INTEGRATING THE FAO GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT FOR MULTI-SCALE FOREST MONITORING

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Effective forest management and decision making is ameliorated by high-quality forest resource information and a perspective that encompasses local, regional and global scales. Ongoing efforts within GEOSS attempt to integrate large amounts of Earth observation information from diverse stakeholders and data providers within an analytical environment to better support forest planning and decision making at a variety of scales. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been collecting information on the state of the world’s forest resources and disseminating the results in the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports since 1948. The FRA represents one of the most comprehensive sources of global forest information currently available and can serve as a source of global forestry statistics within the GEOSS framework. This paper describes the integration of the FRA statistical databases and related Metadata within the EuroGEOSS Broker and the development of specific forestry analytical tools. In particular, their publication is done using OGC data services, namely WMS and WFS, for geostatistical data, while the related metadata is published using existing ISO Standards. This is demonstrated with a case study where the data are used to interactively analyse and display regional forest land use area changes through time within a Web-enabled environment.