





FORGENIUS

Improving access to FORest GENetic resources Information and services for end-Users

Deliverable D1.5

Method for assessing forest GenRes state through remotesensing (M48): Published algorithms within an R package to assess forest state using a combination of meteorology and remote-sensing data.

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1 Summary

The objective of this deliverable was to develop a methodology to assess the current state of the collection of Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs) through remote sensing. To investigate the spatio-temporal dimensions of climate-related stresses and risks to GCUs, a wide range of data sources, observation techniques and platforms are required. These data are remote-sensing retrievals of land surface temperature, greenness and leaf water content. The remote-sensing data are derived from the outputs of several missions, including data collected by optical and thermal sensors. This package consists of two parts: 1) the extraction of raw remote-sensing data using Google Earth Engine (GEE); and 2) the creation of a cleaned dataset using R (a free software environment for statistical computing). The development of these methods advances the work undertaken as part of Work Package 1 (WP1) by combining data from different sources with the aim of more accurately identifying and assessing the status of GCUs and, in turn, the occurrence of stress events.

2 Introduction

The work undertaken in D1.5 involved the development of a pipeline for downloading, sorting and collating multiple remote sensing-based data sources to assess the status of GCUs. Data extraction was carried out in two main ways: using a multipetabyte catalogue available via cloud computing platforms (i.e. GEE) and using a dedicated data portal (i.e. R). GEE is used to extract remote-sensing data and R is used to combine GEE extractions. A comprehensive list of data sources is provided in Table 1 (Results section).

2.1 Google Earth Engine GEE

Google Earth Engine (Gorelick et al. 2017) is a cloud-based infrastructure that provides "access to high-performance computing resources for processing very large geospatial datasets". It consists of "a multi-petabyte analysis-ready data catalogue co-located with a high-performance, intrinsically parallel computational service". The data catalogue hosts a repository of geospatial datasets, including the Sentinel 2 optical satellites and the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) map. Google Earth Engine also allows data to be uploaded in raster or vector form. In this study, we uploaded all GCU boundaries as vectors. All data extraction for this study was performed in Google Earth Engine, which provides the ability to compute the zonal





statistics of the GCUs and analyse the entire dataset with high computational efficiency.

2.2. R

R is a powerful open-source software environment widely used for statistical computing and data analysis. Originally developed by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman in the 1990s (Ihake et al. 1996), R has evolved into a comprehensive tool supported by a large and active community of users and developers. It is highly extensible, with thousands of packages available through the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN), enabling users to perform advanced statistical modelling, data visualisation and machine learning. R's syntax is user-friendly for both simple and complex data manipulation, making it a popular choice in academia, research and industry. Its integration capabilities with other programming languages and tools further enhance its versatility for data-driven projects.

3 Results

The deliverable consists of a repository of codes and data.

3.1 Codes

There are two codes:

- 1) Google Earth Engine (GEE) code to extract remote-sensing data
- 2) R code to combine GEE extractions.

3.1.1.GEE code

GEE code is using Google Colaboratory (Colab). Colab is a free cloud service provided by Google based on the Jupyter Notebook environment and allows to write and execute Python in the browser, with no configuration required, free access to GPUs and easy sharing (Fig. 1). GEE saves results in the Google Drive of the person that launches the code.





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Fig. 1 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code with COLAB with Visual Studio.

Here is a basic guide on how to use Google Colab for GEE to replicate the analysis:

- **Setting up Colab Notebook** Begin by opening your Google Colab and creating a new Python 3 notebook.

- **Importing Google Earth Engine** To use GEE, you need to import it into your Colab notebook. Use the command import ee. If the library isn't installed, you can install it by using *!pip install earthengine-api*.

- **Authentication** Before you can start using GEE, you need to authenticate your account. This can be done using *ee.Authenticate()*. This line of code will generate a link, click on it, allow access, and finally, copy the generated code and paste it into your Colab notebook. After this step, initialize the library with *ee.Initialize()*.

- **Data Access and Manipulation** With GEE, it is possible to access a vast array of geospatial data and perform various operations on this data, like clipping, mapping, reducing, etc.

- **Visualization** Visualizing the results is an important part of any geospatial analysis. You can use libraries like *folium* or *geemap* to visualize results.





- **Exporting Results** After the analysis, it is possible to export results using *ee.batch.Export.image.toDrive()*. This will save your results to your Google Drive.

The first GEE block refers to static values of topography (Fig.2) and allows to get elevation, slope and aspect of the GCUs.



Fig. 2 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to topography.

The second GEE block refers to canopies (Fig.3 to 9) and allows to get: canopy height, dominant leaf type, Land Surface Temperature (LST), Leaf Area Index (LAI), Gross Primary Productivity (GPP), Above Ground Biomass (AGB), Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for each GCUs.





 Canopy height 	
Source: Glad dataset	
scale = 30) # export results task = ee.batch.Export.table.toDrive(collection = fileFo	<pre>usp, reducer = ee.Reducer.mean().setOutputs(['canopy_height']),</pre>
÷	
✓ Dominant Leaf Type	
Source: Land Copernicus - High Resolution Layer Dominant Leaf	<u>i Type</u>
This dataset was imported as an asset as it's not available on th	e GEE public catalogue.
<pre>[] # load image fortype = ee.Image('users/marcogirardello/forgeni fortype = fortype.updateMask(fortype.gt(0))</pre>	us/domleaftypeeu')
	<pre>ection = fgeniusp, cer = ee.Reducer.mode().setOutputs(['dominant_forest_type']), e = l2.crs="ESG4326')</pre>
<pre># export results task = ee.batch.Export.table.toDrive(collection = fileFo</pre>	
task.start()	ors = [dominant_rorest_type , 5Kc_10 , E0F015_10])
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Fig. 3 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to topography.



Fig. 4 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Land Surface Temperature (LST).





✓ LAI (monthly)

Catalogue entry: Terra Leaf Area Index/FPAR 8-Day Global 500m



Fig. 5 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Leaf Area Index (LAI).





✓ GPP (monthly)

Catalogue entry: Aqua Gross Primary Productivity 8-Day Global 500m

```
# filter GPP for criteria
    def gpp_qa(img):
        qa = img.select('Psn_QC')
cloudBitMask = 1 << 0</pre>
         mask = qa.bitwiseAnd(cloudBitMask).eq(0)
        return img.updateMask(mask) \
   .select("Gpp") \
           .copyProperties(img, ["system:time_start"])
    # aggregate at monthly level
    def year_map(year):
         def months = ee.List.sequence(1, 12, 1)
def month_agg(m):
    month = ee.Number(m)
             .mean() \
                          .multiply(0.0001)
             return filtered_Monthly.set('year', year) \
               .set('month', m) \
.set('system:time_start', ee.Date.fromYMD(year, m, 1).millis())
        return months.map(month agg)
    # zonal statistics
    Gpp = ee.List([feature.get('Gpp'),-9999]).reduce(ee.Reducer.firstNonNull())
             system_time_start = ee.Image(img).get('system:time_start')
             year = ee.Image(img).get('year')
month = ee.Image(img).get('month')
             'year':year,
'month':month})
        return img.select('Gpp').reduceRegions(collection = fgeniusp,
                                        reducer = ee.Reducer.mean().setOutputs(['Gpp']),
scale = 463.3127165275,
crs = 'SR-ORG:6974').map(set_NA)
₹
[ ] gpp = (ee.ImageCollection("MODIS/006/MYD17A2H").
                     filterDate('2003-01-01','2021-12-31'))
    gpp = gpp.map(gpp_qa)
    # aggregate to a monthly resolution
    gpp_monthly = ee.ImageCollection.fromImages(years.map(year_map).flatten())
    # calculate zonal statistics
    gpp_zonstats = gpp_monthly.map(gpp_stats).flatten()
```

Fig. 6 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Gross Primary Productivity (GPP).

```
> Biomass for the year 2010
Source: ESA Biomass datasets

EU_BIOMASS = ee.Image("users/guidolavespa2511/EU_biomass")
biostats = EU_BIOMASS.reduceRegions(collection = fgeniusp,reducer = ee.Reducer.mean().setOutputs(['biomass_2010']),
scale = 98.95114197446169,crs = 'EPSG:4326')
task = ee.batch.Export.table.toDrive(collection = biostats, folder = 'Forgenius', fileFormat = 'CSV',
task.start()
```

Fig. 7 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Above Ground Biomass (AGB).





✓ NDWI



Fig. 8 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI).





✓ NDVI from Sentinel 2

Catalogue entry: <u>Harmonized Sentinel-2 MSI: MultiSpectral Instrument, Level-1C</u>

```
# NDVI calculation
    def add_ndvi(img):
        ndvi = img.normalizedDifference(['B8','B4']).multiply(1000).rename('ndvi')
         return img.addBands(ndvi)
    # rescaling bands
    def rescale(img, exp, thresholds):
        return img.expression(exp, {'img': img}) \
    .subtract(thresholds[0]).divide(thresholds[1] - thresholds[0])
    # cloudscoring
    def sentinelCloudScore(img):
         # Compute several indicators of cloudyness and take the minimum of them.
         score = ee.Image(1)
         # Clouds are reasonably bright in the blue and cirrus bands.
        score = score.min(rescale(img, 'img.blue', [0.1, 0.5]))
score = score.min(rescale(img, 'img.cb', [0.1, 0.3]))
score = score.min(rescale(img, 'img.cb + img.cirrus', [0.15, 0.2]))
         # Clouds are reasonably bright in all visible bands.
        score = score.min(rescale(img, 'img.red + img.green + img.blue', [0.2, 0.8]))
         # Clouds are moist
        ndmi = img.normalizedDifference(['nir'.'swir1'])
         score=score.min(rescale(ndmi, 'img', [-0.1, 0.1]))
         # However, clouds are not snow
        ndsi = img.normalizedDifference(['green', 'swir1'])
         score=score.min(rescale(ndsi, 'img', [0.8, 0.6]))
         score = score.multiply(100).byte()
         return img.addBands(score.rename('cloudScore'))
    # mask clouds using the Sentinel-2 QA band
    def maskS2clouds(img):
        qa = ing.select('QA60').int16()
# bits 10 and 11 are cloud and cirrus, respectively
cloudBitMask = 1 << 10</pre>
         cirrusBitMask = 1 << 11</pre>
        # both flags should be set to zero, indicating clear conditions mask = qa.bitwiseAnd(cloudBitMask).eq(0) \
         .And(qa.bitwiseAnd(cirrusBitMask))
         # return the masked and scaled data
         return img.updateMask(mask).copyProperties(img,['system:time_start'])
    # merge bands
    def mergeImageBands(joinResult):
        return ee.Image(joinResult.get('primary')) \
                .addBands(joinResult.get('secondary'))
    # only select relevant bands
    def clean(img):
        # rescale 0-1
        t = t.addBands(img.select(['QA60', 'probability']))
         out = t.copvProperties(ima).copvProperties(ima.['svstem:time_start'])
```

Fig. 9 Screenshot of Google Earth Engine code relative to Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI).





3.1.2.R code

R code consists of a script *extraction_wrapup_0322.R* that ingests the output of GEE extraction and generates the output files (Fig. 10).

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Fig. 10 Screenshot of R code to generate output.

3.2 Data

The output data consists of two *geojson* files containing time series data for 6 static and 5 dynamic indicators (Table 1).

The two output files are:

1) static.geojson

contains information on canopy height, dominant leaf type, Above Ground Biomass (AGB), elevation, slope and aspect.

2) *dynamic_rs.geojson*





contains information on Land Surface Temperature (LST), Leaf Area Index (LAI), Gross Primary Productivity (GPP), Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI).

A list of the remote-sensing variables extracted for each polygon, within each GCU, is described in Table 1.

Variables are grouped into categories (Variable group column), depending on the broad physical or biological properties they refer to. The dataset original sources have been reported in the form of a URL and they were last accessed on 29/11/2024.

Type of indicator	Variable	Period	Data source	Category
Topography	Elevation	2011	https://land.copern icus.eu/imagery-in- situ/eu-dem/eu- dem-v1.1	Static
Topography	Slope	2011		
Topography	Aspect	2011		
Structural properties of the vegetation	Tree height	2019-2021	https://glad.umd.edu /dataset/gedi	
Structural properties of the vegetation	Above Ground Biomass (AGB)	2010	<u>https://globbiomass.</u> org/	
Land cover	Dominant leaf type (conifers vs broadleaf)	2018	https://land.copern icus.eu/pan- european/high- resolution- layers/forests/domi nant-leaf-type	
Structural properties of the vegetation	Leaf Area Index (LAI)	2003-2021	https://lpdaac.usgs.g ov/products/mod15a 2hv006/	Dynamic
Structural properties of the vegetation	Gross Primary Productivity (GPP)	2003-2021	https://lpdaac.usgs.g ov/products/mod17a 2hv006/	
Physiological indexes, water/thermal stress indices	Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI)	2001-2021	https://developers.g oogle.com/earth- engine/datasets/cat alog/MODIS_MCD4 3A4_006_NDWI?hl= en	
Physiological indexes, water/thermal stress indices	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)	2016-2021	https://scihub.coper nicus.eu/	

Table 1. Simplified list of the remote-sensing based indicators provided as part of the deliverable. All the data are provided at the GCU-level.





3.3 Repository Description

The GIT repository is organized as follows:

Root Files

- FORGENIUS_D15.Rproj

RStudio project file, which serves as the entry point to the repository when opened in RStudio.

- FORGENIUS_exports.ipynb

A Jupyter Notebook file, likely containing data export workflows, visualizations, or analysis. Note that the file with the location of GCU is not shared to prevent unauthorized accesses.

-.gitignore

Configuration file specifying which files or directories should be ignored by Git version control (e.g., temporary or output files).

Directories

- extractions/

Contains intermediate outputs related to extraction processes with GEE.

- GCUs/

A directory that stores the GCUs shapefile.

- Output/

Holds output files, such as results, generated from R script/workflow.

- Rcodes/

Contains R script files for various analyses, processes, or computations. This is the main folder for R code.

- RSdata/

A directory for raw or processed datasets used by the R scripts, organized in .csv or .RData formats.

- .git/

The Git directory managing version control metadata.



The repository is designed for GEE/R-based data analysis workflows, involving:

RStudio projects for code organization and reproducibility.

Jupyter Notebooks for interactive analysis or export operations.

Version control with Git for collaborative work and tracking changes.

Well-organized subdirectories to manage code, data, and outputs separately.

4 Conclusions

We have successfully developed and implemented a pipeline designed to extract and collate a wide range of remote-sensing data. This has enabled us to assess the status of the GCUs and, in turn, effectively derive a range of heat and drought indicators. Our framework serves as a solid foundation for establishing an operational framework aimed at regularly extracting these remotely sensed indicators for the GCU collection.

5 **Partners involved in the work**

Data collation analysis was led by JRC. INRAE collected and harmonised the geographical data of the GCUs (polygons describing the contours). CREAF contributed to the identification of appropriate data sources.

6 Annexes

Annex A1: A zip file containing CSV and geojson files with individual meteorology and remote-sensing data.

GitHub Repository: <u>https://github.com/guidoceccherini/FORGENIUS_D15</u>





References

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