

2.4.1.1 Maintaining time series consistency in activity data derived from remotely sensed imagery

Where remotely sensed imagery is used to identify the geographical extent of management activities, care should be taken to ensure that geographic boundaries are mapped consistently through time. In order to do this it is necessary to ensure that:

- All imagery is accurately georeferenced and orthorectified using a digital elevation model¹ so that spurious change is not identified during change detection processes, as a result of image misalignment.
- Improvements in the mapping of geographic boundaries due to the improved resolution of newer satellite sensors are back corrected into older land use maps derived from lower resolution imagery.

For example, the geographical extent of a forest mapped in 1990 from Landsat 30m resolution satellite imagery area may appear to be larger than the same area mapped in 2008 from SPOT 10m resolution imagery. Where the true forest extent is unchanged, it is good practice to correct the mapping of the forest at 1990 based on the improved boundary delineation in the 2008 imagery.

< could add graphical illustration of updates to vector mapping at multiple dates if required >

¹ Where there is significant variations in slope and elevation within the area