

Expected Impacts

- Spatial catalogs based on metadata, demonstrate the huge potential of new information technologies to contribute to the discovery of and access to relevant geospatial data.
- An improved data infrastructure will enable partners to make more-informed decisions based on knowledge-rich maps, underpinned by component inputs of diverse forest-related data sources.
- Providing online access to forest-related geospatial data allows potential users to overcome a big hurdle; data ownership and knowledge of “present day” GIS capabilities.
- Internet map servers containing forest-related datasets, extend the utility of these datasets, since potential users will be able to integrate the data “on the fly” using a web browser, without needing to have the data themselves on their hard drives.

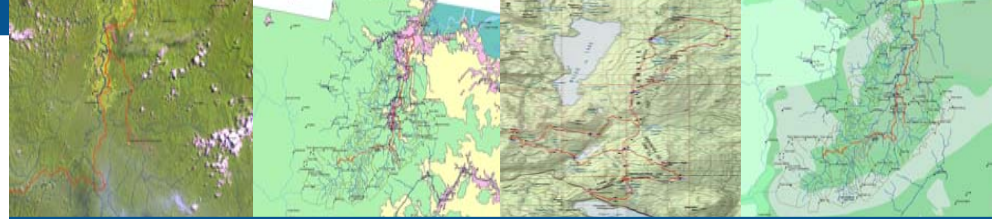
Future Strategy

- Maintain institutional awareness, consensus and cooperation between partners by accepting international standards for spatial data documentation and storage.
- Prepare the catalog for seamless integration with the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS).
- Comply with the specifications of the OpenGIS consortium.

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Forest Spatial Information Catalog fsic



The Forest Spatial Information Catalog

Policy makers and forest users at local, national and global level require accurate and reliable information to make meaningful decisions about forest use and conservation.

Spatial forest information can provide a valuable insight for planning and decision making. CIFOR, with financial support from the World Bank's Global Public Goods initiative, has initiated a project to develop a metadata catalog of spatial forest information for use by its scientists and partners.

Objectives

The objectives of the Forest Spatial Information Catalog are to share Forest Related Spatial Data, to provide accurate & accessible metadata, to strengthen the CGIAR's Spatial Data Infrastructure as well as foster common standards & good Practices.



Subject Matter

The Forest Spatial Information Catalog provides access to a wide range of forest-related geospatial data (forest cover, land use and forest management as well spatial modeling results, satellite images and base maps.

Access to these sources is provided by detailed metadata which contains information about quality, spatial reference, distribution and Intellectual Property Rights.

Dissemination

The use of distributed geospatial data sources will facilitate the dissemination of information by assisting researchers and other information producers in making their findings accessible.

Users can access data from multiple distributed sources (from partners or others) and view the results using a simple web browser.

Target Audience & Beneficiaries

The target audience for the Forest Spatial Information Catalog is a diverse set of stakeholders (government analysts, conservation and development NGOs, producer organizations, researchers) needing forest-related geospatial information for land use planning, forest resource assessment, carbon trading, biodiversity conservation etc.

Means of Development

The catalog's system design is based Java technology and ESRI's ArcIMS Metadata Service. FSIC relies on the capabilities of a relational database to store, search for, and retrieve metadata documents.

