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<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aba3a4>

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## Mapping pervasive selective logging in the south-west Brazilian Amazon 2000–2019

To cite this article before publication: Matthew G Hethcoat *et al* 2020 *Environ. Res. Lett.* in press <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aba3a4>

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**Abstract**

Tropical forests harbour the highest biodiversity on the planet and are essential to human livelihoods and the global economy. However continued loss and degradation of forested landscapes, coupled with a rapidly rising global population, is placing incredible pressure on forests globally. The United Nations has developed the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) programme in response to the challenges facing tropical forests and in recognition of the role they can play in climate mitigation. REDD+ requires consistent and reliable monitoring of forests, however, national-level methodologies for measuring degradation are often bespoke and, because of an inability to track degradation effectively, the majority of countries combine reporting for deforestation and forest degradation into a single value. Here, we extend a recent analysis that enabled the detection of selective logging at the scale of a logging concession to a regional-scale estimation of selective logging activities. We utilized logging records from across Brazil to train a supervised classification algorithm for detecting logged pixels in Landsat imagery then predicted the extent of logging over a 20 year period throughout Rondônia, Brazil. Approximately one-quarter of the forested lands in Rondônia were cleared between 2000 and 2019. We estimate that 11.0% of the forest area present in 2000 had been selectively logged by 2019, comprising >11,500 km<sup>2</sup> of forest. In general, rates of selective logging were twice as high in the first decade relative to the last decade of the period. Our approach is a considerable advance in developing an operationalized selective logging monitoring system capable of detecting subtle forest disturbances over large spatial scales.

**Keywords**

Brazil; Forest degradation; Google Earth Engine; Landsat; Random Forests; Selective logging; Tropical forest

## 1. Introduction

The ten countries reporting the highest forest losses over the last fifteen years are all in the tropics (FAO 2016). Tropical forests are among the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth, play a crucial role in the global carbon and hydrological cycles, and support human livelihoods and the global economy (Edwards et al 2019, Pan et al 2011, Lewis and Maslin 2015). Moreover, there is increasing recognition that tropical forests will be vital in nature-based solutions mitigating climate impacts and reaching targets in the Paris Climate Agreement (Griscom et al 2017, Houghton et al 2015). However continued loss and degradation of tropical forests, coupled with a rising global population and growing energy demands, are putting enormous pressure on forests globally (Edwards et al 2019).

In response to both the challenges and opportunities tropical forests present, the United Nations (UN) has developed the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) programme. REDD+ aims to mitigate climate impacts while maintaining the myriad of services forests provide (e.g. flood prevention, control soil erosion, maintain biodiversity, cultural traditions, etc.) through sustainable forest management (UN-REDD 2018). An essential component in REDD+ is consistent monitoring systems for national-level reporting of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from activities affecting forests. Guidelines for estimating and reporting emissions from forest degradation are based on methods for land use change recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2019) to facilitate a consistent framework for estimating reference levels (GFOI 2016). Yet the IPCC and REDD+ lack specific methodological details on quantifying emissions from forest degradation (Pearson et al 2014, IPCC 2006). This is because degradation is notoriously difficult to quantify, as it includes a variety of forest disturbances (e.g. fire, selective logging, mining, fuelwood consumption, hunting, invasive species), and forest degradation often operates at spatial and temporal scales incompatible with reporting at the national level (Ghazoul et al 2015, Pearson et al 2014, Hosonuma et al 2012). Consequently, national-level methodologies for measuring degradation are often bespoke and most countries report emissions from both forest degradation and deforestation as a single, combined value (Hosonuma et al 2012, Pearson et al 2017).

Advances in remote sensing have made satellite data the most practical and cost-effective way to monitor forests at large spatial scales. The spatial and temporal accuracy of deforestation

1  
2  
3 84 monitoring has improved rapidly in the last decade (Hansen et al 2013, 2016, Reiche et al 2018), as  
4  
5 85 have detection of the spatial extent, severity, and impacts of fires (Matricardi et al 2010, Peres et al  
6  
7 86 2006). Yet, detection of selective logging has shown little progress, despite being a key driver of both  
8  
9 87 deforestation and forest degradation (Hosonuma et al 2012, Pearson et al 2017). Selective logging  
10  
11 88 often marks the onset of anthropogenic disturbance affecting primary forests, with road networks and  
12  
13 89 improved access to forested lands facilitating further degradation (e.g. fuel wood removal, spread of  
14  
15 90 invasive species, illegal logging, mining, and fires) or forest clearance for pastures, agriculture, or  
16  
17 91 settlements. Furthermore, because of the role tropical forests are poised to play in meeting climate  
18  
19 92 targets and growing concerns about the impacts to other services, the amount of tropical forests  
20  
21 93 logged at lower intensity and with better management practices is likely to grow.

22  
23  
24 94 Efforts to improve detection of selective logging have appeared periodically in the literature  
25  
26 95 (e.g. Asner et al 2005, Broadbent et al 2008, Matricardi et al 2010, Souza et al 2005, 2013). In all  
27  
28 96 cases the approach was either a proof-of-concept and not applied at scale or the intensity of selective  
29  
30 97 logging was so high that detections are mapped as forest loss in the Hansen et al (2013) data (e.g.  
31  
32 98 Asner et al 2006; see also Figures S1 and S2). The majority of researchers have utilized spectral  
33  
34 99 unmixing of before-after images to estimate forest disturbance between time steps (e.g. Souza et al  
35  
36 100 2013). Single-image analyses can miss forest disturbances occurring later and/or regions covered by  
37  
38 101 clouds during scene acquisitions. More recently, advancements in data handling (e.g. Google Earth  
39  
40 102 Engine) have enabled tracking individual pixels over a long period to detect forest disturbances  
41  
42 103 (Bullock et al 2018). Google Earth Engine (GEE) has also allowed for more complex image mosaics  
43  
44 104 to be produced, in which an image can be composed of individual pixels spanning any time period,  
45  
46 105 minimizing information loss from clouds (Gorelick et al 2017). Recently, Hethcoat et al (2019)  
47  
48 106 developed a method that used logging records to train supervised classification algorithms for  
49  
50 107 detecting logging activities. Their methods were only applied at the scale of the logging concession  
51  
52 108 and have not been demonstrated at larger spatial and temporal scales. The primary objective of this  
53  
54 109 paper was to extend their methodology to a regional-scale assessment of selective logging. We trained  
55  
56 110 a supervised classification algorithm for detecting selective logging using detailed logging records,  
57  
58 111 then estimate the extent of logging between 2000 and 2019 throughout Rondônia, Brazil.

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## 113 2. Methods

114 An overview of the methods described in the following sections is given in Figure 1.

115

### 116 2.1. Study area

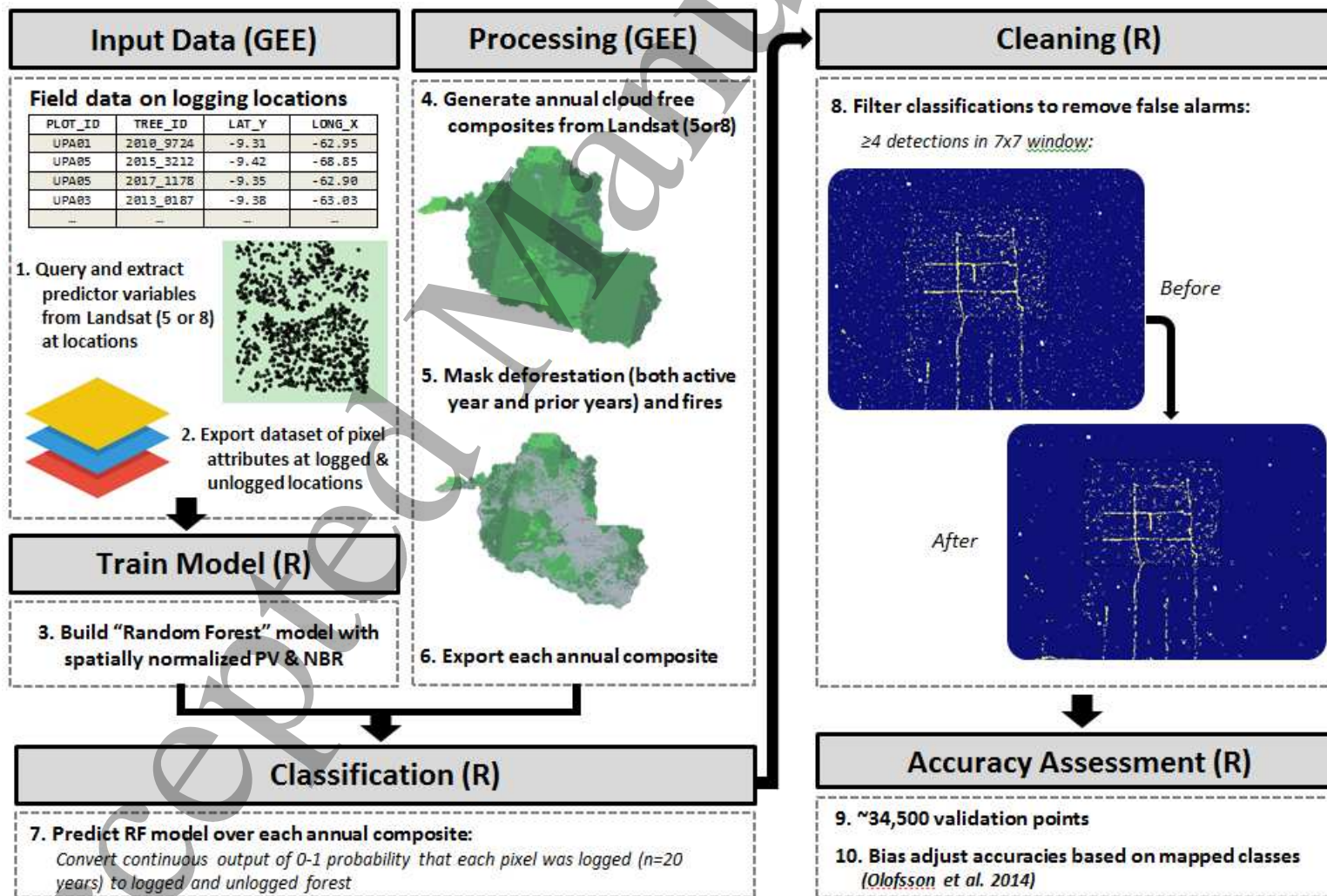
117 The Brazilian state of Rondônia covers 237,576 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the most deforested regions in the  
118 Amazon (Tyukavina et al 2017, Pedlowski et al 2005). Historically, Brazil encouraged logging and  
119 land clearance as part of its settlement and development policies between 1970 and 1990 (Asner et al  
120 2009). Widespread, unmanaged logging ravaged large portions of Mato Grosso, Pará, and Rondônia,  
121 accounting for more than 90% of timber harvest within the Brazilian Amazon (Asner et al 2009). In  
122 an effort to address some of the impacts rampant deforestation and logging had caused, Brazil adopted  
123 the CONAMA resolution (CONAMA 2009), which recognized advances in forestry research in the  
124 Brazilian Amazon and imposed a number of restrictions on logging, including limiting logging  
125 intensities to 30 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup>. While Pará and Mato Grasso have endured the highest rates of selective  
126 logging (Tyukavina et al 2017), the smaller size of Rondônia and the high availability of cloud-free  
127 imagery during the dry season (in contrast to cloudier regions of the Amazon basin) make it ideal for  
128 initially upscaling the methodology proposed by Hethcoat et al (2019).

129

### 130 2.2. Data and processing

#### 131 2.2.1. Selective logging data

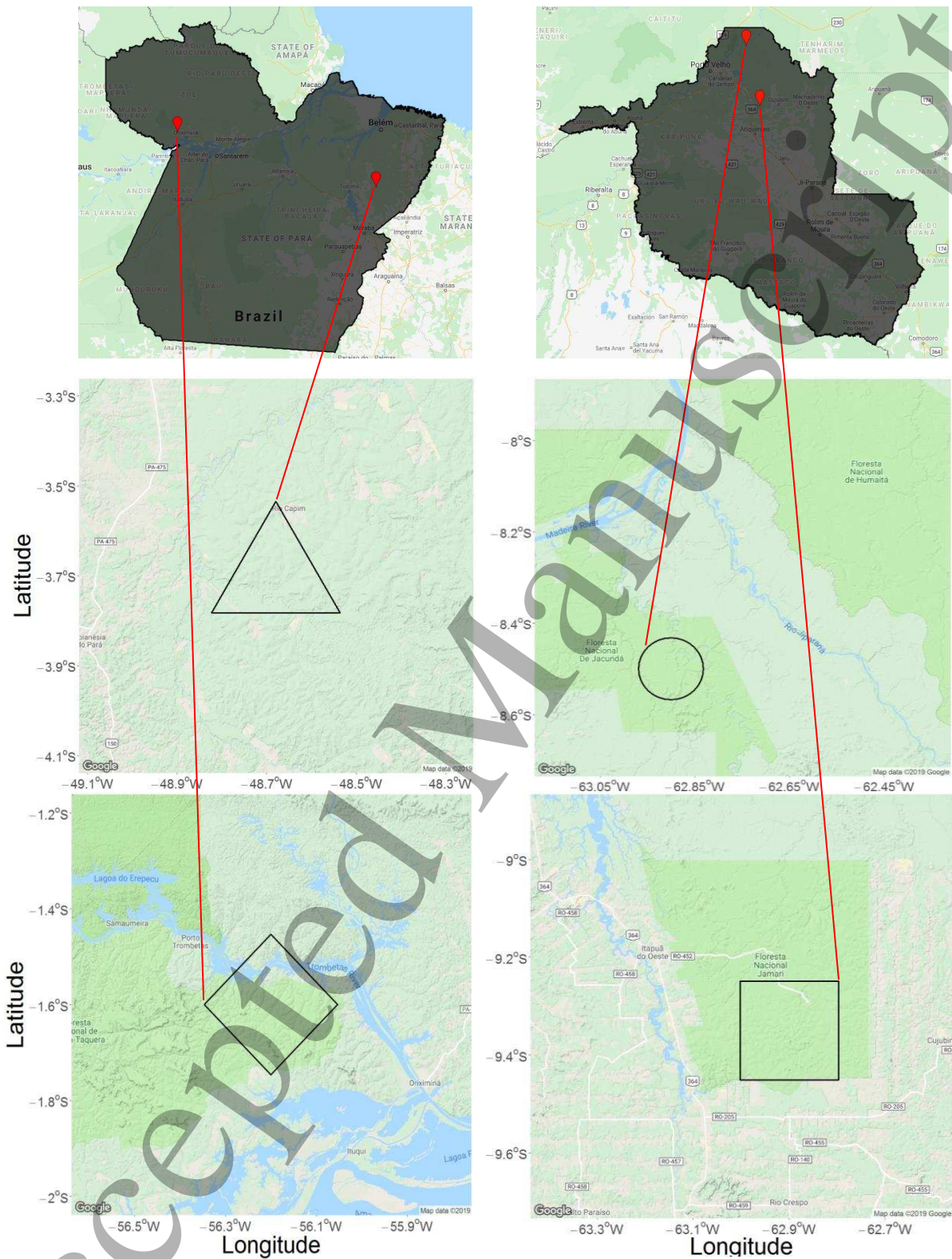
132 Selective logging data from four lowland tropical forest regions in the Brazilian Amazon were used to  
133 build the detection algorithm described in Section 2.3. The Jacundá and Jamari regions were inside  
134 the Jacundá and Jamari National Forests, in Rondônia, while the Saracá and Cikel regions were in the  
135 Saracá-Taquera National Forest and Paragominas municipality, Pará, respectively (Figure 2). Forest  
136 inventory data from 19 forest management units (FMUs) selectively logged between 2010 and 2017  
137 were used, comprising over 55,000 individual tree locations (see Asner et al 2004 for a description of  
138 typical logging practices in the Amazon). Data from three additional locations, one inside each



**Figure 1.** Workflow summarizing the methodology. The platform used for each step is in parentheses, with GEE being Google Earth Engine and R being the statistical software developed by the R Core Team.



140



**Figure 2.** Location of the Cikel (triangle), Saracá (diamond), Jacundá (circle), and Jamari (square) study regions in the Brazilian Amazon. Cikel and Saracá are in Pará and Jacundá and Jamari are in Rondônia.

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142

1  
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3 143 National Forest (Jacundá, Jamari, and Saracá), comprised over 11,500 randomly selected point  
4  
5 144 locations known to have remained unlogged during the study period (Table S1).  
6

7 145

9 146 2.2.2. Satellite data and processing

11 147 All available Landsat 5, 7 and 8 surface reflectance data that coincided with the logging data were  
12  
13 148 utilized in Google Earth Engine (GEE). At each FMU the Landsat archives were queried to find a  
14  
15 149 single scene with the lowest cloud cover that was late into the dry season, but before the onset of the  
16  
17 150 rainy season, to ensure the majority of logging was completed for that FMU (Hethcoat et al 2019). A  
18  
19 151 linear spectral unmixing model, developed and validated over a range of forest disturbance types  
20  
21 152 within the Amazon (Souza et al 2005, Bullock et al 2018), was used to convert surface reflectance  
22  
23 153 into proportions of Bare Ground (BG), Photosynthetic Vegetation (PV), and Non-Photosynthetic  
24  
25 154 Vegetation (NPV) in each pixel (Table S2). The normalized burn ratio (NBR) was also calculated  
26  
27 155 (Equation 1), because it highlights changes in BG and NPV relative to PV and has demonstrated  
28  
29 156 strong change detection capabilities in evergreen tropical forests (Langner et al 2018, Grogan et al  
30  
31 157 2015, Shimizu et al 2017).  
32  
33 158

$$37 \quad 159 \quad NBR = \frac{NIR - SWIR2}{NIR + SWIR2} \quad (1)$$

39 160

41 161 Spectral unmixing fractions for BG were zero for all logged locations, because of documented  
42  
43 162 difficulties distinguishing BG and NPV with multispectral data in deterministic spectral unmixing  
44  
45 163 algorithms (Okin et al 2001, Asner and Heidebrecht 2002, Asner 1998). Consequently, PV and NPV  
46  
47 164 values were complementary and we only utilized PV fractions in the analyses. To reduce variations  
48  
49 165 arising from differing atmospheric conditions and solar illumination, the PV and NBR values were  
50  
51 166 spatially normalized in a self-referencing step (Equations 2a and 2b) by subtracting the centre pixel  
52  
53 167 value from the median value in a 150 m radius window (Langner et al 2018):  
54  
55 168

56 168

$$58 \quad 169 \quad PV_n = PV_{median} - PV \quad (2a)$$

59 169

170 and

$$171 \quad NBR_n = NBR_{median} - NBR \quad (2b)$$

172

173 Normalized PV and NBR values ranged between -1 and 1. This step was necessary to prevent highly  
174 inconsistent predictions along adjacent Landsat paths acquired at different dates (Figure S3). The  
175 spatially normalized PV and NBR values for the logged and unlogged observations were then  
176 compiled for algorithm training (Section 2.3).

177

### 178 **2.3. Building the detection algorithm**

179 We built Random Forest (RF) models using the randomForest package (version 4.6) in the R program,  
180 version 3.5.1 (Liaw and Wiener, 2002; R Development Core Team, 2018). We randomly allocated  
181 90% of the data for training and withheld 10% for validation. In addition, to ensure training and  
182 validation datasets were independent, we assessed spatial autocorrelation of predictor variables and  
183 spatially filtered the data such that no observations in the validation dataset were within 90 m of an  
184 observation in the training dataset (Figure S4; see Supplementary Materials, Sections S1 and S2 for  
185 further details on model specification and training).

186

### 187 **2.4. Predicting selective logging through time**

188 All available Landsat 5, 7, and 8 data over Rondônia were utilized in GEE. A cloud-free mosaic was  
189 constructed from the latest cloud-free pixel within the dry season (see Table S4 for date ranges in each  
190 year). Clouds were masked using the QA band and an additional 300 m radius buffer was applied to  
191 cloudy pixels to minimize cloud shadows not identified by the QA mask. For the first year of analysis  
192 (2000) we only included pixels with forest cover >90% (Hansen et al 2013; Hansen data hereafter) to  
193 exclude open canopy forests, regenerating secondary forests, and areas generally not suitable for  
194 selective logging concessions that might result in false positives.

195 At each time step, pixels identified in the Hansen data as being deforested in that year were  
196 removed. In addition, deforested pixels in the preceding year had a one pixel buffer removed from its  
197 edges to reduce spurious logging detections associated with deforestation. Pixels identified by the

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3 198 Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (MODIS) monthly burned area product (MCD64A1.006)  
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5 199 were also removed. Thus, the pixels used to estimate the occurrence of logging in each year were in  
6  
7 200 regions with tree cover exceeding 90% in 2000, that had not been deforested that year (or prior years),  
8  
9 201 and had not burned.

10  
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### 13 203 **2.5. Post-processing of logging predictions**

14  
15 204 In order to remove isolated logging detections amongst undisturbed forest we removed any detection  
16  
17 205 with fewer than 3 other detections within a 7×7 pixel window neighbourhood. The window size and  
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19 206 number of additional detections were chosen through extensive testing of different values over the  
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22 207 Jamari region.

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### 25 209 **2.6. Evaluating map errors**

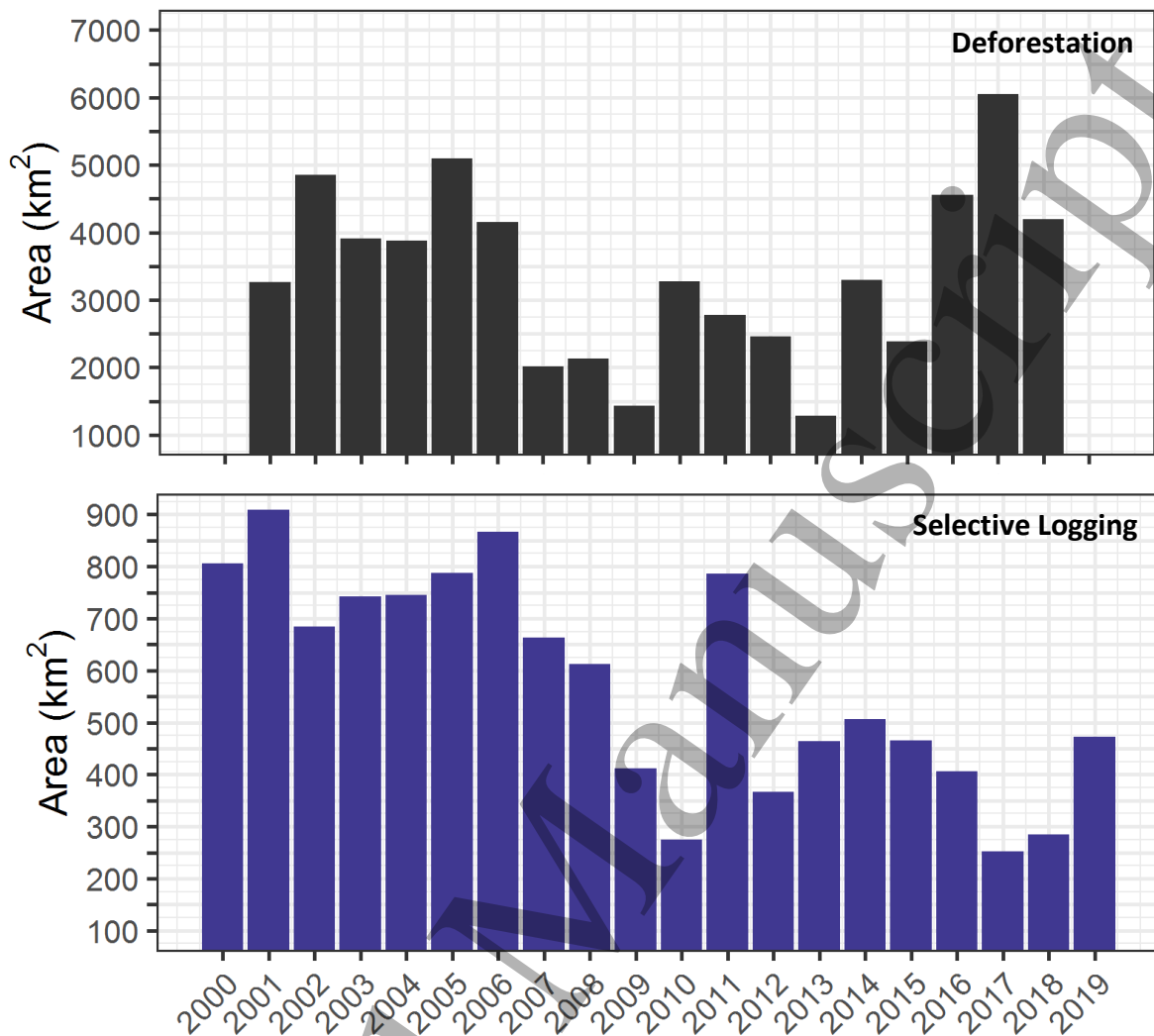
26  
27 210 Methods in Olofsson et al (2014) were used to assess agreement, calculate unbiased error estimates,  
28  
29 211 and produce 95% confidence intervals of the mapped classes. We only assessed the accuracies of  
30  
31 212 selective logging and undisturbed forest (i.e. logged and unlogged pixels) and did not consider  
32  
33 213 deforestation and fires, as these have been estimated elsewhere (Turubanova et al 2018, Hansen et al  
34  
35 214 2013, Giglio et al 2018).

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37 215

## 38 216 **3. Results**

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41 217 We mapped logging across 44% of Rondônia, as the remaining 56% had already been deforested by  
42  
43 218 2000 or was below 90% canopy cover (e.g. rivers, lakes, savanna, cerrado, gallery forest). Of the  
44  
45 219 forested lands present in 2000, 26.5% were deforested by 2019 (Figure 3). We estimate that 11.0% of  
46  
47 220 the forest area present in 2000 had been selectively logged by 2019, comprising >11,500 km<sup>2</sup> of forest  
48  
49 221 (Table 1). Logging detections were highest in the north central part of the state, in the region of the  
50  
51 222 Bom Futuro National Forest (Figure S7), a hotspot for logging and land clearance over the period  
52  
53 223 (Pedlowski et al 2005). In general, the amount of selective logging was about twice as high in the first  
54  
55 224 ten years of the period than in the last ten years, generally coinciding with logging restrictions  
56  
57 225 implemented under the CONAMA resolution (CONAMA 2009).

226



**Figure 3.** Annual amount of deforestation (from Hansen et al 2013) and selectively logged (this study) in the state of Rondônia, Brazil. Deforestation data from 2019 were unavailable at the time of analyses.

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235 as conservative and the annual amounts of selective logging are likely closer to double what is  
 236 reported here.

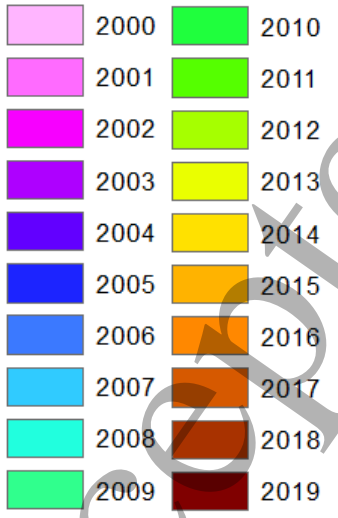
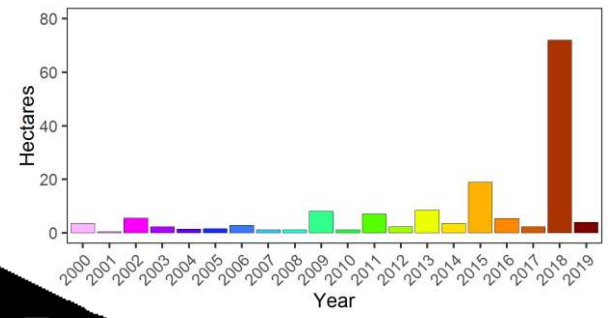
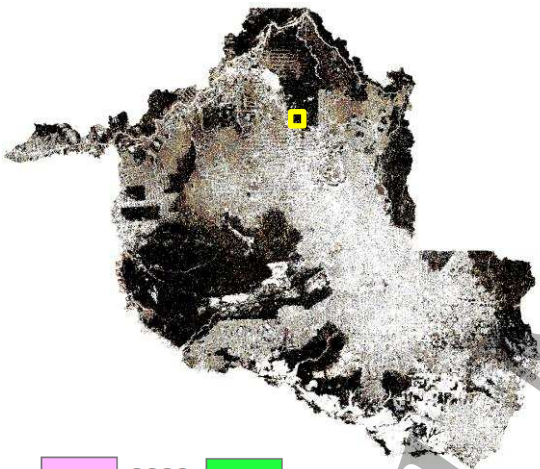
**Table 1.** Confusion matrix summarizing unbiased (Olofsson et al 2014) error estimates and 95% confidence intervals (in parentheses) from mapping logged and unlogged forest in Rondônia, Brazil between 2000 and 2019. Also shown are the unbiased estimates of Overall Accuracy (OA) and the total area for logged and unlogged forest in the final map.

		Reference Class		Commission Error (%)
		Logged	Unlogged	
OA: $94.11 \pm 0.26\%$				
Logged: $11,529.28 \pm 18.53 \text{ km}^2$				
Unlogged: $93,079.71 \pm 249.62 \text{ km}^2$				
Predicted Class	Logged	0.06	0.01	12.9 (1.8)
	Unlogged	0.05	0.88	5.4 (0.2)
Omission Error (%)		45.5 (1.2)	1.0 (0.1)	

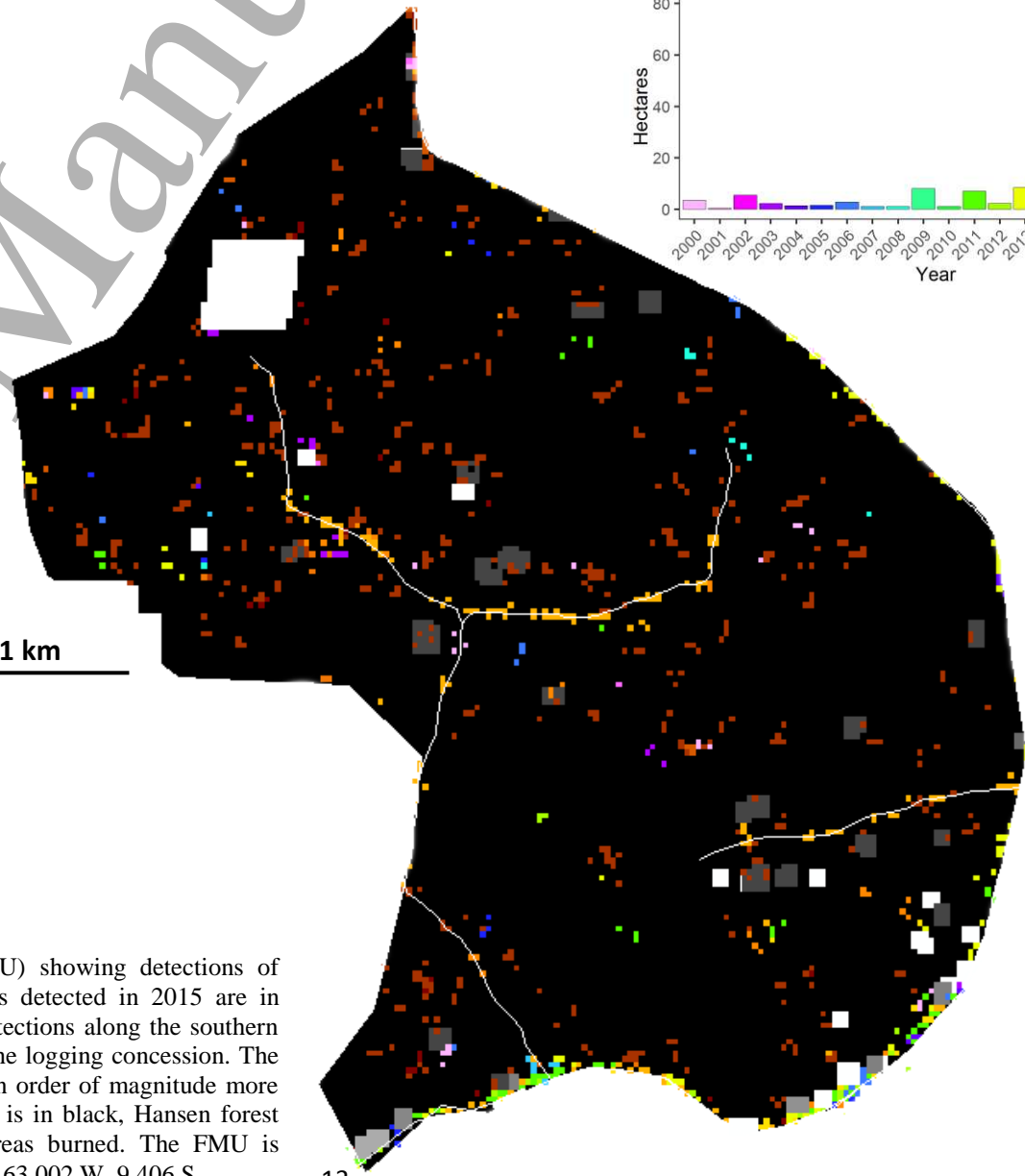
237

238 We explored the results in more detail over two FMUs where we had general knowledge of  
 239 logging but limited field data. First, an FMU selectively logged in 2018 with no data on logging  
 240 locations showed some false detections in the years preceding 2018 (at roughly the expected rate), but  
 241 the year of logging and an internal logging road constructed in 2015 are accurately identified (Figure  
 242 4). Similarly, the number of false detections over an area known to have remained unlogged (a forest  
 243 reserve area associated with the logging concession) was approximately 2% over the twenty year  
 244 period (Figure 5).

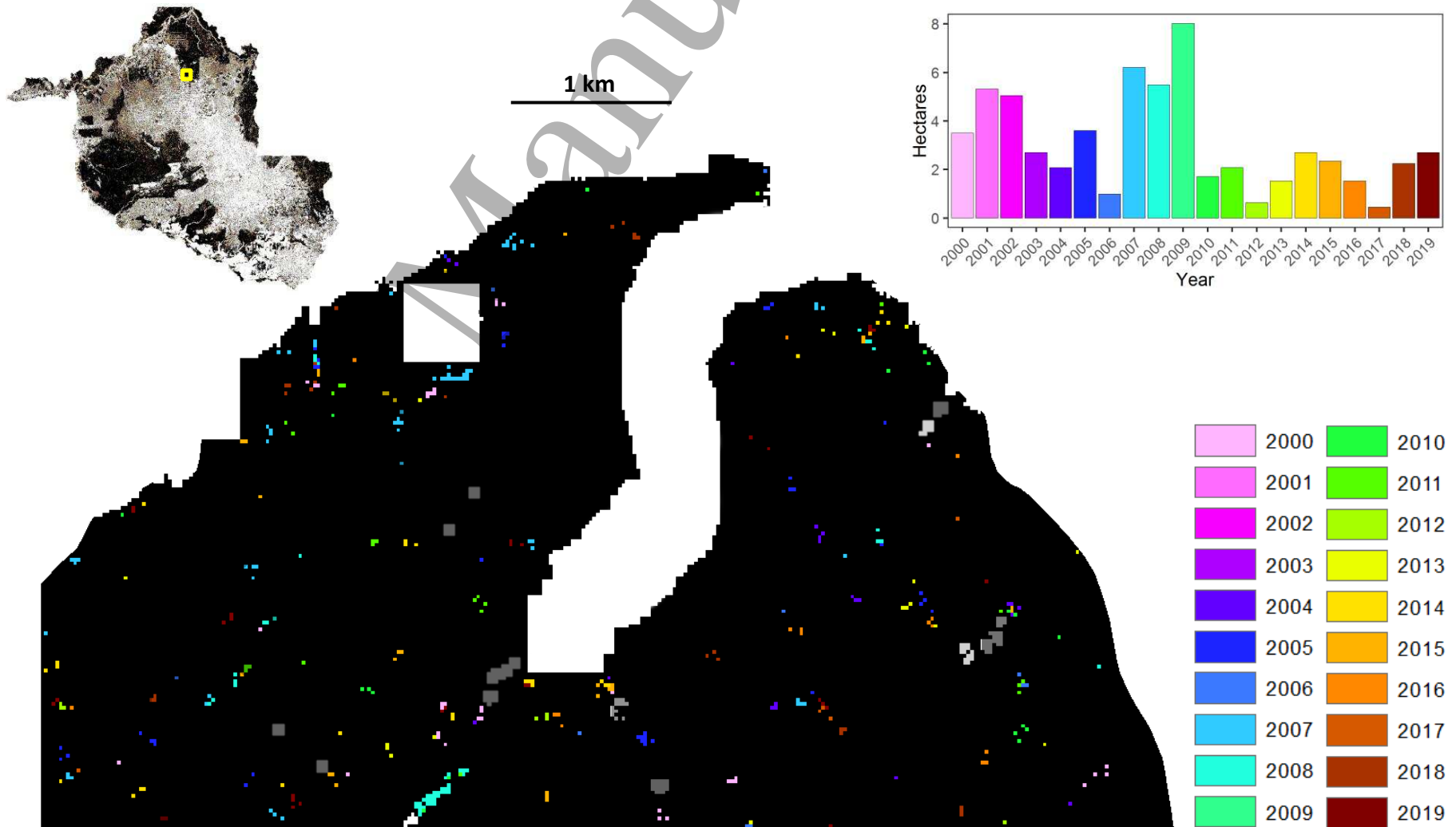
245 Many of the detections were obviously logging road networks, both main access roads and  
 246 smaller internal roads, which generally go undetected by the Hansen dataset (Figure 6). In addition,  
 247 many detections preceded deforestation by a year or two (Figure 7), demonstrated by logging  
 248 detections occurring in areas later identified as deforested (i.e. subtle forest disturbance preceding  
 249 total clearance was detected). Consistently, about 55% ( $\pm 8\%$  SD) of selective logging detections were  
 250 within 1km of deforestation activities occurring in the same year (Figure 8). Thus, the majority of  
 251 selective logging activities in Rondônia occurred in close proximity to deforestation presently  
 252 detectable through the weekly Global Land Analysis & Discovery alerts system (Hansen et al 2016).  
 253 This result is in line with the well documented cycle involving selective logging as a driver of and  
 254 precursor to land clearance (Curtis et al 2018).



1 km



**Figure 4.** Example forest management unit (FMU) showing detections of logging over the entire period. The logging roads detected in 2015 are in accordance with field data (white lines) and the detections along the southern FMU border are a main access road winding into the logging concession. The year the FMU was actually logged (2018) shows an order of magnitude more detections (histogram in upper right). Stable forest is in black, Hansen forest loss is in grey shades, and white squares are areas burned. The FMU is approximately 1700 hectares. The map is centred on 63.002 W, 9.406 S.

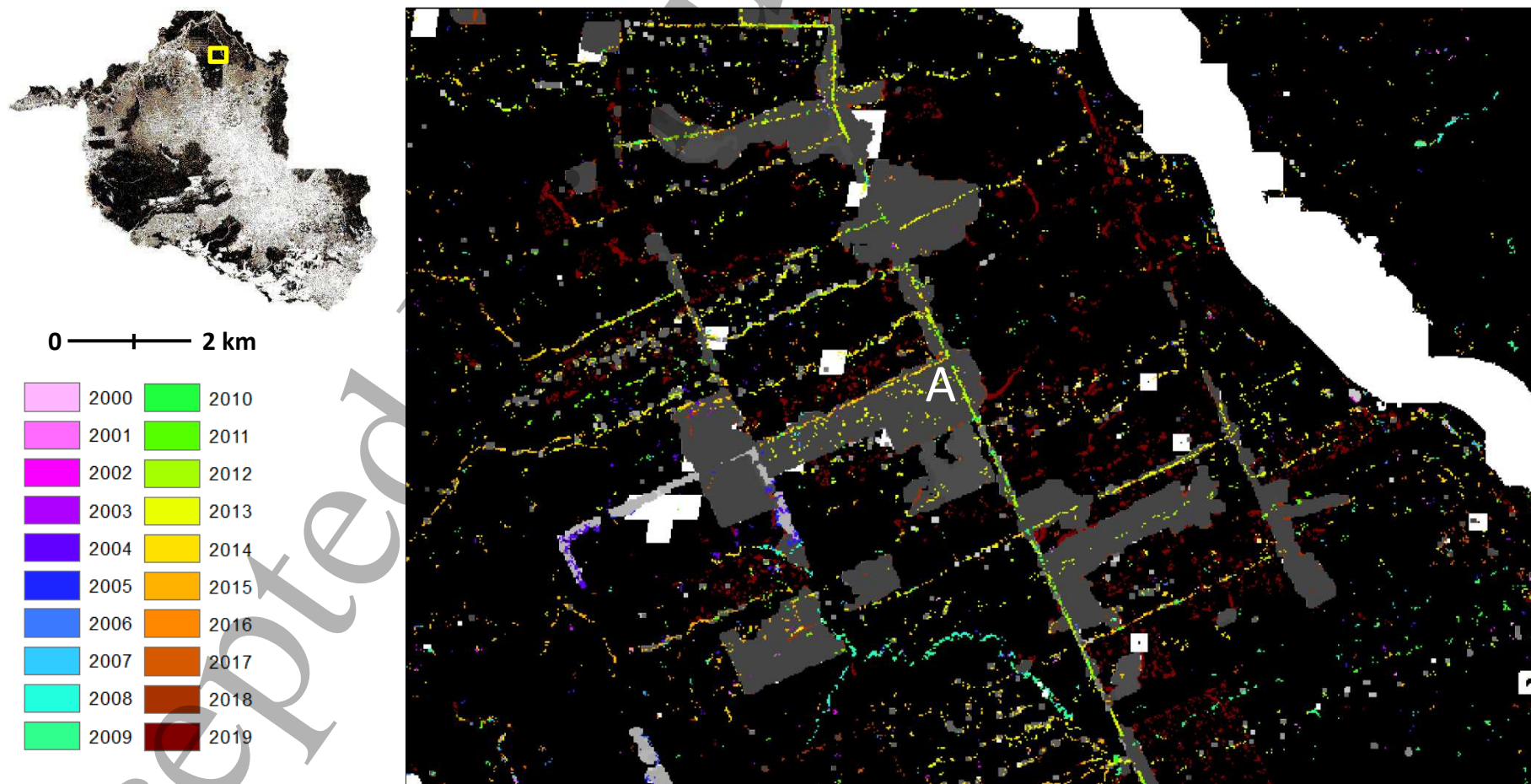


**Figure 5.** Example forest reserve area (i.e. unlogged forest) inside a logging concession in the Jamari National Forest showing false detections over the entire period. Stable forest is in black, Hansen forest loss is in grey shades, and white areas are burned forest and water. Only 2.3% of pixels (n=796) are false alarms within the reserve over the 20 year period. The reserve is approximately 3000 hectares. The map is centred on 63.022 W, 9.266 S.





**Figure 6.** Example region showing detected selective logging road networks, with stable forest in black, Hansen forest loss in grey shades, and the Preto River in white. The map is centred on 62.875 W, 8.478 S.



33 **Figure 7.** Example region showing early detection of deforestation. The expansion of roads and early forest disturbances (A, in green-yellow-orange colors) were detected before the deforestation events occurred and are on top of the forest loss layer from Hansen (in grey shades). Stable forest is in black, burned areas are white squares, and the Jiparaná River is the in upper right in white. The map is centred on 62.722 W, 8.410 S.

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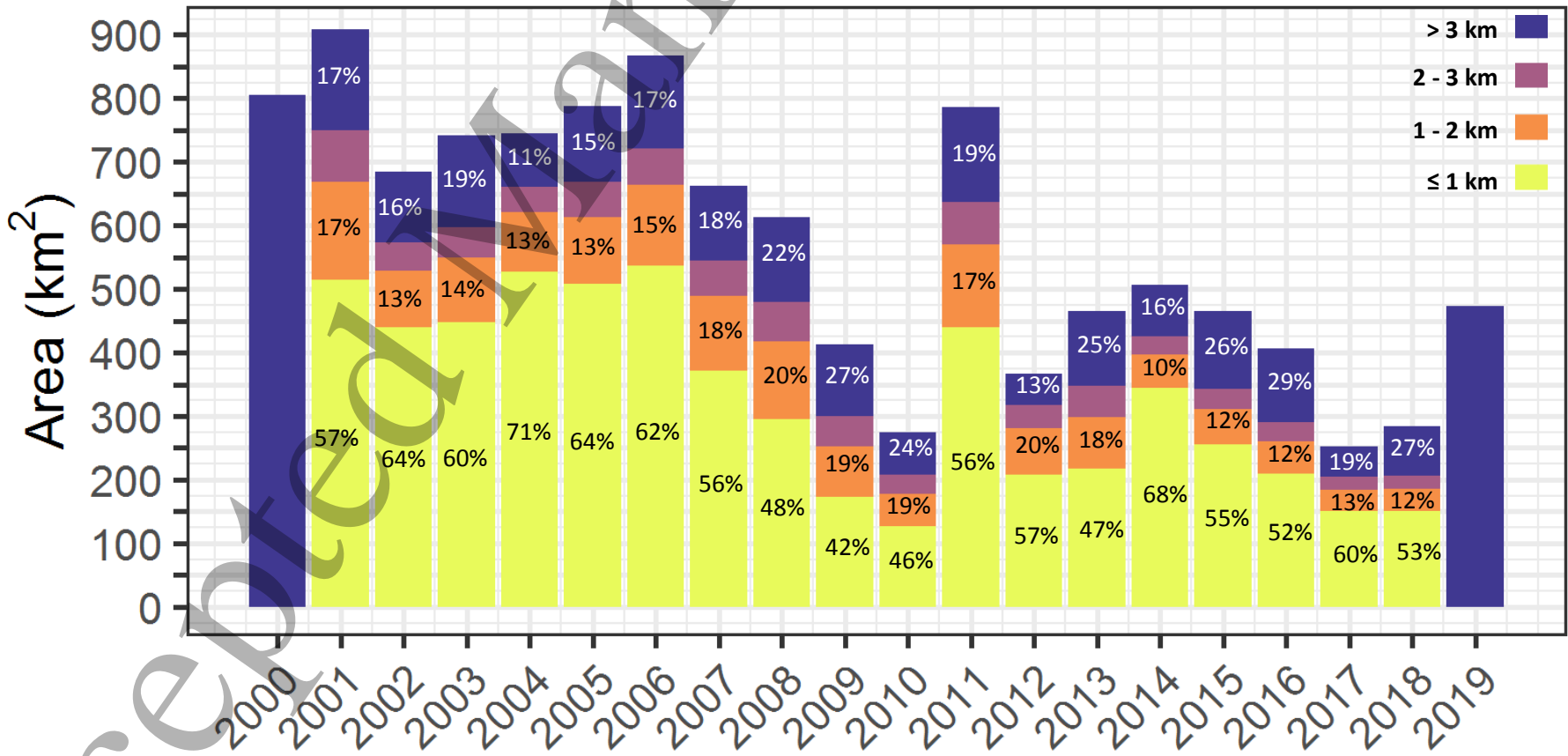


Figure 8. Selective logging detections over four distance categories from deforestation activities in the same year. Deforestation data from 2000 and 2019 were unavailable at the time of analyses.

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262

#### 263 4. Discussion

264 We have demonstrated that the approach in Hethcoat et al (2019) to map tropical selective logging  
265 with Landsat data can be extended beyond the scale of a logging concession or forest management  
266 unit to regional-scale assessments of logging activities using historical data. This required changes to  
267 the original methodology, moving away from surface reflectance values and utilizing a spatial  
268 normalization step to mitigate abrupt changes in image mosaic values resulting from varying solar  
269 illumination and atmospheric conditions. We show that about 11% of the forested land present in  
270 2000 was selectively logged by 2019, comprising >11,500 km<sup>2</sup> of tropical forest. Yet, our estimates of  
271 annual logging rates are likely underestimated for two reasons. First, only about half of the logging  
272 was actually detected in a given year (Tables 1 and S3). We abandoned higher detection rates to  
273 ensure a very low number of false detections (Section S2). Second, forest disturbances from selective  
274 logging (canopy gaps, skid trails, and log landings) affect patches of forest, not isolated pixels.  
275 Indeed, the amount of disturbed forest within a selectively logged FMU can vary from 25-50% (Putz  
276 et al 2019), despite the proportion of pixels where a tree was removed being closer to 10%. Robust  
277 methods are needed that incorporate these additional disturbances as true detections in the absence of  
278 field data. Some have utilized a buffer (often 180 m) around logging road networks or landing decks  
279 (Matricardi et al 2010, Souza and Barreto 2000, Monteiro et al 2003) to account for missed  
280 detections, yet these authors have acknowledged high commission and omission errors associated  
281 with this approach.

282 We almost certainly underestimate the amount of selective logging for 2010 and overestimate  
283 it for 2011 because of two concurrent factors affecting the predictions for these years. First, the cloud-  
284 free window was earlier and narrower in 2010 than most other years (Table S4). The cloudiness of  
285 2010 has been documented in other forest mapping exercises in the Brazilian Amazon (Qin et al  
286 2019). This would result in fewer detections, because the dry season period was about three weeks  
287 shorter than average and fewer pixels would have been logged over the shorter time period. Second,  
288 2010 was a particularly high fire year within the Amazon (Aragão et al 2018), consequently large  
289 regions excluded from our analyses probably coincided with some logging locations (Figure S8). In  
290 contrast, logging detections increased dramatically in 2011 (Figure 3), likely because of delayed

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3 291 detection of logging activities missed in 2010 (i.e. showing up a year later), combined with additional  
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5 292 detections from the fire scars from 2010 that were insufficiently mapped by the MODIS burned area  
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7 293 product. While such anomalies would affect an annual estimate of logging, they would be dampened  
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9 294 in an operational product that utilized the 5-year rolling average under reference level reporting for  
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11 295 REDD+ (GFOI 2016).

12  
13 296 It is difficult to compare our results with other studies, since none have dealt exclusively with  
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15 297 selective logging. However, our estimates are generally higher than other estimates of degradation in  
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17 298 Rondônia. The only other studies assessing degradation over a similar time period combined all forms  
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19 299 of degradation (Souza et al 2013, Bullock et al 2018). Souza et al (2013) estimated about 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
20  
21 300 yr<sup>-1</sup> of degradation within the whole of the Amazon from 2001- 2010 (but twice that in 2008), with  
22  
23 301 ~7% occurring in Rondônia (~350 km<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Bullock et al (2019) estimated ~500 km<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> from 2000-  
24  
25 302 2005 and >750 km<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup> from 2006-2013 within Rondônia. Our estimates are closer to those from  
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27 303 Bullock et al (2019) and the total area selectively logged over the period (5%) is just under the 6%  
28  
29 304 they found for all forms of degradation. However, our 1% omission error of unlogged forest (Table 1)  
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31 305 translates to about 970 km<sup>2</sup> of unlogged forest being identified as logged over the 20 year period (i.e.  
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33 306 <20 km<sup>2</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>). Thus, our estimates are unlikely to be erroneously inflated and they reflect an  
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35 307 improvement in the detection of selective logging.

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37 308 Immediately noticeable in the detections of selective logging are an abundance of linear  
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39 309 features (i.e. logging roads). Road building has big implications for primary tropical forests  
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41 310 (Kleinschroth et al 2016, 2015, Kleinschroth and Healey 2017) and improving their detection is  
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43 311 critical to understanding their lifecycle and the continued loss of intact forest landscapes (Potapov et  
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45 312 al 2017, 2008). Roads create forest edges that can alter abiotic processes like microclimate (Williams-  
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47 313 Linera et al 1998), change plant and animal species composition (Tabarelli et al 2012), increase fire  
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49 314 susceptibility (Armenteras et al 2013), and ultimately weaken forest resilience (Murcia 1995,  
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51 315 Kleinschroth and Healey 2017). Moreover recent work has shown that tropical forests globally may  
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53 316 be nearing a tipping point where fragmentation will begin to increase dramatically (Taubert et al  
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55 317 2018). The tropics are estimated to have around 50 million forest fragments, encompassing nearly 50  
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57 318 million km of edge (Brinck et al 2017). Monitoring the emergence and spread of roads is critical to

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3 319 understanding the disturbance frontiers of intact forests and our method clearly improves early  
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5 320 detection of cryptic roads.

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7 321 Some important caveats are needed regarding our approach and results. First, like all studies  
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9 322 in the tropics that exclusively use optical data, some areas were excluded from analyses each year  
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11 323 because of clouds. Despite creating a mosaic of all available pixels in each year, ~1% of Rondônia  
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13 324 was affected by clouds annually (mean = 2,600 km<sup>2</sup> ± 2,400 km<sup>2</sup> SD) and was included in the  
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15 325 subsequent year assuming no disturbance had occurred. Second, each mosaic consisted of only a  
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17 326 single pixel per location and any selective logging that occurred after the date of the latest cloud-free  
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19 327 pixel in the mosaic would remain undetected. Third, our approach cannot distinguish between logging  
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21 328 and fire. We limited this by removing burned areas annually, using the MCD64 burn product, but the  
22  
23 329 different scale of these datasets (500 m) and Landsat (30 m) is certain to result in commission and  
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25 330 omission of burned area. Collectively, these factors will tend to cause underestimation of the area  
26  
27 331 selective logging annually. Finally, our complete dataset on selective logging covered only a subset of  
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29 332 the years (2011-2017) we mapped (2000-2019) and could not be used to properly validate annual  
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31 333 maps from years without logging data (i.e. 2000-2010, 2018, 2019). Consequently, we only validated  
32  
33 334 the final map against the validation data. Thus, if a logging detection was temporally inaccurate, it  
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35 335 was technically regarded as correctly classified. Figures 4 and 5 were included to provide some  
36  
37 336 perspective on this issue, where we show the false alarm rate (FAR) in regions where we had general  
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39 337 knowledge that logging had occurred in a particular year (Figure 4) and where we knew it had not  
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41 338 occurred (Figure 5). Both figures display very low false alarm rates (the temporally inaccurate  
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43 339 detections in Fig 4 and any detection in Fig 5) that suggest our results were not impacted.

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46  
47 340 Moving forward, we are exploring the sensitivity of the logging estimates to the choices of  
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49 341 the value of the classification threshold used to detect logging (Sections S1, S2, and Figure S5) and  
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51 342 the window size and the number of detections in the post-processing step (Section 2.5). In particular,  
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53 343 it is desirable to decrease the omission of logging by lowering the threshold and/or altering the  
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55 344 window size and detection requirements in the post-processing step. However, such changes will also  
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57 345 modify the commission error when predicting unlogged forest so both must be considered together.  
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59 346 An additional decision affecting logging estimates was the exclusion of forests with canopy cover

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3 347 <90% as defined within the Hansen data. Brazil defines a forest as having >10% canopy cover and >5  
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5 348 m height (GFOI 2016), but we sought to restrict our analyses to continuous tropical forests (i.e. not  
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7 349 secondary forest, cerrado, gallery forests, or otherwise modified forests) where commercial logging  
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9 350 leases tend to occur.

11 351 Tropical forests store billions of tons of carbon. While the emissions estimates from selective  
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13 352 logging are much lower than those from deforestation (Asner et al 2010), recent work has shown that  
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15 353 taking full accounting of degradation activities suggests much higher emissions than previously  
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17 354 thought (Maxwell et al 2019). However, Maxwell et al (2019) simulated selective logging in  
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19 355 proximity to road networks because large-scale maps are lacking. The extent of logged forest in the  
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21 356 tropic is likely to be vast, yet they represent the next best alternative to the protection of primary  
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23 357 forest (Edwards et al 2014). Given that financially viable pathways for global action on forest  
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25 358 degradation will be linked to climate mitigation potential, with the aim of achieving secondary  
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27 359 benefits for biodiversity and human livelihoods, reliable logging maps will enable a better accounting  
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29 360 of the relationships between timber harvest and the full suite of goods and services tropical forests  
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31 361 provide.

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### 36 363 **Acknowledgements**

37  
38  
39 364 MGH was funded by the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures. JMBC was funded by the Natural  
40  
41 365 Environment Research Council (Agreement PR140015 between NERC and the National Centre for  
42  
43 366 Earth Observation). We would like to thank the Google Earth Engine developers and community for  
44  
45 367 access to the datasets that made this work possible.

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