

## ***Interactive comment on “Change in tropical forest cover of Southeast Asia from 1990 to 2010” by H.-J. Stibig et al.***

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The article has a good structure, well-written and has clarity in explaining the research topic on dynamics of forest cover in SE Asia region. Systematic sampling chosen has advantages as well as weaknesses for estimating regional tropical forest cover change during 1990-2000-2010. In general this study has offered a novel scientific results that is relevant for submission to BG Journal and may contribute to the respective field being studied. I would like to ask for some more clarifications on the following aspects:

1. One of the issues taking the average of decadal deforestation rate is the bias on estimate itself, if the trend of deforestation has changed between e.g. between the first and the second half of these 10 years period. Indonesia, for example, has suffered from decreasing deforestation trend from 2000-2005 but the trend tends to increase on

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the second half of 2000-2010. Can this study, somehow explain how to deal with this particular circumstance?

2. Accuracy assessment has been conducted in a logical way and to reduce subjectivity a set of independent random sample of test data was selected for validation. Given the sampling sites is collected within 10x10km boxes, with the interval of 1x1 degree Lat/Lon, some biases due to over-/underestimate of deforestation trend may occur due to systematic design of the sampling. I thought it would be useful to briefly explain the limitations of selected sampling design in the manuscript.

3. P12631L20 "Our assessment by adding a forward looking dimension on change processes and by including aspects not obtainable from remote sensing". Could you clarify how this forward looking addition is included in the analysis?

4. How Figure 7 was produced? Does this figure correlate with Figure 4 of the systematic sampling analysis of drivers of deforestation as I found some disagreement between these two figures?

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