Acorn AM-002 Tool Performing Deforestation Assessment Instruction Manual

Contents

Acorn AM-002 Tool Performing Deforestation Assessment

Product Information

Specifications

- **Product Name:** AM-002
- **Version:** 1.0
- **Purpose:** Tool for Performing Deforestation Assessment on Small-scale Agroforestry
- **Applicability:** Global with acceptable accuracies, temporal period dated back to 2001
- **Methodology:** Satellite imagery (remote assessment) and Local Stakeholders/experts (manual assessment)

Product Usage Instructions

Deforestation Assessment Process

The deforestation assessment process involves the following steps.

1. For each plot, determine if it contains natural forested land.

2. If the plot is on natural forested land, assess whether deforestation occurred within the Monitoring Period.
3. If disturbance occurred during the Monitoring Period, calculate if the disturbed area has experienced deforestation within the plot.
4. If eligibility criteria are not met, Local Stakeholders may provide evidence of deforestation due to natural events for consideration.

Process Overview

- A flow chart illustrating the approach for remote and manual deforestation assessment is provided in Figure 1 of the user manual.

Data Parameters

- This module does not involve any specific equations or parameters for assessment.

FAQs

Q: Can this tool be used for large-scale deforestation assessments?

A: The tool is designed for small-scale agroforestry assessments with a focus on acceptable accuracies globally.

Q: What are the sources of information used in the assessment?

A: The assessment combines satellite imagery for remote assessment and inputs from Local Stakeholders or experts for manual assessment.

Summary

- This tool for ‘Performing Deforestation Assessment on Small-scale Agroforestry v1.0’ describes the procedures for assessing whether a plot will pass or fail the eligibility criteria associated with deforestation assessment within small-scale agroforestry projects.
- Plots with tree cover loss 5 years before plot onboarding will not be considered eligible and are therefore not able to participate in the Acorn program.
- This tool is used to determine whether deforestation has taken place on a plot.
- This tool applies to Acorn projects that apply small-scale agroforestry practices.

Sources

The reason for developing this tool is that the current existing methodologies (e.g., VM0007) often do not fit the context of small-scale agroforestry projects where avoided deforestation is not the goal.

This tool partially follows procedures from the following methodology:

- **AR-TOOL14** Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities v 4.2.

Definitions

- Definitions used in this module follow the latest version of the Acorn Glossary available on the Acorn website.

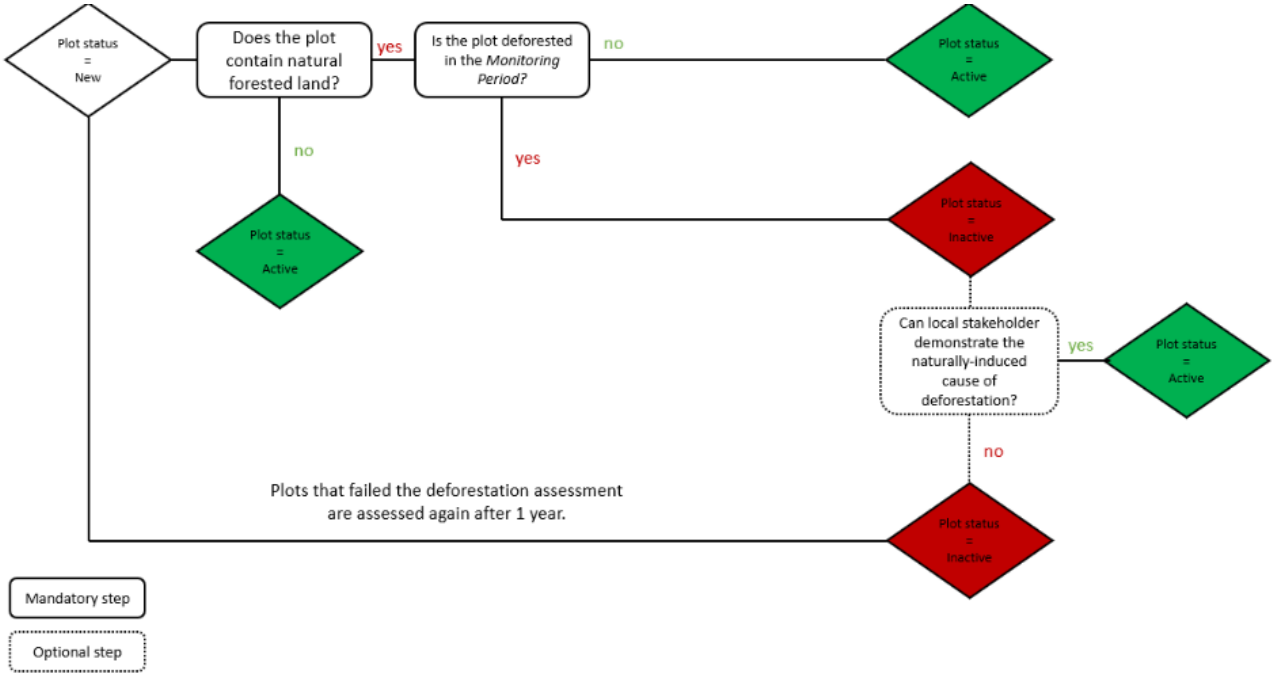
Applicability Conditions

- For this tool, the applicability conditions of the Acorn Methodology AM-001 v2.0 should be met.

Procedures

- This deforestation assessment tool is built on the Hansen Global Forest Change product (Hansen et al., 2013) or an alternative global forest inventory data source.
- The Hansen dataset is preferred as it allows for transparency and repeatability of the assessment.
- Following Hansen, deforestation can be identified when a stand-replacement disturbance or complete removal of tree cover canopy at a 30m pixel resolution scale appears.
- Applying this approach provides continuous and reliable forest change monitoring at a global scale.
- This ensures that the desired deforestation assessment can be applied globally with acceptable accuracies and for the required temporal period dated back to 2001.
- This deforestation assessment tool is designed based on satellite imagery (remote assessment) and Local Stakeholders or experts (manual assessment) information. A flow chart illustrating the approach is presented in Figure 1.

1. For each plot, Acorn assesses whether the plot contains natural forested land.
2. If the plot is on natural forested land, Acorn assesses whether deforestation occurred within the Monitoring Period.
3. If disturbance has occurred during the Monitoring Period, Acorn calculates whether the disturbed area has experienced deforestation within the plot.
4. If the eligibility criteria in step 2 are not met, Local Stakeholders may submit evidence to prove that deforestation has occurred due to natural events (e.g., hurricanes, flooding, natural forest fire, etc.).
5. In such instances, these plots may be allowed to take part in the Acorn project.



- **Figure 1.** Process overview for remote and manual deforestation assessment.

Parameters

Not applicable for this module, there are no equations.

References

- Clean Development Mechanism, United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (2015) 'AR-tool 14: Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities,' UNFCCC Methodologies, 04.2.
- https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-14-v4.2.pdf
- **(Accessed:** October 24, 2023).
- Hansen, M.C. et al. (2013) 'High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest cover change,' Science, 342(6160), pp. 850–853. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1244693.

Documents / Resources

	Acorn AM-002 Tool Performing Deforestation Assessment [pdf] Instruction Manual AM-002 Tool Performing Deforestation Assessment, Tool Performing Deforestation Assessment, Performing Deforestation Assessment, Deforestation Assessment, Assessment

References

- User Manual