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18. Abstract In order to guarantee the plenty functions of forest ecosystems, relevant and precise information is required for the responsible authorities, owner of the forest, politics and the public. These were gained by several inventories. The suitability of high resolution satellite data and images for forest assessment and updating forest management information had been evaluated in the context of the existing methods and requirements of the Forest Administration of Rhineland-Palatinate. The available data of the several existing information systems of the Forest Administration (database of the forest taxation, geometric data) were linked with digital remote sensing data by a Forest-GIS (ArcInfo / ArcView based). To integrate relevant satellite data a optimal pre- processing is necessary. Procedures for conscientious geocoding and radiometric correction of atmospheric effects and differences in illumination caused by terrain were further developed and applied. In order to improve the spatial resolution of the multispectral satellite data by using the panchromatic an optimal data fusion technique was developed. This technique was tested by the DPA airborne scanner data gained in the project region Forest District Hillesheim (Kalkeifel) and compared with traditionally used data fusion techniques. The comparison was carried out visually and with the deviation to the original measured data. Special attention was paid to the results in forest areas. The topical assessment, analysis and documentation of insect damage are an essential part of forest monitoring. A case study with geometric and radiometric precise pre-processed Landsat-TM data was carried out by using the well investigated gipsy moth attack in the "Bienwald Forest" (plain of the Upper Rhine Valley). Presently still experimental approaches for a remote sensing based determination of biophysical characteristics (leaf area index, chlorophyll content, needle water content) were made headway in spruce stands of the Forest District Morbach (Hunsrück Mou	
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