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The goal of the session

Satellite-based monitoring systems are the primary tools for providing near-real-time information on new changes in forest ecosystems. Their potential to empower governments and communities to respond rapidly to illegal and unsustainable forest activities is increasingly recognized.

The increasing availability and access to free and open satellite data streams (e.g. Landsat, Sentinel-1/2) offers the opportunity to detect forest changes faster and more accurately than ever. In parallel, more frequent observations from very high resolution satellites are increasingly available to complement temporally dense time series. This opportunity comes with challenges and requires new methods that can efficiently handle dense satellite image time series, enable temporal analysis, and consider the spatial context of forest changes. In addition, there are a number of approaches and challenges to apply near-real-time forest monitoring to various applications and user groups. We encourage scientists from different fields to contribute their novel approaches and insights for near real-time forest monitoring. The session is an open forum for both technical experts working on new data and approaches for near-real time alerting, and practitioners using such information for early warning, enforcement, and awareness applications.

Potential topics:

- New data sources for near-real-time monitoring
- Evolving methods to enhance fast forest change assessments
- Uncertainty analysis
- Integration of ground and satellite data
- Improving data and methods for calibration and validation
- Applications of near-real-time monitoring