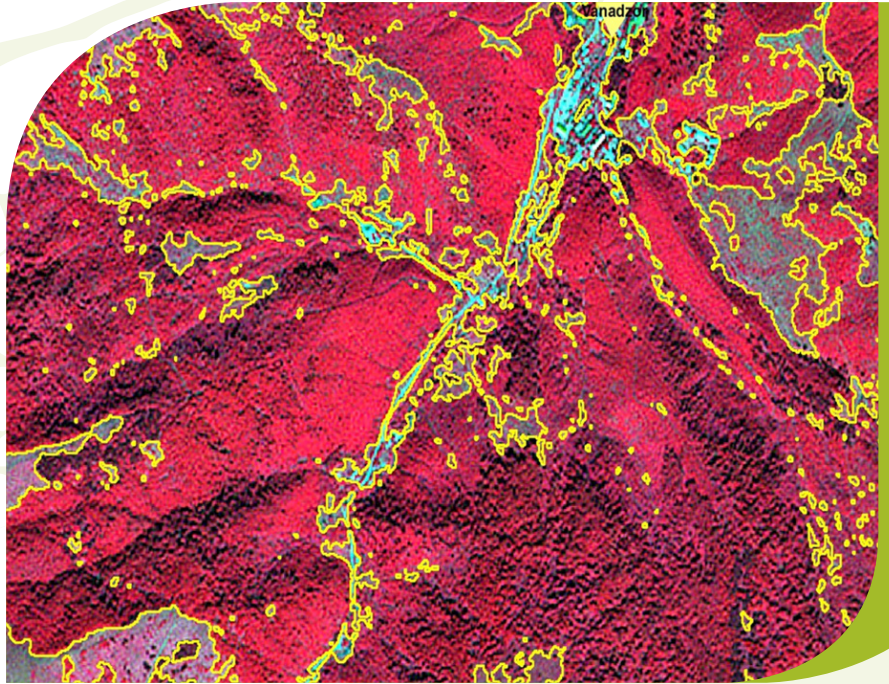


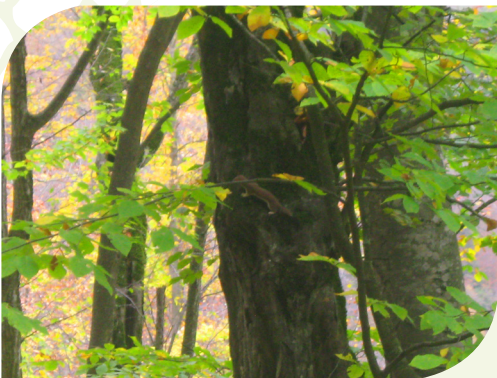
BioFacts

Forest Cover of Armenia Based On Remote Sensing Methodology

For the first time reliable data (with 96% of accuracy) have been obtained on the forest cover of Armenia.



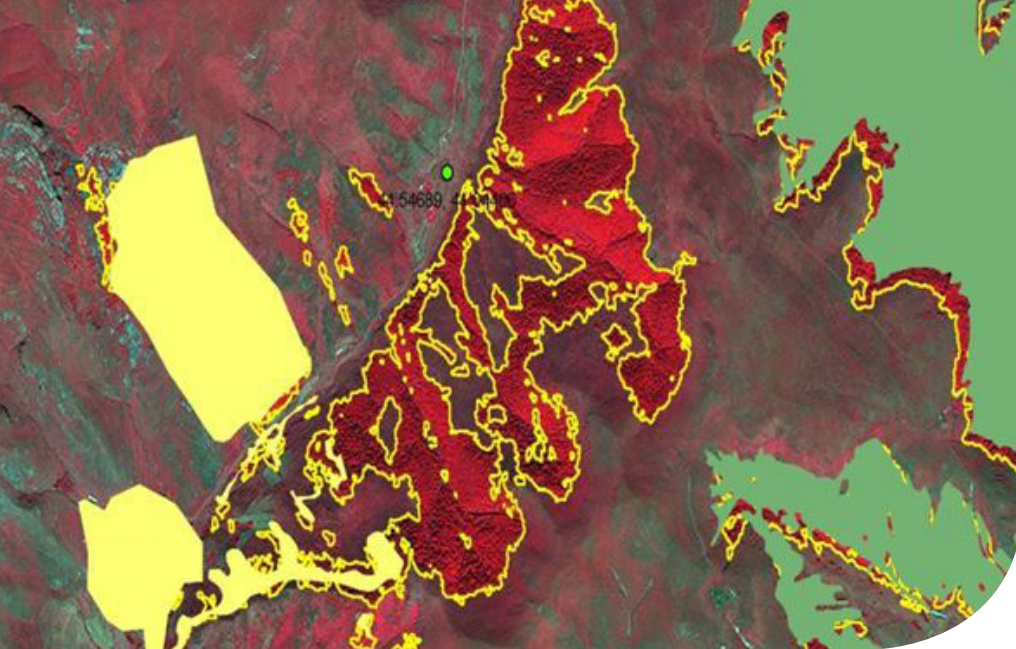
Forested areas demarcated in high resolution satellite images.



Background

GIZ-Sustainable Management of Biodiversity Programme (SMB) supports the RA Government in the development of the National Forest Monitoring System. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and “State Forest Monitoring Centre” SNCO, GIZ-SMB Programme defined 8 indicators, which reflect the situation and current threats of forests in Armenia, and provide information relevant for the management of forests.

The first indicator evaluated in the year 2011 assesses the forested area (in ha and percentage of the total area of RA). To determine this indicator, high resolution multispectral satellite images (Rapideye) have been ordered for the whole territory of RA based on which the total forested area of RA has been assessed.



Newly discovered forests (red areas) registered as lands of other significance.

As a result, the total forest cover of RA has been measured to be 11.1%, which is equal to 332,332 ha.

Results

For the first time reliable data (with 96% of accuracy) have been obtained on the forest cover of Armenia. These results have been analyzed and compared with the state inventory data of forest management plans.

According to the state inventory data, the forested area of forest lands of “Hayantar” SNCO of the Ministry of Agriculture forms 277,133 ha. Based on the data from remote sensing this area is 28,009 ha smaller and encompasses 249,124 ha. According to the state inventory data, the forested area of environmental lands (state reserves, sanctuaries, national parks) of RA Ministry of Nature of Protection forms 66,277. Remote sensing methods reveal 5,977 ha less, i.e. 60,300 ha.

Thus, remote sensing results demonstrate that the whole forested area of RA (309,424 ha) incorporates 33,987 ha less than what state official data indicate (343,411 ha).

In addition to the above, 22,908 ha of forests have been discovered, which are registered in the state cadaster not forests but as lands of other significance (specifically hay fields, pastures, etc.). As a result, the total forest cover of RA has been measured to be 11.1%, which is equal to 332,332 ha.

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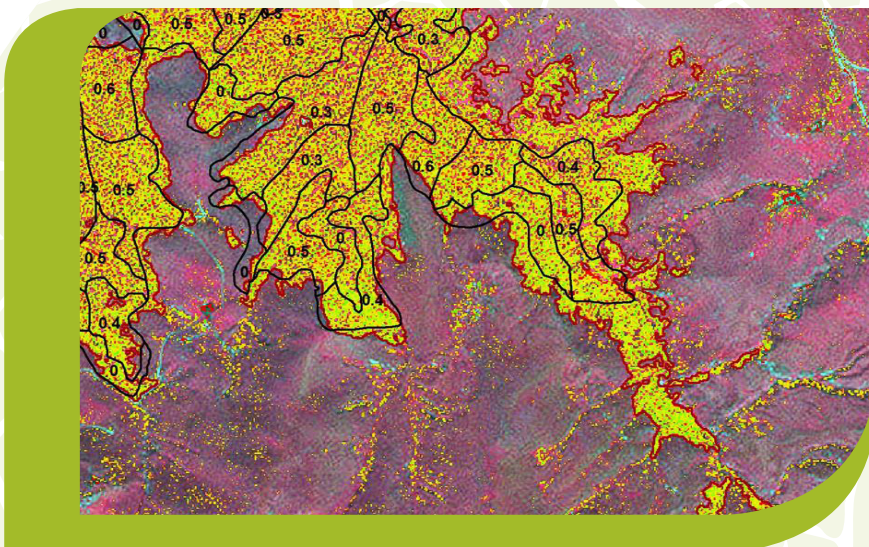
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Forest photo credits © GIZ SMB, Armenia, South Caucasus



Comparison of the official forest map (black outlines) with the new forest delineation (red outlines) based on satellite images.