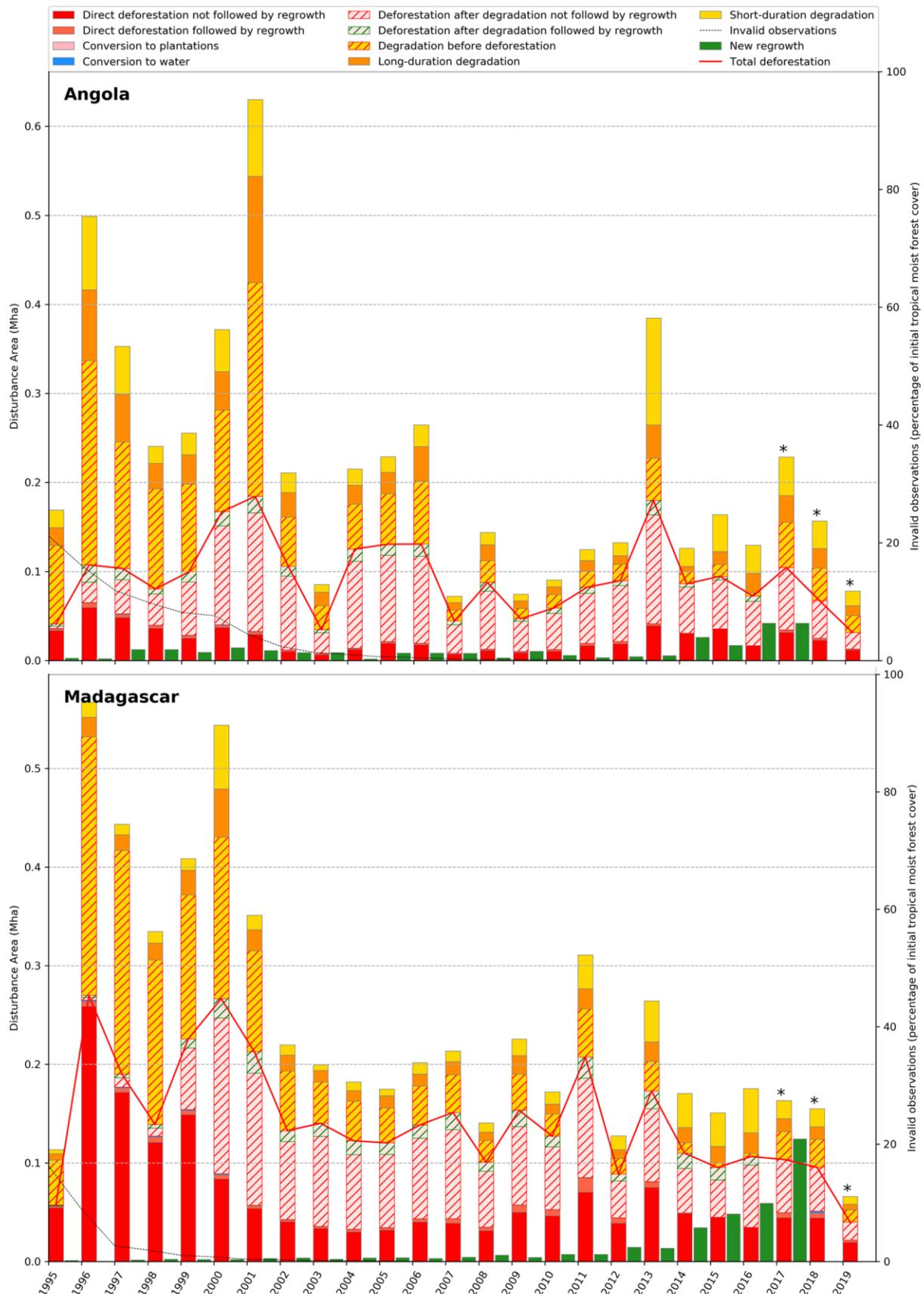


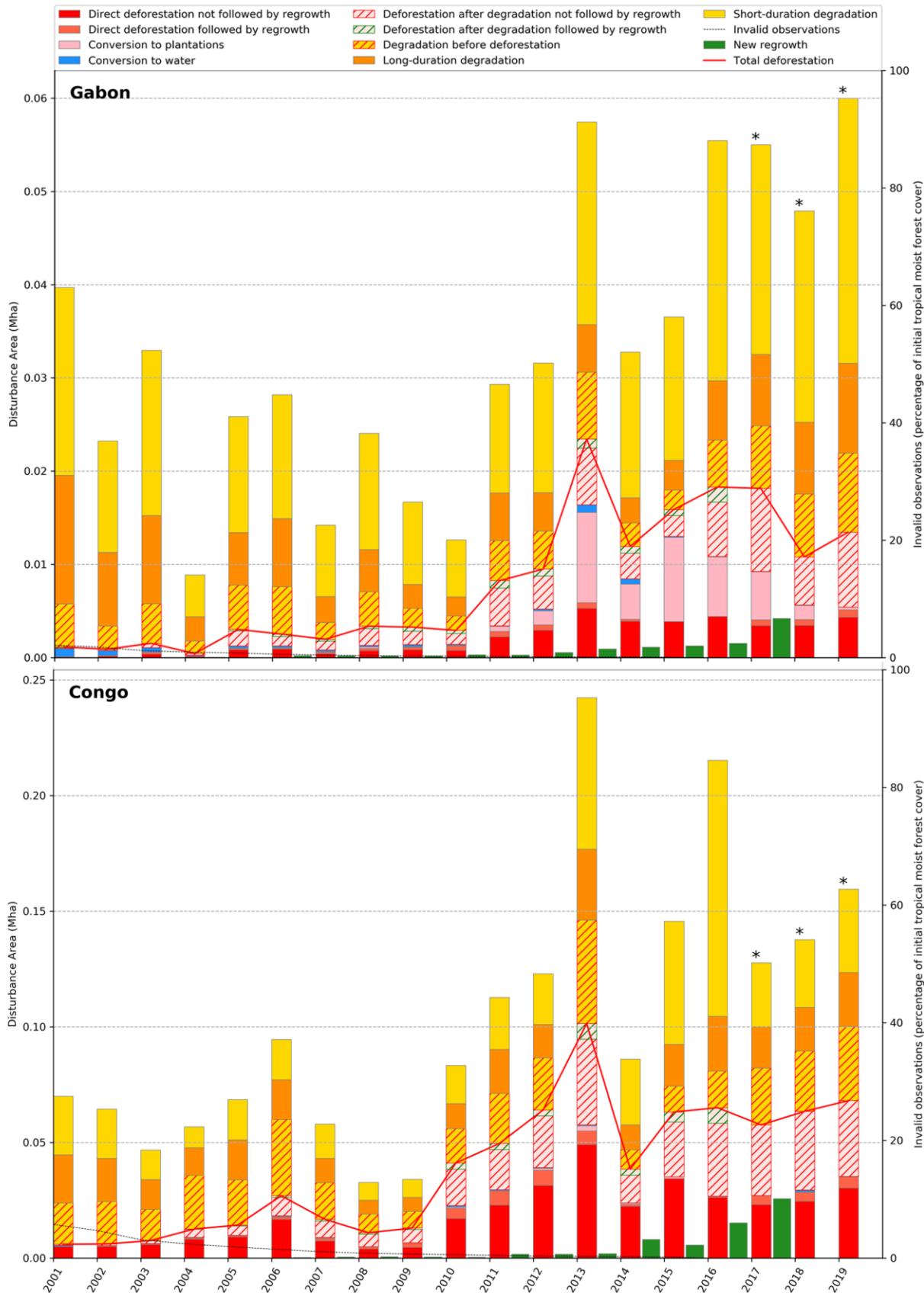


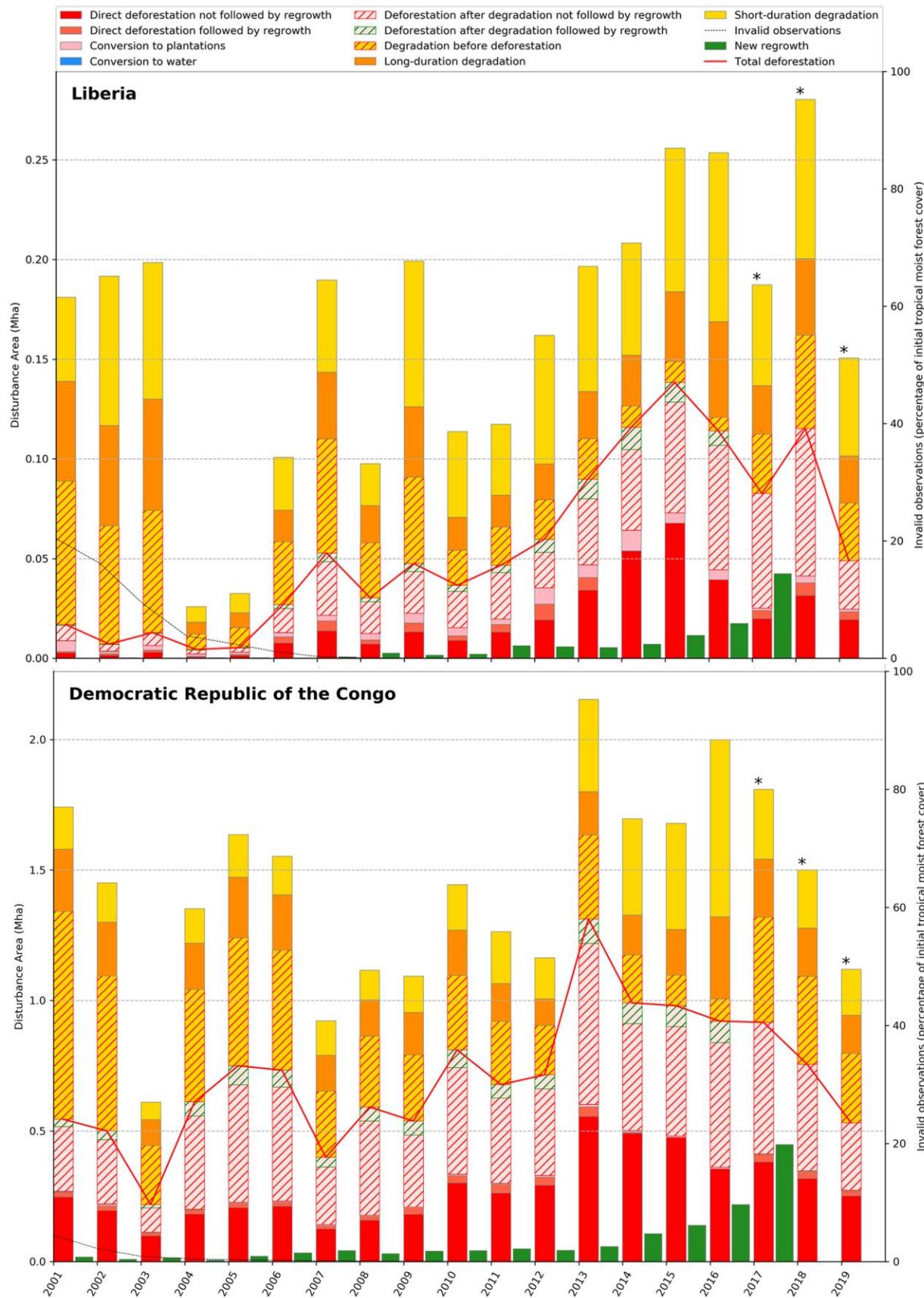


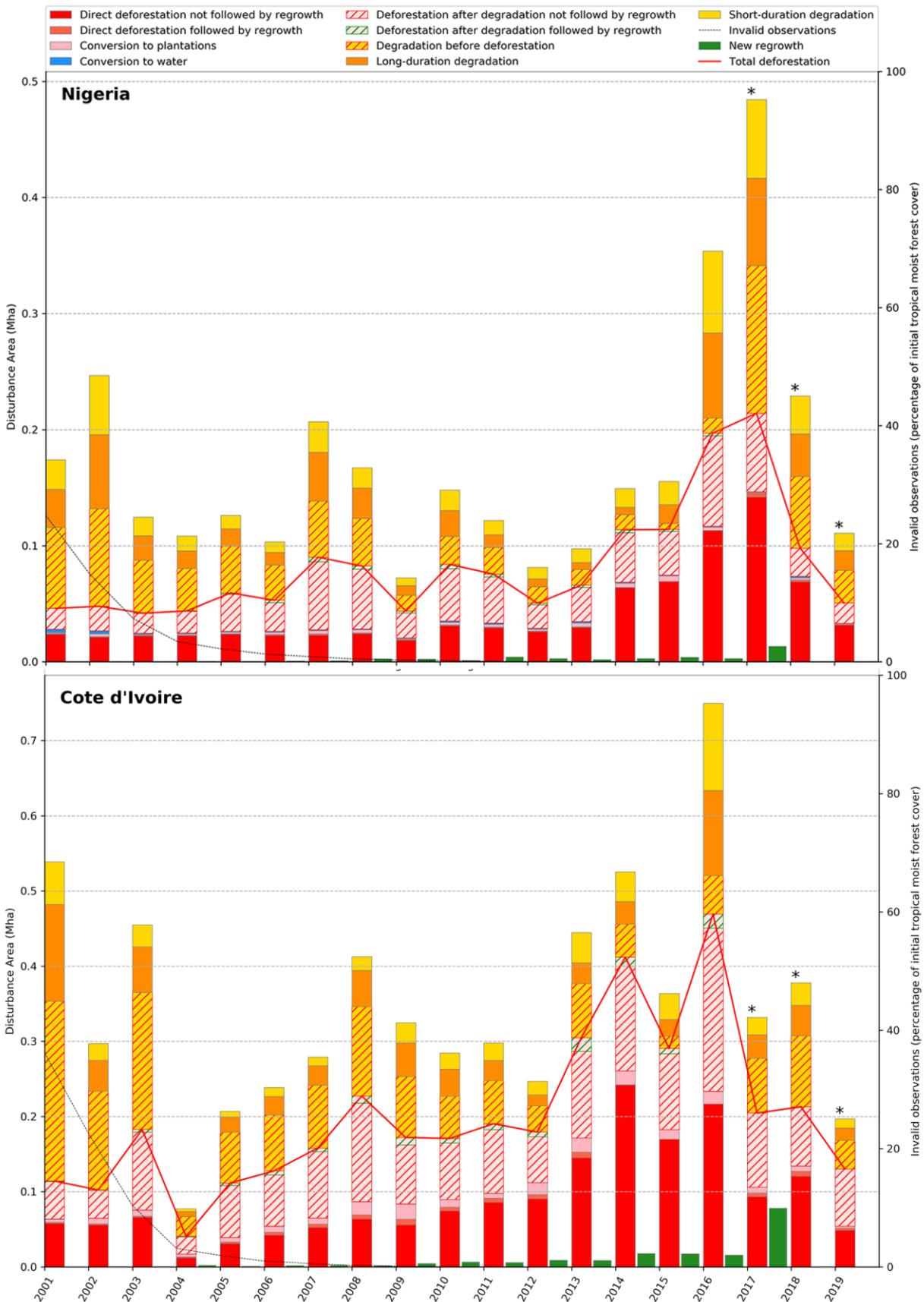












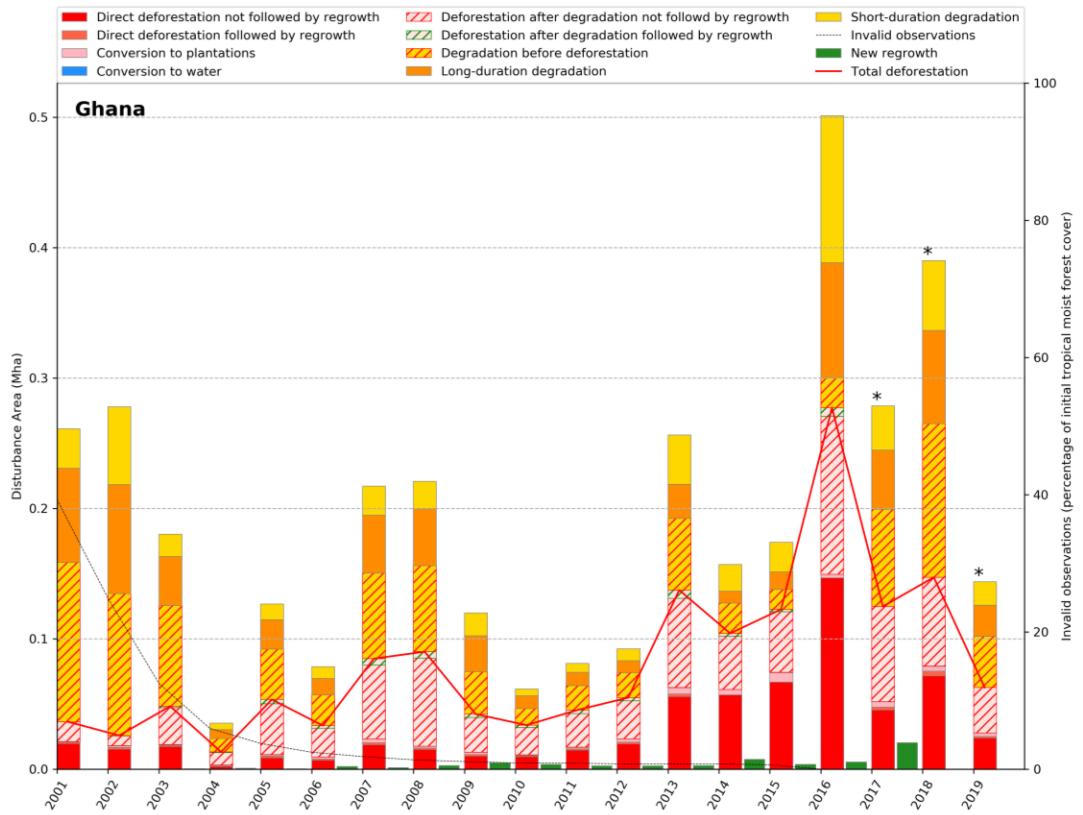


Fig. S12 Forecast year of full disappearance of undisturbed moist forest for countries with an undisturbed forest area larger than 1 million ha in January 2020, by applying the average disturbance rate for 2010–2019.

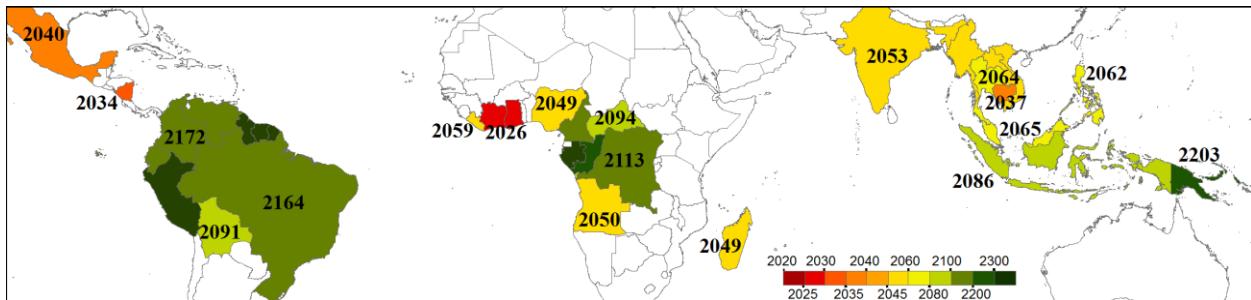


Fig. S13 Extent of the study area. The study area is defined using the ecological zones adopted by the FAO and includes the following zones: ‘Tropical rainforest,’ ‘Tropical moist forest,’ ‘Tropical mountain system’ and ‘Tropical dry forest.’

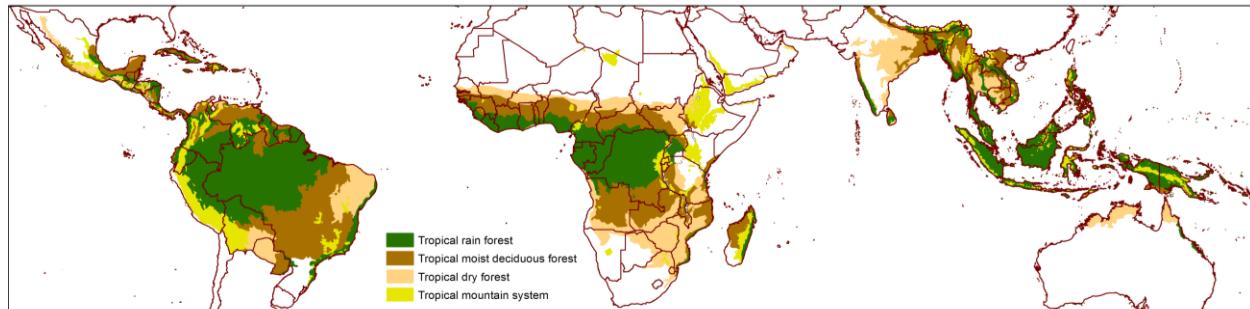


Fig. S14 Total number of valid observations per pixel from the full Landsat archive (1982–2019) over the pantropical belt.

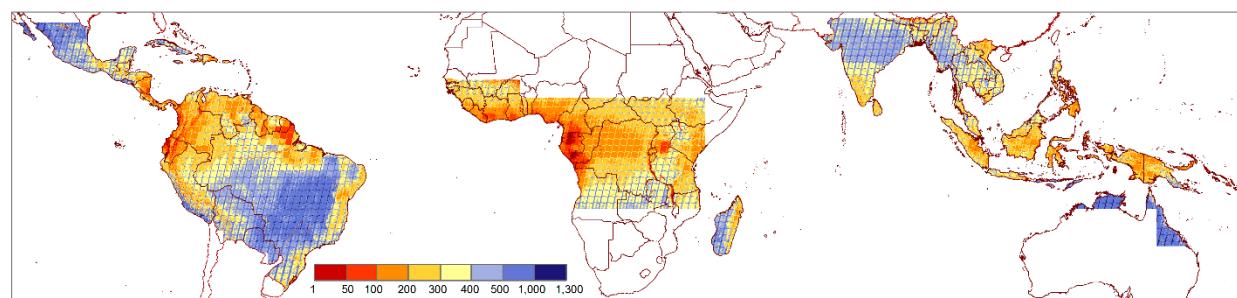


Fig. S15 Year of first valid observation from the full Landsat archive (1982–2019), across the pantropical belt.

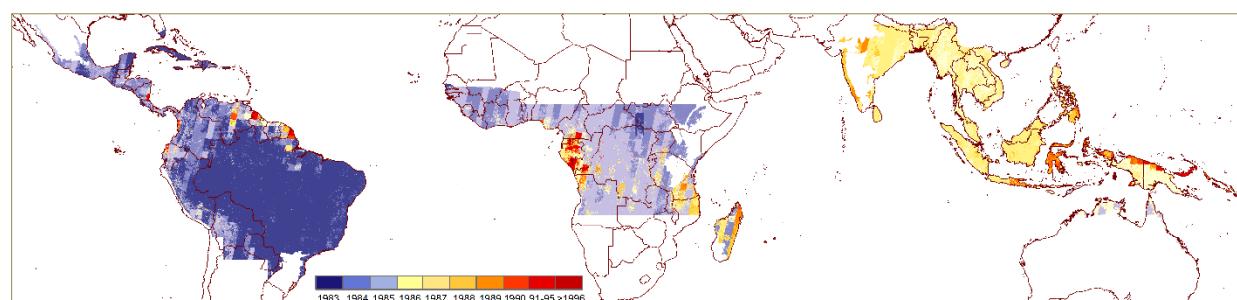


Fig. S16 Annual average number of valid observations per pixel (by continent) over the period 1982–2019. Landsat archive for the tropical moist forest domain.

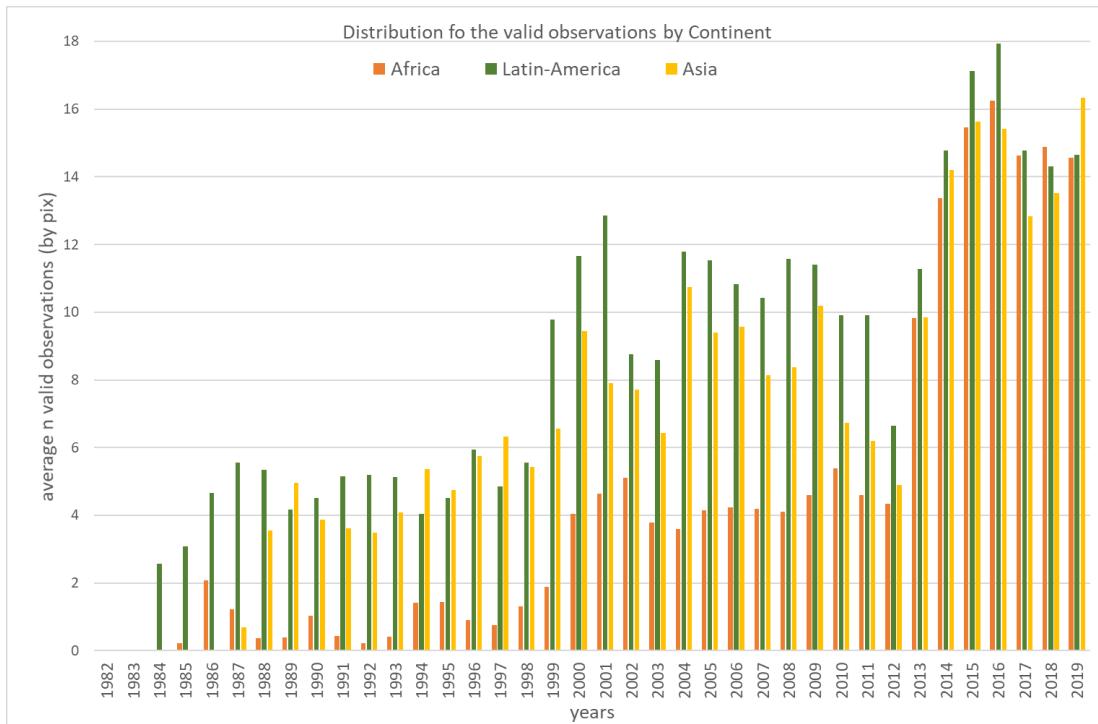


Fig. S17 Multispectral feature space with following clusters: moist forest (dark green points), non-evergreen cover (orange for bare soils, brown for deciduous vegetation, light green for agriculture, blue for water) and invalid pixels (grey for shadows, purple for clouds and pink for haze): (a) hue versus saturation (both from SWIR2, NIR, red), (b) hue versus value (both from SWIR2, NIR, red), (c) hue (from SWIR2, NIR, red) versus TIR, (d) hue versus NDWI.

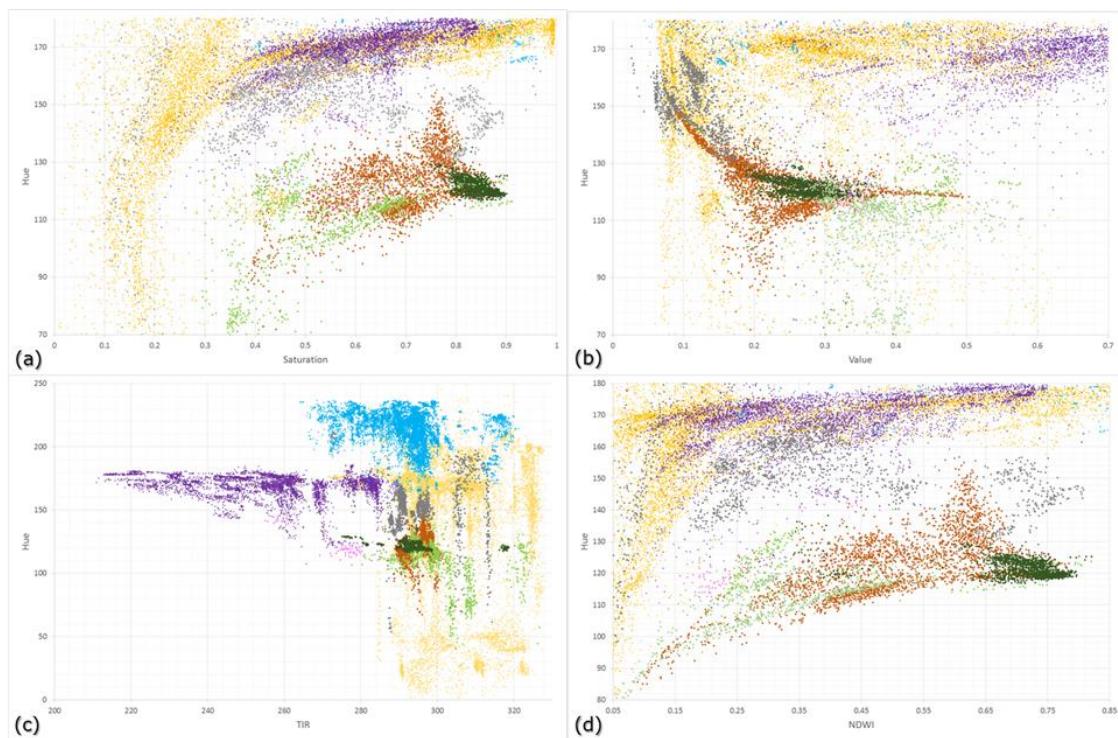


Fig. S18 First year of the monitoring period used for changes analysis

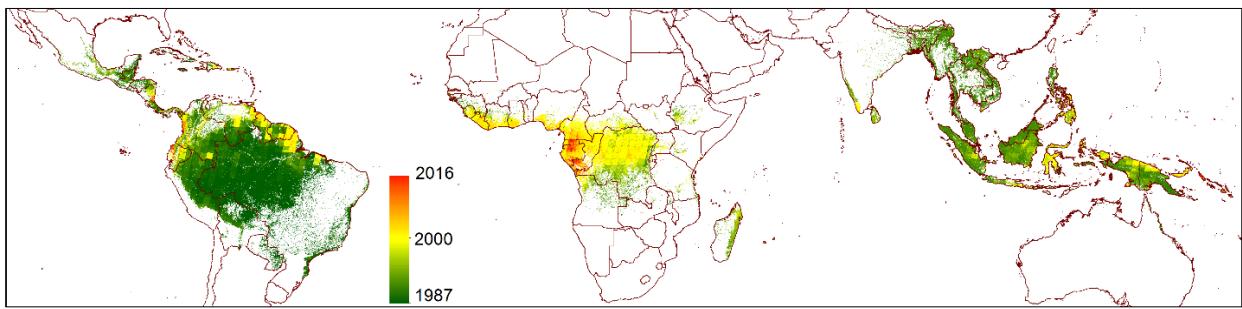


Fig. S19 Distribution of the duration of disturbances recorded over the period 1990–2016 for each continent. The temporal thresholds used to define short-duration degradation, long-duration degradation and deforestation are represented as dashed lines (at one and 2.5 years, respectively).

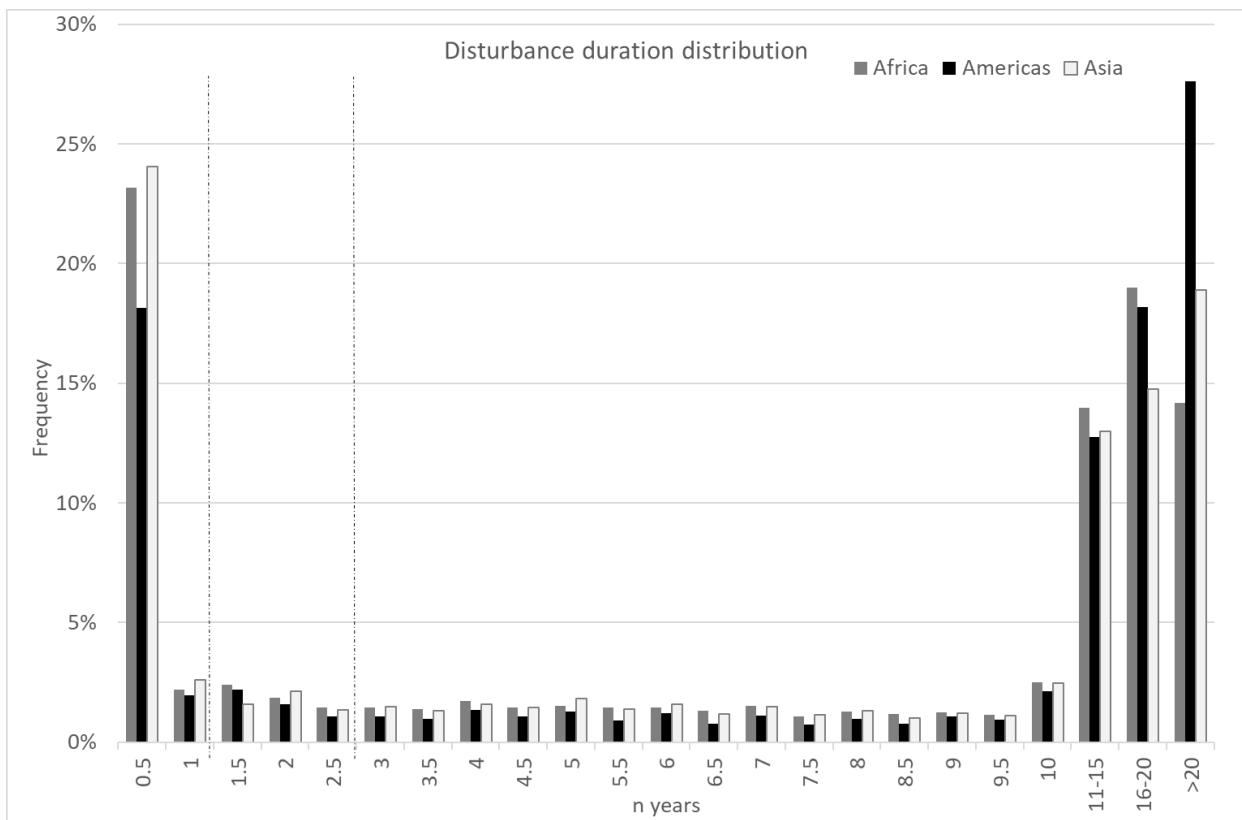


Table S1. Correspondence matrix between the main classes of our transition map and the GFC loss and gain products for the period 2001–2019 (areas in million ha) at the pantropical scale (A), and for the three continents (B–D).

(A) Pan-tropical region		GFC					
Transition map		No loss, no gain	Gain, no loss	Loss, no gain	Loss & Gain	% agree	% disagree
<i>Undisturbed Jan 2020</i>		958.3	0.4	5.6	0.2		
<i>Old Degradation or Regrowth (1982-2000)</i>		52.4	1.1	2.9	0.3	97.2	2.8
<i>Old Deforestation (1982-2000)</i>		39.1	2.1	15.5	2.1		
Degradation 2001-2019		64.3	0.5	20.1	1.2	24.7	75.3
Regrowth after deforestation (2001-2016)		12.7	0.3	5.7	0.8	33.2	66.8
Deforestation after degradation (2001-2019)		35.3	0.3	22.8	1.4	40.6	59.4
Direct deforestation (2001-2019)		25.3	0.3	42.8	2.6	64.0	36.0
Total without other LC		1248.0	5.4	180.8	12.7		
% agreement		83.8		86.3		84.2	
% disagreement		16.2		13.7		15.8	

(B) Africa		GFC					
Transition map		No loss, no gain	Gain, no loss	Loss, no gain	Loss & Gain	% agree	% disagree
<i>Undisturbed Jan 2020</i>		204.4	0.2	2.1	0.1		
<i>Old Degradation or Regrowth (1982-2000)</i>		8.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	98.0	2.0
<i>Old Deforestation (1982-2000)</i>		4.4	0.0	1.3	0.1		
Degradation 2001-2019		15.4	0.2	6.1	0.3	29.2	70.8
Regrowth after deforestation (2001-2016)		1.7	0.0	0.8	0.1	33.4	66.6
Deforestation after degradation (2001-2019)		9.4	0.1	7.4	0.5	45.6	54.4
Direct deforestation (2001-2019)		8.4	0.0	6.2	0.1	43.1	56.9
Total without other LC		269.5	0.8	38.1	1.9		
% agreement		80.3		89.8		81.5	
% disagreement		19.7		10.2		18.5	

(C) Latin America		GFC					
Transition map		No loss, no gain	Gain, no loss	Loss, no gain	Loss & Gain	% agree	% disagree
<i>Undisturbed Jan 2020</i>		563.0	0.0	1.4	0.0		
<i>Old Degradation or Regrowth (1982-2000)</i>		23.0	0.3	0.9	0.1	97.8	2.2
<i>Old Deforestation (1982-2000)</i>		23.6	0.3	9.5	0.9		
Degradation 2001-2019		27.3	0.1	6.8	0.1	20.2	79.8
Regrowth after deforestation (2001-2016)		5.5	0.1	2.1	0.2	29.3	70.7
Deforestation after degradation (2001-2019)		13.4	0.0	8.8	0.3	40.3	59.7
Direct deforestation (2001-2019)		9.3	0.0	23.9	0.5	72.3	27.7
Total without other LC		687.7	0.9	86.0	2.8		
% agreement		88.5		85.7		88.2	
% disagreement		11.5		14.3		11.8	

(D) Asia - Oceania		GFC					
Transition map		No loss, no gain	Gain, no loss	Loss, no gain	Loss & Gain	% agree	% disagree
<i>Undisturbed Jan 2020</i>		191.0	0.2	2.0	0.1		
<i>Old Degradation or Regrowth (1982-2000)</i>		21.2	0.7	1.5	0.2	94.8	5.2
<i>Old Deforestation (1982-2000)</i>		11.2	1.7	4.7	1.1		
Degradation 2001-2019		21.6	0.2	7.2	0.7	26.6	73.4
Regrowth after deforestation (2001-2016)		5.5	0.2	2.8	0.5	36.5	63.5
Deforestation after degradation (2001-2019)		12.4	0.1	6.6	0.6	36.5	63.5
Direct deforestation (2001-2019)		7.7	0.2	12.7	2.0	65.2	34.8
Total deforestation (2001-2019)		20.1	0.3	19.3	2.7	51.8	48.2
% agreement		76.1		85.1		77.7	
% disagreement		23.9		14.9		22.3	

Table S2. Accuracy matrix for all the single-date interpretations (12,345 sample plots) by continent:

a) detailed matrix with all Landsat and HR classes;

Reference	Landsat Mostly non-forest																							
	HR Mostly non-forest				Minor non-forest				Shrub				Forest				Invalid				Total points User			
User map	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot
Mostly non-forest	234	171	236	641	77	60	84	221	104	84	77	265	37	40	93	170	58	167	65	290	510	522	555	1587
Minor non-forest	53	64	58	175	36	16	16	68	23	21	11	55	9	9	17	35	27	64	21	112	148	174	123	445
Forest	0	29	14	43	2	4	1	7	3	6	5	14	3	1	1	5	2	7	0	9	10	47	21	78
Total points Producer	287	264	308	859	115	80	101	296	130	111	93	334	49	50	111	210	87	238	86	411	668	743	699	2110

Reference	Landsat Minor non-forest																							
	HR Mostly non-forest				Minor non-forest				Shrub				Forest				Invalid				Total points User			
User map	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot
Mostly non-forest	139	94	70	303	171	95	200	466	149	84	129	362	40	34	69	143	58	130	42	230	557	437	510	1504
Minor non-forest	141	107	58	306	209	150	218	577	243	157	134	534	71	41	89	201	137	229	46	412	801	684	545	2030
Forest	23	39	18	80	56	61	76	193	34	28	8	70	9	8	5	22	9	120	5	134	131	256	112	499
Total points Producer	303	240	146	689	436	306	494	1236	426	269	271	966	120	83	163	366	204	479	93	776	1489	1377	1167	4033

Reference	Landsat Forest																							
	HR Mostly non-forest				Minor non-forest				Shrub				Forest				Invalid				Total points User			
User map	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot
Mostly non-forest	4	0	1	5	7	5	14	26	9	9	50	68	1	5	17	23	0	19	2	21	21	38	84	143
Minor non-forest	5	3	6	14	20	20	33	73	11	28	64	103	6	26	47	79	2	46	20	68	44	123	170	337
Forest	62	86	63	211	219	224	244	687	244	499	169	912	824	434	1399	2657	252	691	310	1253	1601	1934	2185	5720
Total points Producer	71	89	70	230	246	249	291	786	264	536	283	1083	831	465	1463	2759	254	756	332	1342	1666	2095	2439	6200

b) simplified matrix with non-forest and forest classes.

Reference	Non-forest				Forest							
	AFR	ASIA	Latin-Am	Tot	AFR	ASIA	Latin-Am	Tot				
User map												
Non-forest	2016	1817	1733	5566	65	161	254	480				
Forest	141	303	133	577	1601	1934	2185	5720				
Total Producer	2157	2120	1866	6143	1666	2095	2439	6200				

Table S3. Accuracy results by continent and Landsat sensor.

Continent	Mostly non-forest				Forest				
	AFR	Asia	Latin-Am	Tot	AFR	Asia	SAM	Tot	
% Prod Accuracy	93.5	85.7	92.9	90.6	96.1	92.3	89.6	92.3	
% Ommission error	6.5	14.3	7.1	9.4	3.9	7.7	10.4	7.7	
% User Accuracy	96.9	91.9	87.2	92.1	91.9	86.5	94.3	90.8	
% Commission error	3.1	8.1	12.8	7.9	8.1	13.5	5.7	9.2	
% Overall Accuracy	94.6	89.0	91.0	91.4					
Sensor	LC8	LE7	LT5	Tot	LC8	LE7	LT5	Tot	
% Prod Accuracy	90.3	90.6	90.2	90.4	86.8	92.8	94.8	92.3	
% Ommission error	9.7	9.4	9.8	9.6	13.2	7.2	5.2	7.7	
% User Accuracy	89.1	92.2	93.9	91.9	88.2	91.3	91.7	90.8	
% Commission error	10.9	7.8	6.1	8.1	11.8	8.7	8.3	9.2	
% Overall Accuracy	88.7	91.8	92.7	91.4					

Table S4. Area-weighted confusion matrix for the transition map and a validation reference dataset of 4139 sample plots (%).

Reference		Forest on Landsat & HR	Forest on Landsat & non-forest on HR	At least 1 minor disruption on Landsat				At least 1 major disruption on Landsat				total
Transition map	Max N disruptions	0	0	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Undisturbed (0pix)	0	48.0	0.6	2.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	52
Mostly Undisturbed (1-4pix disturbed)	1	1.5	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2
	2-3	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2
	>3	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	1.0	6.6	2.3	12
Mostly changed (5-9pix disturbed)	1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1
	2-3	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	2
	>3	0.2	0.1	2.2	1.4	1.1	0.0	3.3	9.4	11.2	0.4	29
Total		52	1	7	2	1	0	4	11	18	3	100

Table S5. Area-weighted matrix showing the transition map versus the reference dataset and error estimation (million ha).

	Reference		
Transition map	Undisturbed	Forest Change	Area on the map
Undisturbed	898.64	65.76	964.40
Forest Change	27.38	297.82	325.20
Area cor (Mha)	926.02	363.58	1289.60
Producer Accuracy	97.0%	81.9%	.
User Accuracy	93.2%	91.6%	.
Commission error (Mha)	65.8	27.4	.
Omission error (Mha)	27.4	65.8	.
Difference (Mha)	-38.4	38.4	.
CI (95%)	14.8	14.8	.

Table S6 Annual loss rate of undisturbed TMF from 1990 to 2019 over five years, 30 years (1990–2019) and 10 years (1990–1999, 2000–2009, 2010–2019) by country and percentage of annual area loss versus initial TMF areas over the period 1990–2019 (A). Annual rate of direct deforestation (of undisturbed forest), deforestation of degraded forest and degradation (followed or not by deforestation) with percentage of each disturbance's type over the total disturbances during the 30-year period, as well as areas of water conversion and plantations, and percentage (over the total disturbances) (B).

A.

Country	Undisturbed		Annual decline of Undisturbed TMF (Mha)										Decline 30y (%)
	1990	2019	[1990-1995]	[1995-2000]	[2000-2005]	[2005-2010]	[2010-2015]	[2015-2020]	[1990-2020]	[1990-2000]	[2000-2010]	[2010-2020]	
Brazil	411.20	308.89	2.65	4.94	4.26	3.14	2.14	3.34	3.41	3.79	3.70	2.74	24.9%
Indonesia	162.25	94.02	1.09	3.84	2.57	2.31	1.86	1.96	2.27	2.47	2.44	1.91	42.1%
DRC	141.42	105.80	0.20	1.12	1.38	1.26	1.54	1.62	1.19	0.66	1.32	1.58	25.2%
Peru	75.60	66.64	0.14	0.41	0.32	0.33	0.28	0.31	0.30	0.28	0.32	0.29	11.8%
Colombia	74.20	58.14	0.14	0.65	0.85	0.51	0.51	0.55	0.54	0.40	0.68	0.53	21.6%
Venezuela	47.26	38.49	0.06	0.30	0.56	0.22	0.26	0.35	0.29	0.18	0.39	0.31	18.6%
PNG	42.08	34.61	0.15	0.43	0.29	0.13	0.16	0.33	0.25	0.29	0.21	0.24	17.7%
Bolivia	36.80	24.28	0.19	0.56	0.46	0.38	0.57	0.35	0.42	0.37	0.42	0.46	34.0%
Malaysia	29.85	15.20	0.31	0.74	0.55	0.55	0.45	0.33	0.49	0.52	0.55	0.39	49.1%
Congo	24.37	22.21	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.16	0.07	0.01	0.06	0.14	8.9%
Myanmar	24.15	9.57	0.28	0.78	0.59	0.51	0.39	0.36	0.49	0.53	0.55	0.38	60.4%
Gabon	24.15	23.45	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.04	2.9%
Cameroon	22.71	19.82	0.00	0.03	0.13	0.08	0.12	0.21	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.16	12.7%
Guyana	18.87	17.95	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	4.9%
Philippines	16.78	8.52	0.14	0.38	0.36	0.24	0.24	0.29	0.28	0.26	0.30	0.26	49.2%
Ecuador	15.83	12.12	0.01	0.12	0.21	0.12	0.12	0.17	0.12	0.06	0.16	0.14	23.4%
Lao PDR	15.70	5.48	0.24	0.48	0.42	0.32	0.26	0.33	0.34	0.36	0.37	0.29	65.1%
Viet Nam	14.93	4.81	0.27	0.52	0.41	0.37	0.21	0.25	0.34	0.39	0.39	0.23	67.8%
Suriname	13.76	13.15	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	4.5%
India	11.62	4.20	0.17	0.38	0.33	0.26	0.18	0.17	0.25	0.27	0.29	0.18	63.9%
Mexico	11.60	3.05	0.18	0.60	0.29	0.25	0.15	0.24	0.28	0.39	0.27	0.20	73.7%
Madagascar	10.45	3.41	0.08	0.48	0.30	0.19	0.21	0.14	0.23	0.28	0.25	0.18	67.3%
CAR	9.91	7.12	0.01	0.07	0.15	0.08	0.08	0.16	0.09	0.04	0.12	0.12	28.1%
Cote d'Ivoire	9.74	1.80	0.01	0.16	0.36	0.29	0.36	0.40	0.26	0.08	0.33	0.38	81.5%
Angola	9.52	3.13	0.12	0.38	0.30	0.16	0.17	0.15	0.21	0.25	0.23	0.16	67.1%
Liberia	9.33	5.98	0.01	0.02	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.23	0.11	0.02	0.12	0.19	35.9%
Thailand	9.06	4.07	0.17	0.24	0.17	0.16	0.10	0.16	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.13	55.1%
Nigeria	8.44	4.50	0.02	0.06	0.19	0.14	0.12	0.27	0.13	0.04	0.16	0.19	46.7%
French Guiana	8.14	7.96	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	2.1%
Nicaragua	6.13	2.10	0.02	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.18	0.18	0.13	0.08	0.15	0.18	65.8%
Cambodia	5.85	2.28	0.05	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.09	0.12	0.15	61.1%
Ghana	5.84	1.71	0.00	0.05	0.19	0.15	0.13	0.30	0.14	0.03	0.17	0.21	70.8%

B.

Country	Annual rate for period [1990-2020] (Mha)			% over the total disturbances			Conversion to Plantations		Conversion to water	
	Direct defor	Defor. after degrad	Degrad	Direct defor	Defor. after degrad	Degrad	Mha	%	Mha	%
Brazil	1.63	0.56	0.58	59%	20%	21%	1.623	7.4%	0.619	21.0%
Indonesia	0.68	0.44	0.62	39%	25%	36%	12.660	57.4%	0.515	17.5%
DRC	0.24	0.28	0.32	28%	33%	38%	0.082	0.4%	0.067	2.3%
Peru	0.05	0.07	0.10	23%	31%	46%	0.041	0.2%	0.141	4.8%
Colombia	0.12	0.12	0.14	31%	32%	38%	0.081	0.4%	0.102	3.5%
Venezuela	0.00	0.00	0.01	2%	1%	96%	0.071	0.3%	0.103	3.5%
PNG	0.02	0.04	0.13	9%	22%	69%	0.006	0.0%	0.131	4.5%
Bolivia	0.11	0.09	0.12	34%	27%	39%	0.000	0.0%	0.111	3.8%
Malaysia	0.22	0.05	0.14	53%	13%	33%	5.257	23.8%	0.131	4.4%
Congo	0.01	0.01	0.03	24%	19%	57%	0.006	0.0%	0.013	0.4%
Myanmar	0.11	0.12	0.10	33%	36%	31%	0.020	0.1%	0.113	3.8%
Gabon	0.00	0.00	0.01	15%	11%	74%	0.036	0.2%	0.014	0.5%
Cameroon	0.02	0.01	0.04	30%	15%	54%	0.070	0.3%	0.029	1.0%
Philippines	0.02	0.07	0.11	12%	33%	55%	0.003	0.0%	0.042	1.4%
Ecuador	0.02	0.02	0.05	18%	26%	56%	0.000	0.0%	0.031	1.0%
Lao PDR	0.06	0.09	0.07	28%	40%	32%	0.000	0.0%	0.067	2.3%
Viet Nam	0.07	0.07	0.08	31%	32%	37%	0.003	0.0%	0.175	6.0%
Suriname	0.00	0.00	0.01	29%	18%	53%	0.000	0.0%	0.007	0.2%
India	0.06	0.06	0.06	32%	35%	33%	0.334	1.5%	0.082	2.8%
Mexico	0.06	0.07	0.06	33%	37%	31%	0.000	0.0%	0.029	1.0%
Madagascar	0.06	0.06	0.03	40%	39%	21%	0.061	0.3%	0.025	0.9%
Cote d'Ivoire	0.07	0.06	0.05	39%	33%	27%	0.000	0.0%	0.017	0.6%
CAR	0.02	0.02	0.03	29%	25%	46%	0.171	0.8%	0.003	0.1%
Angola	0.03	0.06	0.06	18%	41%	41%	0.033	0.1%	0.013	0.5%
Liberia	0.02	0.02	0.05	18%	21%	61%	0.146	0.7%	0.003	0.1%
Thailand	0.04	0.04	0.04	30%	34%	36%	0.001	0.0%	0.046	1.6%
Nigeria	0.03	0.02	0.04	32%	25%	43%	0.000	0.0%	0.041	1.4%
French Guiana	0.00	0.00	0.00	29%	15%	56%	0.010	0.0%	0.005	0.2%
Nicaragua	0.03	0.03	0.03	28%	39%	33%	0.000	0.0%	0.005	0.2%
Cambodia	0.07	0.02	0.01	69%	19%	13%	0.000	0.0%	0.065	2.2%
Ghana	0.02	0.03	0.04	26%	30%	45%	0.000	0.0%	0.007	0.2%

Table S7 Correspondence between countries, subregions and continents.

Africa		Americas		Asia-Oceania	
Country Name	Region Name	Country Name	Region Name	Country Name	Region Name
Angola	Central Africa	Anguilla	Central America	British Indian Ocean Territory	Insular Asia
Burundi	Central Africa	Antigua and Barbuda	Central America	Brunei Darussalam	Insular Asia
Cameroon	Central Africa	Aruba	Central America	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Insular Asia
Central African Republic	Central Africa	Bahamas	Central America	Cook Islands	Insular Asia
Congo	Central Africa	Baker Island	Central America	French Polynesia	Insular Asia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Central Africa	Belize	Central America	Indonesia	Insular Asia
Equatorial Guinea	Central Africa	British Virgin Islands	Central America	Malaysia	Insular Asia
Gabon	Central Africa	Cayman Islands	Central America	Maldives	Insular Asia
Rwanda	Central Africa	Clipperton Island	Central America	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Insular Asia
Sao Tome and Principe	Central Africa	Costa Rica	Central America	Palau	Insular Asia
Uganda	Central Africa	Dominica	Central America	Philippines	Insular Asia
Comoros	South and East Africa	Dominican Republic	Central America	Singapore	Insular Asia
Eritrea	South and East Africa	El Salvador	Central America	Tokelau	Insular Asia
Ethiopia	South and East Africa	Grenada	Central America	Australia	Insular Asia
Glorioso Island	South and East Africa	Guadeloupe	Central America	Guam	Insular Asia
Ilema triangle	South and East Africa	Haiti	Central America	Kiribati	Insular Asia
Kenya	South and East Africa	Honduras	Central America	Nauru	Insular Asia
Madagascar	South and East Africa	Jamaica	Central America	Niue	Insular Asia
Malawi	South and East Africa	Jarvis Island	Central America	Samoa	Insular Asia
Mauritius	South and East Africa	Johnston Atoll	Central America	Tonga	Insular Asia
Mayotte	South and East Africa	Martinique	Central America	Tuvalu	Insular Asia
Mozambique	South and East Africa	Mexico	Central America	Arunachal Pradesh	South-East Asia
Reunion	South and East Africa	Midway Island	Central America	Azerbaijan	South-East Asia
Seychelles	South and East Africa	Netherlands Antilles	Central America	Bhutan	South-East Asia
South Sudan	South and East Africa	Palmyra Atoll	Central America	China	South-East Asia
United Republic of Tanzania	South and East Africa	Panama	Central America	Georgia	South-East Asia
Zambia	South and East Africa	Puerto Rico	Central America	India	South-East Asia
Benin	West Africa	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Central America	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	South-East Asia
Burkina Faso	West Africa	Turks and Caicos Islands	Central America	Japan	South-East Asia
Cote d'Ivoire	West Africa	United States Virgin Islands	Central America	Lao People's Democratic Republic	South-East Asia
Gambia	West Africa	Bolivia	South America	Macau	South-East Asia
Ghana	West Africa	Brazil	South America	Marshall Islands	South-East Asia
Guinea	West Africa	Colombia	South America	Nepal	South-East Asia
Guinea-Bissau	West Africa	Ecuador	South America	Northern Mariana Islands	South-East Asia
Liberia	West Africa	French Guiana	South America	Pakistan	South-East Asia
Libya	West Africa	Guyana	South America	Paracel Islands	South-East Asia
Mali	West Africa	Paraguay	South America	Scarborough Reef	South-East Asia
Nigeria	West Africa	Pitcairn	South America	Senkaku Islands	South-East Asia
Senegal	West Africa	Saint Helena	South America	Thailand	South-East Asia
Sierra Leone	West Africa	Uruguay	South America	Viet Nam	South-East Asia
Togo	West Africa				

Table S8. Projections of forest cover in January 2050 (in million ha and percentage of forest cover in 2019) and year of decline considering the mean and confidence interval (minimum and maximum), for the main countries (with forest area greater than 1 million ha in 2020), considering the undisturbed forest (A) and the whole forest (undisturbed and degraded) (B).

A. Projections of the undisturbed forest

Country	Observed forest area in 2020	Predicted forest area in 2050	Predicted relative forest decline in 2050	Year of decline mean	Year of decline min	Year of decline max
Brazil	308.9	243.2	21%	2164	2126	2215
DRC	105.8	71.4	33%	2113	2100	2129
Indonesia	94.0	51.3	45%	2086	2069	2110
Peru	66.6	59.7	10%	2316	2282	2353
Colombia	58.1	46.4	20%	2172	2148	2200
Venezuela	38.5	31.4	18%	2190	2123	2298
PNG	34.6	28.5	18%	2195	2132	2292
Bolivia	24.3	13.9	43%	2091	2064	2134
Gabon	23.5	22.3	5%	2643	2454	2913
Congo	22.2	18.6	16%	2211	2167	2268
Cameroon	19.8	15.4	22%	2158	2113	2223
Guyana	18.0	16.9	6%	2556	2405	2765
Malaysia	15.2	5.1	67%	2065	2056	2076
Suriname	13.1	12.4	6%	2541	2406	2723
Ecuador	12.1	8.7	28%	2127	2091	2181
Myanmar	9.6	1.5	84%	2055	2045	2069
Philippines	8.5	2.4	71%	2062	2043	2095
French Guiana	8.0	7.8	2%	3323	2996	3760
CAR	7.1	4.2	41%	2094	2067	2135
Liberia	6.0	1.4	76%	2059	2052	2068
Lao PDR	5.5	0.0	100%	2046	2040	2056
Viet Nam	4.8	0.1	97%	2050	2043	2061
Nigeria	4.5	0.0	100%	2049	2037	2068
India	4.2	0.4	90%	2053	2045	2064
Thailand	4.1	1.3	67%	2064	2044	2103
Madagascar	3.4	0.0	100%	2049	2042	2059
Angola	3.1	0.1	97%	2050	2040	2066
Mexico	3.1	0.0	100%	2040	2032	2053
Cambodia	2.3	0.0	100%	2037	2031	2046
Nicaragua	2.1	0.0	100%	2034	2028	2044
Cote d'Ivoire	1.8	0.0	100%	2026	2024	2028
Ghana	1.7	0.0	100%	2029	2025	2038

B. Projections of the whole forest

Country	Observed forest area in 2020	Predicted forest area in 2050	Predicted relative forest decline in 2050	Year of decline mean	Year of decline min	Year of decline max
Brazil	329.8	280.8	15%	2221	2188	2262
DRC	116.9	91.0	22%	2155	2132	2182
Indonesia	113.2	78.9	30%	2118	2090	2157
Peru	70.4	66.3	6%	2540	2475	2614
Colombia	63.8	55.1	14%	2240	2210	2274
Venezuela	41.1	36.2	12%	2272	2191	2391
PNG	38.9	36.9	5%	2615	2429	2885
Bolivia	28.5	22.3	22%	2157	2117	2214
Gabon	23.9	23.5	2%	3740	3109	4738
Congo	23.3	21.4	8%	2398	2329	2483
Cameroon	21.5	19.3	10%	2313	2242	2406
Malaysia	19.6	12.5	36%	2102	2078	2136
Guyana	18.4	18.0	2%	3243	2968	3598
Ecuador	13.9	12.1	13%	2252	2183	2350
Suriname	13.5	13.1	3%	3098	2868	3391
Myanmar	13.2	6.8	49%	2081	2063	2107
Philippines	12.2	8.7	29%	2124	2074	2223
CAR	8.7	6.9	21%	2163	2129	2207
French Guiana	8.0	7.9	1%	4540	4078	5107
Lao PDR	7.9	3.0	62%	2068	2059	2078
Liberia	7.8	5.2	33%	2110	2083	2148
Viet Nam	7.0	3.0	57%	2072	2062	2085
India	6.1	3.1	50%	2080	2063	2102
Nigeria	6.1	2.9	53%	2076	2058	2103
Thailand	5.6	3.7	35%	2106	2071	2165
Mexico	5.3	2.1	60%	2069	2055	2090
Angola	5.2	2.6	51%	2079	2062	2103
Madagascar	4.4	0.9	79%	2057	2047	2072
Cote d'Ivoire	3.6	0.0	100%	2033	2030	2038
Ghana	3.2	0.0	100%	2048	2037	2067
Nicaragua	3.2	0.1	98%	2050	2038	2071
Cambodia	2.6	0.0	100%	2041	2035	2051

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