**Paper title:** Forest Cover Change Analysis and Validation in the Philippines from 2000-2012

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**Forest Cover Change Analysis and Validation in the Philippines from 2000-2012**

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**Abstract**: Generation of forest maps with spatial and temporal consistency has always been a challenge in the Philippines. Though several land cover maps (like the NAMRIA Land Cover 2003 and 2010) exist, they are not produced specifically for forestry purposes. In this study, validation of the published article “High Resolution Global Maps of 21st –Century Forest Cover Change” (Hansen et. al, 2013) is conducted for the Philippines using it freely available data. The results were then compared with “Analysis of Land Cover Change: 2003-2010 (Sibucao et. al, 2014) published by Forest Management Bureau, DENR. Results showed that the top three regions in terms of forest loss are Region IVB (84,057.66 ha), Region XIII (74,236.77 ha) & Region II (63,892.26 ha) and the bottom three are National Capital Region (74.97 ha), Region I (5,118.84 ha) and Region VII (16,057.17 ha). This is slightly different with that of FMB’s results as their top three in terms of loss were Region IVB (279, 480 ha), Region II (105, 338 ha) and Region XII (100, 184 ha). Differences can be attributed from varied sources of FMB’s analysis and differences in the definition of “forest”. The said findings may help local and national agencies in planning and implementation of reforestation programs like the “National Greening Program”.

Key words: forest cover change, gain & loss