InVEST

integrated valuation of ecosystem services and tradeoffs

Biophysical modeling challenges and opportunities

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natural capital

Global ecosystem service modeling (InVEST, Co\$ting Nature, and others)



Models based on LULC

Challenges with LULC-based ecosystem service modeling:

- Categorical land-use proxies a diversity of functions
- Oversimplistic representation of ecosystem heterogeneity
- Difficult/time-consuming to parameterize

Global ecosystem service modeling opportunities for advancing integration with EO



Ramirez-Reyes et al. 2019 Science of the Total Environment 665: 1053-63



PROJECT

But how to project scenarios?

Regression between EO-derived biomass and other biophysical and socioeconomic variables

Predictor variables Effect size

Bulk density of the fine earth fraction	116.3
Temperature Annual Range	-115.2
Mean Temp, of Warmest Quarter	93.8
Precipitation Seasonality	64.4
Mean Diurnal Range	-57.6
Total nitrogen content of soils	56.3
Annual Precipitation	51.4
Available soil water capacity	-43.1
Area of nearby non-forest	-42.7
Depth to bedrock	33.1
Terrain ruggedness index	30.4
Precipitation of Driest Month	-28.1
Precipitation of Driest Quarter	27.0
Proportion of silt particles	-26.7
Proportion of sand particles	25.9
Precipitation of Warmest Quarter	-24.5
Soil pH	-23.1
Cation exchange capacity	-17.9
Mean Temp. of Driest Quarter	17.1
Wind speed	-16.5
Slope	-15.7
Accessibility to cities	15.18
Vol. fraction of coarse fragments	-13.4
Mean Temp. of Wettest Quarter	-11.5
Altitude	-9.74
Soil organic carbon content	9.68
Proportion of clay particles	8.61
Livestock density	-5.11
Min Temp. of Coldest Month	4.16
natiOrganic carbon density of soils	3.69
cap ^{Nightlights} within 10 km	-1.09
P B O	-0.66
Nightlights on pixel	-0.2

Predicted aboveground biomass







Challenges and opportunities

Challenges with LULC-based ecosystem service modeling:

- Categorical land-use proxies a diversity of functions
- Oversimplistic
 - representation of ecosystem
 - heterogeneity
- Difficult/time-consuming to parameterize

Opportunities for EO-based ecosystem service modeling:

- Functional representation of ecological processes
- More accurate representation of ecosystem heterogeneity
- Easier/more replicable parameterization