

Monitoring Native Forest Land in Argentina – 2002 and 2004 Updating

Loss of Native Forests and Annual Deforestation Rate

Period 1998-2002 and 2002-2004

The Forest Evaluation System Management Unit (Unidad de Manejo del Sistema de Evaluación Forestal - UMSEF) under the Native Forest Division (Dirección de Bosques) is in charge of monitoring native forests for detecting, assessing and following-up on time their natural and/or anthropic processes that modify the structure and/or extent of natural forest ecosystems.

In this context, monitoring deforestation and forest fragmentation in the Parque Chaqueño (subtropical moist forest and dry forest) and the Selva Tucumano Boliviana (subtropical rainforest) regions for the periods 1998-2002 and 2002-2004 are the activities carried out for updating forest maps by using remote sensing techniques as well as geographic information systems.

Period 1998-2002 – 2002 Updating

This updating has been developed using the basic information published in "Mapping Native Forest Land in Argentina" (UMSEF, 2002). The new land covers were obtained by visual interpretation of Landsat 7 ETM satellite images at a scale of about 1:50,000, identifying land cover changes.

Also, the loss of forest cover and annual deforestation rate were calculated for the period 1998-2002. At last, forest maps were produced by integrating the land covers into SIG 250 (Argentine systematic cartography / Military Geographic Institute - Instituto Geográfico Militar).

Native forest updating data are submitted on reports by provinces with their respective maps and later on they will be by focusing on forest regions.

Period 2002–2004 - 2004 Updating

This updating has been developed using basic information published in "Mapping Native Forest Land in Argentina" (UMSEF, 2002) and "Forest Provincial Map – 2002 Updating" (UMSEF, 2004).

In more deforested provinces during the period 1998 – 2002 the most affected observed departments were selected to calculate the forest loss and annual deforestation rate for the period 2002 – 2004.

New covers were generated by visual interpretation of Landsat 5 TM satellite images at a scale of about 1:50,000 for identifying land cover changes. Finally, forest maps were obtained by integrating the land covers into SIG 250 (Argentinean systematic cartography / Military Geographic Institute – Instituto Geográfico Militar).