

Forest carbon stock assessment by a UAV technique: case study in Japanese forest

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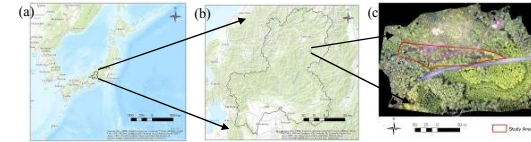
OBJECTIVE

- Development of forest ecosystem service (ES) assessment with low cost, high resolution methods.
 - Compared with on site field survey, satellite data
- As a first step
 - UAV (Unmanned Aerial vehicle)
 - Plantation forest with strength thinning for easy identification of individual tree
 - Several forest sites: Cypress forest, Cedar forest, Deciduous broad-leaved forest, etc.

Satellite images: Carbon stock(2006-2011): t/ha Source: Kobayashi et al(unpublished)

Photo

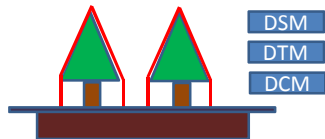
Habitat assessment by field survey
Source: Hayashi et al.(2017)



Study site: (a)Japan, (b)Gifu Prefecture, and (c)Takayama hinoki sites
Source: Katada et al. 2017

METHOD

- UAV images
- SfM:
 - DTM, DSM, DCM development
- Tree height estimation based on DCM
- **Field survey on trees**
 - Height, DBH
- Comparison of two data sets
- Tree volume estimation
- **Ecosystem service(ES) supply potential estimation**



On site field survey

- DBH, tree height (by Laser550AS NICON)
- N=102 (1 Nov.16, 20 June 17)



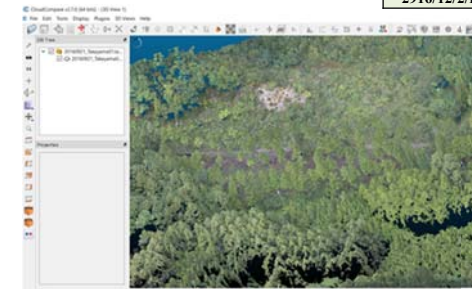
- ES(ecosystem service) supply potential estimation
- **Carbon stock:** Inoue and Kurokawa (2001) formula
 - Forest volume
 - Canopy crown coverage: Voronoi division method rLiDAR of R software (Free software)
 - **Aesthetic tree beauty:** Cherry trees, autumn leaves
 - Recreation : Onsite visual investigation

A Part of assessment methods was detailed in Katada et al. 2017

Note: SfM(Structure from Motion), DTM(Digital Terrain Model), DSM(Digital Surface Model), DCM(Digital Canopy Model), DBH(Diameter at breast height),

RESULT

Date (Takayama Hinoki site)	Photos	AGL(m)	Wind(m/s)
2016/9/21/PM16-17(leaving stage)	129	80	1.4
2016/11/2/AM11-13(autumn leaves stage)	1029	40, 50, 60	1.2-0.2
2916/12/2/PM14-15(falling leaves stage)	743	60	3.3



3D image by PhotoScan Professional 1.2.6(Agisoft)

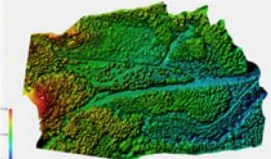
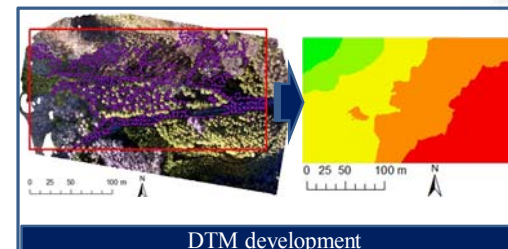


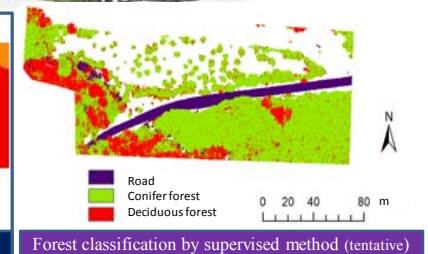
Fig. DSM (2016/09/21)



Fig. Orthophotos (2016/09/21)



DTM development



Forest classification by supervised method (tentative)

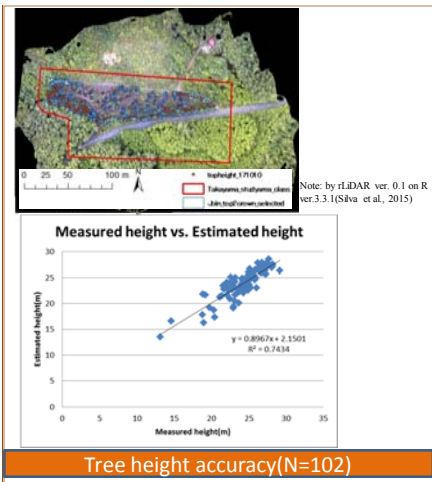


Table. Results of the ES estimation

ESs	Indicators	Unit	Estimated value
Supporting Services			
a)	Carbon stock	(tC/ha)	65.3
Regulating Services			
b)	Climate regulation	Tree volume (10 ³ m ³ /ha)	7.8
c)	Air purification	Surface area of crown (10 ³ m ² /ha)	1.8
d)	Water regulation	Crown coverage (%)	30.8
e)	Soil erosion	Soil erosion power (kN/m ²)	31.8

Carbon stock: estimated from stem volumes ($\pm 5\text{ m}$) with expansion factor by National Institute for Environmental Studies (2014)
 Tree volume: from DCM using Surface Volume tool of ArcGIS with the heat-reduction effect based on Hiruta and Ishikawa (2012)
 Tree crown surface area: based on Tadaki (1980) by DCM using Surface Volume tool of ArcGIS (Tree crown surface area shows a relationship with leaf area (Itoh et al., 2008))
 Crown coverage: calculated from the projection crown area referring to Yoshida and Hashimoto (1998)
 Source: Katada et al, 2017



CONCLUSION and REFERENCES

- Relatively high accuracy of tree height estimation
- DTM is key for tree height estimation
- Seasonal images are useful for ES assessment
- Future issues
 - Classification of forest type
 - Dense forest assessment
 - Variety of ES assessment

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 Note: J in Japanese

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