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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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Comment 1 (ref. to point 2):

We realize that there is a possibility of misunderstanding.

In the revised text we therefore try to differentiate more consistently between

(a) our 'quantitative' forest area measurements, where we only refer to 'tree cover' (section 2.2 and first half of section 3.1)

and

(b) the 'qualitative' information on change patterns and change processes, which we obtained from satellite image screening and expert consultation, respectively (section

2.3 and second half of section 3.1).

ad a): For the quantitative results we now specify that our ‘tree cover’ includes mature forest plantations, but excludes forest plantations as long as they appear as bare areas (first year of plantation) or when trees are small (< 5m). The replacement of natural forest by (mature) forest plantations is therefore not counted as a change of ‘forest cover’ to ‘non-forest cover’.

ad b): In the qualitative description we now use ‘replacement of natural forest by forest plantations’, in order to underline that this does not mean a change from forest to non-forest.

Comment 2 (ref. point 3):

We agree with the comment, and we will specify in the text ‘Forest land’ and ‘Forest cover’ for the FRA and the other Remote sensing estimates, respectively.

Comment 3 (ref. point 4):

It is correct that we do not quantify the forest area of ‘reduced canopy density’ due to logging. This was also not our intention. As suggested, we dropped the term ‘canopy cover reduction’ and rather refer to ‘logging patterns’ or ’logging’ in the description of change patterns and processes, respectively.

Comment 4 (ref. point 5):

As recommended, in the revised version we present all quantitative information in tables. However, from this study we will not be in a position to provide quantitative figures on ‘forest plantations’ and related changes.

Interactive comment on Biogeosciences Discuss., 10, 12625, 2013.