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# Kompleksowa analiza wylesiania w krajach tropikalnych - bezpośrednie czynniki wylesiania, emisje dwutlenku węgla i równowaga wartości usług ekosystemów

A comprehensive study on deforestation in the tropics - direct  
deforestation drivers, carbon emissions and ecosystem service  
value balance

Master's Thesis  
on the course of - Forestry

Thesis written under the supervision of  
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Research Domain II - Climate Climate Impacts & Vulnerabilities

Potsdam, 2019



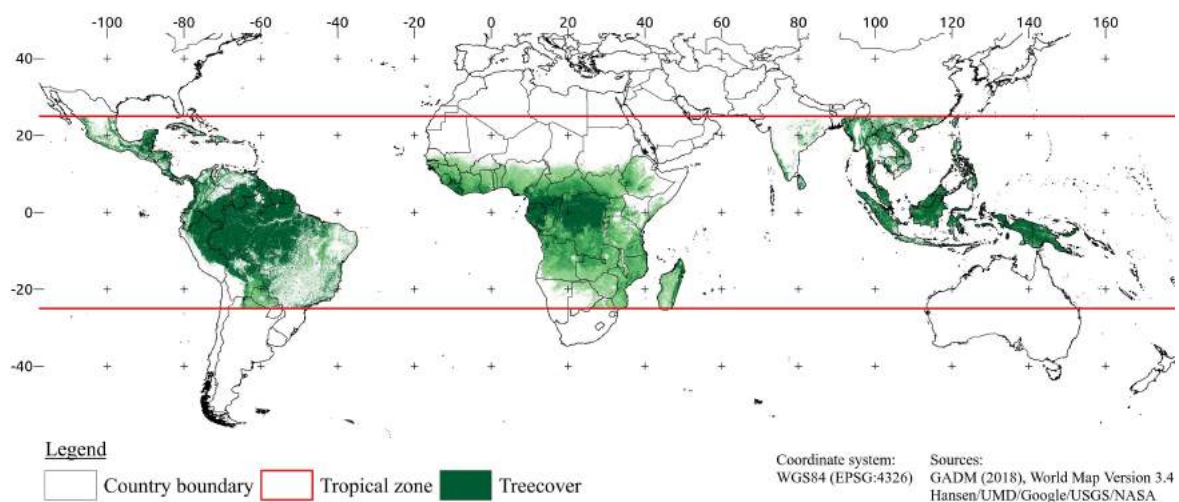
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# 1. Introduction

Forest covers approximately 30% of the global land surface, while roughly 50% of the global forest area can be attributed to tropical forests [WWF 2016]. The tropical tree cover envelop the global land surface between 23° north (the tropic of Cancer) and 23° south (the tropic of Capricorn) as figure 1.1 shows. Tropical forest ecosystems are a pivotal component of the earth system. They are crucial factors for climate, water cycle, soil health, biodiversity, and source of natural goods for human subsistence. These forests are major contributor to the global carbon and energy cycle and house roughly 50% of the species and two thirds of all plant species [Wright 2005; Jordan and Montagnini 2005]. Further, it is assumed that tropical forests have a major impact on the hydrologic regime. In developing tropical countries like Cambodia or Myanmar timber extraction and trade is important part of the economy, while fuelwood accounts for approximately 30% of the total primary energy supply in developing countries over the tropics [Jordan and Montagnini 2005]. However, this globally unique ecosystem and its diverse functions is endangered by several causes [WWF 2016].



**Figure 1.1. Tropical zone and forest**

Since the 1990s approximately 3.1% of the global forest area is lost due to deforestation, while approximately 35% of the tree cover loss is within the tropical zone [FAO 2016]. Between 1990 and 2015 the top ten countries of highest annual net loss of forest are concentrated in the tropical belt, which highlights the severe forest alterations within this zone [FAO 2010,

2016]. Forest loss or deforestation is defined as the removal of trees or forest stands from land surface area, which is then transformed to other LULC (Land use/Land cover) types. Deforestation and LULC change is one of the major causes for the fragmentation of the tropical forest cover [Taubert et al. 2018]. Further, tree cover loss is a dominant cause for the emission of Greenhouse gases (GHG) [Don et al. 2010; Baccini et al. 2012]. Additionally, the continues process of deforestation jeopardizes the carbon fixing capacity of tropical forest [Baccini et al. 2017]. Thus it is important to scrutinize the causes of deforestation. Geist and Lambin [2001] introduced the conceptual framework of proximate, underlying, and other causes of tropical deforestation to group the driving forces of forest cover change. The term Proximate Deforestation Driver (PDD) or direct deforestation driver encompass anthropogenic actions that change forest to other Land Cover (LC) types. Whereas, the new LC type is considered as the direct deforestation driver. Proximate causes of deforestation are subdivided into three different categories: agricultural expansion, wood extraction, and infrastructure expansion. Examples for deforestation driven by agriculture are the expansion of pastures, cropland, and tree crops as exemplified in the figure 1.2. Whereas, the other two categories, wood extraction and infrastructure expansion encompass the following causes: fuelwood extraction, charcoal production, transport infrastructure, and settlement expansion. The term underlying causes refers to complex social, political, economic, technological, and cultural interactions, which underpin the PDDs. The category of other causes for deforestation comprises land characteristics, biophysical drivers, and social trigger events. Features of land characteristics are the soil quality and landscape topography, which could determine the shape and extent of anthropogenic deforestation actions. Only a few countries survey PDDs by a systematic procedure and spatial details are even more rare [Sy et al. 2015; Hosonuma et al. 2012]. Whereby, the availability of spatial explicit data of PDDs is important because this data can be used to derive other features to describe deforestation comprehensively [Hosonuma et al. 2012]. The advances in the field of remote sensing and the availability of country meta-data has fostered the research on PDDs on a continental or regional scale (e.g. Sy et al. [2015]; Austin et al. [2019]; Zalles et al. [2018]; Meyfroidt et al. [2013]; Caldas et al. [2013]; Graesser et al. [2015]; Ruf et al. [2014]; Connette et al. [2016]; Barima et al. [2016]; Furumo and Aide [2017]; Vijay et al. [2018]). Although, the availability of global scaled data on direct deforestation driver is still limited (e.g. Curtis et al. [2018]; Hosonuma et al. [2012]; Geist and Lambin [2002]; DeFries et al. [2010]; Carter et al. [2018]). Further, only one study scrutinized the disposition of PDDs in a spatial explicit procedure on a global range (e.g. Curtis et al. [2018]). All the beforehand mentioned studies agree on the fact, that agricultural expansion dominates the the tree cover loss as PDD. Whereby, each study estimates a varying size for agricultural causes and other causes, which could be related to differences in the methodology. Some studies relay on meta-analysis or country meta-data and use an empirical approach to predict PDDs (e.g. Hosonuma et al. [2012]; Geist and Lambin [2002]; DeFries et al. [2010]; Carter et al. [2018]; Ruf et al. [2014]), while

other studies apply sample-based methods in combination with statistical models and visual interpretation of remotely sensed data (e.g. Sy et al. [2015]; Austin et al. [2019]; Curtis et al. [2018]; Meyfroidt et al. [2013]; Caldas et al. [2013]). Additionally, some studies rely only on remote sensing of the environment to predict the proximate causes of deforestation (e.g. Caldas et al. [2013]; Zalles et al. [2018]; Graesser et al. [2015]; Connette et al. [2016]; Barima et al. [2016]). On the fact that these studies need a vast amount of expert knowledge and in some cases repetition of time consuming processes they require a large effort for repetition. Further, the studies that estimate the PDDs spatially explicit are only in low resolution available, which overlooks small-holder deforestation [Curtis et al. 2018; Caldas et al. 2013]. Additionally, all studies more or less present the proximate causes on deforestation already as aggregates of the three groups Geist and Lambin suggest. Therefore, it is not possible to derive regional or continental differences between the patterns of cropland and pasture expansion.



**Figure 1.2. Examples of proximate deforestation drivers:** The transformation of forests by the expansion of pastures in the Brazilian province of Pará (top), the expansion of settlements in the Brazilian province of Amazonas (center), and the expansion of tree crops (oil palm) in the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan (bottom).

The LC conversion of tropical forests induced by PDDs are the second largest source of anthropogenic-induced GHG emissions [Don et al. 2010]. The total GHG emissions arising from these LC changes can be broken down into many different categories, e.g. GHG emissions from biomass removal, emissions resulting from soil organic carbon dynamics, GHG emissions arising from the resulting Land use (LU) activity etc. Why is important?, What is state of science?, What is missing?

Tropical ecosystems have a crucial impact on the well-being and subsistence of current and future generation out of humanity through the provision of regulatory, supporting, provi-

sioning, and cultural services [Costanza et al. 1997]. On the fact that deforestation and LC changes lead to major changes in ecosystem services by altering the shape of forest biomes it is crucial to evaluate these impacts not only in terms of GHG emissions but also for key ecosystem services as water, regulation, biodiversity etc. For the quantification of these ecosystem services a economic process is applied to assess the monetary value of each service per ecosystem. These Ecosystem Service Values (ESVs) can be a strong tool to determine the impact of certain management practices on ecosystem structures and raise the public awareness that ecosystems are scarce resources which could not be treated as free inexhaustible goods [de Groot et al. 2012]. The monetary valuation of ecosystems should be not understand as privatizing or commodifying them as tradeable goods for private markets [Costanza et al. 2014; Song 2018]. Further, the valuation of ecosystem services has fostered natural capital accounting and inclusion in national policies [Song 2018]. During the past decade scientific research fostered the development of several valuation approaches like direct market valuation, revealed preference, stated preference and benefit transfer [Song 2018]. Benefit transfer is the conceptually simplest approach to estimate the ESV, but is widely used especially for estimates over large geographic regions [Costanza et al. 1997; Song 2018; Costanza et al. 2014]. This approach uses a constant unit value per hectare of ecosystem type and multiplies that value by the area of each type to obtain the aggregated total [Costanza et al. 2014]. Remotely sensed land cover dataset are widely applied in the estimation ESVs to derive a global valuation of ecosystems by applying ESV unit values [Song 2018]. The literature provides several studies on ecosystems and its monetary values. However, the by far most used global unit values for ecosystems are prepared by Costanza et al.. This values are applied in several studies (e.g. Costanza et al. [2014]; Song [2018]; Sannigrahi et al. [2018]; Kreuter et al. [2001]; Wang et al. [2006]; Zhao et al. [2004]). Siikamaki et al. [2015] introduced recently global and regional ESV unit values for forest ecosystems. These values are used by the World Bank in its wealth program on developing country-level indicators of sustainability [Siikamaki et al. 2015]. Another well known datasets of ESVs is provided by de Groot et al. [2012]. Till now several studies estimated ESV dynamics at local or regional scales (e.g. Kreuter et al. [2001]; Wang et al. [2006]; Zhao et al. [2004]). Global-scale studies that estimate the monetary value of our planetary ecosystems and the losses by LC change are relatively rare (e.g. Costanza et al. [1997, 2014]; Sannigrahi et al. [2018]; Song [2018]). The ecosystem estimates of this global studies ranging between 49.4-75.1 trillion dollar per year, while losses due to LC change ranging between 1.21-20.2 trillion dollar per year, all values in 2007 Int’l\$  $y^{-1}$ . The ESV loss due to tropical deforestation ranges between 550.7 billion and 3.5 trillion dollar per year. These estimates are derived from LC data at a coarse spatial resolution between 1 km and 300 m except the estimates of Song, that are derived from the University of Maryland Global Forest Change (GFC) dataset at spatial resolution of 30 m. However, the ESV accounting of Song lacks of an importing filtering of the GFC data and it does not consider ESV dynamics from LC change. Till now, to best



of our knowledge no study accounted the ESV dynamics in regards of ESV loss, gain and balance exclusively for tropical forest loss and its PDDs by using high resolution data.

## 1.1. Research objectives

Based on the research gaps declared during the previous paragraphs we want to focus on the following research questions to analyze tropical deforestation for the period 2001-2010:

- What are the proximate causes of tropical forest cover change?
- What quantity have the gross aboveground woody biomass and soil organic change carbon losses released by tropical forest cover change?
- What are the magnitudes of the ecosystem service value dynamics of tropical forest cover change?

## 2. Data and methods

In this chapter we describe our approach to achieve the research objectives stated during the introduction. The first section of this chapter introduces the datasets used during this study and the underlying causes for using them. For each dataset, we shortly describe by which approach it is derived and what are the fundamental meta-data properties. Additionally, if possible we try to give for each dataset an accuracy assessment, ideally provided by other research groups if available. Finally, we describe our idea behind using the data and how we acquired and filtered it. The second and last section of this chapter is focused on the applied methodology to prepare our analysis and results. For each processing step we give a short description of the methodical background and describe the core functionality of our processing algorithms. For implementing our processing algorithms and visualizing our results we selected individually the programming language or software which fulfills best our requirements. These approaches are encapsulated in a reusable software design to easily reproduce, alter or reuse our algorithms and findings.

### 2.1. Data

**Table 2.1. Datasets used in this study**

Data	Type	Source
Global Forest Change	spatial	Hansen et al. [2013]
GlobeLand30	spatial	Chen et al. [2015]
Aboveground Woody Biomass	spatial	Baccini et al. [2015]
Intact Forest Landscape	spatial	Potapov et al. [2017]
Global Soil Organic Carbon Content	spatial	FAO and ITPS [2018]
Global Administrative Areas	spatial	Hijmans et al. [2018]
Soil Organic Carbon Change	empirical	Don et al. [2010] Costanza et al. [2014]
Ecosystem Service Values	empirical	de Groot et al. [2012] Siikamaki et al. [2015]

The table 2.1 shows a comprehensive overview of the applied datasets for this study. Spatial datasets comprises vector as well raster data, while empirical data is extracted from the cited publications. The subsequent sections describe each dataset in further detail.

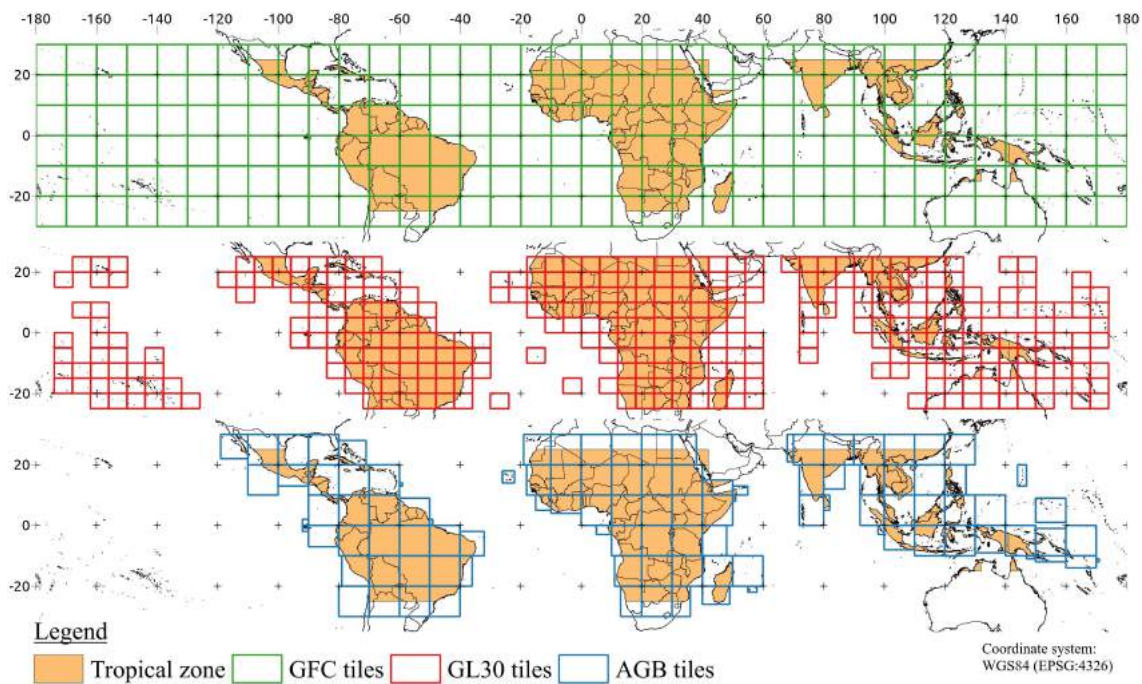
### 2.1.1. Global Forest Change

GFC 2000-2012 Version 1.0 is the first high-resolution dataset that provides a comprehensive view of the annual global forest cover change between 2000 and 2012 [Hansen et al. 2013; Li et al. 2017b]. We will use this dataset to extract and determine the tropical deforestation and reforestation dynamics for our study time frame from 2000 till 2010. The initial GFC dataset released by Hansen et al. has been extended by recent releases, which encompass the annual forest cover changes between 2000-2013, 2000-2014, 2000-2015 and 2000-2016, respectively. All versions of this dataset are derived from growing-season imagery captured by the following remote sensing satellites: Landsat 7 ETM+, Quickbird, MODIS [Hansen et al. 2013]. On the satellite imagery, a time-series spectral metrics analysis is applied to gather the global forest extent in 2000 as well as the annual forest loss and the accumulated gain for the period 2001-2012. Hence, GFC comprises three independent data layers: tree cover, annual forest loss, and forest gain. Each of these layers is divided into 10x10 degree tiles by the Coordinate Reference System (CRS) World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) (EPSG:4326) with a spatial resolution of 1 arc-second per pixel or 30 m per pixel. Further, across the provided Geo-Tiff (GTiff) layers the pixel data is coded in unsigned 8-bit integers. Hansen et al. defined trees as all vegetation taller than 5 meters. For each pixel covered by trees, a canopy density ranging from 0 to 100% is computed. Forest loss is defined as a stand displacement disturbance leading from a forest state to a non-forest state (e.g. canopy density >50% to 0). Resulting from this definition, the underlying causes of forest loss range from anthropogenic impacts to natural causes. Tree cover gain is defined as the inverse of loss, and the canopy density must exceed 50% to get recognized.

Hansen et al. [2013] reports a tree cover loss accuracy assessment of 83% for the tropical region. The mapped tree cover gain achieves a producers accuracy of approximately 48%, while the users accuracy is approximately 81%. The large difference between users and producers accuracy highlights that tree cover gain is underestimated by the algorithm. For a part of the Riau province in Indonesia Arjasakusuma et al. [2018] reports for the gain layer a producers and users accuracy of  $64.5\% \pm 7\%$  and  $75.9\% \pm 8.1\%$ , respectively. By this independent validation the underestimate of tree cover gain is largely confirmed for this region. For Gabon Sannier et al. [2016] reports as accuracy assessment for the GFC tree cover map an overall accuracy of 95.87% and 96.6% for the canopy density thresholds of >30% and >70%, respectively. In subtropical areas the GFC dataset achieves an overall accuracy of 62%, 64%, 66% for the canopy density thresholds of >10%, >30%, and >50% [McRoberts et al. 2016].

This dataset is publicly available for download without any constraint. For a convenient bulk download, the dataset homepage provides a "\*.txt files" comprising the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the tiles for each sub-dataset. The spatial location of an image

can be directly determined from the file name within the URL. Each file name has a common pattern shown by the following expression: "Hansen\_VERSION\_LAT[NS]\_LNG[WE]". LAT (latitude) and LNG (longitude) refer to the top left corner coordinates of a raster image, whereas these coordinates are only given in natural numbers. The orientation of the image on the hemisphere is determined by the four cardinal directions N (north), S (south), W (west) and E (east). For this project, we require all three sub-datasets, namely: Treecover2000, loss-year, and gain. The data acquisition is automatized with a Python script by using the standard-library modules urllib and re. At first, the Python script downloads the provided "\*.txt" files and creates a list data structure, where each URL is an element of this list. After, it cycles through the list and extracts the corner coordinates from the file name by means of a REGEX (Regular Expression). These corner coordinates and cardinal directions are converted to valid latitude and longitude coordinates between  $[-90, 90]$  and  $[-180, 180]$ , respectively. Now, an image is only downloaded if it is within the study extent between  $[-20, 30]$  latitude. The acquired image tiles in total 678 are shown in the top panel (green squares) in figure 2.1.



**Figure 2.1. Map of downloaded dataset tiles:** This map shows the acquired image tiles used for this study. From top to bottom Global Forest Change (GFC) dataset tiles (Treecover2000, loss-year and gain) (green), the land cover dataset GlobeLand30 (GL30) tiles (red), and the Aboveground Biomass (AGB) dataset tiles (blue). The orange filled shapes highlight countries within the tropical zone.

### 2.1.2. GlobeLand30

GlobeLand30 (GL30) is the first global land cover dataset with 30 meter spatial resolution that provides a comprehensive view on the distribution of 10 different land cover classes

(table 2.2) over the entire globe [Chen et al. 2017]. We will use this dataset to classify tree cover loss and subsequently derive the PDDs of tropical forest. Currently, this dataset is available for two different time steps 2000 and 2010 [Chen et al. 2015]. The pixel values of this dataset are coded in unsigned 8-bit integers and as CRS, it uses WGS84 in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection. GL30 can be downloaded as a GTiff raster mosaic where each image covers 6x5 degrees [Chen et al. 2014]. For detecting the land cover classes Chen et al. used a so-called Pixel-Object-Knowledge oriented approach and satellite imagery from Landsat ETM+ [Chen et al. 2015]. The mapping process was divided into different stages where each land cover type is detected separately and deleted subsequently from the source image. The applied mapping order is the following: water bodies, wetland, snow and ice, cultivated land and forest, shrubland, grassland and bare land synchronous. To detect the pixels of a selected land cover type the following pixel-level classifiers are used: Decision Trees, Support Vector Machines or Maximum Likelihood Classifier. After pixel detection, the adjacent pixels are grouped as an aggregated land use object. These objects are subsequently validated by expert knowledge and the gained knowledge is used as a feedback loop to improve the automatized classification.

Chen et al. [2015] estimates an overall mapping accuracy of 80.33 % and 78.6 % for 2000 (only validated in Shaanxi, China) and 2010 (global), respectively. Several research groups besides Chen et al. validated the mapping accuracy of GL30 at different regions and scales. Arsanjani et al. estimates an overall accuracy of 77.9 % for Iran and an accuracy of >80 % is reported for Germany [Arsanjani et al. 2016a,b]. Yang et al. [2017], Cao et al. [2016] and Jacobson et al. [2015] estimate the accuracy of 82.4 %, 80.1 % and 83.1 % for China, Nepal, and East Africa, respectively. To the best of our knowledge, no study have focused on validating the mapping accuracy for regions exclusively within the tropical zone.

Chen et al. donated the GL30 land cover mapping to the UN (United Nations) but it is not accessible for public download unless the user registers on the dataset homepage. A registered user must fill an order application to get access to the image tiles. The application form must contain the tile identifiers and the selected time period. Tile identifiers have the following common pattern: "[NS]ZONE\_LAT\_NAME" where zone refers to the UTM zone between [1,60], N (north) or S (south) to the cardinal direction, and LAT (latitude) to the latitude coordinate of the top left corner. On the dataset homepage a vector file can be downloaded which contains the dataset tile polygons with assigned identifiers. This file was used to select all required tiles within the tropical zone between approximately  $[-23, 23]$  degrees (WGS84). Figure 2.1 presents the selected images (middle panel-red). The corresponding image identifiers are converted to a single line string and copied to the application form. After submitting the form the order will be checked and approved within two weeks. After one week we received a two weeks limited access to a password protected FTP-server where we downloaded 716 raster images. Due to the several restrictions, this process of selecting

and downloading could not be automatized with one pipeline. Only the selection and string conversion were automatized with a throwaway script.

**Table 2.2. Land cover classification of the GlobeLand30 product:** The code column is the assigned pixel value, type refers to the corresponding land cover type and definition explains in broad terms which types of surfaces fall into each land cover type [Chen et al. 2017].

Code	Type	Definition
10	Cultivated land	Used for agriculture, horticulture and gardens, including paddy fields, irrigated and dry farmland, vegetable and fruit gardens, etc.
20	Forest	Covered by trees, vegetation covers over 30%, including deciduous and coniferous forest, and sparse woodland with cover 10-30%, etc.
30	Grassland	Covered by natural grass with cover over 10%, etc.
40	Shrubland	Covered by shrubs with cover over 30%, including deciduous and evergreen shrubs, and desert steppe with cover over 10%, etc.
50	Wetland	Covered by wetland plants and water bodies, including inland marsh, lake marsh, river floodplain wetland, forest/shrub wetland, peat bogs, mangrove and salt marsh, etc.
60	Water bodies	In land area, including river, lake, reservoir, fish pond, etc.
70	Tundra	Covered by lichen, moss, hardy perennial herb and shrubs in the polar regions, including shrub-, herbaceous-, wet- and barren-tundra, etc.
80	Artificial surfaces	Modified by anthropogenic influence, including all kinds of habitation, industrial and mining area, transportation facilities, and interior urban green zones and water bodies, etc.
90	Bareland	With vegetation cover lower 10%, including desert, sandy fields, Gobi, bare rocks, saline and alkaline land, etc.
100	Snow and ice	Covered by permanent snow, glacier and icecap

### 2.1.3. Aboveground Woody Biomass

The Aboveground live woody Biomass density (AGB) raster dataset is prepared by Global Forest Watch (GFW) by an adapted approach of Baccini et al. [2012, 2015, 2017]. We will use this raster dataset to determine AGB losses by PDDs of the tropical tree cover. For the year 2000, this dataset estimates the aboveground biomass density per pixel in  $\text{Mg C ha}^{-1}$  (megagram carbon per hectare), and the confidence per pixel at a spatial resolution of approximately 1 arc-second or 30 m. The dataset covers the global tropical zone as a mosaic of GTiff raster images, where each tile of the mosaic has the CRS WGS84 and is coded in a float. For deriving biomass density GFW used canopy metrics from GLAS LIDAR (Geoscience Laser Altimeter System Light Detection and Ranging) footprints and several regional and forest-specific allometric equations. The resulting GLAS AGB estimates are

used as labels to train regional-specific random forest models based on Landsat 7 ETM+ top-of-atmosphere reflectance, tree canopy density of GFC, elevation data, and climate data as predictor variables. Next, these models are subsequently applied to the entire study extent to predict the biomass content for each pixel. Additionally, an uncertainty layer is prepared accounting for the errors from allometric equations, the LIDAR-based model, and the random forest model.

The AGB raster mosaic is publicly available on the homepage of GFW. As mentioned, the dataset covers only the tropical zone, therefore we acquire the entire mosaic. The GFW homepage provides an Application Programming Interface (API) to receive the actual URL of each raster image. If a request is sent to this API the server responded with a GeoJSON (Geographic JavaScript Object Notation) feature collection. The collection contains as attributes the URLs of the biomass images, the URLs of the uncertainty layers, and the rectangular bounds of each image. The data acquisition is automatized by means of Python and the standard-library modules `urllib`, `threading`, and the open source library `geopandas`. At first, the GeoJSON is downloaded via an API call and eventually stored on disk. Next, we iterate the features of the GeoJSON collection and extract the URLs (biomass and uncertainty) of each tile. These URLs are downloaded and subsequently stored on disk. During the downloads of the uncertainty layers, the GFW server answered repeatedly with a 404 (Not found). Therefore the uncertainty layers are not available. In total we downloaded 105 different image tiles, their extent and spatial location are shown in blue at the bottom panel of figure 2.1.

#### 2.1.4. Intact Forest Landscapes

An Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) is defined as a mosaic of undisturbed forest patches or a naturally treeless ecosystems without signs of human activity and large enough to maintain all native biological diversity [Potapov et al. 2017]. We will use this dataset to distinguish between deforestation in primary or secondary forest to decide which Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) change coefficient from section 2.1.6 will be selected. On the fact that IFL comprises different intact natural landscape patterns like primary forests, non-forest ecosystems, temporary treeless areas after a natural disturbance, and water bodies the term is not congruent to the term primary forest defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [FAO 2012]. However, as mentioned IFLs includes large patches of primary forests with a minimum extent of 500 Km<sup>2</sup>, therefore, primary forests can be extracted from the layer. Still, there are smaller fragments of primary forest outside of the IFLs. In regards to the extent, an IFL has a minimum size of 500 Km<sup>2</sup>, a minimum width of 10 Km, and a minimum corridor/appendage width of 2 Km. Further an IFL should not contain any of the following: ecosystem alternation, fragmentation by infrastructure and disturbance, and areas altered or

managed through agriculture, logging, and mining. For mapping and detecting IFLs Potapov et al. used Landsat imagery and several auxiliary data sources like GFC, and national transportation maps. The dataset can be downloaded as a Shapefile (SHP) file with the coordinate reference system WGS84. Each polygon in the SHP represents an IFL patch at a certain location on our planet at the time period 2000.

Data acquisition is pretty straight forward, since the IFL dataset is publicly accessible for download. On the fact that the layer is a single SHP only a single compressed archive must be downloaded, while the download is automatized with a Python script by using the standard-library modules urllib and threading.

### 2.1.5. Global Soil Organic Carbon Map

The Global Soil Organic Carbon map (GSOCmap) is a joint project between GSP (Global Soil Partnership) and ITPS (Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils) to produce a global SOC content map by a country-driven approach. We will use this dataset to determine the SOC content at deforested spots and to derive the SOC losses by tropical tree cover loss. Until now 67 (approximately 63% of the global land mass) different countries have submitted their country-based SOC estimates. To foster the national SOC mappings the ISRIC (International Soil Reference and Information Center) provides several covariate datasets like national digital elevation maps, annual spectral remote sensing data or national soil type grids. Additionally, the contributors can join a mapping training and use the GSOCmap cookbook as guidance for their mapping efforts. As an exchange, each country shares its national GSOCmap by compliance of several criteria e.g. reporting of the meta-data of the SOC sampling (sample timeline, sample depth, bulk density etc.), uncertainty assessment, and the applied methods for the estimation and interpolation of the SOC content. For interpolating, the leading organizations suggest the following approaches: simple geo-matching, class-matching, multiple linear regression, random forest or support vector machines. The national maps are aggregated to the final GSOCmap with a target resolution of 30 arc-seconds (approximately 1 km<sup>2</sup>) in the CRS WGS84. The dataset is one single raster image as GTiff coded in float covering the entire globe, where each pixel value is the SOC content in Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> at a soil depth of 0-30 cm [FAO and ITPS 2018].

The product is validated by comparing the pixel level estimates with soil sampling data from various soil databases (WoSIS, HWSD, etc.). In total 312 122 samples were divided into three sub-levels (<150 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>, >150 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>, and the entire stratum) and the mean errors were computed. The mean error of the entire sample space and of the <150 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> suggests that the mean SOC content value is an overestimate of 1.6 and 4.5 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. All samples with a SOC content >150 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> show an underestimation of



approximately 165 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> in the mean. In comparison with other global SOC products, the GSOCmap has the lowest root mean square error. In summary, the prepared validations show evidences that the GSOCmap is a conservative data product with a tendency to underestimate the SOC content.

The dataset is publicly available at the homepage of the FAO. As mentioned it consists of one raster image, therefore we download it by means of a Python script without any additional steps.

### 2.1.6. Soil Organic Carbon change

Don et al. [2010] performed the first study of tropical SOC changes resulting from LU change for a soil depth between 0 and 30 cm. We will use the empirical data to determine the cumulative SOC losses by LC transitions through PDDs. For the study, a global meta-analysis is applied by using 358 (153 published and peer-reviewed) different studies to estimate SOC change for 12 major LU change types. The base data is derived from 39 different tropical countries covering all continents. All regions are not equally covered by the studies included in the meta-analysis: Africa and East-Asia are under-sampled, while South America has the best data coverage. The meta-analysis is restricted to mineral soils, therefore all wet soil types are excluded from the analysis. The 12 LU transitions encompass the following LU types: primary forest, secondary forest, grassland, cropland, and perennial crops. Primary forest is defined as natural vegetation without human impacts, which includes natural grassland and shrubland. Secondary forest represents managed forests and regrown forests after partial destruction of the old natural stand. Grassland comprises pastures for livestock but excludes natural grasslands. Cropland comprises annual crops like maize or beans, while perennial crop examples could be coffee or sugar cane. For our study we used only the SOC change estimates for these LU types which correspond to the GL30 and IFL classification scheme table 2.3.

**Table 2.3. Relative soil organic carbon change for certain land-use change types:** The land use change (LUC) columns from and to define the land use change type with the corresponding relative soil organic carbon (SOC) change and the standard error of the mean (SEM) [Don et al. 2010].

LUC type From→To	Relative SOC change	
	[%]	SEM [%]
Primary forest→Grassland	-12.1	±2.3
Primary forest→Cropland	-25.2	±3.3
Primary forest→Secondary forest	-8.6	±2.0
Secondary forest→Grassland	-6.4	±2.5
Secondary forest→Cropland	-21.3	±4.1

### 2.1.7. Ecosystem Service Values

To determine the magnitudes of ESV change dynamics of tropical forest cover change we identified three ESV unit value datasets which are commonly used in the literature. We will use these ESV unit values for different biomes to compute the following ESV dynamics for tropical forest cover change: ESV loss, gain, and net balance.

de Groot et al. [2012] developed as contribution to the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) initiative a ESV database, which encompass the ESV of 320 regional-scaled studies, roughly 1350 value estimates. This database is used to prepare ESV estimates for 10 different biomes (marine, coral reefs, coastal systems, coastal wetlands, inland wetlands, river/lakes, tropical forest, temperate forest, woodlands, and grasslands), while each biome comprises four different ecosystem service categories: provisioning services (sub-services are food, water, raw materials, genetic resources, medicinal resources, ornamental resources), regulating services (sub-services are air quality, climate, water flow, waste treatment, erosion prevention, soil fertility, pollination, and biological control), habitat services (sub-services are nursery and gene-pool), and cultural services (sub-services are aesthetics, recreation, inspiration, spiritual, and cognitive development) We use from de Groot et al. the mean ESV estimates of tropical forest and grassland biomes, which are listed in table 2.4.

Costanza et al. [2014] ESV estimates are a updated and extended version of de Groot et al. [2012] monetary estimates. This dataset extends the source data by the two biomes cropland and urban area. The unit values, which are applied in our study are listed in table 2.4.

The last ESV dataset we apply is prepared by Siikamaki et al. [2015] for the World Bank and its initiative on developing country-level indicators of sustainability. Siikamaki et al. applies a meta-analysis to summarize findings of the ecosystem services literature in combination with a meta-regression model to derive the ESV of forest. The ESV encompass four ecosystem service categories: recreation (sub-services are hunting, fishing, and recreation), habitat/species protection (sub-services are landscape aesthetics, cultural/existences, and habitat/species protection), non-wood forest products, and water services (sub-services are water quality, water quantity, hydropower, erosion control, flood protection). We use the unit value of forest from Siikamaki et al., which is listed in table 2.4.

**Table 2.4. Ecosystem service values per biome used in this study:** The monetary unit of the ecosystem service values is 2007 Int'l\$  $y^{-1} ha^{-1}$  also know as Geary-Khamis Dollar. Co refers to data from Costanza et al. [2014], Dg from de Groot et al. [2012], and Wb from Siikamaki et al. [2015].

Biome	Co	Dg	Wb
Cropland	5567	-	-
Tropical forest/forest	5382	5264	1312
Grass/Rangelands	4166	2871	-
Urban	6661	-	-

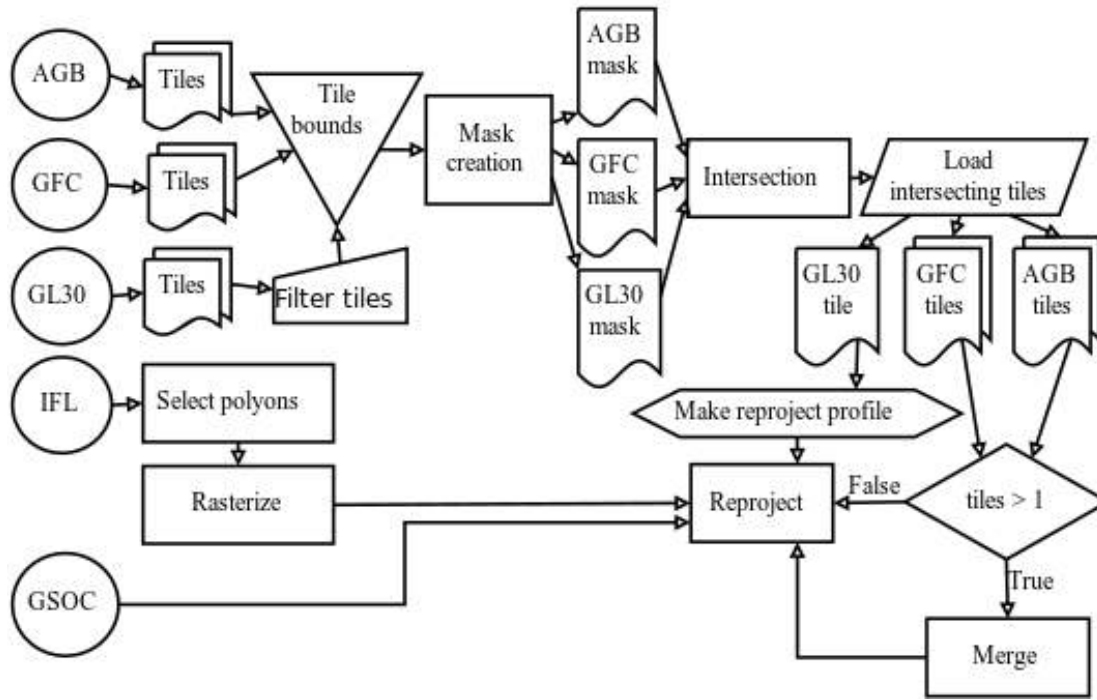
## 2.2. Methods

For the implementation of the processing algorithms and the arrangement of visualizations we applied several different technologies. Python is our core technology for implementing our processing algorithms because it supports an easy implementation of multi-threading and multi-processing, which is heavily used in this project. From the Python standard-library we used the following libraries: `urllib`, `re`, `unittest`, `time`, `math`, `logging`, `collections`, `bisect`, and `enum` [van Rossum and Development 2018]. Additionally, for geo-processing we used the following open source libraries: `numpy`, `pandas`, `fiona`, `geopandas`, `shapely`, `matplotlib`, `rasterio`, and `affine` [Hunter 2007; McKinney 2010; ?, ?]. The entire frontend of our Python source code is aggregated in a Jupyter Notebook and openly available on github ([www.github.com/tobijjah/tropicly](http://www.github.com/tobijjah/tropicly)), which ensures that everyone interested can reproduce and build on the findings of our project. Additionally, JavaScript and the modules `papaparse` and the Google maps API (Application Programming Interface) are used for programming a small web application to perform the accuracy assessment. R is used for hypothesis testing during the development of our forest definition. Bash is used as interface to GDAL (Geospatial Data Abstraction Library) command line tools (Geospatial Data Abstraction Library) to aggregate large raster datasets as VRT-files (Virtual Raster Tile). To prepare map visualizations we used QGIS [?]. Dia is used for preparing flowcharts and GIMP is used for image post-processing.

### 2.2.1. Preprocessing

Before we apply further analysis, we have to harmonize the used datasets. As introduced in the data section we use datasets which differ largely in their metadata properties, for example, single-tiled or multi-tiled images, used CRS, spatial resolution, and file type. Therefore, our goal should be to develop a process which creates an image stack of equal meta-data for each location in our study extent. In further descriptions, we will refer to this stack as Aligned Image Stack Mosaic (AISM). As target CRS for our AISM we chose WGS84, and as target extent for the mosaic we use the bounding box of the GL30-2010 tiles. The following paragraph explains how we developed the alignment algorithm by means of Python and the additional open source libraries `rasterio`, `geopandas`, and `shapely`. The figure 2.2 shows the applied steps to harmonize the different raster and vector datasets.

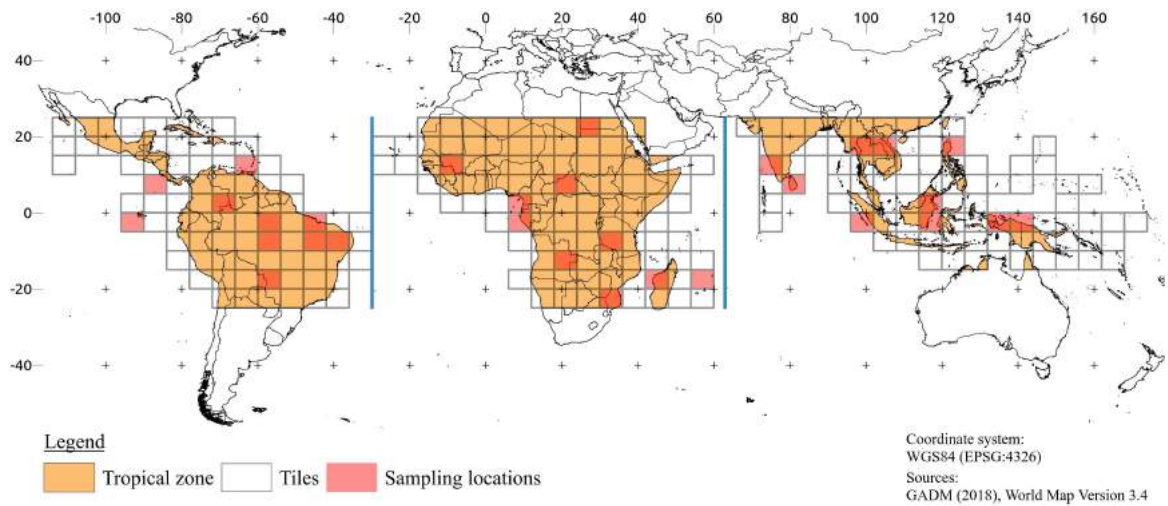
The first exercise of the preprocessing algorithm is to detect all tiles covering the extent of our template tiles. First, we create for each multi-tiled dataset a polygon mask as SHP. This mask contains the spatial extent of each tile within a dataset and as attribute the corresponding file identifier. If the dataset tiles are not in WGS84 the extracted bounds are subsequently reprojected to this CRS. During the masking process, we recognized that the



**Figure 2.2. Raster and vector harmonization process:** For the multi-tiled datasets represented by the multi-document symbols a mask is created by extracting the tile bounds. Next, the intersection between these masks is determined to identify superimposing data and the corresponding tiles are loaded from the disk. GlobeLand30 (GL30) tiles are used as a template by creating the re-project profile and subsequently applying it to the intersecting tiles. From the Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) layer only polygons within the re-project area are selected and subsequently converted to a raster layer. The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map as a single tile raster file with a spatial resolution of 1 km<sup>2</sup> is re-projected and re-sampled by the nearest-neighbor approach.

raster mosaic bounds of both GL30 datasets (2000 and 2010) generate re-projection errors. Further analysis revealed that all tiles located in UTM zone 1 and 60 overflowed the maximum and minimum longitude coordinates of these zones. To solve this we excluded all tiles within UTM zone 1 and 60 from further processing. Now, as the figure 2.2 suggests we determine the intersection between these mask layers and group the intersecting tiles by our template tile. Next, we create for the template tile a re-projection profile (warp profile) and apply it subsequently to all intersecting tiles based on the following rules: if from one dataset more than one tile intersects merge them followed by re-projection; if only one tile intersects just re-project it. As introduced, the GSOCmap consists only of one single tile with a spatial resolution of approximately 1 Km<sup>2</sup>, so it must only be re-project and re-sampled by the nearest-neighbor approach. We select from the IFL layer all polygons within our template warp profile and convert them to a raster layer where intact forest patches are coded by a one in an 8-bit unsigned integer. The last step of the alignment process is the rounding of the AISM bounds to full integer degrees and a subsequent clipping of each tile to this rounded bounds. Finally, we create a polygon mask of our AISM and store for each polygon as attributes the corresponding dataset tiles. This mask is used as a file index for the next algorithms. The figure 2.3 shows this mask and the extent of the harmonized dataset tiles.

Each box in this figure highlights a raster tile stack of our AISM. The advantage of this tiled approach is that we don't have to store 8 large raster files which cover the entire tropical zone and occupy a large amount of disk space and exceed the available memory if loaded for further processing. Further, this approach enables us to parallelize most of our further computations because each tile from our AISM is a closed unit.



**Figure 2.3. Harmonized raster images and sampling locations:** The map shows the location of the aligned multi-image stack tiles as black-framed, square-sized polygons. The sampling locations for accuracy assessment are represented in red, Countries within tropical range appear in orange. Vertical blue lines separate the tiles into the three continental regions Latin America, Africa, and Asia/Australia.

## 2.2.2. Proximate deforestation drivers

### 2.2.2.1. Forest definition

To determine the proximate drivers of deforestation we combined the information of the two datasets GFC and GL30. However, both differ in their definition of tree cover by canopy cover threshold as introduced in section 2.1. GFC detects tree cover over the entire canopy density interval of  $(0, 100]$ , while the GL30 threshold is set to  $> 10\%$ . To successfully extract stable land cover transformation by superimposing both layers we must first harmonize the tree cover definition of both strata. We hypothesize that if both layers agree on tree cover they should also agree if a transition to a non-forest state occurs. To harmonize both definitions we have the opportunity to vary the canopy density of GFC to determine at which density class the similarity between them is at its maximum. Then, we use the examined maximum similarity canopy density to filter the tree cover loss and gain layer.

To determine the similarity between GL30 2000 and GFC reference tree cover we used the Jaccard Index (JI). The JI or coefficient of community is a simple measure of similarity

between two pairs of a binary population or a measure of the degree of spatial overlap between two images [Sampat et al. 2009]. This index was first applied by Jaccard to compare distributions of rare alpine flora in 1912 [Jaccard 1912], and since it is a widely used metric across multiple fields. If we compare two binary images, let  $a$  be the magnitude where both images ( $\text{Img}_1, \text{Img}_2$ ) have an agreement represented as a pixel value of one. Let  $b$  be the magnitude where  $\text{Img}_1$  is zero and  $\text{Img}_2$  is one, while  $c$  represents the inverse expression. Finally, assume that  $d$  is the magnitude of elements where both images are zero. The matrix in table 2.5 shows that the computation of this coefficients  $a, b, c$ , and  $d$  can be expressed as a set of boolean operations. Equation 2.1 shows how the JI is computed by substitute integer values for the variables. This computation can be reduced to two boolean operations for a major performance increase. The JI is always within the closed interval  $[0, 1]$ , where an index of one or zero means a complete similarity between both populations or a complete disagreement, respectively. The relationship between  $a$  and JI is near linear [Shi 1993]. The first step to compute the JI for our raster images is to extract the tree cover from the GL30 2000 land cover by setting all pixels with values  $\neq 20$  to zero and values  $= 20$  to one. Next, we extract from the GFC reference tree-cover pixel values within the half-opened interval of the following canopy density classes and set them to one:  $(0, 100]$ ,  $(10, 100]$ ,  $(20, 100]$ , and  $(30, 100]$ . Therefore, we test four different tree cover definitions for GFC. The first excludes canopy densities  $\leq 0\%$ , the second  $\leq 10\%$ , the third  $\leq 20\%$ , and the fourth canopy densities  $\leq 30\%$ . We will refer to this JI of different canopy density classes as  $\text{JI}_0, \text{JI}_1, \text{JI}_2$ , and  $\text{JI}_3$ . For all 269 tiles of our AISM, we calculate the JI existing between GL30 and GFC for the four above-mentioned forest definitions by using equation 2.1. The algorithm is implemented in Python by using numpy's ability to perform boolean operations between large matrices. As parameters, the function expects two matrices with the same dimensionality in  $R^{n \times m}$  and a boolean indicating if the function should return the coefficient matrix as well. The previously described preprocessing steps are implemented as an extra function. This function requires as parameter two raster layers, a list of integer values to consider as GL30 forest cover (default is 20), and the lower bounds of the canopy density intervals to consider for computation.

**Table 2.5. Jaccard Index coefficient matrix:**  $a$  is the magnitude of agreement,  $d$  is the magnitude of disagreement,  $b$  and  $c$  are the magnitudes of partial disagreements among both images. The computation of these coefficients can be expressed as boolean operations on matrices.

		Img <sub>1</sub>	
State		1	0
Img <sub>2</sub>	1	$a =  \mathbf{X}_1 \wedge \mathbf{X}_2 $	$b =  (\mathbf{X}_1 \wedge \mathbf{X}_2) \oplus \mathbf{X}_2 $
	0	$c =  (\mathbf{X}_1 \wedge \mathbf{X}_2) \oplus \mathbf{X}_1 $	$d =  \neg(\mathbf{X}_1 \vee \mathbf{X}_2) $

$$JI = \frac{a}{a + b + c} = \frac{|\mathbf{X}_1 \wedge \mathbf{X}_2|}{|\mathbf{X}_1 \vee \mathbf{X}_2|} \quad (2.1)$$

To optimize the overall tree cover similarity between both datasets we must test which

canopy density class yields the highest agreement over our study extent. To test the significance of the difference between two correlated samples, we decided to apply the non-parametric Wilcoxon signed-rank test [Wilcoxon 1945]. This test requires paired data from the same population, at least an ordinal scale of measurement, each sample pair is independent, and the dependent variable can be expressed as a continuous probability [Lowry 2019]. Further, an advantage of this test is that we don't have to assume a normal distribution for our sample population. Our sample population fulfills these requirements. The test procedure is implemented in R because this language is mainly intended for this kind of statistical analysis. We exported the computed JI from our Python environment and applied a cross-testing in R. In our case, cross testing is defined as the test of all possible JI combinations. Further, we applied a two- and one-sided Wilcoxon test because we want to examine if there is a significant difference and which direction has the similarity distribution. To address the higher probability of family-wise error in multiple comparisons we used a Holm correction. Before we applied the examination of the distribution we separated our population into three independent regions, namely Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa highlighted by the vertical blue lines in figure 2.1. Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa comprised 82, 86, and 101 image tiles, respectively. Additionally, we excluded from the analysis all samples where  $JI_0$  is zero because this tiles from our AISM did not contain any pixels covered by trees. In Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa we excluded 6, 13, and 15 tiles. We tested continental differences in tree cover agreement to inspect regional dependencies and global differences. The results from the global testing are used to determine our definition of tree cover. Further, we compared differences of tree cover agreement between the continental regions by applying a Wilcoxon rank-sum test also known as Mann-Whitney U test. We applied a Benjamini and Hochberg correction to the test results.

#### 2.2.2.2. Mapping of proximate deforestation drivers

Based on our forest definition developed in the previous section we want to classify all the tropical deforestation occurring within a canopy density of  $(10, 100]$  percent between 2001 till 2010.

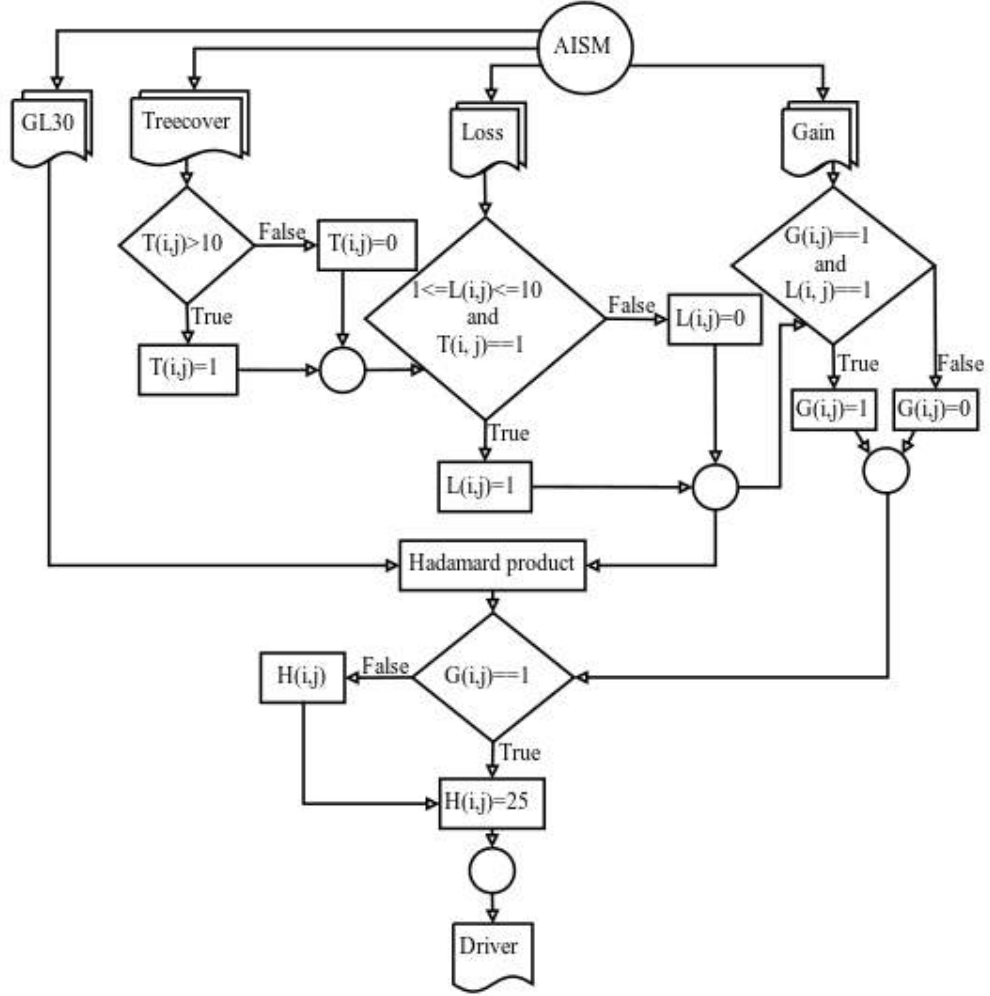
Figure 2.4 shows an overview of the classification process, which we used to derive the PDDs of tropical tree cover loss. For classifying the PDDs we selected the following raster images from our AISM: GFC tree cover, GFC annual losses, GFC gain, and the GL30 LC classification of 2010. Next, we apply to each raster image stack the following operations. From the reference tree-cover images, we select all pixels where the canopy density is within the half-open interval of  $(10, 100]$  percent and set them to one (true). The same exercise is applied on the annual losses stratum by setting all forest loss pixels within the time period 2001 till 2010 to one (true). After, both layers are combined with a logical AND operation

to select our target deforestation pixels. Finally, we classify the pixels with a deforestation event by applying the Hadamard product (element-wise matrix multiplication) on the target deforestation layer and the GL30 LC stratum. This operation basically creates a new image matrix by superimposing both layers. As output we obtain the exact LC category of each deforestation pixel, which allow to understand what LC transitions is driving tree cover loss in different regions. For classifying forest regrowth we filtered the GFC gain layer to consider only tree cover gain within our target temporal resolution and target canopy density. After, the filtered stratum is aggregated with our classified deforestations by using the Hadamard product of both layers. The classification algorithm is implemented as a Python function which requires as parameters the previously named raster layers. Additionally the target canopy density and time period is freely selectable for experimental variations. The described filtering and aggregation steps are implements as binary matrix operations for fast processing of large data sizes by means of numpy.

Our PDDs classification scheme corresponds largely to the LC schema of GL30 in table 2.2. We introduced regrowth (pixel code is 25) as a new LC class from the GFC gain datasets. The LC type regrowth accounts for tree crops like oil palm plantations or forestry activities. Further, this class could be the natural regeneration of tree cover after using the area for other purposes like shifting agriculture. Tree cover loss classified as grassland account for the forest loss by the expansion of pastures for cattle ranching [Graesser et al. 2015]. Tree cover loss classified as wetland and water is forest loss by inundation by lakes and rivers [Sy et al. 2015]. Forest loss classified as forest by the GL30 layer could relate to false positives (predicts forest loss but there is no loss, type I error) of the GFC loss layer. On the fact that the GFC gain layer has a low overall accuracy and tends to underestimate tree cover gain the probability is higher that this pixels relate to false negatives (predicts no gain but there is gain, typ II error) of GFC gain layer. We will relate to these pixels as miss-classifications that account for a mean miss-classification rate of 52% (with large regional dependencies) if tree cover loss in the entire canopy density interval is considered for classification [Seydewitz 2017]. The next paragraph presents a approach to resolve this issue.

After classifying the proximate deforestation drivers we developed an approach to smooth the misclassified pixels based on LC change probabilities. This means the algorithm tries to find for clusters of misclassified pixels and to reclassify them by finding the most frequent PDDs in the surroundings within a certain threshold. The first step of our reclassification is to cluster the misclassified pixels with the Hoshen-Kopelman algorithm [Hoshen 1998]. The clustering algorithm is implemented as a part of the GDAL (Geospatial Data Abstraction Library) library and can be called through the rasterio interface. For this project, we used the following parameters: connectivity 4 and a boolean mask where only pixels that relate to forest are set to true. Now the algorithm clusters only pixels which are set to true to one polygon. After, we created a squared-sized buffer with a side length of 500 m around





**Figure 2.4. Classification of proximate deforestation drivers:** For the classification of the proximate deforestation drivers the following layers are required: GlobeLand30 from 2010, Global Forest Change tree cover, annual losses, and gain. From the tree cover stratum we select all pixels within the canopy density interval  $(10, 100]$ . The tree cover mask is used to select the appropriate annual losses within the time interval  $[2001, 2010]$ . To predict a land cover change after a deforestation event we use the Hadamard product (element-wise matrix multiplication). As output we obtain the exact land cover category of each deforestation pixel, which allow to understand what LC transitions is driving tree cover loss in different regions.

the polygon centroid (the geometric midpoint of the polygon). Because WGS84 is not an equal area CRS we must compute for each tile the buffer size separately. To compute the buffer size we used the Haversine formula in equation 2.2. Let  $d$  be the great-circle distance between two latitude, longitude pairs  $(\varphi_n, \lambda_n)$  and  $r$  is the earth radius of approximately 6 378 137 meter. Because this computation is expensive we assumed that the pixel resolution is equal for an entire raster tile. After extracting the buffer we counted the most frequent class under exclusion of forest and no data pixels within the buffer. Finally, if a most frequent class is defined and we reassign this value to the cluster. The reclassification algorithm is implemented as a Python function which requires as parameters a PDD raster image, a list of elements which should be interpreted as occupied cells for the clustering, pixel values which should be excluded from counting, the side length of the buffer, and the on-ground

resolution.

$$d = 2r \arcsin \left( \sqrt{\sin^2 \left( \frac{\varphi_2 - \varphi_1}{2} \right) + \cos(\varphi_1) \cos(\varphi_2) \sin^2 \left( \frac{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}{2} \right)} \right) \quad (2.2)$$

After preparing the predictions we aggregated our results on PDDs for country, continental and global scale by using the administrative bounds of the Natural Earth layer. To present our results as maps for the three continental regions we developed our own visualization approach that is explained in section 2.2.5.

### 2.2.2.3. Accuracy assessment

For examining the accuracy of our PDD predictions we used a confusion matrix (also known as two-way frequency tables, error matrix or contingency tables). These matrices are commonly used for accuracy assessments of land cover classifications and enable the computation of marginal and conditional distributions [Congalton 1991; Foody 2002]. Table 2.6 shows a general model of a confusion matrix. The foundation for an accuracy assessment by means of a confusion matrix is a collection of ground-truth samples which can be compared with the class predictions of these samples produced by a classification algorithm. For the preparation of our **accuracy** assessment, we have to extract a collection of pixel samples with a deforestation occurrence from our proximate driver maps, which is also in this case the predictions. Next, we compose a set of ground-truth data for these predictions henceforth, references.

**Table 2.6. A general model of a confusion matrix:**  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  denote classification labels of two independent predictors.  $x_{n,n}$  are the actual samples within each classification category. The diagonal values  $x_{1,1}, \dots, x_{n,n}$ , highlight the agreement between both predictors. The remaining cell values account for the disagreement between the two predictors.  $\Sigma$  column and row show the marginal distribution and  $N$  is the total number of samples.

		Reference			
Cls		$X_1$	$\cdots$	$X_n$	$\Sigma$
Predict	$X_1$	$x_{1,1}$	$\cdots$	$x_{1,n}$	$x_{1.} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{1,i}$
	$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\ddots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
	$X_n$	$x_{n,1}$	$\cdots$	$x_{n,n}$	$x_{n.} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{n,i}$
$\Sigma$	$x_{.1} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,1}$	$\cdots$	$x_{.n} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,n}$	$\Sigma \Sigma = N$	

To create our collection of ground-truth data we applied a stratified sampling. From all three continents we selected randomly 10 image tiles (figure 2.3) and from each tile, we

randomly sampled 200 pixels, which resulting to 6000 samples over the entire study region. The sampling is performed with our own raster sampling algorithm built in Python by means of the open source libraries numpy and rasterio. As mentioned in the previous section we superimpose two datasets and only a certain amount of pixels per tile are classified as a proximate driver. Therefore, the sampling algorithm should only draw samples from occupied/classified pixels without replacement. The algorithm expects as parameters a raster image, the total number of samples to draw, a list of pixel values which should be interpreted as occupied cells, the affine transformation matrix of the raster image, and a seed for the random number generator. If occupied cells are set the algorithm will create a binary mask where each occupied cell is set to one relative to the input raster image. Otherwise, it sets all pixel values greater or less than zero to one. After, the row and column coordinates of each one are extracted from the mask and converted to a flat list of coordinate tuples. Next, it draws the predefined number of samples from the list by a random order and uses the image coordinates to get the pixel value from the raster image. If an affine transformation matrix is provided the image coordinates are converted to real-world coordinates. The seed argument ensures that on every algorithm rerun the samples are drawn. For our sampling we set the parameters to the following values: samples 200, occupied pixels GL30 class values and 25 for regrowth, the affine matrix of the corresponding raster image, and the seed is 42. The per tile samples are stored as a CSV-file (Comma Separated Values).

For the collection of ground-truth data, we used a visual interpretation of satellite and aerial imagery provided by Google Maps. We developed a small JavaScript web application to access the imagery via the Google Maps API. The application expects as input a CSV file with the sampling coordinates. After upload of a sample file the user can cycle through the entries and the map jumps automatically to the coordinates of the sample. Now, a reference label can be assigned to the coordinates by visual interpretation of the imagery. We subsequently assigned to all 6000 samples a ground-truth label and downloaded the results as CSV.

Finally, we developed a Python class to compute the confusion matrix. The constructor of the class requires a list of reference and prediction labels. With the provided arguments it creates the confusion matrix. Further, it computes the following marginal and conditional distributions: overall accuracy ( $OvAc$ ), by dividing the sum of classification agreements by the sample total  $N$  (equation 2.4); the producer accuracy ( $PAC_{.n}$ ), by dividing the category agreement by the column category total (equation 2.3); the error of commission ( $Com_{.n}$ ), by dividing the category disagreement by the column category total (equation 2.5); the user accuracy ( $UAc_{.n}$ ), by dividing the category agreement by the row category total (equation 2.6); the error of omission ( $Om_{.n}$ ), by dividing the category disagreement by the row category total (equation 2.7); and the Cohens Kappa by substituting equation 2.8 and 2.4 into equation 2.9.

$$PAC_{.n} = \frac{x_{i,i}}{x_{.n}} \quad (2.3)$$

$$p_0 = OvAc = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,i}}{N} \quad (2.4)$$

$$Com_n = \frac{FN_i}{x_n} \quad (2.5)$$

$$UAc_n = \frac{x_{i,i}}{x_n} \quad (2.6)$$

$$Om_n = \frac{FP_i}{x_n} \quad (2.7)$$

$$p_c = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{i,i} \cdot x_{i,i} \quad (2.8)$$

$$Kappa = \frac{p_0 - p_c}{1 - p_c} \quad (2.9)$$

### 2.2.3. Carbon losses

During the previous sections we developed an approach to predict the change of tree cover driven by proximate causes like conversion to cropland. Now we can use these LC change classes to approximate the carbon losses arising from these forest cover transitions. For this study, we focus on the carbon losses emitted by biomass removal and from changes of soil carbon stocks. The first part of this section focuses on the estimation of carbon losses from biomass removal, while the second one focuses on the estimation of carbon losses arising from SOC changes.

To obtain the gross carbon losses resulting from specific LC changes we selected the following raster tiles from our AISM: the AGB stratum and our classification of the proximate deforestation driver. By means of Python, we implemented a function which accepts as parameters two raster images, the area a pixel covers in  $m^2$ , and a list of proximate driver classes to consider as deforestation causes. We considered the following PDD classes as deforestation for the computation: cropland, regrowth, grassland, shrubland, artificial surfaces, and bareland. The function computes the gross losses by using equation 2.10. Let  $Y_{ij}$  be the AGB in  $Mg\ C\ ha^{-1}$  and  $X_{ij}$  the PDD at a pixel index  $i, j$  obtained from a raster image matrix in  $R^{N \times M}$ . Let  $A$  be the area in  $ha$  a pixel covers for a certain image tile. This area is calculated by using the Haversine function from equation 2.2. Let  $AGBE_{tile}$  be the cumulative carbon losses emitted from the removal of tree cover. Then this value can be obtained by taking the sum of the product of  $Y_{ij}$  and  $f(X_{ij})$ . The piecewise function  $f$  only evaluates to one if the PDD is within our set of classes we want to consider as deforestation causes. To obtain the gross AGB carbon losses through the deforestation by PDDs we aggregated the sum of

$AGBE_{tile}$  for the regions Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa.

$$AGBE_{tile} = A \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=0}^M f(X_{ij})Y_{ij} \quad (2.10)$$

To obtain the gross carbon losses emitted by the change of soil organic carbon content we selected the following raster tiles from our AISM: the IFL stratum, the GSOCmap, and our PDDs layer. We decided to estimate the SOC losses for two different scenarios. In scenario one ( $SC_1$ ) we assume that all tree covered areas concerned by a land cover change are primary forests. For scenario two ( $SC_2$ ) we used the IFL stratum to determine the forest type. If LC changes occur within an IFL patch we consider it concerns primary forest, otherwise it is considered as secondary forest. The SOC losses of both scenarios can be computed by equation 2.11. Let  $X_{ij}$  be the PDD from our deforestation driver layer,  $Y_{ij}$  the forest type determined by the IFL stratum, and  $Z_{ij}$  the SOC in Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> determined by GSOCmap at a pixel with the coordinates  $i, j$  obtained from a raster image matrix in  $R^{N \times M}$ . Let  $A$  be the area in ha that a pixel covers for a certain image tile. This area is calculated by using the Haversine function from equation 2.2. Let  $SOCC_{tile}$  be the cumulative soil organic carbon losses emitted by the change of forest to another land cover type. Then this value can be obtained by taking the sum of the product of  $Z_{ij}$  and  $h(X_{ij}, Y_{ij})$ . The piecewise function  $h$  returns the mean soil organic carbon change and the standard error in respect to the forest type and proximate driver class. The mappings of driver classes and forest type for both scenarios are shown in table 2.7. This algorithm is implemented by means of Python. The function needs as parameter the required layers, the area a pixel covers in  $m^2$ , an identifier for the forest type, and if the standard error should be included during the computation of the emission. If the IFL stratum is provided the algorithm will rely on this layer to determine the forest type, otherwise it uses forest type identifier. To obtain the gross SOC losses resulting from the LC changes we aggregated the sum of  $SOCE_{tile}$  for the regions Latin America, Asia/Australia, Africa, and globally.

$$SOCE_{tile} = 3.7A \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=0}^M h(X_{ij}, Y_{ij})Z_{ij} \quad (2.11)$$

**Table 2.7. Soil organic carbon change in relation to proximate deforestation driver:** Standard errors of the soil organic carbon change factors are denoted in table 2.3.

Forest type	Proximate driver class				
	Cultivated	Regrowth	Grassland	Shrubland	Bareland
Primary	.252	.086	.121	.121	.121
Secondary	.213	-	.064	.064	.064

#### 2.2.4. Ecosystem service values

For a comprehensive insight of the ESV dynamics, we quantified the loss of ESV from tree cover depletion within the tropical zone. This loss of forest cover is frequently followed by a transition to other land cover types, which is expressed through our PDDs. These transitions can be interpreted as a gain or loss of ESVs and are computed subsequently. Finally, to give an insight into the overall trend of both ESV dynamics we determined the balance among the monetary loss and gain. We estimate the ESVs dynamics by considering three different approaches found in the literature [Costanza et al. 2014; de Groot et al. 2012; Siikamaki et al. 2015]. The first part of this section describes our approach to determine the ESV loss, followed by the method to obtain the gain in monetary units, and finally we explain how to derive the balance between both values. To compute these ESV dynamics we used the benefit transfer approach.

By applying equation 2.12 we compute the gross ESV loss from the loss of tropical tree cover for the entire set of our AISM. Let  $X_{ij}$  be the PDDs from our prediction at a pixel with the index  $i, j$  (image coordinates) obtained from a raster image matrix in  $R^{N \times M}$ . Let  $ESV_{Forest}$  be the ESV of tropical forest from one of our selected source datasets from table 2.8. Let  $A$  be the area in ha a pixel covers for a certain image tile. The pixel area is calculated by using the Haversine function from equation 2.2. Let  $ESV_{loss, tile}$  be the cumulative loss in ESV for a certain tile from our AISM. Then this value can be determined by adding the product of  $f(X_{ij})$  and  $ESV_{Forest, Dataset}$ . The function  $f$  returns only a one if the PDD is considered as deforestation by the mapping in table 2.8. The computation of ESV loss is implemented as a Python function. The function accepts as parameters a raster image of PDD predictions or a pandas data frame object. Further, the function requires as parameter the area a pixel covers in ha and the monetary value of tropical forest. Additionally, the function requires a list of PDD classes considered as the loss of tropical forest cover. We considered the following PDD classes as anthropogenic tree cover loss: cultivated land, regrowth, grassland, shrubland, artificial surfaces, and bareland as table 2.8 suggests. We excluded pixel classified as forest by our PDD prediction because within this class we are uncertain if a deforestation event occurred. Further, we excluded transitions of tree cover to wetland or water because we assume this LC changes are largely driven by natural causes.

$$ESV_{loss, tile} = A \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=0}^M f(X_{ij}) ESV_{Forest, Dataset} \quad (2.12)$$

To estimate the gain in ESV from the transition of tropical forest to other land cover classes per AISM tile we applied equation 2.13. Let  $X_{ij}$  be the PDD from our prediction at a pixel with the index  $i, j$  obtained from a raster image matrix in  $R^{N \times M}$ . Let  $A$  be the area in ha a pixel covers for a certain image tile. The pixel area is calculated by using the Haversine

**Table 2.8. Ecosystem service values corresponding to proximate deforestation drivers:** The monetary values are given in 2007 Int’l\$  $y^{-1} ha^{-1}$ , also known as Geary-Khamis Dollar. Mapping of biome types to proximate deforestation drivers have the following schema: cultivated to cropland biome, regrowth to tropical forest biome, grassland to grassland biome, and artificial surfaces to the urban biome. The abbreviations in dataset column refer to the following publications: Costanza et al. [2014] (Co), de Groot et al. [2012] (Dg), and Siikamaki et al. [2015] (Wb)

Dataset	Proximate deforestation driver class					
	Cultivated	Regrowth	Grassland	Shrubland	Artificial	Bareland
Co	5567	5382	4166	-	6661	-
Dg	-	5264	2871	-	-	-
Wb	-	1312	-	-	-	-

function from equation 2.2. Let  $ESV_{gain, tile}$  be the cumulative gain of ESV per tile. Then this value can be determined by taking the sum of  $h(X_{ij})$ . The function  $h$  returns for a selected PDD class the corresponding monetary value. The algorithm is implemented in Python. The function accepts as parameters a raster image of PDD predictions or a pandas data frame object. Further, the function requires as parameter a mapping of ESVs to PDD classes from table 2.8. Additionally, the function can be called with a exclude list of PDD classes.

$$ESV_{gain, tile} = A \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=0}^M h(X_{ij}) \quad (2.13)$$

By applying equation 2.14 we compute the ESV balance for each tile of our AISM. Let  $ESV_{gain}$  be the total ESV gain per continental region and  $ESV_{loss}$  the total ESV loss per region. Then the ESV balance  $ESV_{balance}$  can be obtained by the difference of  $ESV_{gain}$  and  $ESV_{loss}$ .

$$ESV_{balance} = ESV_{gain} - ESV_{loss} \quad (2.14)$$

For our study we aggregated the ESV loss, gain, and net balance dynamics on two spatial ranges with the following extent: per continental region (Latin America, Africa, and Asia/Australia) highlighted in figure 2.3 and on global scale.

### 2.2.5. Binning analysis and visualization

The previous sections, were focused on the exercise of creating large scale, spatially-explicit estimations of LC changes and its impact on both GHG emissions and ESVs. Now, an appropriate method must be developed to analyze and visualize these spatial explicit datasets. Due to the fine resolution of the raster images and the large area of our study extent we must handle a large  $N$  (many samples). Therefore we high dimensional data and a complex relationship between the samples as a consequence of the large  $N$  [Carr 1990]. Raster image maps can be interpreted as multivariate scatter plots. In our case this scatter plot has the three dimensions  $x$  is the longitude,  $y$  the latitude coordinate of a pixel, and  $z$  is the nominal scaled

pixel value in case of the PDDs layer. Drawing scatter plots with large multidimensional  $N$  commonly leads to over-plotting and hidden point densities [Carr et al. 1987]. Additionally, it is to assume that the distribution of PDD is not equally distributed over the entire study extent. Hence, there should be regions with sparse data densities and with high densities but our goal is to visualize land cover changes on a continental level. As mentioned the ground resolution of one pixel covers an area of approximately  $30 \times 30$  m and as an example, while the bounding box of Latin America covers an area of  $5 * 10^7$  km<sup>2</sup>. The large frame size as well the unequal distributed data leads to the issue that only large scale land cover changes are representable and small scale isolated changes remain hidden.

Our goal should be to develop a process to solve the representation issues and to generate satisfying maps. In the case of raster data, one option could be a re-sampling to a coarser on-ground resolution. This approach may solve the over-plotting, the resolution issues, and normalize unequal distributed data. For nominal-scaled data the commonly used re-sampling methods are nearest neighbor or majority wins. However, both approaches are not appropriate because they would negate spatial patterns and eliminate important land cover class frequency distributions. Another well-accepted method is binning of spatially explicit data with a regular polygon that can tessellate the plane [Carr et al. 1992]. Polygon tessellations provide numerous opportunities for presenting multivariate statistical and visual summaries. The scale of a polygon may be used to visualize pixel densities within the bounds and a color gradient may be used to prepare a choropleth map for nominal or ordinal scaled data. Additionally, the interior of a polygon may be used to prepare a pie chart. Hence, binning enables convenient visualization of multidimensional data. For preparing a regular tessellation only three types of convex polygons can be used to tessellate the plane: squares, equilateral triangles, and hexagons [Carr et al. 1992]. Square tessellations are the most common method for binning and visualizing spatial data. Every raster image is already a square tessellation of the mapped object and most of the image processing algorithms are focused on squares. However, hexagon mosaic maps have two major advantages over square tessellations: visual appeal and representational accuracy. Binning of data by a square or hexagon mosaic creates visual lines. These lines compete with the data-generated patterns. Since humans have a strong visual response to horizontal and vertical lines, the line artifacts of square tessellations can be distracting and should be avoided. In light of this, we decided to use hexagon mosaic maps to represent the visual and statistical results of our study. For bivariate representations, we select the combination of scaling and color gradient. Multivariate data is visualized by hexagonal pie charts as choropleth cartogram. The following paragraphs describe our algorithmic approach to create these mosaic maps. We used Python and the open source library shapely to implement our algorithms.

The first step to construct a hexagon tessellation is to define the vertices of the polygon. There are two common orientations of hexagons in  $R^2$ , flat topped and pointy topped. For



our hexagon construction we decided to use pointy-topped polygons. For flexibility our algorithm accepts one out of four parameter to construct a hexagon polygon. The unit of the parameter is always in map units. Let  $D$  be the long diagonal (diameter of the circumscribing circle),  $d$  the short diagonal (diameter of the inscribed circle),  $A$  the area the hexagon should cover, and  $e$  the edge length of a hexagon. Let  $R$  be the radius of the circumscribing circle. Then  $R$  can be obtained by applying equation 2.15 with one out of the parameter set  $D$ ,  $d$ ,  $A$ , or  $e$ .  $R$  is used to compute the center vector  $\vec{m} = \langle c_x, c_y \rangle$  of the polygon by applying equation 2.16 and 2.17. The polygon center is always located in the first quadrant of the Cartesian coordinate system. Now, by using  $R$ ,  $c_x$ , and  $c_y$  we can obtain  $\mathbf{H}$ , the anti-clockwise orientated vertex matrix of a hexagon. The construction of a hexagon by using the introduced method is shown in the left bottom corner of figure 2.5. The next paragraph describes how we derive a tessellation from the constructed hexagon.

$$R = \frac{\sqrt{2A}}{\sqrt[4]{27}} = \frac{D}{2} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{3}} = e \quad (2.15)$$

$$c_x = \frac{R\sqrt{3}}{2} \quad (2.16)$$

$$c_y = R \quad (2.17)$$

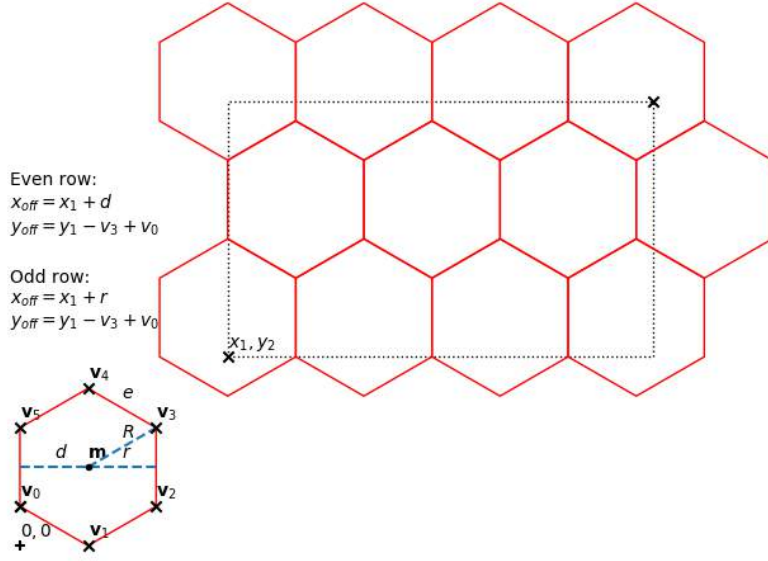
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c_x & 2c_x & 2c_x & c_x & 0 \\ R \sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{6}\right) + c_y & 0 & R \sin\left(\frac{11\pi}{6}\right) + c_y & R \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + c_y & 2R & R \sin\left(\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) + c_y \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.18)$$

To create a polygon grid of a plane image we must align several hexagons to cover the image. For our tessellation algorithm we use the vertex matrix  $\mathbf{H}$  computed by the previously described approach and subsequently translate it to its position within the grid. We expect to receive the bounds matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  of the raster image, which should be tessellated by hexagons, equation 2.19. Let  $x_1$ ,  $y_1$  be the left bottom corner coordinates and  $x_2$ ,  $y_2$  the right top corner coordinates of an image. Let  $x_{off}(0)$ ,  $y_{off}(0)$  in equation 2.20 and 2.21 be the initial coordinates for creating a polygon grid over a plane. Then we can obtain  $x_{off}(n+1)$ , the  $x$  coordinates for even rows by applying equation 2.22 and  $x_{off}(n+1)$ , the  $x$  coordinates for odd rows by equation 2.23.  $r$  is the radius of an inscribed circle in a hexagon and can be obtained by dividing  $d$  by 2. Then  $\mathbf{H}$  can be translated to the vertex matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  by applying the dot product of an affine transformation matrix and  $\mathbf{H}$ , equation 2.25.

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ y_1 & y_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.19)$$

$$x_{off}(0) = x_1 \quad (2.20)$$

$$y_{off}(0) = y_1 \quad (2.21)$$



**Figure 2.5. Hexagon tessellation:** Located at the left bottom corner in red is a hexagon defined by its geometric properties: the 6 vertex vectors  $\{v_0, \dots, v_5\}$  (black crosses), with center vector  $\vec{m}$ , edge length  $e$ ,  $R$  radius of the circumscribing circle,  $r$  radius of the inscribed circle and  $d$  the short diagonal (diameter of the inscribed circle). Top right black dotted box are the bounds of an area which is tessellated by a hexagon grid in red. Each grid cell is translated from the origin hexagon at its position by computing the  $x_{off}$  and  $y_{off}$  offset with the presented equations at the left-hand side of the grid.

$$x_{off}(n+1) = x_{off}(n) + d \quad (2.22)$$

$$x_{off}(n+1) = x_{off}(n) - r + d \quad (2.23)$$

$$y_{off}(n+1) = y_{off}(n) - v_{0,2} + v_{3,2} \quad (2.24)$$

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & x_{off}(n) \\ 0 & 1 & y_{off}(n) \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \circ \mathbf{H} \quad (2.25)$$

To construct a hexagonal pie chart we have to split the polygon into horizontal pieces in relation to a certain ratio. Thus, a horizontal split is required, whose  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates are located on the polygons convex hull. We compute the  $y$  coordinates of the horizontal split line for the ratio  $P$  by applying equation 2.26. Where  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  refer to the lower and upper  $y$  coordinate of the hexagon bounding box. To compute the  $x$  coordinates of the split line we applied an analytical solution. The shape of a hexagon can be expressed as a piecewise function of six linear functions, if the bounding box and the  $R$  radius of the circumscribing circle is defined. By inverting this piecewise function and substituting  $R$  (radius),  $x_1$  (left  $x$  coordinate of the bounding box),  $x_2$  (right  $x$  coordinate of the bounding box),  $y_1$  (lower  $y$  coordinate of the bounding box),  $y_2$  (upper  $y$  coordinate of the bounding box), and  $y$  ( $y$  coordinate of the split line) we get both  $x$  coordinates  $g^{-1}(y)$  and  $g^{-1}(y)$  of the split line  $\mathbf{L}$

shown in equation 2.27, 2.28, and 2.29.

$$y = \frac{P(y_2 - y_1)}{100} + y_1 \quad (2.26)$$

$$f^{-1}(y) = \begin{cases} -\frac{y-y_1}{\tan(\frac{\pi}{6})} + \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} & \text{if } y_1 \leq y < y_1 + R \sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) \\ x_1 & \text{if } y_1 + R \sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) \leq y < R(\sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) + 1) \\ \frac{y-y_2}{\tan(\frac{\pi}{6})} + \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} & \text{if } R(\sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) + 1) \leq y \leq y_2 \end{cases} \quad (2.27)$$

$$g^{-1}(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{y-y_1}{\tan(\frac{\pi}{6})} + \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} & \text{if } y_1 \leq y < y_1 + R \sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) \\ x_2 & \text{if } y_1 + R \sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) \leq y < R(\sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) + 1) \\ -\frac{y-y_2}{\tan(\frac{\pi}{6})} + \frac{x_1+x_2}{2} & \text{if } R(\sin(\frac{5\pi}{6}) + 1) \leq y \leq y_2 \end{cases} \quad (2.28)$$

$$\mathbf{L} = \begin{bmatrix} f^{-1}(y) & g^{-1}(y) \\ y & y \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.29)$$

By using our hexagonal approach we prepared four different cartogram categories: hexagonal country boundaries, tree cover and canopy density cartogram, tree cover loss cartogram, and the PDDs cartogram. We processed each continental region as single map to obtain an appropriate image resolution. First, we generated a hexagon grid for each continent. Whereas, each grid cell cover an area of 0.5 x 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Next, we used the grid to construct the four different cartograms. For the tree cover maps we computed the total area covered by trees within a polygon and divide by the total area of the hexagon to determine the scaling. Additionally we aggregate the canopy density within a hexagon by applying the arithmetic mean. To arrange the tree cover loss maps we used our PDD products. We computed the loss area within each hexagon for the following PDD classes: cultivated land, regrowth, grassland, shrubland, artificial surfaces, and bareland. To determine the polygon scaling we divided the per hexagon loss area by the highest observed loss within a continental region. Forest cover, losses, and hexagon areas are computed by applying the Haversine equation 2.2. To prepare the continental cartograms for the PDDs of tropical forest cover we counted the frequency of each PDD class within a hexagon interior. After, we used our hexagon segmentation algorithm to split the polygon in relation to the relative frequency of a PDD class. Whereas the order of appearance is decreasing. The PDD with the largest frequency is the first quantity in the hexagons interior. The hexagonal country boundaries are an additional overlay to separate the hexagons to their corresponding countries visually. The country boundaries are an approximation of the real country boundaries in relation to the Natural Earth Map shown in the figures A.1, A.2, and A.3 in the appendix A.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Proximate deforestation drivers



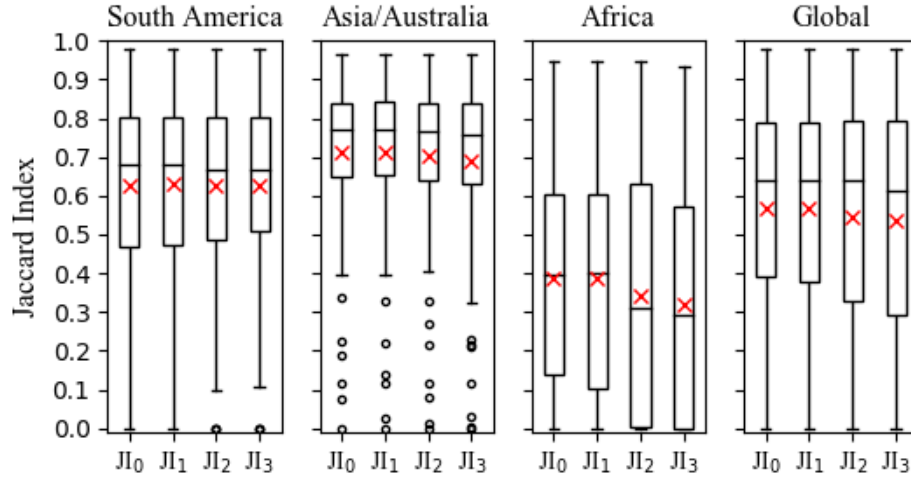
#### 3.1.1. Forest definition



By applying the approach described in section 2.2.2.1 our goal is to determine at which canopy density the agreement between the GL30 and the GFC dataset is at its maximum. This process should ensure that we keep the largest number of tree cover loss samples from the GFC dataset, while harmonizing the tree cover definition between both layers. For the entire study extent our hypothesis is, that the tree cover agreement is at its maximum within the canopy density interval of  $(30, 100]$ . For Latin America and Asia/Australia we assumed, that the best results could be achieved within the same canopy density threshold. For Africa we assumed that the maximum agreement could be observed within the interval of  $(10, 100]$  because this region comprises a large area of sparse woodland cover. The following paragraphs present our results for the three regions in the following order: Latin America, Asia/Australia and Africa. The last paragraph discusses the results on global scale and deduces, which canopy density threshold we used for our mapping of PDDs.

For Latin America figure 3.1 shows the JIs distribution for our experiment groups. Within the four canopy density experiments the sample mean does not change significantly. It is approximately 0.62, while the sample median decreases from 0.68 to 0.66 from the first experiment group to the last. The upper 25% of the first experiment interval have a tree cover similarity ranging between approximately 0.8 and 1. This holds true over the other three experiments, while only the maximum similarity slightly increases from 0.9787 to 0.9798. The figure B.1 in the appendix B suggests, that exclusions of canopy densities smaller than 11% increases slightly the tree cover agreement of the upper 25%, but the exclusion of higher canopy density provides no further benefit. This can be explained by the fact that the upper percentile already contain samples with a high tree cover agreement and it is to assume that only a small number of pixels have canopy density smaller than 30%. Therefore, the interval change has only a small impact on these samples. For the first two canopy density intervals the range of the lower 25% percentile accounts for approximately 0.0003 and 0.45. Whereas,





**Figure 3.1. Tree cover similarity distribution:** This box-plot shows the distribution of Jaccard Indexes for each raster image tile pair of GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change tree cover from 2000. The labels  $JI_0$ ,  $JI_1$ ,  $JI_2$ , and  $JI_3$  on the x-axis account for the canopy density classes  $(0, 100]$ ,  $(10, 100]$ ,  $(20, 100]$ , and  $(30, 100]$ , respectively. The y-axis is the Jaccard Index of the corresponding raster image pair, where 0 is a total disagreement and 1 a total agreement. Red crosses within the  $Q_{25}$ ,  $Q_{50}$ , and  $Q_{75}$  boxes highlight the sample mean. Whiskers are 1.5 times the **IQR**.

the quartile range increases from 0.0 to 0.5 for the last two interval classes. The figure B.1 reveals a strong regional dependency of tree cover agreement within the different canopy density classes of the lower percentiles. Whereas samples from the northern hemisphere show a decline in agreement the samples of the southern hemisphere show a increase of agreement. The strong up-shift of the southern samples within the last two experiment groups increases the quartile range of lower percentile. In general, this suggests that samples with low tree cover agreement benefit by the exclusion of lower canopy densities. No general trend is observable for the mobility of the samples within the  $Q_1$  and  $Q_3$  percentile. For the first two experiments the quartile range is between 0.5 and 0.8. For the last two experiment groups the **IQR** declines slightly. This suggests that tiles within this quartile could benefit from a local optimization of canopy density exclusion. We applied a Wilcoxon signed-rank test to deduce, which canopy density class yields the highest tree cover agreement overall samples in Latin America. Table 3.1 shows the results for the two-sided test and table 3.1 for the one-sided test. The two-sided test reveals that only the similarity distribution between the experiment groups  $JI_0$  and  $JI_1$  is significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ), while the comparison of the other distributions suggest that they are equal. The directional test of  $JI_0$  and  $JI_1$  suggests that the regional tree cover agreement is significantly greater ( $p < 0.005$ ) if canopy densities smaller than 10% are excluded. The directional test does not confirm that the distribution if  $JI_1$  is significantly greater than  $JI_2$  and  $JI_3$ . Therefore it can be assumed that the exclusion of lower canopy densities could yield better results for certain tiles. For Latin America the results of our experiment suggests, that the tree cover agreement between the GL30 stratum and GFC stratum is at its maximum for canopy densities greater than 10%. In case of local

studies or for smaller scale the canopy density should be selected by a single tile approach to optimize the tree cover agreement by maximizing the number of data points from the GFC dataset.

**Table 3.1. Continental experiment group comparison:** This table shows the results of a two-sided Wilcoxon signed-rank test to detect continental differences in the tree cover agreement by considering different canopy densities between GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change at 2000. The classes  $Jl_0$ ,  $Jl_1$ ,  $Jl_2$ , and  $Jl_3$  as row and column headings account for the canopy density classes (0,100], (10,100], (20,100], and (30,100], respectively. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 = X_2$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $Jl_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $Jl_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.02$ , and  $p^{***} < 0.01$ .

Cls	Latin America			Asia/Australia			Africa		
	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$
$Jl_1$	.00***	-	-	.71	-	-	.22	-	-
$Jl_2$	.30	1.	-	.00***	.00***	-	.09	.09	-
$Jl_3$	.64	1.	1.	.00***	.00***	.00***	.00***	.00***	.00***

**Table 3.2. Continental experiment group directional comparison:** This table shows the results of a one-sided Wilcoxon signed-rank test to detect the direction of continental differences in the tree cover agreement by considering different canopy densities between GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change at 2000. The classes  $Jl_0$ ,  $Jl_1$ ,  $Jl_2$ , and  $Jl_3$  as row and column headings account for the canopy density classes (0,100], (10,100], (20,100], and (30,100], respectively. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 \leq X_2$  and  $H_0: X_2 \geq X_1$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $Jl_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $Jl_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.025$ ,  $p^{***} < 0.01$ , and  $p^\dagger < 0.005$ .

Cls	Latin America				Asia/Australia				Africa			
	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$
$Jl_0$	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.14	.33	-	1.	1.	1.	-	.65	1.	1.
$Jl_1$	1.	-	.55	.55	.36	-	1.	1.	.89	-	1.	1.
$Jl_2$	1.	1.	-	.55	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	1.	.03*	.03*	-	1.
$Jl_3$	1.	1.	1.	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-

For Asia/Australia, the sample mean scatters around 0.7 as the red crosses in figure 3.1 suggest. The sample mean decreases slightly at higher canopy density intervals. Further, the median is approximately 0.8 by showing a slight decrease at higher canopy density intervals. For all experiments groups the range of the upper percentiles is between approximately 0.85 and 0.96, while the maximum agreement decreases slightly from 0.9654 to 0.9634. Figure B.2 in the appendix B, reveals that in general the tree cover agreement increases if canopy densities below 10% are excluded, but the exclusion of canopy densities above 20% reverts this. For Asia/Australia the lower percentile ranges between approximately 0 and 0.65, while most of the samples show a decline in tree cover agreement if canopy densities above 20% are excluded. Within the  $Q_1, 3$  percentile a per tile relationship is observable. The range of this percentile is between 0.65 and 0.85 for the first two experiment groups  $Jl_0$  and  $Jl_1$ , while the range increases for the last two experiment groups. As mentioned no clear trend is observable some of the samples benefit if the considered canopy density interval is lift above 30% and

some show a decrease in agreement if the canopy density is lifted over 10%. The two-sided Wilcoxon test in table 3.1 reveals that the similarity distribution is significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ) between each experiment group except for the experiment group pair of  $JJ_1$  and  $JJ_0$ . The directional test in table 3.2 reveals, that the tree cover agreement distributions of  $JJ_2$  and  $JJ_3$  are significantly smaller than  $JJ_0$  and  $JJ_1$  ( $p < 0.005$ ). Further this results showing, that the distributions of  $JJ_0$  and  $JJ_1$  have no directional differences. This could be explained by a regional or tile-wise agreement component. While some of the tiles show strong increase in similarity if canopy density is set to 10%, others show a decrease. A more detailed analysis could be performed by applying a smaller canopy density step-size. For studies targeting the region Asia/Australia the results of the directional tests suggest to use all data from the GFC stratum within the canopy density interval of  $(0, 100]$ . While the figure B.2 suggests to include all data from the interval  $(10, 100]$ .

For Africa the box-plot in figure 3.1 shows, that the similarity quartile range of the upper 75% is the greatest among our study regions. It ranges between 0.15 and 1.0 for  $JJ_0$ , while the range increases if smaller canopy densities are excluded. The first two experiment groups  $JJ_0$  and  $JJ_1$  have a nearly similar mean and median of approximately 0.38 and 0.4, respectively. Whereas both metrics show a strong decline to 0.33 and 0.3 in the last two experiment groups  $JJ_2$  and  $JJ_3$ , respectively. Figure B.3 in the appendix B reveals that the upper 25% do not benefit by the exclusion of smaller canopy densities. This behavior is largely different to Latin America and Asia/Australia. Africa has the greatest number of tiles, where the tree cover agreement is smaller than 0.1. For the second experiment group ( $JJ_1$ ) 11 tiles from the AISM have a complete disagreement ( $JJ = 0$ ) if the canopy density interval is reduced to  $(10, 100]$ . This trend continues if the canopy density interval is further reduced. This already suggests that reducing the canopy density interval for Africa is not feasible. The two-sided test in table 3.1 reveals that  $JJ_3$  is significantly different ( $p < 0.01$ ) in its similarity distribution compared to the other experiment groups  $JJ_0$ ,  $JJ_1$ , and  $JJ_2$ , respectively. The other experiment groups could originate from the same similarity distribution. Especially, the tree cover agreement between  $JJ_0$  and  $JJ_1$  shows strong evidences that it could originate from the same distribution. This is comparable with the Asia/Australian continental region. For Africa the table 3.2 shows the directional component of the tree cover agreement between the experiments groups. The tree cover agreement of the two experiment groups  $JJ_2$  and  $JJ_3$  is significantly smaller than  $JJ_0$  or  $JJ_1$  as the table suggest. Therefore, the exclusion of canopy densities above 10% reduces the continental tree cover agreement in Africa. For the first two experiment groups  $JJ_0$  and  $JJ_1$  no directional agreement component could be proofed, but the figure B.3 shows a strong regional component of tree cover agreement. The strong regional component can be explained by the high share of sparse woodland in Africa. The figure 3.6 in section 3.1.2 shows, that different from Asia/Australia and Latin America a vast amount of African tree cover has a canopy density between 0% and 46%. The results

for Africa suggests to set the canopy density interval to  $(0, 100]$  to optimize the tree cover agreement between the GL30 stratum and GFC stratum on a continental level. Preferable the strong regional component suggests to optimize the tree cover agreement per tile to achieve a higher tree cover agreement for the entire continent.

The table B.1 in the appendix B shows, that in Asia/Australia the tree cover similarity between the GL30 stratum and GFC stratum is the greatest out of all three regions. Only within the last experiment group  $JI_3$  the median tree cover agreement between Asia/Australia and Latin America could be the same as shown in table B.2. Africa has the poorest tree cover agreement out of our three continental regions. Asia's higher tree cover agreement compared to Latin America could relate to the smaller total landmass and vice versa forest cover within this region and the high share of dense forest cover. Therefore both global LC datasets have a smaller chance to miss forest covered pixels. That both regions achieve better tree cover similarity than Africa could be explained by the high amount of dense forest cover within this continental regions. It could be assumed that the probability of misclassification of forest cover increases as lower the canopy density is. In regards of tile-wise tree cover agreement optimization Africa would benefit at most out of the three regions. In Asia/Australia and Latin America only certain tiles would benefit from a exclusive optimization as the figures B.1 and B.2 suggests.



On the far right of figure 3.1 the tree cover agreement of the entire study extent is shown. The sample mean and median differ between the first two experiment groups and the last two groups. For the first two groups the mean and median account for 0.56 and 0.63, respectively. The last two experiment groups show a decline to 0.53 and 0.53 for mean and median. For the upper percentile the same statement as for the regions holds true. In general, the samples with high tree cover agreement benefit from the exclusion of lower canopy densities. The lower percentile shows strong regional or tile-wise tree cover agreement dependencies. If we consider the entire sample range the mid percentile steadily increases its quartile range. As mentioned in the regional analysis, this percentile is characterized by inhomogeneous changes of tree cover agreement by the step-wise change of the canopy density. In general the trend points downwards as the decrease in median and the quartile range increase show. The results of the two-sided Wilcoxon test in table 3.3 show a significant difference in distribution ( $p < 0.02$  and  $p < 0.01$ ) between each experiment group except for the groups  $JI_0$  and  $JI_2$  where the similarity distribution could be origin from the same distribution. Table 3.4 highlights the directional component of these distributional differences. At a global scale the tree cover agreement is at its maximum if we set the canopy density interval to  $(10, 100]$ . The second experiment group  $JI_1$  is significantly greater than  $JI_0$  ( $p < 0.005$ ) and the last two groups  $JI_2$  and  $JI_3$  are significantly smaller ( $p > 0.005$ ) than  $JI_1$ . Further, the tree cover agreement of  $JI_0$  is significantly greater than ( $p < 0.005$  and  $p < 0.05$ )  $JI_2$  and  $JI_3$ . Therefore it is proved, that canopy densities above 20% reduce the tree cover agreement between GL30 and GFC on a



global level. On a global scale as the analysis on tree cover agreement suggests the maximum similarity can be achieved within the  $JI_1$  interval. Therefore we decided to proceed for our study of PDDs and the derived products with this definition of tree cover.

**Table 3.3. Global experiment group comparison:** This table shows a two-sided Wilcoxon signed-rank test to detect differences in the tree cover agreement by considering different canopy densities between GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change at 2000. The classes  $JI_0$ ,  $JI_1$ ,  $JI_2$ , and  $JI_3$  as row and column headings account for the canopy density classes (0,100], (10,100], (20,100], and (30,100], respectively. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 = X_2$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $JI_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $JI_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.02$ , and  $p^{***} < 0.01$ .

Cls	$JI_0$	$JI_1$	$JI_2$
$JI_1$	.01**	-	-
$JI_2$	.07	.04*	-
$JI_3$	.00***	.00***	.00***

**Table 3.4. Global experiment group directional comparison:** This table shows a one-sided Wilcoxon test to determine the direction of global differences in the tree cover agreement by considering different canopy densities between GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change at 2000. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 \leq X_2$  and  $H_0: X_2 \geq X_1$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $JI_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $JI_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.025$ ,  $p^{***} < 0.01$ , and  $p^\dagger < 0.005$ .

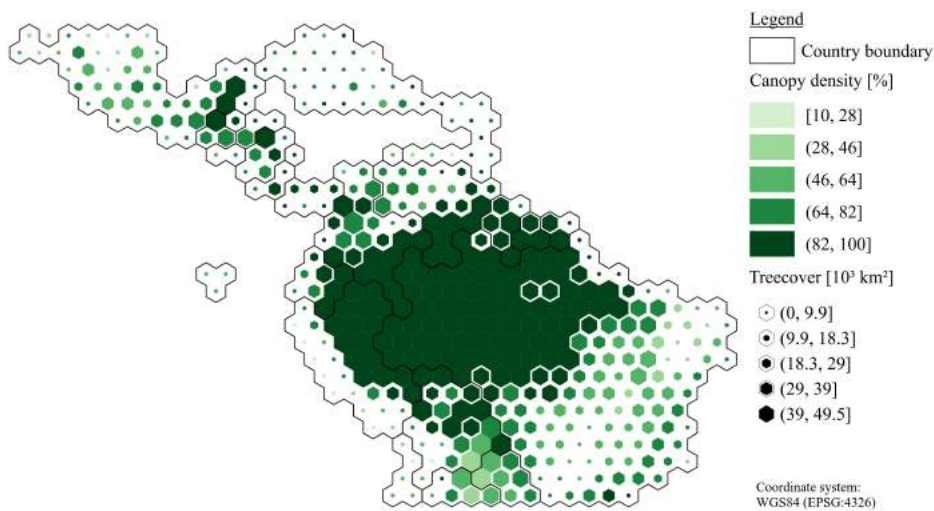
Cls	$JI_0$	$JI_1$	$JI_2$	$JI_3$
$JI_0$	-	.01***	1.	1.
$JI_1$	1.	-	1.	1.
$JI_2$	.07	.03*	-	1.
$JI_3$	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-

### 3.1.2. Tree cover and deforestation patterns

This section is intended to present a comprehensive insight of the tropical tree cover distribution over the three continental regions within our study extent at 2000. Further, we highlight at which sites the tree cover loss peaked between 2001 and 2010. The maps in this section should be interpreted as a precursor to our PDDs mapping to detect regional and continental patterns of deforestation and as an example how large multivariate spatial data can be visualized and evaluated by a more advanced aggregation approach.

For Latin America, the figure 3.2 shows the tree cover and canopy density distribution within our study extent at 2000. The center of the map is covered by the core tropical rain forest characterized by high tree cover coverage per hexagon between approximately 39 and 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, while the mean canopy density ranges between 82% and 100%. The core rain forest zone is distributed over nine Latin American countries, namely: Colombia, Venezuela, Guiana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. Within the Brazilian rain forest biome two hexagons are smaller scaled, which highlights a tree cover between

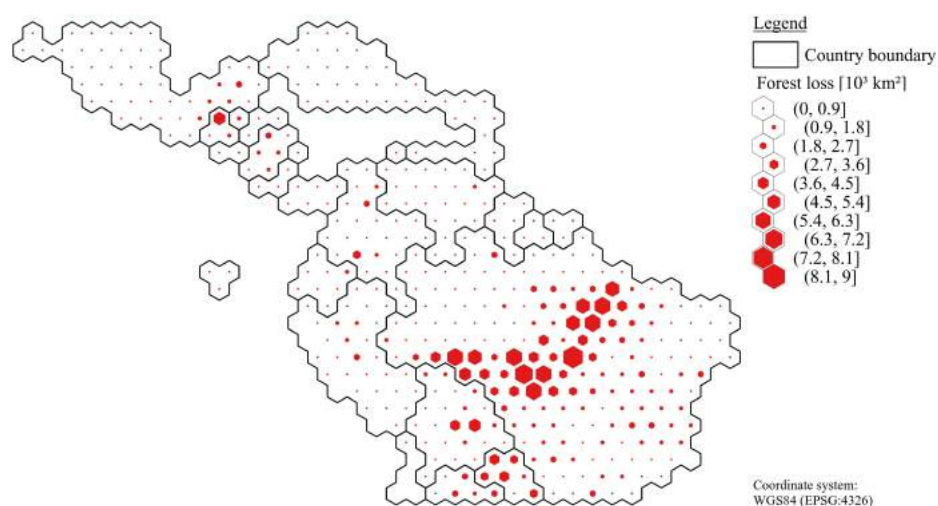
29 and 39 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at a canopy density between 82% and 100%. These two hexagons comprising floodplain forest at the borders of the Amazon river located in the province of Pará. This river basin is enclosed by the three cities Santarém, Almeirim, and Óbidos and suffered severe deforestation since the 16th century [Renó et al. 2011]. Renó et al. suggests that major forest losses took place between 1950 and 1975 followed by lower annual deforestation till 2008. Located in the lower left part of the map crossing the borders of Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina is the Gran Chaco a hot semi-arid wooded grassland also known as the biome tropical dry forest. This biome is characterized by tree cover between approximately 29 and 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon and canopy densities between 28% and 46% [Caldas et al. 2013]. The tropical rain forest is surrounded by tropical moist forest characterized by tree cover up to approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon, while the canopy density is between 10% and 82%.



**Figure 3.2. Tree cover and canopy density in Latin America at 2000:** This map shows the tree cover and mean canopy density distribution at 2000. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Tropical rain forest in the center of the map is characterized by a tree cover between approximately 29 and 49 km<sup>2</sup> and canopy densities between 82% and 100%. The rain forest is surrounded by tropical moist forest with tree cover up to 49 km<sup>2</sup> but a lower mean canopy densities between 10% and 82% as the rain forest. The tropical dry forest also known as Gran Chaco is located in the lower left of the map distributed over the countries Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.

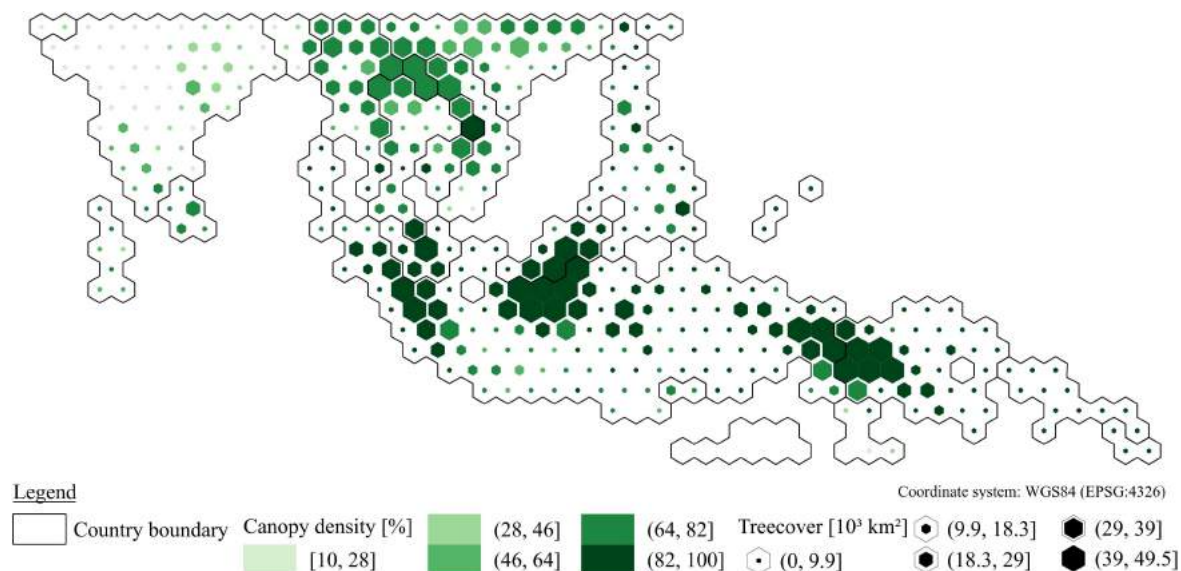
The figure 3.3 shows the distribution of tree cover losses over Latin America within the time frame of 2001 till 2010. During this period an area of approximately 388 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is deforested as table C.1 in the appendix C shows. We could identify for several countries deforestation hot-spots where the deforested area is between approximately 2.7 and 9 thousand km<sup>2</sup> as the map suggests. Tropical countries with deforestation hot-spots are: Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Guatemala. In Brazil the hot-spots of tree cover loss are known as the arc of deforestation. The arc of deforestation covers the provinces of Acre, Rondônia, Mato Grosso, and Pará, while the deforestation starts to move into the province of Amazonas [Wood 2002]. The tree cover loss within this arc develops along the

highway network in this regions [Alves 2002; Müller et al. 2016]. Several paved highways like BR-163, BR-219, BR-230 etc. **foster** the agricultural and infrastructural development and **lead** to high deforestation rates. In Brazil an area of approximately 274 thousand km<sup>2</sup> **is** deforested between 2001 and 2010 (table C.1). In Paraguay and Argentina the deforestation **hot-spots** are located in the Gran Chaco region, which was **one** of the least disturbed forests worldwide **and** **is** exposed to high deforestation rates since the **1969s** [Caldas et al. 2013; Zak et al. 2004]. During our study period deforestation **accounts** for an area of approximately 7097 km<sup>2</sup> and 21 thousand km<sup>2</sup> in the Argentinian **Chaco** and Paraguayan Chaco, respectively. In Bolivia the deforestation **hot-spot** is located in the department of Santa Cruz. **Till** the 1960s Bolivia **had** relative low deforestation rates, which increased moderately after **and** increased sharply during the 1990s and **remain** high as the map suggests [Pacheco 2002; David Kaimowitz and Vanclay 2002]. During the first decade of **2000** an area of approximately 19 thousand km<sup>2</sup> **is** exposed to tree cover loss (table C.1). In Guatemala the province of Petén **is committed to** deforestation since the 1980s [Beach 1998]. Since the 2000s the deforestation rates in Guatemala are among the highest in Latin America and after 2005 the rates increased further [McSweeney et al. 2014]. During 2001 and 2010 an area of approximately 6515 km<sup>2</sup> is exposed to tree cover loss as table C.1 shows. McSweeney et al. highlights that deforestation **hot-spots** often spatially overlap with drug trafficking nodes. Especially in the department of Petén where large ranches are owned by narco-traffickers. In Peru deforestation **hot-spots covering** the provinces of Huánuco, Loreto, San Martin, and Ucayali, while the cumulative forest loss **account** for an area of approximately 8 thousand km<sup>2</sup> in the entire country. An area of approximately 15 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is exposed to deforestation in Colombia, while deforestation **hot-spots** are located in Cacquetá, Bolívar, and Antioquia.



**Figure 3.3. Tree cover loss in Latin America between 2001 and 2010:** This map shows the tree cover loss within our study extent between 2001 and 2010. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Deforestation hot-spots with tree cover loss **about** 2.7 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon are located in Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and Guatemala.

The map in figure 3.4 shows the tree cover and canopy density distribution for Asia/Australia. In Asia the tropical rain forest is distributed over several southeast Asian islands like the Indonesian islands of Sumatra, Borneo, Java, Papua. Further rain forest covers the islands of Philippines, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. In general the Asian rain forest is characterized by high tree cover coverage per hexagon, which is comparable to Latin America but in our map most of the islands are smaller than a single hexagon. Therefore, defined by our method to compute the hexagon scalings the size of the polygons don't reflect the tree cover as a share of the landmass and most of them appear smaller. The mean canopy density of tropical rain forest is between 82% and 100% and the tree cover is above approximately 9.9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. Tropical moist and dry forest are distributed over the continental Asia covering the countries India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos etc.. These forests are characterized lower tree cover among 9.9 thousand km<sup>2</sup> and canopy densities between 10% and 82%, while the lower tree cover indicates that in southeast Asia deforestation occurs since the 1950s [Kummer and Turner 1994].

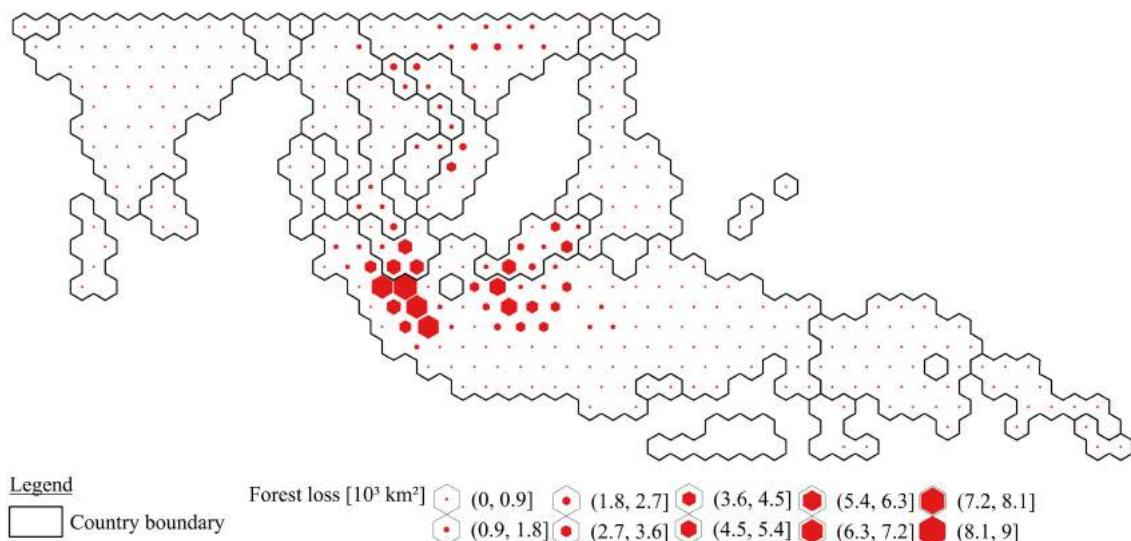


**Figure 3.4. Tree cover and canopy density in Asia/Australia at 2000:** This maps shows the tree cover and mean canopy density distribution within our study extent at 2000. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Tropical rain forest covers largely the Indonesian island system, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. This forest type is characterized by a dense canopy between 82% and 100%, while the tree cover is above 9.9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>. Tropical moist and dry forest covers the countries India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos etc., while the canopy density ranges between 10% and 82%.

The map in figure 3.5 shows the distribution of tree cover loss in Asia/Australia for the time period 2001 till 2010. During this period a forest area of approximately 196 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is exposed to deforestation as table C.1 in the appendix C suggests. For this region we identified the following countries as deforestation hot-spots with deforestation areas per hexagon of approximately 1.9 to 9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>: Indonesia, continental and insular Malaysia, Vietnam, and Laos. Indonesia is known as a country with one of the highest rates of primary forest

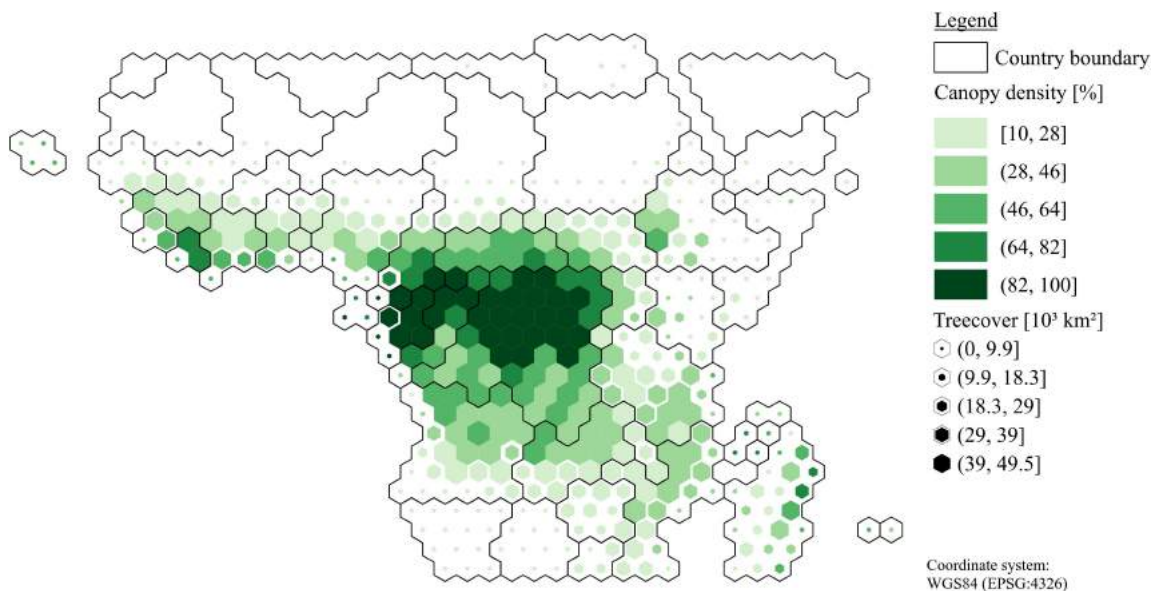


loss for the time period 2000 till to 2016 [Austin et al. 2019]. In the first decade of the 2000s an area of approximately 100 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is exposed to deforestation as table C.1 suggests. The tree cover loss is predominantly distributed over the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Borneo (the province of Kalimantan) as the map 3.5 shows. The Indonesian forests are exposed to **deforestation by dynamic causes** since the 1950s [Nawir and Rumboko 2007]. Malaysia has lost a forest area of approximately 33 thousand km<sup>2</sup> by deforestation during the time period 2001 till 2010. The Malaysian deforestation **hot-spots** are distributed over the Malaysian Borneo (Sarawak/Sabah) and **the** continental Malaysia. Comparable to Indonesia, Malaysia's forests are exposed to deforestation since the 1950s by **dynamic** causes **like logging followed by agricultural activities** [Kummer and Turner 1994]. From 2001 till 2010 an area of approximately **thousand km<sup>2</sup>** was exposed to deforestation in Vietnam as table C.1 suggests. We identified the central highland provinces Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Gia Lai, and Lam Dong as deforestation **hot-spots**. Meyfroidt et al. [2013] confirms this in his study on trajectories of deforestation and highlights that the losses in this area could reduce the benefits of national-scale forest recovery. During the early 1990s a transition to reforestation was encouraged and natural forests expanded in Vietnam **but it is connected** with **a** increased loss in the highland regions [Meyfroidt et al. 2013; Chazdon 2008]. In Laos a forest area of approximately 8 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is lost during the time period 2001 till 2010. The map in figure 3.5 suggests that northern Laos **is** predominantly exposed to tree cover loss, **while Hirsch [2000] confirms this**. Laos is known **for** a steady loss of forest cover since the early 1960s. **Whereas,** the causes for this LC transitions **are dynamically changing till now.**



**Figure 3.5. Tree cover loss in Asia/Australia between 2001 and 2010:** This map shows the tree cover loss within our study extent between 2001 and 2010. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Deforestation **hot-spots** with tree cover loss **about 1.9 thousand km<sup>2</sup>** per hexagon are located in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Laos.

Figure 3.6 shows the tree cover and canopy density distribution over Africa. In Africa the tropical **rain forest** is distributed over the following central African countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cameroon, and **partial** in Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Liberia. In our map this type of forest is characterized by a dense tree cover between 39 and 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon, while the canopy density ranges between 64% and 100%. In Africa the canopy density does not separate the moist forest type from the rain forest as good as in Latin America and Asia/Australia. The **rain forest** is surrounded by tropical moist forest with a dense tree cover coverage per hexagon between 18 and 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, while the mean canopy density ranges between 10% and 82%. Countries covered by the moist tropical forest type are the following examples: Angola, Uganda, Central African Republic, Zambia, Madagascar **etc..** Tropical dry forest is characterized by a sparse tree cover **among** approximately 18 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon and **canopy** densities between 10% and 46%. The countries **Mozambique, Tanzania, and Nigeria** are examples for areas, which are covered partially by tropical dry forest.

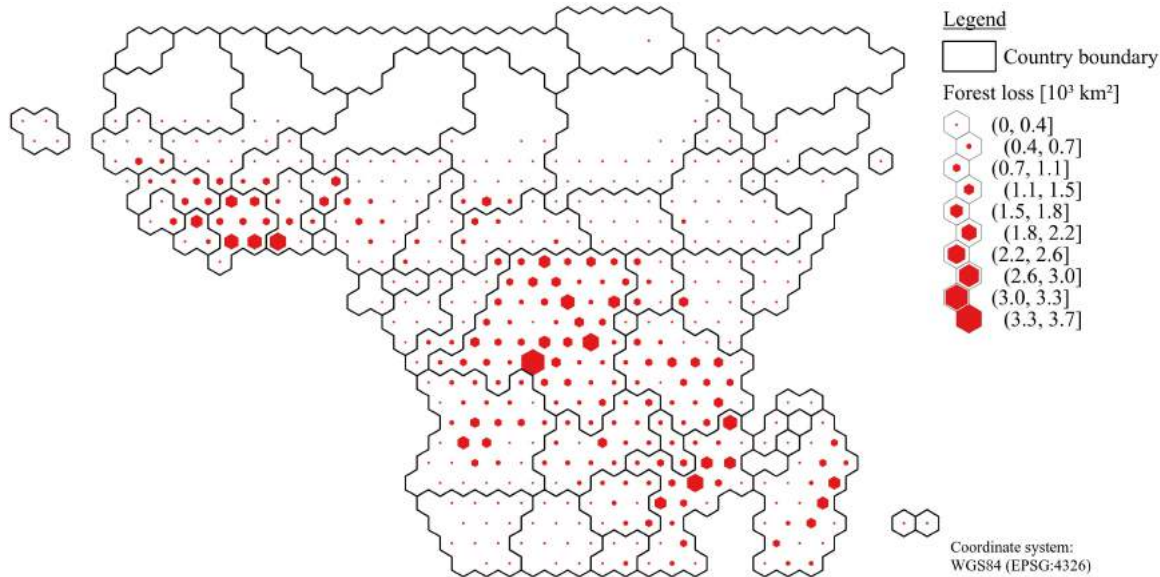


**Figure 3.6. Tree cover and canopy density in Africa at 2000:** This maps shows the tree cover and mean canopy density distribution within our study extent at 2000. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees, which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Tropical rain forest is characterized by dense tree cover between 39 and 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> and high canopy density above 64% in the center of Africa. The **rain forest** is surrounded by tropical moist forest with a dense tree cover as well but a lower mean canopy density between 10% and 82%.

For Africa the map in figure 3.7 shows the regions which are exposed to tree cover loss for the **time period 2001 till 2010**. During the first decade of 2000 an area of approximately 174 thousand km<sup>2</sup> was deforested as table C.1 in the appendix C suggests. With a tree cover loss between 1.1 and 3.7 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon we identified the following countries as deforestation **hot-spots: Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Tanzania.** At the Ivory Coast an area of approximately 10 thousand

km<sup>2</sup> was exposed to deforestation between 2001 and 2010 as table C.1 shows. The map in figure 3.7 shows, that the deforestation hot-spots are located in the southern and northern parts of the country. Evidences for this are given by Goetze et al. [2006] and Barima et al. [2016]. The comparable lower deforestation rates in the center of the country can be explained by a military conflict started in 2002, that divided the country in a northern and southern zone with a buffer zone in between controlled by United Nation forces and French soldiers [Barima et al. 2016]. At the Ivory coast continuous loss of tree cover by deforestation started approximately in the 1958s [Chatelain et al. 1996]. The deforestation accounts for an area of approximately 45 thousand km<sup>2</sup> in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the home of the second largest tropical forest in the world. It has compared to other tropical countries relatively low deforestation dynamics but recent studies show, that deforestation could accelerate in the future [Ickowitz et al. 2015]. The deforestation hot-spots are located in the eastern Congo and around the medium-sized cities along the Congo river in the lower center of the country. During the first decade of the 2000s an area of about 13 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is deforested in Angola. Deforestation hot-spots are more oriented to the center of the country covering roughly the provinces Huambo, Bie, and Moxico as the map in figure 3.7 suggests. For the time period 1990 till 2009 Cabral et al. [2011] performed a study on forest change in the province of Huambo, where a decrease in dense forest cover is observed, while the cover of sparse forest is increasing [Cabral et al. 2011]. Another study by Schneibel et al. [2017] on deforestation dynamics in south-central Angola reveals that the tree cover loss develops along anthropogenic infrastructure and forests are exploited over a long term until (fuel-wood collection etc.) a LC transitions to other types like cropland occurs. To best of our knowledge no studies on historic deforestation dynamics exist for Angola due to the civil war from 1975 till 2002. In Mozambique an area of approximately 18 thousand km<sup>2</sup> was exposed to tree cover loss as table C.1 suggests. Between 1976 and 1992 during the war, the forests of Mozambique were not largely exposed to deforestation, but since end of the war the deforestation rates are increasing [Sitoe et al. 2012]. We identified the following provinces as deforestation hot-spots between 2001 and 2010: Zambezia, Nampula, and Cabo Delgado. This is largely confirmed by Sitoe et al. where it is stated that deforestation is concentrated in the center and north of Mozambique. These hot-spots could be related to the higher population densities within this areas. In Madagascar tree cover loss accounts for an area of about 11 thousand km<sup>2</sup> during the study period. In Madagascar deforestation hot-spots are concentrated at the north-east coast of the island as the map in figure 3.5 suggests. Madagascar's central highland forests are exposed to anthropogenic deforestation since the 1600s, reportedly [Harper et al. 2007]. By the nineteenth century the deforestation advanced over the entire island forests. In Tanzania an area of approximately 14 thousand km<sup>2</sup> was exposed to tree cover loss. Since the 1900s approximately 19.4% of the forest cover is lost [Kideghesho 2015]. The map in figure 3.7 suggests that deforestation hot-spots are located in the country center covering the fol-

lowing provinces: Lindi, Singida, Tabora, Dodom, Tanga, Pwani, and the island of Zanzibar.



**Figure 3.7. Tree cover loss in Africa between 2001 and 2010:** This map shows the tree cover loss within our study extent between 2001 and 2010. An unscaled hexagon covers an area of 0.5 decimal degrees which translates to an area of approximately 49 thousand km<sup>2</sup> at the equator. Deforestation hot-spots with tree cover loss about 1.1 thousand km<sup>2</sup> per hexagon are located in Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Tanzania.

### 3.1.3. Mapping of proximate deforestation drivers

In this section we will present the PDDs of tropical forest cover loss between 2001 and 2010. At first we will discuss the forest changes on the global scale followed by the continental results for Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa. During the continental discussion we will refer to countries with deforestation hot-spots identified in the previous section. On the global tropical scale the major PDDs are cropland and pastures which account for 20.2% (177038.5 km<sup>2</sup>) and 33.1% (289445.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss as the table C.1 in the appendix C suggests. Regrowth dynamics account for 26.4% (230 543.7 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, while these dynamics include forestry activities, establishment of plantations, and plantation management practices like rotational cycle. The expansion of artificial surfaces account for 0.4% (3690.1 km<sup>2</sup>) of the forest loss, while the inundation of forests by rivers and lakes account for 1.4% (12011.9 km<sup>2</sup>). For 100 tropical and subtropical countries, Hosonuma et al. [2012] estimates that the expansion of agriculture, mining, infrastructure, and urbanization account for approximately 82%, 8%, 8%, and 2% of the tree cover loss, respectively. In relation to the PDD classification schema of Geist and Lambin [2001], the expansion of agriculture relates to cropland, pastures, and plantations in the research of Hosonuma et al.. Therefore, we receive nearly similar results for agricultural expansion if

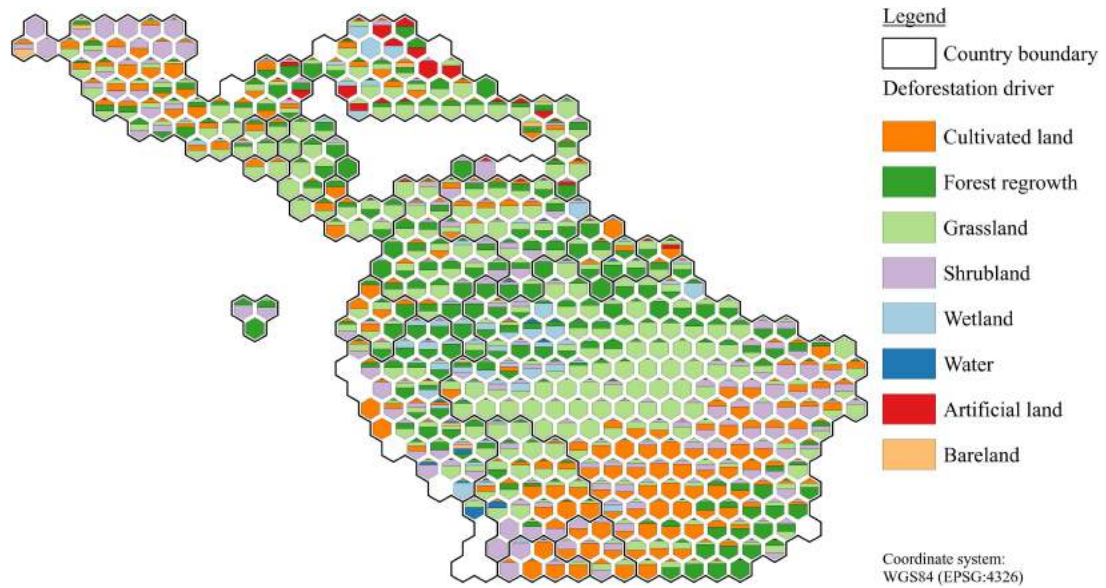


we would aggregate the classes cultivated, grassland, and regrowth (approximately 79.7%). The aggregated estimates for the expansion of mining, infrastructure, and urbanization of Hosonuma et al. are greater than our estimate for the expansion of artificial structures. On the global scale Curtis et al. [2018] estimates that the expansion of commodity-driven deforestation, shifting agriculture, forestry, wildfires, and urbanization account for 25%, 21%, 31%, 22%, and <1% of the tree cover loss. The classification schema of Curtis et al. differs largely from our schema. Therefore, a comparison is not really feasible.

In Latin America the transition of tree cover to cropland and pastures account for 21.3% (95929.6 km<sup>2</sup>) and 40.8% (183841.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss as the table C.1 in the appendix C shows. Therefore, approximately 62% (279771 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover is cleared for agricultural purposes in Latin America. Around 12.6% (56909.3 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss is followed by tree cover regrowth, while the transition to shrubland account for 11.1% (50260.2 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, respectively. Minor PDDs are water, artificial surfaces, and bareland which account for 1.6% (7169.9 km<sup>2</sup>), 0.3% (1561.5 km<sup>2</sup>), and 0.1% (405.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of the forest transitions. Sy et al. [2015] estimates that agriculture accounts for 88.5% of the tree cover loss, while transitions of forest cover to other LC accounts for 11.5%. Further, Hosonuma et al. [2012] received similar results for the conversion of tree cover to agricultural land where it accounts for approximately 90% of the tree cover loss. Both studies estimate that the expansion of artificial surfaces account for approximately 1% of the forest loss. The large difference could be explained by the definition of the forest transition classes in both studies. In both studies agriculture comprises pastures, cropland, and tree plantations. Additionally, both studies refer to the change of LU and we determine the PDDs by the change of LC. Further, Sy et al. uses a sample based approach on 10x10 km FAO FRA-2010 RSS data which could yield overestimates, while Hosonuma et al. uses an empirical approach based on FAO data as well. A recent study on PDDs estimates that commodity-driven deforestation, shifting agriculture, forestry, wildfire, and urbanization account for 56%, 31%, 13%, 1%, and <1% of the tree cover loss, respectively [Curtis et al. 2018]. Commodity-driven deforestation relates to tree cover loss as long-term permanent transition of forest to a non-forest LU like agriculture, which includes cropland, pastures, plantations and so forth. Comparable to the previously mentioned researches on PDDs the difference between our estimates and Curtis et al. arise from class definitions. If we would aggregate our LC classes to their schema it would yield nearly the same results. In particular the same estimate for tree cover loss by urbanization shows, that the similar classes without aggregation yield similar results. In Latin America the LC change to cropland is mainly distributed over southern part, while the transition to pastures is concentrated in the central part of the continent as figure 3.8 suggests. Cropland expansion mainly took place in the south of Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia, while forest loss by pasture expansion is concentrated in the center and north of Brazil. The spatial distribution of cropland/pasture

dynamics largely corresponds to the findings of Graesser et al. [2015]. Large quantities of tree cover regrowth can be observed in the south-east and center of Latin America namely the southeast coast of Brazil and within the tropical rain forest covering Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. In south-east Brazil the findings of Curtis et al. suggests that the regrowth dynamics are driven by forestry actions, while the coastline is exposed to shifting agriculture. Cropland and pasture expansion account for 19.1% and 49.7% of the tree cover loss, while regrowth dynamics and artificial surfaces account for 11.8% and 0.3% of the tree cover loss in Brazil. Figure 3.8 shows that deforestation by cropland expansion is mainly concentrated in the southern part of Brazil in the provinces Mato Grosso, Goiás, and Mato Grosso do Sul, which is largely confirmed by Zalles et al. [2018] and Graesser et al. [2015]. Additionally, in the northern part of Mato Grosso and the southern part of Mato Grosso do Sul deforestation by grassland expansion can be observed [Graesser et al. 2015; Sy et al. 2015]. The tree cover loss in the arc of deforestation can be attributed to pasture expansion, which is confirmed by Sy et al. [2015] and Graesser et al. [2015]. For the Chaco region of Paraguay the main PDD is the expansion of cropland, which accounts for 48.9% of the tree cover loss. The findings of Graesser et al. [2015] and Caldas et al. [2013] suggest that the main PDD in this region is the expansion of pastures, while findings by Graesser et al. [2018] suggests that pastures are largely replaced by cropland LU between 1990 and 2015. Therefore, the initial cause for tree cover loss could be the expansion of pastures but the LU changed already to cropland at our image date of 2010. In the Argentinian part of the Chaco cultivated and grassland account for 65.8% and 5.3% of the tree cover loss. This could also be observed by Sy et al. [2015]. In Bolivia cropland and pasture expansion account for 37.2% and 22.4% of the forest loss, while transitions of forest cover to artificial surfaces account for 0.4% of the tree cover loss, respectively. Main PDD for the deforestation hot-spot in the province Santa Cruz is the expansion of cropland as figure 3.8 suggests. Further, in north Bolivia and at the Brazilian border the deforestation is driven by pasture expansion. Both patterns are largely confirmed by Graesser et al. [2015] and Sy et al. [2015]. In Guatemala cropland, pasture, and artificial expansion account for 23.9%, 38.6%, 0.5% of the forest loss, respectively. The main PDDs for the deforestation hot-spot in the province of Peten are pasture expansion followed by cropland expansion as the map 3.8 suggests. Pasture expansion is the main force for deforestation in south of Guatemala. Regrowth dynamics in Guatemala which account for 12% of the forest loss could be attributed to the establishment of oil palm plantations and shifting agriculture [Furumo and Aide 2017; Curtis et al. 2018]. In Peru cropland, pasture, and artificial expansion account for 6.6%, 23%, and 0.2% of the forest loss, while regrowth dynamics account for 28.2% of the forest loss, respectively. For the deforestation hot-spots located in the provinces of Huánuco, San Martín, and Ucayali the major PDDs are the expansion of pastures and regrowth dynamics. [Sy et al. 2015] findings suggests that the expansion of cropland is the main deforestation driver in this central region of Peru. Regrowth dynamics in this region could be related to deforestation for oil palm plantations as the findings of

Vijay et al. [2018] and Furumo and Aide [2017] suggest. Vijay et al. estimates that an area of approximately 845 km<sup>2</sup> is cleared for oil palm plantations between 2007 till 2013, while Furumo and Aide states that approximately an area of 156 km<sup>2</sup> forest is cleared for palm oil plantations between 2001 and 2014. Cultivated land, grassland, and regrowth dynamics account for 6.2%, 33.4%, and 24.7% of the tree cover loss in Colombia, respectively. For the Colombian deforestation hot-spot located in the province of Cacquetá the expansion of pastures is the main PDD, which is confirmed by Graesser et al. [2015]. This is also the case for the deforestation hot-spots located in the provinces of Bolívar and Antioquia.

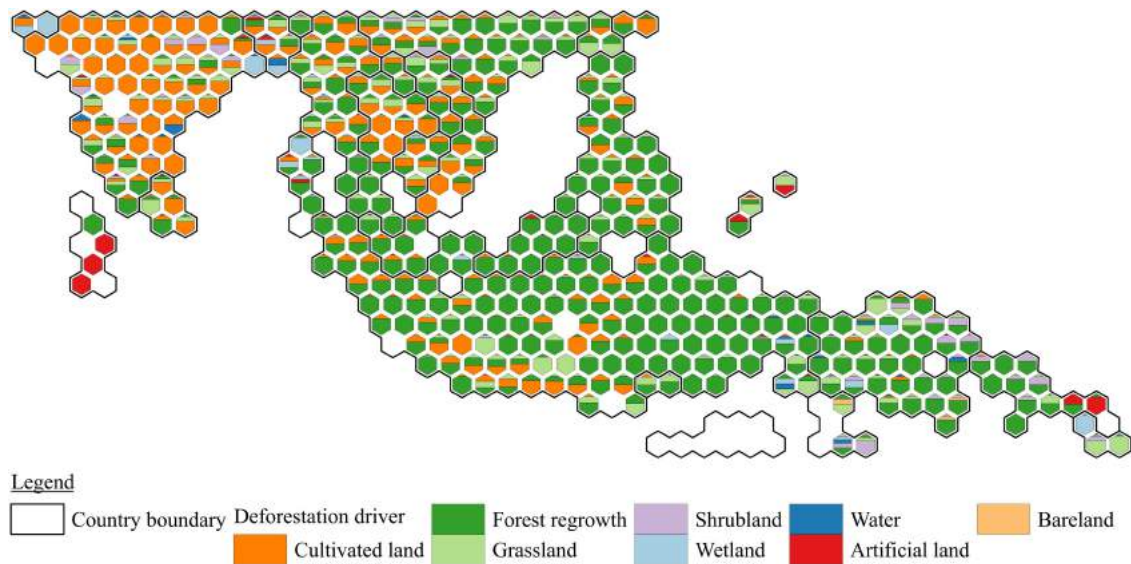


**Figure 3.8. Map of proximate deforestation drivers in Latin America:** The map shows the distribution of proximate deforestation drivers in Latin America. The different sized and colored quantities within each hexagons interior shows the relative tree cover loss by a proximate deforestation driver. Scaling of a the hexagons is only intended for improving visual appeal.

For Asia/Australia the table C.1 in the appendix C shows, that the expansion of cultivated and grassland account for 16% (36819.3 km<sup>2</sup>) and 7.1% (16302.6 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, respectively. Therefore, the transition of LC to agriculture usage accounts for 23.1% (53121.9 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover losses. The transition of tree cover to artificial surfaces and the forest loss by inundation by lakes and rivers account for 1.1% (2431.9 km<sup>2</sup>) and 0.4% (890 km<sup>2</sup>), respectively. In Asia/Australia the largest PDD is the regrowth which accounts for 61.2% (140653.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of the cumulative tree cover loss. Forest transitions to shrubland account for 6.7 % (2146.2 km<sup>2</sup>), respectively. Hosonuma et al. [2012] estimates that LC transitions by agriculture account for approximately 70% of the forest loss, while Curtis et al. [2018] estimates that commodity-driven deforestation, shifting agriculture, forestry, wild-fire, and urbanization account for 13%, 78%, 9%, 13%, <1%, and <1% of the tree cover loss in Southeast Asia, respectively. As mentioned in the previous paragraph the differences in PDDs estimates relate mainly to the applied methodology and the aggregation of LC classes. The figure 3.9 shows an overview of the PDDs distribution in Asia/Australia and indicates

that regrowth dynamics are largely concentrated at the east of Asia/Australia namely in the following countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Papua New Guinea. Conversion of tree cover to cropland can be observed in Vietnam, Cambodia, the north of Thailand, and India in its entire extent. Curtis et al. predicts that in Indonesia and Malaysia tree cover loss is largely driven by commodity-driven deforestation, while in Vietnam and Cambodia the forest loss is driven by commodity-driven deforestation and forestry. In Indonesia cropland and pasture expansion accounts for 15.4% and 4.6% of the forest cover loss, while regrowth dynamics account for the largest share of forest loss with 68.6%. For the deforestation hot-spots concentrated on the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Borneo (the province of Kalimantan) the major PDD are regrowth dynamics. This LC transitions could be attributed to forest clearings for oil palm plantations and the rotational cycle of matured plantations which are commonly cleared after 18 years [Corley and Tinker 2016]. Corley and Tinker estimates that by 2010 an area of approximately 81 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is covered by palm oil plantations. Austin et al. [2019] estimates that forestry activities and oil palm plantations account 67% of the tree cover loss, while agricultural expansion account for 35% of the forest transitions in Indonesia between 2001 and 2015. For the islands of Sumatra and Borneo Austin et al. predicts that more than a half of deforestation could be attributed to forestry and oil palm plantations. In Malaysia comparable to Indonesia regrowth dynamics account for the largest share of forest loss with 79.4% of the tree cover loss. The cropland and grassland expansion accounts for 7.5% and 2.6% of the tree cover loss, respectively. The deforestation hot-spots are largely dominated by regrowth dynamics, which could be attributed to palm oil plantations and the related management practices like establishment of new sites and clearing of matured plantations. Whereas, the establishment of new sites is unlikely because the Malaysian industry has difficulties in finding appropriate sites for further expansion [Corley and Tinker 2016]. Corley and Tinker reports that by 2015 an area of approximately 50 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is covered by palm oil plantations in Malaysia. In Vietnam the PDDs cropland and pastures account for 32.8% and 18.3% of the tree cover loss, respectively. Further, regrowth dynamics account for 30.8% of the tree cover loss. The deforestation hot-spots concentrated in the highlands are dominated by transitions to cropland, while the remaining part of the country is dominated by regrowth dynamics. The regrowth could be related to an increased reforestation effort, which is proved by expansion of natural forest cover [Chazdon 2008]. Curtis et al. [2018] predicts for the highland region that tree cover loss mainly can be attributed to commodity-driven deforestation. Cropland and pasture expansion account for 14.8% and 16.4% of the tree cover loss, while regrowth dynamics account for 57% of the forest loss in Laos. The north and south of the country are dominated by regrowth dynamics, while the expansion of cropland is the second largest cause of deforestation. Curtis et al. [2018] data shows that the north is dominated by forestry activities and the south by commodity-driven deforestation.



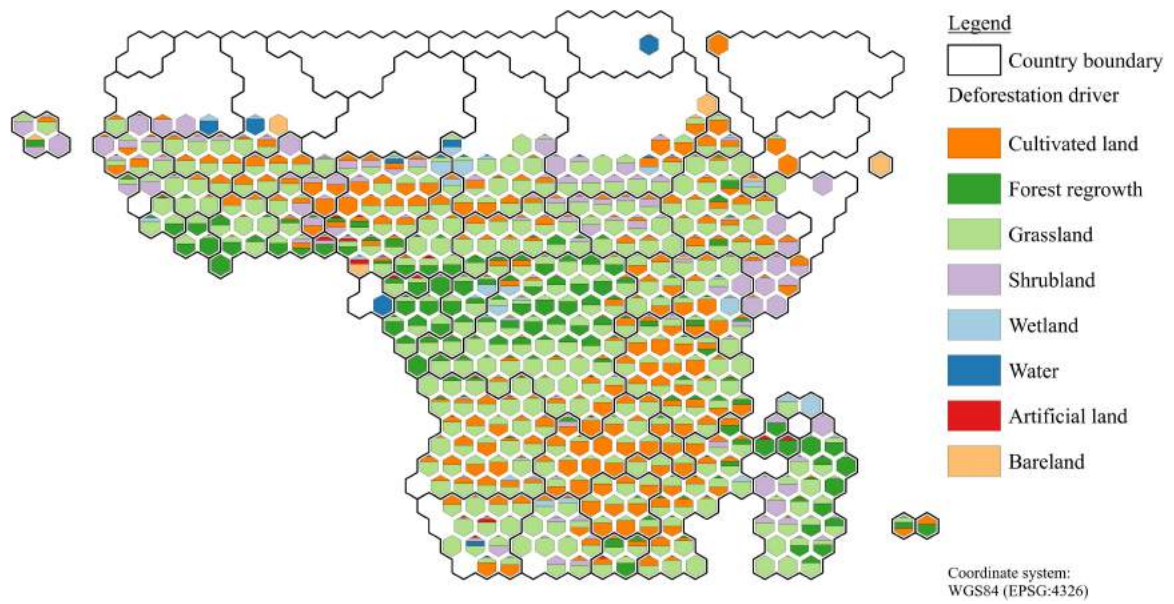


**Figure 3.9. Map of proximate deforestation drivers in Asia/Australia:** The map shows the distribution of proximate deforestation drivers in Asia/Australia. The different sized and colored quantities within each hexagons interior shows the relative tree cover loss by a proximate deforestation driver. Scaling of a the hexagons is only intended for improving visual appeal.

In Africa the table C.1 in the appendix C suggests that cropland and grassland expansion accounts for 22.8% (44289.5 km<sup>2</sup>) and 46% (89301.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, respectively. Therefore, transitions to agricultural land is the major PDD in Africa and **account** for 68.8% (133590.9 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss. Forest transitions to water, artificial surfaces, and bareland account for 1.2% (2409.9 km<sup>2</sup>), 0.6% (1238.6 km<sup>2</sup>), and 0.1% (146 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, respectively. In Africa on 17% (32980.8 km<sup>2</sup>) of the area exposed to tree cover loss regrowth could be detected, while the transition to shrubland **account** for 3.4% (6599.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of the tree cover loss, **respectively**. The study on PDDs by Hosonuma et al. [2012] estimates that agriculture and urbanization account for approximately 75% and 2% of the tree cover loss, respectively. For Africa Curtis et al. [2018] shows that commodity-driven deforestation, shifting agriculture, forestry, wildfire, and urbanization account for 4%, 92%, 4%, <1%, <1% of the tree cover loss. The figure 3.10 shows the distribution of PDDs in Africa and indicates that the forest loss in the east of the continent is largely driven by the expansion of cultivated land. This can be observed in the following east African countries: Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. The central African countries like Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Congo, and South Sudan are mainly exposed to expansion of pastures as the map **suggest**. The **findings of Curtis et al. suggest that overall countries in Africa the major deforestation driver is shifting agriculture.** **At the** Ivory coast cropland and pasture expansion account for 12.5% and 46.9% of the forest loss, respectively. The figure 3.10 shows that the north of the country is dominated by grassland and cropland transitions, while the south is dominated by pasture and regrowth tree cover transitions. To best of our knowledge no study except Curtis et al. **tried** to estimate the general spatial distribution of PDDs **at the** Ivory Coast. However, there are studies

that investigate the expansion of cocoa farmings as one of the major deforestation drivers in this country [Barima et al. 2016; Ruf et al. 2014]. Both studies mention that cocoa farming shifted to the south-west of the country where a large quantities of regrowth are observable on figure 3.10. Cocoa plantations are tree crops therefore they must appear as regrowth signal. Curtis et al. [2018] predicts that in the south-western part of the country deforestation are mainly driven by shifting agriculture. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo the expansion of cropland and pastures account for 9.4% and 52% of the forest loss, while regrowth dynamics account for 26.6% of the tree cover loss. For the deforestation hot-spot around the Congo river the major PDD is the expansion of grassland, while the northern hot-spots are dominated by grassland and regrowth transitions. Ickowitz et al. [2015] mention in his comprehensive literature review on agriculture and deforestation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that the major deforestation driver is shifting agriculture. Therefore grassland transition can be fallow land which is later transformed to the regrowth class by natural regeneration. Further, Curtis et al. observed in his study that shifting agriculture is the main deforestation driver. In Angola cultivated and grassland account for 32.7% and 54.7% of the deforestation, respectively. The deforestation hot-spots in Angola are mainly dominated by pasture and cropland expansion, which is also observable for the rest of the country. Cabral et al. [2011] performed a case study on deforestation in the province of Huambo that show evidences that cropland area increased between 1990 and 2009. To best of our knowledge only Curtis et al. [2018] performed a spatial explicit study on deforestation driver which includes entire Angola. This study shows that tree cover loss can be attributed to shifting agriculture as the rest of Africa. Cropland and pasture expansion account for 32.7% and 45.6% of the tree cover loss, respectively. The northern part of the country is dominated by cropland and regrowth expansion dynamics, while for the deforestation hot-spots located in the provinces of Zambezia and Nampula the major PDDs are cropland, pasture, and regrowth expansion. A literature review performed by Siteo et al. [2012] reveals that deforestation is a multi-phase process, where hardwood extraction and firewood collection is followed by steady conversion of forest to agricultural LC. Further the total area occupied by cropland increased by 59% from 2001 to 2010. In Madagascar regrowth dynamics account for 40.6% of the tree cover loss, while grassland account for 44.6% of forest loss. The north-east coast of Madagascar is dominated by pasture expansion and regrowth dynamics. Curtis et al. [2018] predicts that the major PDD is shifting agriculture other studies on the distribution of PDDs are only as small scale case studies available. Largest deforestation driver in Tanzania are cropland and pastures, which account for 42.1% and 40.6% of the tree cover loss. The deforestation hot-spots are mainly exposed to cropland and grassland expansion, while in the north-west-center of the country the major PDD is cropland and in the south-east is grassland. To best of our knowledge no study estimate spatial explicit the PDDs of tree cover loss for Tanzania except the study of Curtis et al. [2018], which predicts that the major driver is shifting agriculture. A case study on forest loss in the province of

Kilwa shows evidences that the total cropland area increased by 40% from 2005 to 2010.



**Figure 3.10. Map of proximate deforestation drivers in Africa:** The map shows the distribution of proximate deforestation drivers in Africa. The different sized and colored quantities within each hexagons interior shows the relative tree cover loss by a proximate deforestation driver. Scaling of a the hexagons is only intended for improving visual appeal.

### 3.1.4. Accuracy assessment



This section presents and discusses the accuracy assessment of the PDDs mapping, while the table 3.5 shows the results of this assessment. We performed an accuracy assessment for 6000 randomly drawn samples over the entire study scale. We stratified our study region by continents and selected 10 sampling tiles per strata. From each tile we selected by random 200 LC transition locations. By using high resolution imagery from Google Maps we created a set of ground-truth labels, which refers to the reference section in table 3.5. From the 6000 samples cultivated land (10), forest (20), regrowth (25), grassland (30), shrubland (40), wetland (50), water (60), artificial surfaces (80) and bareland (90) account for 14.5%, 18.2%, 26.8%, 30.5%, 7.3%, 1.2%, 0.5%, 0.8%, and 0.1% of the samples, respectively. This corresponds to the relative distribution of the PDDs in table C.1 in the appendix C. In total 4560 of 6000 LC transitions are correctly classified by our approach to map the PDDs of tropical deforestation. This translates to an overall accuracy of approximately 0.76, which implies that approximately 76% of the forest loss is correctly classified. For the classification of tree cover losses as cultivated land the producers and users accuracy account for 0.85 and 0.84, respectively. Therefore, this class has the highest accuracy and a tendency for overestimation or underestimation is not give. For the regrowth class producers and users accuracy account for 0.88 and 0.72, respectively. This shows that regrowth is slightly overestimated, while this

class was introduced by the GFC gain layer. Section 2.1.1 explains that tree cover gains are underestimated but these underestimates are captured by the forest class. For the grassland class producers and users accuracy account for 0.77 and 0.80, respectively. In general this class show no tendencies of overestimates or underestimates. The transformation of forests to artificial surfaces is largely underestimated as the difference of producers and users accuracy, which account for 0.42 and 0.82 show. This could be attributed to our reclassification approach. Further, the bareland class is underestimated as well, which could be attributed to the reclassification approach. The wetland class achieves an accuracy of 0.51, while the users accuracy highlights that this class is underestimated. Wetlands are highly dynamic ecosystems. Therefore, for this class it is to expect that the accuracy is lower. For water bodies the producers and users accuracy account for 0.67 and 0.68, which shows no general tendency of underestimation or overestimation. For the shrubland class the producers and users accuracy account for 0.71 and 0.81, while this shows that this class is underestimated. As beforehand mentioned the reclassification approach could lead to this effect. The reclassification tends to favor class with a higher probability, which is explained in detail in the discussion.

**Table 3.5. Accuracy assessment:** We selected 200 samples by random from 10 randomly selected tiles from the three sampling stratas Latin America, Asia/Australia and Africa. Labels refer to our proximate deforestation driver classes, which are detailed in section 2.2.2.2. Reference refers to the samples we classified by visual interpretation of Google Maps high resolution imagery and predictions refer to the label the sample has in our proximate driver product. The abbreviations PAc, UAc, OvAc, Com, Om, Tot, and Kappa refer to the terms Producers-Accuracy, Users-Accuracy, Overall-Accuracy, Error of Commission, Error of Omission, row or column total, and Kappa Coefficient.

		Reference											
	Cls	10	20	25	30	40	50	60	80	90	Tot	UAc	Om
Prediction	10	730	37	62	15	16	2	3	5	0	870	.84	.16
	20	41	744	56	189	31	12	0	15	4	1092	.68	.32
	25	29	202	1155	172	22	10	5	11	4	1610	.72	.28
	30	36	187	32	1466	73	21	0	17	0	1832	.80	.20
	40	14	21	4	41	352	1	1	2	1	437	.81	.19
	50	0	5	3	10	4	50	0	1	0	73	.68	.32
	60	2	1	0	3	0	2	18	2	0	28	.64	.36
	80	3	3	0	1	1	1	0	40	0	49	.82	.18
	90	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	9	.56	.44
	Tot	855	1200	1312	1898	499	99	27	96	14	6000		
	PAC	.85	.62	.88	.77	.71	.51	.67	.42	.36	Kappa		OvAc
	Com	.15	.38	.12	.23	.29	.49	.33	.58	.64	.69		.76

## 3.2. Carbon losses

On global scale the removal of AGB account for a gross carbon loss of approximately 12964 MtC between 2001-2010 (table 3.6). Achard et al. [2014] estimates that the gross carbon



loss from tropical deforestation is between 6020-12370 MtC for the same period. The gross carbon loss by soil organic carbon change is between 478-688 MtC if we assume that all deforestation occurs within primary forest (SC<sub>1</sub>). For the second scenario (SC<sub>2</sub>) we estimated a carbon loss between 226-378 MtC. The carbon loss by SOC change would add 1.7-5.3% MtC to the gross carbon loss of tropical deforestation. In Latin America the gross carbon loss account for approximately 6144 MtC for the removal of AGB by tropical tree cover loss (table 3.6). Achard et al. [2014] estimates that the gross carbon loss is between 3226-6497 MtC for the period 2001-2010, while Sy et al. [2015] measures a carbon loss in magnitude between 5959-6961 MtC between 1990-2005. The comparison with our estimates shows, that our results not largely differ from the literature although the methodology differs. By applying the first scenario carbon losses by SOC change account for 259 ( $\pm 44$ ) MtC, while for the second scenario the carbon losses account for 165 ( $\pm 44$ ) MtC, respectively. Therefore, SOC change adds between 2-4.9% MtC to the gross carbon loss from tropical deforestation. For Asia/Australia the removal of AGB accounts for a gross carbon loss of approximately 3955 Mt C (table 3.6), while [Achard et al. 2014] estimates a carbon loss between 2355-3670 MtC for the period 2001-2010. If we assume, that the entire deforestation occurred in primary forest carbon loss by SOC change would account for roughly 220 ( $\pm 43$ ) MtC, while carbon loss account for 76 ( $\pm 16$ ) MtC if we distinguish between deforestation of primary and secondary forest. Carbon loss by SOC change adds 1.5-6.6% MtC to the gross carbon loss in Asia/Australia. In Africa the gross carbon loss account for approximately 2865 MtC. [Achard et al. 2014] measures a carbon loss between 430-2220 MtC for the period 2001-2010. For the first scenario carbon loss by SOC change account for 104 ( $\pm 18$ ) MtC, while carbon loss account for 61 ( $\pm 16$ ) MtC for the second scenario. This would add approximately 1.6-4.3% MtC to the gross carbon loss.

**Table 3.6. Carbon losses:** Carbon losses by the removal of aboveground woody biomass and soil organic carbon change. The columns SC<sub>1</sub> and SC<sub>2</sub> refer to the gross carbon loss by soil organic carbon change, while the column AGB refers to carbon loss by biomass removal. The unit of the values is MtC and standard errors are given in brackets.

Region	SC <sub>1</sub>	SC <sub>2</sub>	AGB
Latin America	259 ( $\pm 44$ )	165 ( $\pm 44$ )	6144
Asia/Australia	220 ( $\pm 43$ )	76 ( $\pm 16$ )	3955
Africa	104 ( $\pm 18$ )	61 ( $\pm 16$ )	2865
Global	583 ( $\pm 105$ )	302 ( $\pm 76$ )	12964

### 3.3. Ecosystem service values



On a global scale between 2001 and 2010 a tree cover loss of approximately 772 thousand km<sup>2</sup> accounts for a ESV loss of 414.1 (Co), 405.2 (Dg), and 101.1 (Wb) billion dollar per



year as table 3.7 shows. By applying the ESV unit value for tropical forest from Costanza et al. [2014] the expansion of cropland and pastures account for a loss of approximately 95.3 and 128 billion dollar per year, respectively. The transition of forest cover to artificial surfaces and regrowth dynamics account for 2.3 and 124 billion dollar per year. If we consider the monetary value of tropical forest from Siikamaki et al. [2015] cropland, grassland, artificial surfaces, and regrowth dynamics account for a loss of approximately 23.2, 46.7, 0.5, and 30.2 billion dollar per year, respectively. The gross gain in ESV from LC transitions of tropical forest cover accounts for 350.6, 208.7, and 31.0 billion dollar per year for the three datasets. By using the unit values of the first dataset cropland, pastures, artificial surfaces, and regrowth dynamics account for a gain of 98.5, 120.6, 2.4, and 124.1 billion dollar per year, respectively. If we consider de Groot et al. [2012] unit values grassland and regrowth account for a gain of 83 and 121 billion dollar per year, while regrowth dynamics account for a gain of approximately 31 billion dollar for the last dataset. On global scale the net balance of tropical forest change account for -63.5, -196, and -70.1 billion dollar per year for the three datasets Co, Dg, and Wb, respectively. The greatest net loss can be observed by applying de Groot et al. ESV coefficients which could be mainly attributed to the small number of PDDs classes which correspond to a valued ESV biome. The relative small net loss in ESV by using the coefficients from the first dataset is attributed on the fact that approximately a fifth of the global tree cover is lost by the expansion of cropland. Costanza et al. estimates  $5567 \text{ Int'I\$ y}^{-1}$  as the ESV for cropland which is 1.03 times greater than the ESV of tropical forest. Further, nearly a quarter of tropical forest cover is exposed to regrowth dynamics which uses the equivalent ESV as tropical tree cover. Therefore, approximately a half of the tropical forest loss is replaced by LC which has a greater or equal ESV than the ESV of tropical forest. For the period 2000 till 2012 Song [2018] estimates that the net loss of tropical forest cover accounts for a ESV loss of 550.7 billion dollar per year. The difference between our ESV loss can be attributed to discrepancies in LC change estimates, forest definition, and temporal resolution. Song considered the tree cover loss in all canopy densities and used for his net loss estimate tree cover gains within former forested area and the establishment of new tree cover. Further, Costanza et al. [2014] estimates that tropical forest loss account for a ESV loss of 3.5 trillion dollar per year between 1997 and 2011. The large differences can be attributed to forest loss area estimates and the time scale of the study.

In Latin America a forest loss of approximately 396 thousand  $\text{km}^2$  accounts for 208.3 (Co), 204 (Dg), or 51 (Wb) billion 2007 Int'I\\$  $\text{y}^{-1}$  of ESV loss as table 3.7 suggests. By applying the Costanza et al. [2014] unit value for tropical forest the transition of tree cover to cropland accounts for a loss of 51 billion Int'I\\$  $\text{y}^{-1}$ , while transitions to pastures account for a loss of approximately 126 billion dollar per year. The tropical deforestation by the expansion of artificial and bareland surfaces account for a loss of 1 billion Int'I\\$  $\text{y}^{-1}$ , while regrowth

**Table 3.7. Ecosystem service value balance:** The dataset column refers to the three global ecosystem service value datasets by Costanza et al. [2014] (Co), de Groot et al. [2012] (Dg), and Siikamaki et al. [2015] (Wb). Loss refers to the monetary value of tropical forest deforested by the following aggregated anthropogenic proximate deforestation drivers: cropland, grassland, regrowth, shrubland, artificial surfaces, and bareland. Gain is the monetary value of the land cover transition and balance is difference of gain and loss. Monetary unit of the ecosystem service values is  $10^9$  2007 Int'l\$  $y^{-1}$  (billion international dollar 2007 per year).

Dataset	Latin America	Asia/Australia	Africa	Global
$Co_{loss}$	208.3	111.6	94.2	414.1
$Co_{gain}$	161.0	109.1	80.6	350.6
$Co_{balance}$	-47.3	-2.5	-13.6	-63.5
$Dg_{loss}$	204.0	109.1	92.1	405.2
$Dg_{gain}$	82.5	83.1	43.1	208.7
$Dg_{balance}$	-121.5	-26.0	-49.0	-196.5
$Wb_{loss}$	51.0	27.2	22.9	101.1
$Wb_{gain}$	7.3	19.4	4.3	31.0
$Wb_{balance}$	-43.7	-7.8	-18.6	-70.1

dynamics convert to a loss of 30 billion dollar. By using the monetary value of tropical forest from Siikamaki et al. [2015] the transitions to cropland and pastures costs 12.6 and 30.6 billion dollar, respectively. Further, the aggregated urbanization and bareland transition accounts for 0.3 billion dollar per year, while regrowth dynamics account for 7.5 billion international dollar per year. The variability in the estimates is related to the difference of monetary value for tropical forest between both datasets. Costanza et al. monetary prediction for tropical forest is approximately 4 times greater than Siikamaki et al.. We estimated a gross monetary gain of 161 billion dollar per year for the Co dataset. The table 2.8 in section 2.2.4 suggests that we calculated the monetary gain from LC transitions to cropland, grassland, artificial surfaces, and regrowth which account for 53.4, 76.6, 1, and 30.6 billion dollar per year, respectively. By applying de Groot et al. [2012] ESV estimates the gross gain from LC transitions account for 82.5 billion dollar per year. This converts to a monetary gain from grassland and regrowth transitions of approximately 52.8 and 29.9 billion dollar. The last dataset we tested enabled us to compute only the ESV gain from tree cover regrowth which accounts for a monetary gain of 7.3 billion dollar per year, respectively. In Latin America the net balance of ESV changes account for -47.3, -121.5, and -43.7 billion dollar for Co, Dg, and Wb, respectively. The negative signs indicates that overall three datasets we could observe a net loss of ESV in Latin America for the time period 2001 till 2010. The highest net loss can be observed for the Dg dataset but this relate to the small number of LC transitions covered by a valuation.

For our study period in Asia/Australia the tree cover loss of approximately 230 thousand  $km^2$  accounts for an ESV loss of 111.6 (Co), 109.1 (Dg), or 27.2 (Wb) billion dollar per year for the three datasets as table 3.7 shows. The first dataset predicts that forest cover transitions to cultivated- and grassland account for a loss of 19.8 and 9.8 billion dollar per

year, respectively. Further, the expansion of artificial surfaces account for a loss of 0.5 billion dollar, while the regrowth dynamics account for a loss of approximately 75.7 billion dollar per year. By applying the monetary ESV estimate for tropical forest of Siikamaki et al. [2015] cropland and pastures account for a loss of 4.8 and 2.4 billion dollar per year, respectively. The transition of forest cover to artificial surfaces account for 0.2 billion dollar, while regrowth dynamics account for 18.4 billion dollar. In regards of ESV gain dynamics and by applying the first dataset cropland and pastures account for a monetary gain of 20.5 and 6.8 billion dollar per year, respectively. Further LC transitions to regrowth and artificial surfaces account for a gain of 75.7 and 0.5 billion dollar. By considering de Groot et al. [2012] estimates grassland and regrowth account for a gain of approximately 4.6 and 74 billion dollar per year, respectively. By applying the last dataset in table 3.7 regrowth account for a gain of 19.4 billion dollar per year. In summary by applying the three datasets we estimated a ESV gain of 80.6, 43.1, and 4.3 billion dollar per year, respectively. In regards of the net ESV balance in Asia/Australia the three datasets account for a net loss of -2.5, -26, and -7.8 billion dollar per year, respectively. The low net losses can be explained by the high share of regrowth for this region. In Asia/Australia the high share of regrowth could be the establishment of plantations or the rotational cycle as management practice of existing plantations as explained in the section 3.1.3 on PDDs. It is to assume that if we would use for regrowth the monetary value of cultivated land from the first dataset the net balance could have a positive sign.

For Africa the table 3.7 shows that a tree cover loss of approximately 177 km<sup>2</sup> account for a ESV loss of 94.2 (Co), 92.1 (Dg), and 22.9 (Wb) billion dollar per year for the three datasets, respectively. For the first dataset tree cover losses by cultivated- and grassland expansion convert to a loss of 23.7 and 51.5 billion dollar, while the expansion of artificial surfaces account for 0.7 billion dollar. In Africa regrowth dynamics are responsible for a loss of approximately 17.7 billion dollar per year. By applying the monetary value for tropical forest of Siikamaki et al. [2015] cropland and pasture expansion account for a loss if 5.8 and 12.7 billion dollar per year, respectively. The transition to artificial surfaces account for 0.2 billion dollar, while regrowth dynamics account for a loss of 4.3 billion dollar. The monetary gain by LC transitions account for 80.6, 43.1, and 4.3 billion dollar per year, respectively. For the Co-dataset the forest transition to cropland, pastures, artificial surfaces, and regrowth dynamics account for 24.6, 37.2, 0.8, and 17.7 billion dollar of the total ESV gain. By applying the second dataset grassland and regrowth dynamics account for a gain of 25.6 and 17.4 billion dollar, while the last dataset estimates a gain of approximately 4.3 billion dollar for regrowth dynamics. In Africa the net balance is negative and account for a net loss of -13.6 (Co), -49 (Dg), and -18.6 (Wb) billion dollar overall datasets.

The highest ESV losses can be observed in Latin America followed by Asia/Australia and Africa. This ESV loss dynamic is mainly attributed to the large area deforested in Latin



America. If we normalize the Co ESV gain by dividing the gross gain by the assumed cumulative anthropogenic deforestation the normalized gain account for 414, 553, and 462 thousand Int’I\$  $y^{-1} km^{-2}$  for Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa, respectively. Therefore, the highest ESV gain per deforested  $km^2$  of tropical forest can be observed in Asia/Australia followed by Africa, while Latin America has the lowest ESV gain per  $km^2$ . This can be attributed to the large share of regrowth dynamics in Asia/Australia. In Africa the ESV gain is mainly driven by large share of agricultural transitions and regrowth dynamics. The ESV net losses are smallest in Asia/Australia followed by Africa, while Latin America has the greatest net losses. Differences in ESV estimates between the datasets of Costanza et al. [2014], de Groot et al. [2012], and Siikamaki et al. [2015] are mainly attributed to the completeness of biomes represented and the valuation. For ESV loss estimates of tropical forest the difference between Co and Dg is marginal, while the completeness of the Co dataset outranks the Dg coefficients.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Proximate deforestation drivers

Based on our first research question we developed an approach to scrutinize spatially explicit the PDDs of tropical forest cover loss for the period 2001 till 2010. We relayed for the mapping of deforestation causes on the most recent LC datasets GL30 and GFC. To successfully extract the PDDs from both products we harmonized the forest definition between them, derived tree cover and deforestation patterns, determined the magnitudes of different PDDs, and performed an accuracy assessment. In this section we will discuss each mentioned sub-objective separately by starting with the tree cover harmonization. After, we discuss the deforestation patterns followed by the mapping of PDDs. Finally, we will discuss the accuracy assessment.

To harmonize the forest definition of the GL30 and GFC dataset we developed a procedure based on JI and statistical testing. By applying this approach we determined that the tree cover agreement between both strata is at its maximum within the canopy density interval  $(10, 100]$ . At the global scale the tree cover agreement is approximately 65% in median. We tested four different canopy density classes and excluded 10% incremental per experiment group. However, we did not tested if a smaller steps size could yield differing results. Further, the upper canopy density threshold is 30%. Therefore, we did not tested if the result changes if we exclude data with a denser canopy. However, it is not likely that canopy densities above 30% lead to a increased agreement, due to the upper threshold of the GL30 dataset. Further, we tested the tree cover agreement for the three continental regions Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa. Latin America and Asia/Australia have the highest agreement, in median 70% and 80% at a canopy density interval of  $(10, 100]$ . For Africa the agreement achieves only 40% at a canopy density interval of  $(10, 100]$ . The low tree cover agreement could be attributed to the tendency could be attributed to the tendency of the GFC dataset to overestimate the canopy density for sparse woodland and figure 3.6 shows that a large area is covered by sparse woodland in Africa [Gross et al. 2017]. Our results show, that the tree cover detection for Africa must be improved and validated. The most remote sensing technologies perform good at homogeneous LC types but fail to produces reliable results if the LC type gets inhomogeneous. In regards to our methodology, the JI have been

criticized in scientific literature as metric to evaluate the accuracy of remotely sensed data [Li et al. 2017a]. The critics are focused on the category focus of this index. It combines true positives (agreement), users and producers accuracy, while it omits true negatives (disagreement). Therefore, this metric puts a large weight on agreement. Li et al. argues that the mixing of producers and users accuracy obscure the information and overall accuracy, which weights true positives and true negatives equally is the preferable metric. However, this critic is derived from the application of the JI for multi class remote sensing, while we use it for the accuracy assessment of a binary classification (forest and non-forest). A example shows the better performance of the JI to scrutinize the agreement of two datasets in comparison to the overall accuracy: if true positives (agreement) and true negatives (disagreement) are equal sized and false negatives (producers accuracy), and false positives (users accuracy) are zero both indexes equal to 1; if all properties (tp, tn, fn, fp) are equal sized the overall accuracy is 0.5, while the JI is 0.33, if the agreement is zero and disagreement is some quantity the overall accuracy is 1 and JI is 0. Therefore, if a metric is required to determine the agreement accuracy the JI is the better choice. However, our method could be useful for other studies, that try to compare different tree cover datasets on its performance to predict forest cover. Till now several studies scrutinized the agreement of regional forest resource assessment with the global tree cover dataset GFC [Sannier et al. 2016; McRoberts et al. 2016; Gross et al. 2017]. If there is a general agreement between regional and global assessments, than this regions could improve carbon emissions reporting and monitoring of nature conservation progress without the large effort of national remote sensing programs. For Gabon Sannier et al. questioned at which canopy density the GFC dataset matches with the national forest inventory. They performed a accuracy assessment by considering different canopy densities but relayed on visual inspection for the selection of canopy density experiment groups. By applying our approach the selection could be automatized and future studies would gain an improved reasoning.

We scrutinized the tropical tree cover and deforestation patterns on regional, continental, and regional level. For the period 2001-2010 the global anthropogenic deforestation account for a tree cover loss of approximately 760314.7 km<sup>2</sup> on the global scale, while deforestation account for an area of approximately 388907 km<sup>2</sup>, 196851 km<sup>2</sup>, and 174555 km<sup>2</sup> in Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa, respectively. We applied our hexagonal binning to identify deforestation hot-spots for the three continental levels Latin America, Asia/Australia, and Africa. In Latin America the hot-spots are concentrated in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia. For Asia/Australia our analysis revealed that deforestation hot-spots are located in Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Laos. In Africa hot-spots are located in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, and at the Ivory Coast. We compared our results with the literature, which showed similar results 3.1.2.

We analyzed the spatial patterns and magnitude of PDDs of tropical tree cover at a regional, continental, and global scale between 2001-2010. Globally, the expansion of agricultural surfaces account for roughly 79.7% (cropland, pastures, and regrowth aggregated as Geist and Lambin [2001] suggests) of the tree cover loss. Natural changes which corresponds to the class wetland and water account for 1.8% of the forest loss, while the expansion of artificial surfaces account for 0.4% of the deforestation. Further, approximately 18.4% of the the forest loss can be attributed to other causes like bareland or shrubland. A rigorous comparison of our results with other global estimates from literature is complex because the methodology, time periods, extent, and classification schema differ largely. For 2000-2010 Hosonuma et al. [2012] estimates that agriculture, mining, infrastructure, and urbanization account for approximately 82%, 8%, 8%, and 2% of the tree cover loss in 100 tropical and subtropical countries. Our estimate of agricultural expansion corresponds to Hosonuma et al.. For the entire global forest Curtis et al. [2018] estimates that commodity-driven deforestation, shifting agriculture, forestry, wildfires, and urbanization account for 25%, 21%, 31%, 22%, <1% of the tree cover loss for the period 2001-2015. The estimates of this study can only compared in regards to urbanization, where we get the same results. Our study shows, that agriculture is the largest deforestation driver but a continental analysis is required to derive more detailed results. In Latin America the most dominant cause for deforestation is the expansion of pastures, which accounts for 40.8% of the forest loss. For 1990-2005 Sy et al. [2015] estimates that roughly 71.2% of the forest loss can be attributed to pasture expansion in South America. The large difference to our study can be attributed to the time frame and methodology. In our study pasture expansion dominated the forest transitions at the deforestation hot-spots in Brazil, Colombia, and Guatemala. Deforestation hot-spots located in Paraguay, Argentina, and Bolivia are prevailed by cropland expansion. In Asia/Australia the major PDD are regrowth dynamics, which account for 61.2% of the forest loss respectively. This large quantity of regrowth dynamics can be attributed to the large area covered by tree crops in Asia especially in Malaysia and Indonesia [Corley and Tinker 2016; Austin et al. 2019]. The deforestation hot-spots in Indonesia and Malaysia are dominated by regrowth dynamics, which could be the establishment of new tree crops or the rotational cycle as management practice. In Laos and Vietnam cropland conversion are the dominant cause of forest loss at the hot-spots. For Africa the major PDD is the expansion of pastures, which accounts for 46% of the tree cover loss. On country level the causes of deforestation are varying largely, while Curtis et al. [2018] estimates that 92% of the tree cover loss can be attributed to shifting agriculture in Africa. However, our results and several regional focused studies show that relevant deforestation for stable LC transitions occur [Ruf et al. 2014; Kideghesho 2015; Barima et al. 2016; Folefack et al. 2019]. At the Ivory Coast the deforestation hot-spots are dominated by cropland and regrowth dynamics, while in DR Congo the hot-spots are exposed to pasture expansion. In Angola the expansion of cropland is the major PDD at the deforestation hot-spots, while Mozambique's and Tanzania's deforestation hot-spots are



exposed to cropland and grassland expansion. For Madagascar we observed large regrowth dynamics, which could be attributed to shifting agriculture. The described dynamics at the deforestation hot-spots are largely confirmed by the literature as section 3.1.3 describes. Our analysis show that the types of agriculture causes of deforestation differ between the continental regions. Our method is promising candidate for a quick evaluation of PDDs on different ranges. However, for a generous evaluation of the results secondary literature of data is required to deduce more specific dynamics of deforestation. Further, this approach can not explain more complex proximate deforestation dynamics like the degradation of forest cover by fuelwood collection and logging followed by transitions to cropland, which is a common dynamic in Africa [Geist and Lambin 2001; Cabral et al. 2011]. A major advantage of our method is, that a long support cycle is scheduled for the two datasets GL30 and GFC. For the latter dataset a new version is released each annum. The next version of the GL30 dataset should target the global LC at the year 2015, and it is in discussion to release it on a regularly basis [Chen et al. 2017]. Further, it is in discussion to increase the class size for the next release of the dataset. Therefore, long term studies on PDDs dynamics with a better class resolution are possible in future. Further, to derive spatial patterns of PDDs and to present the results we developed our own visualization approach, a hexa-pie-chart choropleth cartogram. This approach can present multi-variate data in a comprehensive and reasonable manner as the maps in section 3.1.3 show. However, improvements for our approach could be: modification of the pie-chart split algorithm and the representation of ratios as a pieces of the hexagon. In case of the split algorithm an enhancement could be the method described by Skala [1994]. A modified version of the method based on parametric separation functions could be used to generalize the pie-chart generation for the entire set of convex polygons. In case of enhancing the representation of ratios as a pieces of the hexagon: Now, we determine the piece size as a ratio of the y-range but hexagons have not a equal area under its curve at each point of y like quadrilaterals. To enhance this a scaling approach could be used, where we draw within the hexagon interior a new polygon scaled down by a ratio.

To scrutinize how reliable our results are we performed an accuracy assessment for our PDDs mapping product derived from the GL30 and GFC dataset. Our mapping product has an overall accuracy of approximately 75%, while the most accurate classes in terms of producers accuracy are cropland, regrowth, grassland, and shrubland (producers accuracy ranges between 71% and 81%). For the remaining LC classes forest, wetland, water, artificial, and bareland the producers accuracy ranges between 36% and 67%. The low accuracy within this classes can be attributed to our reclassification approach. The approach favors classes which are more frequent over the entire dataset for the reclassification. This can be explained by probability theory: if the algorithm constructs the buffer around a cluster of misclassified pixels the most dominant LC classes are more likely to appear within the buffer. The reclassification should be modified to nearest neighbor approach, where the reassignment is determined

by the nearest neighboring cluster of a LC class. Further, the accuracy assessment should be repeated by applying the approach described by Olofsson et al. [2014]. By applying this we would gain for each PDDs class a uncertainty assessment for the derived area estimates. This would be an improvement for the computation of derived features like the ESV and emission estimates. However, the accuracy assessment was performed by the author but for this kind of assessments it is pivotal that it is executed by independent experts.

## 4.2. Carbon losses

- We analyzed the gross carbon loss from the removal of biomass and soil organic carbon change caused by tropical deforestation between 2001-2010.
- On a global scale AGB removal accounts for a carbon loss of approximately 12964 MtC.
- Dependent on the selected deforestation scenario the gross carbon loss accounts for 583 ( $\pm 105$ ) or 302 ( $\pm 76$ ) by soil organic carbon change, respectively.
- The magnitude of our agb removal carbon estimates are in line with the literature [Achard et al. 2014; Sy et al. 2015]
- Due to the lack of global soil organic carbon change studies we can not compare our estimates with the literature.

## 4.3. Ecosystem service values

The last research objective is to estimate the magnitudes of the ecosystem ESV dynamics of tropical forest cover change. We relayed on our PDDs mapping product to analyze the ESV dynamics on a global and continental level by using benefit transfer. We derived the ESV unit value for different biomes from three different commonly used datasets: Costanza et al. [2014] (Co), de Groot et al. [2012] (Dg), and Siikamaki et al. [2015] (Wb). Tropical tree cover loss between 2001-2010 account for an ESV loss of 414.1 (Co), 402.2 (Dg), or 101.1 (Wb) billion dollar per year for the three datasets, respectively. Song [2018] estimates by applying Co's unit values that tropical tree cover loss accounts for a loss of 550.7 billion dollar per year on a global range. The difference from our estimate can be attributed to variations in the usage of the GFC dataset. For the study ESV loss is computed by considering tree cover loss within the entire canopy density range. Latin America has the largest loss of ESV by tropical deforestation followed by Asia/Australia and Africa. This can be attributed

to the large deforestation in Latin America between 2001 and 2010. In regards of differences between the ESV estimates of the three datasets. The unit values of de Groot et al. [2012] related to the same database as the Costanza et al. [2014] values only form an earlier state. Therefore, this unit values can be replaced by the Costanza et al. [2014] dataset. The Co dataset cover the most biomes and is to favor if ESV dynamics are scrutinized for a wide variety of LC types. The dataset of Siikamaki et al. [2015] has the smallest unit value for forest but it provides for each country a distinct estimate. The difference of the unit value for forest between Co and Wb can be attributed to the valuation of ecosystem services and the considered number of sub-services. Therefore, both estimates prepared by both datasets are not comparable. The ESV net loss account for -47.3 (Co), -121.5 (Dg), or -43.7 (Wb) billion dollar per year on a global range. In Asia/Australia the smallest net loss is noticed followed by Africa and Latin America. The difference is related to LC transition patterns and total forest loss. In Asia/Australia most of the forest loss is driven by regrowth dynamics, while the total forest loss is smallest in Africa. To best of our knowledge no estimates for ESV dynamics by PDDs are provided in literature for a generous comparison with our study. However, the net loss estimates show that the ESV loss is by magnitudes smaller if we consider the transitions of forest land to other LC classes This reveals a fundamental problem of applying ESV unit values to LC change dynamics. If the entire forest cover would be replaced by cropland or artificial surfaces the net loss is positive, which deduces to a gain in ESV. Further, the coverage of different biomes by unit values is not diverse enough. In Asia/Australia and the other continents we had to use the unit value of tropical forest to compute the ESV value of regrowth. However, often regrowth is the establishment of tree crops or plantations, which not corresponds to the ESV of natural forests. Therefore, a greater variety of unit values is needed to cover different LC scenarios.

## 5. Conclusion

- Our study shows that agriculture is the largest deforestation driver in the tropical zone.
- Whereby the agricultural type differs for the continents.
- Further we developed an approach which build on readily available data.
- Our results show that it can be applicable to aggregate the already available datasets for scientific reasoning.
- This reduces the large effort for remote sensing on global scale if applied carefully.
- During this study we experimented with the tree cover agreement and developed a method to harmonize the tree cover agreement between datasets

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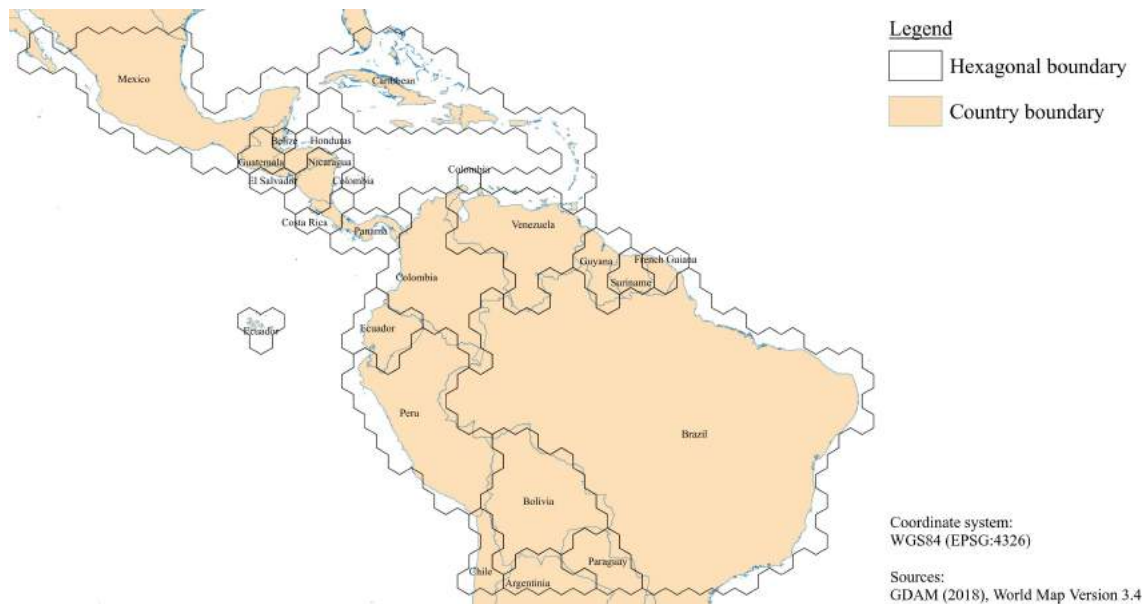
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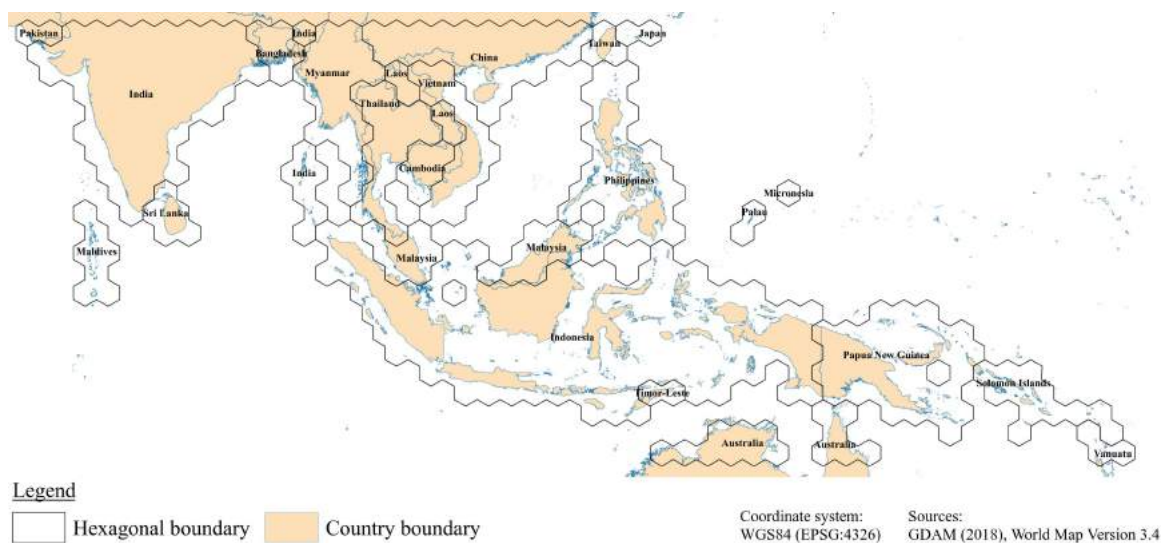
# List of Abbreviations

<b>AGB</b>	Aboveground live woody Biomass density
<b>AIMS</b>	Aligned Image Stack Mosaic
<b>API</b>	Application Programming Interface
<b>CRS</b>	Coordinate Reference System
<b>ESV</b>	Ecosystem Service Value
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GFC</b>	University of Maryland Global Forest Change
<b>GFW</b>	Global Forest Watch
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gases
<b>GL30</b>	GlobeLand30
<b>GSOCmap</b>	Global Soil Organic Carbon map
<b>GTiff</b>	Geo-Tiff
<b>IFL</b>	Intact Forest Landscapes
<b>JI</b>	Jaccard Index
<b>LC</b>	Land Cover
<b>LU</b>	Land use
<b>PDD</b>	Proximate Deforestation Driver
<b>SHP</b>	Shapefile
<b>SOC</b>	Soil Organic Carbon
<b>URL</b>	Uniform Resource Locator
<b>UTM</b>	Universal Transverse Mercator
<b>WGS84</b>	World Geodetic System 1984

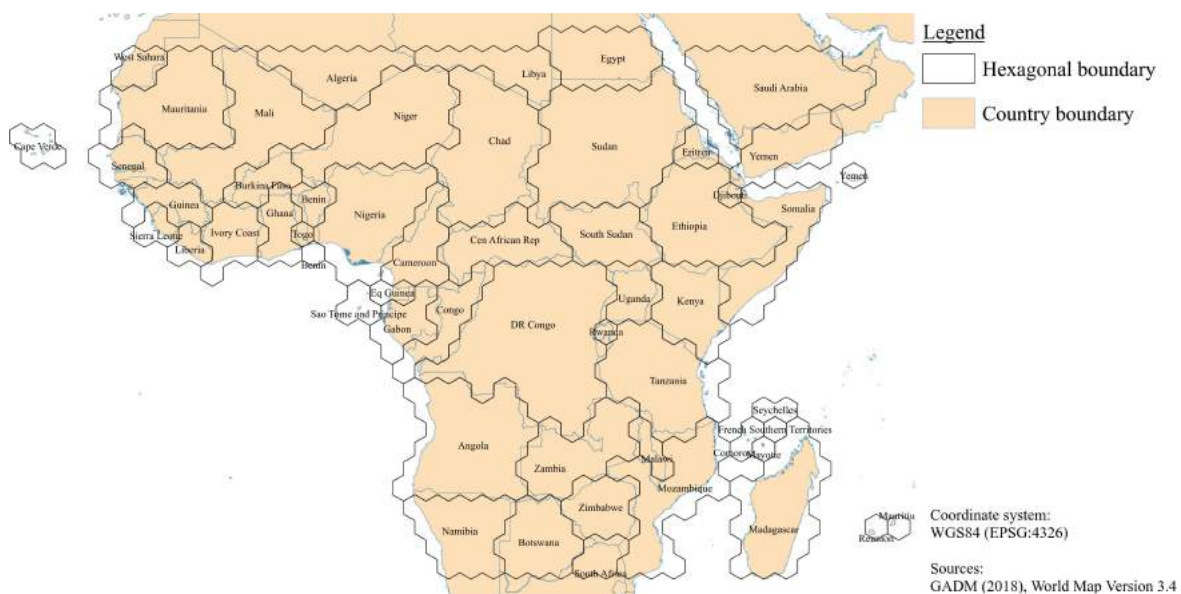
## A. Hexagonal country boundaries



**Figure A.1. Map of Latin America and its countries:** The map shows the hexagonal boundaries of Latin American countries, while the blue outlines highlight the administrative country boundaries in relation to the Global Administrative Areas layer.



**Figure A.2. Map of Asia/Australia and its countries:** The map shows the hexagonal boundaries of Asian/Australian countries, while the blue outlines highlight the administrative country boundaries in relation to the Global Administrative Areas layer.



**Figure A.3. Map of Africa and its countries:** The map shows the hexagonal boundaries of African countries, while the blue outlines highlight the administrative country boundaries in relation to the Global Administrative Areas layer.



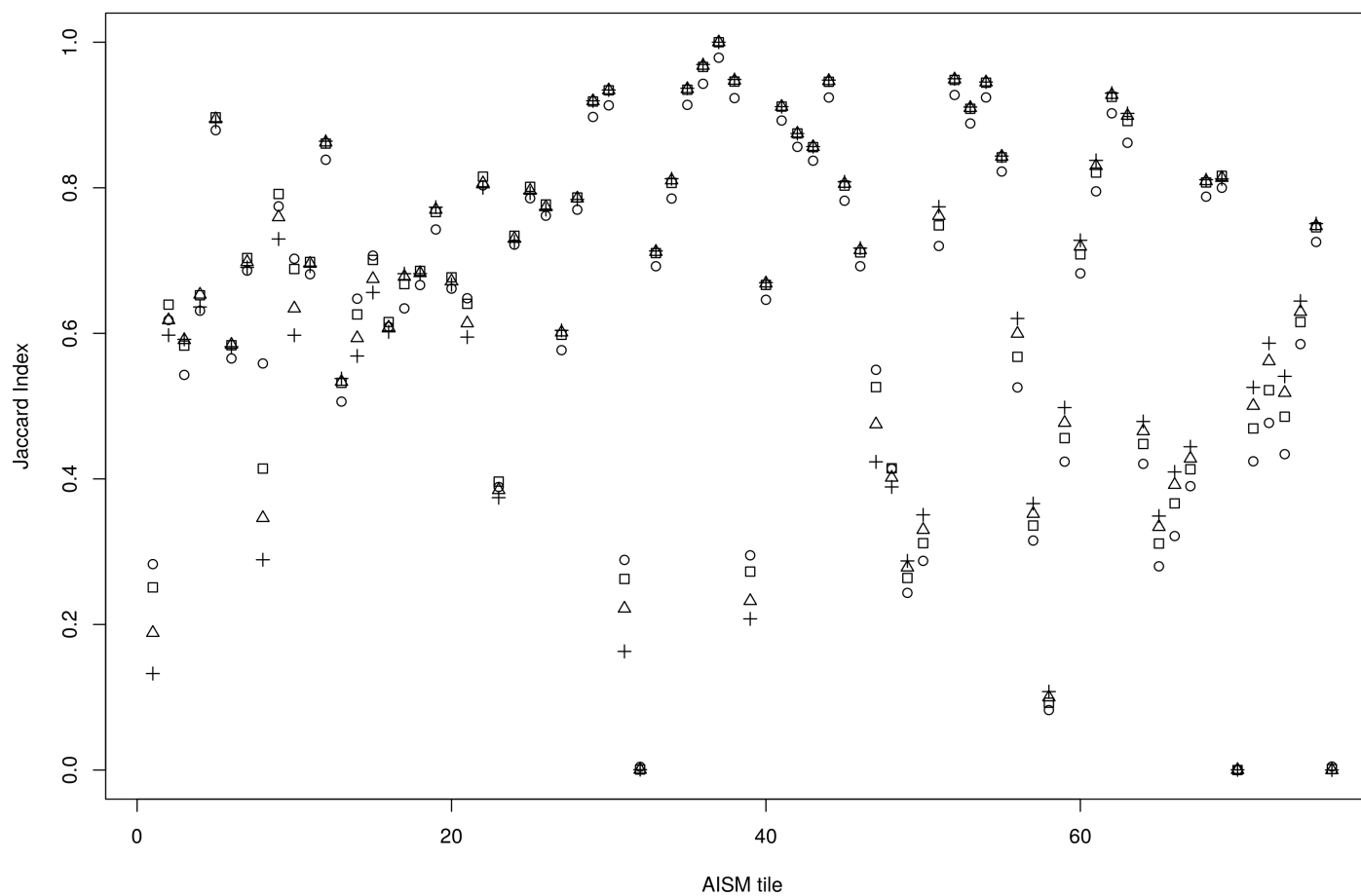
## B. Forest definition

**Table B.1. Comparison of tree cover agreement between regions:** This table shows, a comparison of tree cover agreement between regions. The classes  $Jl_0$ ,  $Jl_1$ ,  $Jl_2$ , and  $Jl_3$  as row and column headings account for the canopy density classes (0,100], (10,100], (20,100], and (30,100], respectively. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 = X_2$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $Jl_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $Jl_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.02$ , and  $p^{***} < 0.01$ . We applied a Benjamini and Hochberg correction for multiple-pairwise testing.

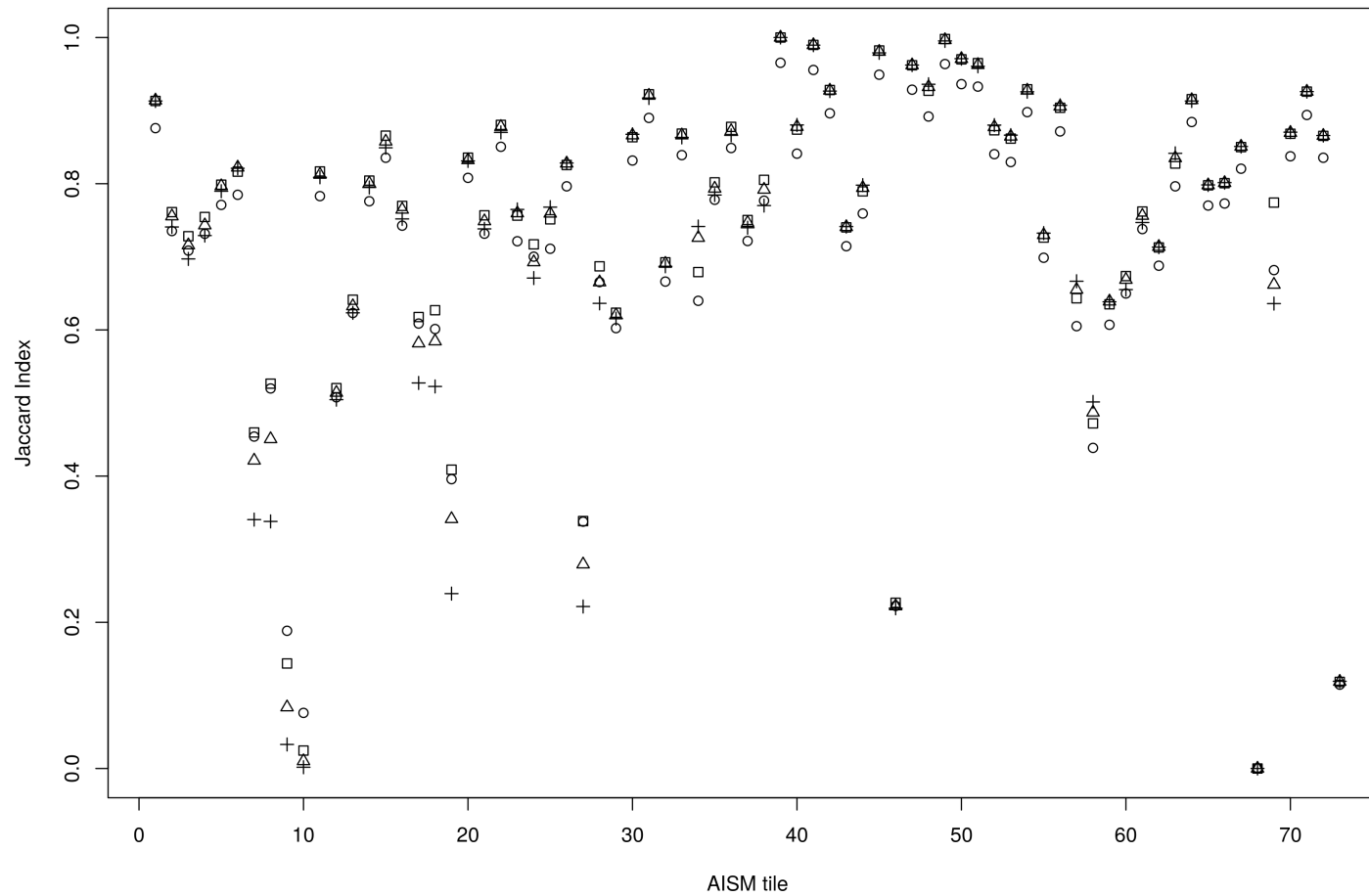
	Cls	Latin America				Asia/Australia			
		$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$
Asia	$Jl_0$	.04*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_1$	-	.04*	-	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_2$	-	-	.05*	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_3$	-	-	-	.07	-	-	-	-
Africa	$Jl_0$	.00***	-	-	-	.00***	-	-	-
	$Jl_1$	-	.00***	-	-	-	.00***	-	-
	$Jl_2$	-	-	.00***	-	-	-	.00***	-
	$Jl_3$	-	-	-	.00***	-	-	-	.00***

**Table B.2. Comparison of tree cover agreement between regions:** This table shows, a comparison of tree cover agreement between regions and the direction of differences. The classes  $Jl_0$ ,  $Jl_1$ ,  $Jl_2$ , and  $Jl_3$  as row and column headings account for the canopy density classes (0,100], (10,100], (20,100], and (30,100], respectively. The test hypothesis is  $H_0: X_1 \leq X_2$  where  $X_1$  is the column  $Jl_n$  class and  $X_2$  the row  $Jl_n$  class. The significance is indicated by  $p^* < 0.05$ ,  $p^{**} < 0.025$ ,  $p^{***} < 0.01$ , and  $p^\dagger < 0.005$ . We applied a Benjamini and Hochberg correction for multiple-pairwise testing.

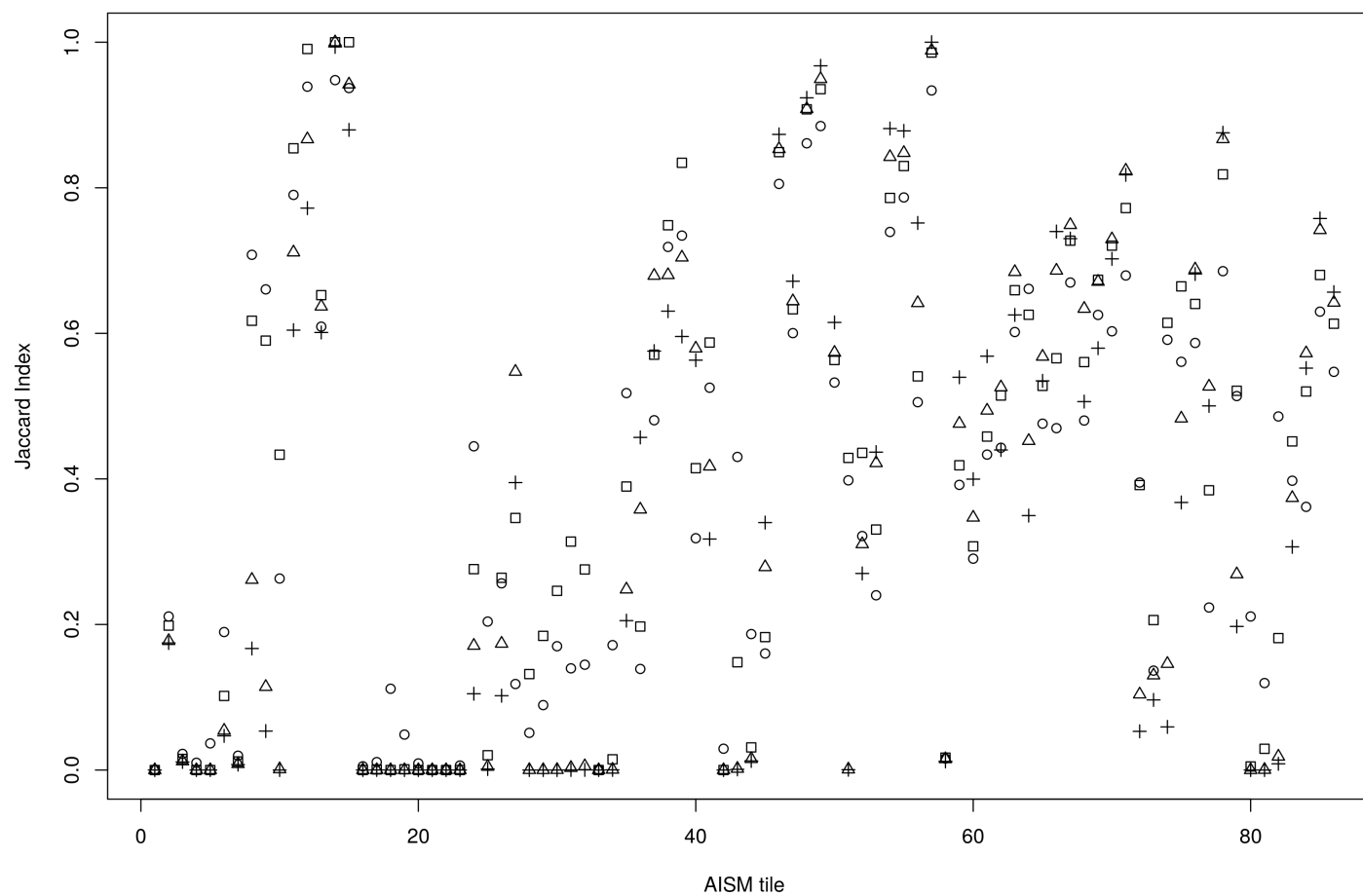
	Cls	Latin America				Asia/Australia			
		$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$	$Jl_0$	$Jl_1$	$Jl_2$	$Jl_3$
Asia/Aust.	$Jl_0$	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_1$	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_2$	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-
	$Jl_3$	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-
Africa	$Jl_0$	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-
	$Jl_1$	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-
	$Jl_2$	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-
	$Jl_3$	-	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>	-	-	-	.00 <sup>†</sup>



**Figure B.1. Jaccard Indexes for Latin American raster tiles:** For Latin America, this plot shows the derived tree cover agreement (Jaccard Index on the y-axis) per raster tile (x-axis) between the GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change tree cover dataset, while the circle symbols refer to  $JI_0$  (canopy density  $(0, 100]$ ), squares to  $JI_1$  (canopy density  $(10, 100]$ ), triangles to  $JI_2$  (canopy density  $(20, 100]$ ), and crosses to  $JI_3$  (canopy density  $(30, 100]$ ). The tiles are ordered from north to south.



**Figure B.2. Jaccard Indexes for Asian/Australian raster tiles:** For Asia/Australia, this plot shows the derived tree cover agreement (Jaccard Index on the y-axis) per raster tile (x-axis) between the GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change tree cover dataset, while the circle symbols refer to JI<sub>0</sub> (canopy density (0, 100]), squares to JI<sub>1</sub> (canopy density (10, 100]), triangles to JI<sub>2</sub> (canopy density (20, 100]), and crosses to JI<sub>3</sub> (canopy density (30, 100]). The tiles are ordered from north to south.



**Figure B.3. Jaccard Indexes for African raster tiles:** For Africa, this plot shows the derived tree cover agreement (Jaccard Index on the y-axis) per raster tile (x-axis) between the GlobeLand30 and Global Forest Change tree cover dataset, while the circle symbols refer to JI<sub>0</sub> (canopy density (0, 100]), squares to JI<sub>1</sub> (canopy density (10, 100]), triangles to JI<sub>2</sub> (canopy density (20, 100]), and crosses to JI<sub>3</sub> (canopy density (30, 100]). The tiles are ordered from north to south.

## C. Proximate deforestation drivers

**Table C.1. Proximate drivers of deforestation:** Relative and absolute magnitude of proximate deforestation drivers on country, continent, and global scale. Country\* refers to countries, which are not entirely covered. Absolute values are in km<sup>2</sup> followed by relative in brackets. The water class is an aggregate of wetland and water. Total is the cumulative of all classes, and Total<sup>†</sup> is the anthropogenic deforestation as the cumulative of cropland, regrowth, grassland, shrubland, artificial, and bareland.

Region	Cultivated	Forest	Regrowth	Grassland	Shrubland	Water	Artificial	Bareland	Total	Total <sup>†</sup>
Argentina	5733.9 (65.8%)	1380.6 (15.9%)	147.9 (1.7%)	461.8 (5.3%)	718.7 (8.3%)	230.8 (2.7%)	32.8 (0.4%)	2.0 (0.0%)	8708.5	7097.1
Bahamas	0.0 (0.0%)	3.3 (41.2%)	0.1 (1.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.3 (3.8%)	3.0 (37.5%)	1.3 (16.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8.0	1.7
Belize	212.2 (24.4%)	113.0 (13.0%)	155.5 (17.9%)	308.9 (35.6%)	54.5 (6.3%)	12.7 (1.5%)	11.1 (1.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	867.9	742.2
Bolivia	9288.2 (37.2%)	5106.4 (20.5%)	2428.1 (9.7%)	5581.0 (22.4%)	1825.1 (7.3%)	590.8 (2.4%)	108.3 (0.4%)	19.5 (0.1%)	24947.4	19250.2
Brazil*	56443.7 (19.1%)	16433.7 (5.6%)	34746.7 (11.8%)	146802.9 (49.7%)	35954.2 (12.2%)	3832.4 (1.3%)	738.8 (0.3%)	209.0 (0.1%)	295161.4	274895.3
Chile*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colombia	1297.9 (6.2%)	5272.3 (25.2%)	5177.2 (24.7%)	6995.9 (33.4%)	1593.1 (7.6%)	573.6 (2.7%)	26.0 (0.1%)	9.7 (0.0%)	20945.7	15099.8
Costa Rica	307.4 (21.2%)	536.8 (37.1%)	178.5 (12.3%)	397.4 (27.5%)	11.0 (0.8%)	7.0 (0.5%)	9.0 (0.6%)	0.1 (0.0%)	1447.2	903.4
Cuba	233.5 (17.6%)	499.9 (37.7%)	181.2 (13.7%)	330.4 (24.9%)	23.2 (1.8%)	35.2 (2.7%)	6.2 (0.5%)	15.7 (1.2%)	1325.3	790.2
Dominican Republic	81.6 (5.4%)	763.5 (50.5%)	122.2 (8.1%)	510.8 (33.8%)	2.9 (0.2%)	4.2 (0.3%)	13.3 (0.9%)	13.1 (0.9%)	1511.6	743.9
Ecuador	1143.9 (28.2%)	1163.7 (28.7%)	823.3 (20.3%)	735.7 (18.1%)	142.2 (3.5%)	34.7 (0.9%)	8.0 (0.2%)	6.3 (0.2%)	4057.8	2859.4
El Salvador	58.1 (11.6%)	28.2 (5.7%)	6.2 (1.2%)	390.9 (78.3%)	8.5 (1.7%)	1.6 (0.3%)	5.6 (1.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	499.1	469.3
French Guiana	46.9 (14.7%)	52.8 (16.5%)	100.0 (31.2%)	91.4 (28.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7.8 (2.4%)	20.6 (6.4%)	0.5 (0.2%)	320.0	259.4
Guatemala	1843.2 (23.9%)	1172.6 (15.2%)	924.2 (12.0%)	2974.9 (38.6%)	733.1 (9.5%)	21.2 (0.3%)	39.6 (0.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7708.8	6515.0
Guyana	22.1 (3.1%)	244.7 (34.3%)	274.7 (38.5%)	134.0 (18.8%)	10.1 (1.4%)	19.9 (2.8%)	8.3 (1.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	713.8	449.2
Haiti	8.3 (3.9%)	146.5 (69.3%)	13.9 (6.6%)	40.9 (19.3%)	0.1 (0.0%)	0.9 (0.4%)	0.2 (0.1%)	0.6 (0.3%)	211.4	64.0
Honduras	101.2 (2.5%)	1200.1 (30.0%)	487.9 (12.2%)	2050.5 (51.2%)	137.8 (3.4%)	20.4 (0.5%)	8.9 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	4006.8	2786.3
Jamaica	7.2 (2.8%)	127.7 (48.8%)	25.5 (9.7%)	82.4 (31.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1.9 (0.7%)	16.7 (6.4%)	0.3 (0.1%)	261.7	132.1
Mexico*	3267.8 (18.7%)	4857.8 (27.8%)	3763.8 (21.5%)	3950.6 (22.6%)	1169.5 (6.7%)	88.8 (0.5%)	373.4 (2.1%)	11.1 (0.1%)	17482.8	12536.2
Nicaragua	68.9 (0.9%)	3405.0 (45.9%)	1567.8 (21.2%)	2268.8 (30.6%)	78.3 (1.1%)	19.9 (0.3%)	2.5 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7411.2	3986.3
Panama	142.2 (6.3%)	619.7 (27.6%)	352.8 (15.7%)	1019.7 (45.5%)	70.8 (3.2%)	22.3 (1.0%)	13.5 (0.6%)	0.4 (0.0%)	2241.4	1599.4
Paraguay*	13718.0 (48.9%)	6383.0 (22.8%)	216.2 (0.8%)	2480.2 (8.8%)	5107.2 (18.2%)	118.8 (0.4%)	24.9 (0.1%)	1.2 (0.0%)	28049.5	21547.7
Peru	780.4 (6.6%)	2333.9 (19.8%)	3394.0 (28.8%)	2710.8 (23.0%)	1230.9 (10.4%)	1213.5 (10.3%)	27.8 (0.2%)	102.2 (0.9%)	11793.5	8246.1
Puerto Rico	4.1 (3.7%)	56.4 (50.5%)	10.2 (9.1%)	30.7 (27.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.4 (0.4%)	8.8 (7.9%)	1.0 (0.9%)	111.6	54.8
Suriname	36.7 (7.4%)	132.2 (26.8%)	167.5 (33.9%)	108.5 (22.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	40.8 (8.3%)	8.2 (1.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	493.9	320.9
Venezuela	1082.3 (10.2%)	2758.9 (26.1%)	1644.0 (15.5%)	3382.4 (32.0%)	1388.8 (13.1%)	267.4 (2.5%)	47.7 (0.5%)	12.7 (0.1%)	10584.2	7557.9
Latin America	95929.7 (21.3%)	54792.7 (12.2%)	56909.4 (12.6%)	183841.5 (40.8%)	50260.3 (11.1%)	7170.0 (1.6%)	1561.5 (0.3%)	405.4 (0.1%)	450870.5	388907.8
Algeria*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angola	4818.6 (32.7%)	697.8 (4.7%)	452.5 (3.1%)	8065.9 (54.7%)	371.2 (2.5%)	90.9 (0.6%)	226.5 (1.5%)	10.9 (0.1%)	14734.3	13945.6
Benin	1518.7 (58.2%)	200.6 (7.7%)	45.1 (1.7%)	74.6 (2.9%)	762.5 (29.2%)	0.5 (0.0%)	5.6 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2607.6	2406.5
Botswana*	9.4 (17.9%)	2.1 (4.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	26.4 (50.2%)	3.6 (6.8%)	9.9 (18.8%)	1.2 (2.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	52.6	40.6

Region	Cultivated	Forest	Regrowth	Grassland	Shrubland	Water	Artificial	Bareland	Total	Total <sup>†</sup>
Burkina Faso	510.9 (29.4%)	4.6 (0.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1190.0 (68.5%)	31.7 (1.8%)	0.3 (0.0%)	0.1 (0.0%)	0.7 (0.0%)	1738.3	1733.4
Burundi	49.7 (30.6%)	6.3 (3.9%)	3.6 (2.2%)	98.8 (60.9%)	2.0 (1.2%)	0.5 (0.3%)	1.3 (0.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	162.2	155.4
Cameroon	337.8 (8.5%)	938.2 (23.6%)	717.2 (18.1%)	1838.8 (46.3%)	14.4 (0.4%)	34.6 (0.9%)	68.6 (1.7%)	21.6 (0.5%)	3971.2	2998.4
C. African Rep.	707.3 (18.3%)	217.1 (5.6%)	328.4 (8.5%)	2470.2 (64.1%)	118.6 (3.1%)	3.3 (0.1%)	9.8 (0.3%)	0.6 (0.0%)	3855.3	3634.9
Chad	1454.7 (54.7%)	1.8 (0.1%)	0.1 (0.0%)	1037.5 (39.0%)	142.2 (5.4%)	15.9 (0.6%)	3.1 (0.1%)	2.4 (0.1%)	2657.7	2640.0
Congo	107.8 (4.9%)	406.0 (18.4%)	591.8 (26.8%)	968.0 (43.8%)	0.3 (0.0%)	109.7 (5.0%)	25.8 (1.2%)	0.1 (0.0%)	2209.5	1693.8
DR Congo	4771.8 (9.4%)	3518.2 (6.9%)	13508.7 (26.6%)	26400.4 (52.0%)	508.2 (1.0%)	1736.9 (3.4%)	314.7 (0.6%)	0.1 (0.0%)	50759.0	45503.9
Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	0.0 (0.0%)	77.2 (28.7%)	77.7 (28.9%)	72.6 (27.0%)	1.3 (0.5%)	1.3 (0.5%)	38.5 (14.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	268.6	190.1
Eritrea	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1 (100.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1	0.1
Ethiopia	356.8 (16.1%)	296.9 (13.4%)	137.2 (6.2%)	1321.6 (59.5%)	92.3 (4.2%)	4.5 (0.2%)	3.9 (0.2%)	6.6 (0.3%)	2219.8	1918.4
Gabon	1.4 (0.1%)	528.7 (32.9%)	664.1 (41.3%)	362.7 (22.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	22.9 (1.4%)	24.9 (1.5%)	3.9 (0.2%)	1608.6	1057.0
Gambia	35.6 (29.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	63.5 (51.9%)	19.8 (16.2%)	0.1 (0.1%)	3.4 (2.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	122.4	122.3
Ghana	319.1 (6.8%)	525.3 (11.1%)	1523.7 (32.3%)	1990.8 (42.2%)	235.5 (5.0%)	27.6 (0.6%)	95.0 (2.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	4717.0	4164.1
Guinea	261.3 (8.2%)	61.2 (1.9%)	118.0 (3.7%)	2296.7 (72.4%)	419.2 (13.2%)	3.3 (0.1%)	11.4 (0.4%)	2.1 (0.1%)	3173.2	3108.7
Guinea Bissau	136.7 (24.5%)	2.3 (0.4%)	15.5 (2.8%)	181.5 (32.5%)	216.6 (38.8%)	1.2 (0.2%)	3.9 (0.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	557.7	554.2
Ivory Coast	1636.4 (12.5%)	2619.8 (20.0%)	2515.1 (19.2%)	6147.4 (46.9%)	81.7 (0.6%)	34.0 (0.3%)	69.1 (0.5%)	0.7 (0.0%)	13104.2	10450.4
Kenya	1178.9 (48.1%)	118.8 (4.9%)	213.6 (8.7%)	832.7 (34.0%)	85.7 (3.5%)	13.7 (0.6%)	4.2 (0.2%)	1.6 (0.1%)	2449.2	2316.7
Liberia	8.1 (0.2%)	395.4 (12.0%)	1863.5 (56.6%)	986.7 (30.0%)	3.5 (0.1%)	2.2 (0.1%)	30.7 (0.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	3290.1	2892.5
Libya*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	197.1 (1.6%)	667.1 (5.3%)	5126.0 (40.6%)	5627.5 (44.6%)	957.9 (7.6%)	43.5 (0.3%)	1.5 (0.0%)	0.1 (0.0%)	12620.7	11910.1
Malawi	457.8 (40.0%)	185.4 (16.2%)	83.6 (7.3%)	398.3 (34.8%)	8.3 (0.7%)	1.9 (0.2%)	4.6 (0.4%)	4.7 (0.4%)	1144.6	957.3
Mali	480.6 (39.4%)	1.0 (0.1%)	0.0 (0.0%)	708.7 (58.1%)	25.6 (2.1%)	0.6 (0.0%)	2.9 (0.2%)	0.3 (0.0%)	1219.7	1218.1
Mauritania	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.2 (33.3%)	0.4 (66.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.6	0.6
Morocco*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mozambique*	6419.1 (32.7%)	1527.7 (7.8%)	1967.4 (10.0%)	8959.4 (45.6%)	664.8 (3.4%)	49.2 (0.3%)	37.0 (0.2%)	17.8 (0.1%)	19642.4	18065.5
Namibia*	46.1 (38.0%)	6.8 (5.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	59.9 (49.4%)	5.1 (4.2%)	2.1 (1.7%)	1.0 (0.8%)	0.2 (0.2%)	121.2	112.3
Niger	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.9 (10.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	7.8 (89.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8.7	0.9
Nigeria	2392.5 (34.4%)	1462.3 (21.0%)	452.3 (6.5%)	1754.3 (25.2%)	689.8 (9.9%)	24.4 (0.4%)	122.3 (1.8%)	63.6 (0.9%)	6961.5	5474.8
Rwanda	65.9 (42.7%)	18.2 (11.8%)	16.3 (10.6%)	46.3 (30.0%)	5.8 (3.8%)	0.6 (0.4%)	1.2 (0.8%)	0.0 (0.0%)	154.3	135.5
Senegal	221.4 (30.0%)	0.3 (0.0%)	0.1 (0.0%)	401.5 (54.4%)	112.2 (15.2%)	0.7 (0.1%)	1.6 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	737.8	736.8
Sierra Leone	11.1 (0.7%)	167.3 (10.1%)	455.9 (27.5%)	995.0 (60.1%)	6.1 (0.4%)	3.2 (0.2%)	16.3 (1.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1654.9	1484.4
Somalia	7.2 (11.0%)	10.0 (15.3%)	0.1 (0.2%)	0.9 (1.4%)	46.0 (70.6%)	0.9 (1.4%)	0.1 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	65.2	54.3
Somaliland	0.0 (0.0%)	0.2 (66.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1 (33.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.3	0.1
South Africa*	47.5 (8.3%)	2.9 (0.5%)	319.2 (56.1%)	190.8 (33.5%)	2.8 (0.5%)	1.6 (0.3%)	4.2 (0.7%)	0.3 (0.1%)	569.3	564.8

Region	Cultivated	Forest	Regrowth	Grassland	Shrubland	Water	Artificial	Bareland	Total	Total <sup>†</sup>
South Sudan	291.4 (21.4%)	64.7 (4.7%)	15.1 (1.1%)	792.5 (58.1%)	161.9 (11.9%)	30.5 (2.2%)	8.2 (0.6%)	0.3 (0.0%)	1364.6	1269.4
Sudan	1.2 (3.7%)	0.2 (0.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	22.5 (69.7%)	7.7 (23.8%)	0.6 (1.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1 (0.3%)	32.3	31.5
Tanzania	6677.4 (42.1%)	1013.2 (6.4%)	1397.1 (8.8%)	6436.0 (40.6%)	247.6 (1.6%)	38.0 (0.2%)	28.6 (0.2%)	7.2 (0.0%)	15845.1	14793.9
Togo	345.5 (48.2%)	65.1 (9.1%)	8.4 (1.2%)	23.8 (3.3%)	270.0 (37.7%)	2.1 (0.3%)	1.7 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	716.6	649.4
Uganda	777.8 (27.7%)	75.7 (2.7%)	153.3 (5.5%)	1772.0 (63.1%)	9.6 (0.3%)	15.0 (0.5%)	4.7 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2808.1	2717.4
West Sahara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zambia	5966.6 (53.5%)	1111.0 (10.0%)	110.1 (1.0%)	3614.2 (32.4%)	216.0 (1.9%)	70.0 (0.6%)	54.5 (0.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	11142.4	9961.4
Zimbabwe	1662.3 (55.6%)	95.7 (3.2%)	100.1 (3.3%)	1069.8 (35.8%)	51.5 (1.7%)	4.0 (0.1%)	6.5 (0.2%)	0.1 (0.0%)	2990.0	2890.3
Africa	44289.5 (22.8%)	17093.1 (8.8%)	32980.8 (17.0%)	89301.4 (46.0%)	6599.5 (3.4%)	2410.0 (1.2%)	1238.6 (0.6%)	146.0 (0.1%)	194058.9	174555.8
Australia*	0.0 (0.0%)	1.0 (17.2%)	0.6 (10.3%)	0.8 (13.8%)	2.9 (50.0%)	0.2 (3.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.3 (5.2%)	5.8	4.6
Bangladesh*	86.5 (19.4%)	216.9 (48.7%)	85.0 (19.1%)	36.9 (8.3%)	8.2 (1.8%)	2.0 (0.4%)	8.7 (2.0%)	1.1 (0.2%)	445.3	226.4
Brunei	3.4 (1.3%)	24.4 (9.0%)	204.2 (75.3%)	17.5 (6.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	2.9 (1.1%)	18.7 (6.9%)	0.0 (0.0%)	271.1	243.8
Cambodia	3014.8 (34.0%)	2279.7 (25.7%)	2200.1 (24.8%)	1027.9 (11.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	327.9 (3.7%)	13.3 (0.2%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8863.7	6256.1
China*	3193.3 (15.4%)	3009.9 (14.5%)	10801.1 (52.0%)	2710.0 (13.0%)	940.1 (4.5%)	57.8 (0.3%)	59.8 (0.3%)	0.2 (0.0%)	20772.2	17704.5
East Timor	4.0 (3.0%)	55.8 (41.3%)	43.3 (32.0%)	29.1 (21.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1.9 (1.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1.1 (0.8%)	135.2	77.5
India*	658.8 (23.4%)	976.9 (34.7%)	716.9 (25.5%)	290.5 (10.3%)	142.4 (5.1%)	8.6 (0.3%)	20.7 (0.7%)	1.1 (0.0%)	2815.9	1830.4
Indonesia	17415.1 (15.4%)	11227.1 (9.9%)	77352.2 (68.6%)	5209.1 (4.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	1312.1 (1.2%)	303.0 (0.3%)	17.2 (0.0%)	112835.8	100296.6
Laos	1390.7 (14.8%)	1078.2 (11.5%)	5352.5 (57.0%)	1537.3 (16.4%)	9.7 (0.1%)	11.4 (0.1%)	4.3 (0.0%)	6.4 (0.1%)	9390.5	8300.9
Malaysia	2722.1 (7.5%)	3238.3 (8.9%)	29001.4 (79.4%)	963.6 (2.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	249.8 (0.7%)	359.4 (1.0%)	0.3 (0.0%)	36534.9	33046.8
Myanmar*	2430.4 (24.5%)	2406.7 (24.3%)	3622.2 (36.6%)	904.1 (9.1%)	383.8 (3.9%)	140.0 (1.4%)	21.1 (0.2%)	0.1 (0.0%)	9908.4	7361.7
Pakistan	0.1 (50.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1 (50.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.2	0.1
Papua New Guinea	177.6 (3.8%)	1264.6 (26.8%)	2630.7 (55.7%)	318.8 (6.8%)	188.1 (4.0%)	115.8 (2.5%)	14.8 (0.3%)	10.9 (0.2%)	4721.3	3340.9
Philippines	550.9 (12.4%)	1247.3 (28.1%)	2178.2 (49.0%)	423.3 (9.5%)	0.1 (0.0%)	37.4 (0.8%)	7.0 (0.2%)	0.2 (0.0%)	4444.4	3159.7
Saudi Arabia*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solomon Island	0.0 (0.0%)	84.6 (36.2%)	101.2 (43.2%)	19.6 (8.4%)	27.4 (11.7%)	1.0 (0.4%)	0.1 (0.0%)	0.1 (0.0%)	234.0	148.4
Sri Lanka	274.4 (42.0%)	213.5 (32.7%)	108.3 (16.6%)	42.4 (6.5%)	0.0 (0.0%)	5.2 (0.8%)	9.3 (1.4%)	0.3 (0.0%)	653.4	434.7
Taiwan*	24.6 (11.2%)	110.4 (50.3%)	37.8 (17.2%)	45.2 (20.6%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.7 (0.3%)	0.8 (0.4%)	0.0 (0.0%)	219.5	108.4
Thailand	1943.9 (22.6%)	1989.6 (23.1%)	3463.3 (40.2%)	1090.8 (12.7%)	0.0 (0.0%)	99.2 (1.2%)	29.5 (0.3%)	0.0 (0.0%)	8616.3	6527.5
Vanuatu	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1 (100.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.0 (0.0%)	0.1	0.0
Vietnam	2928.7 (32.8%)	1102.2 (12.3%)	2754.5 (30.8%)	1635.7 (18.3%)	443.5 (5.0%)	57.9 (0.6%)	19.5 (0.2%)	0.2 (0.0%)	8942.2	7782.1
Yemen*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia/Australia	36819.3 (16.0%)	30527.2 (13.3%)	140653.5 (61.2%)	16302.6 (7.1%)	2146.2 (0.9%)	2431.9 (1.1%)	890.0 (0.4%)	39.5 (0.0%)	229810.2	196851.1
Global	177038.5 (20.2%)	102412.9 (11.7%)	230543.7 (26.4%)	289445.5 (33.1%)	59005.9 (6.7%)	12011.9 (1.4%)	3690.1 (0.4%)	590.9 (0.1%)	874739.6	760314.7