

Application of MODIS data to update 1980s vegetation map of Southern Sri Lanka

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The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor data are delivering a promising research tool to researches in the fields of land surface information. Its true color (or natural color) image band combination (Band 1=R, 4=B, and 3=G) shows detail information of the earth surface at a resolution of 250m. This study produced a true color MODIS image mosaic in order to observe vegetation cover changes in southern Sri Lanka. Resulted vegetation map compared with 1987-88 LANSAT MSS data based land cover map that was produced at 153m resolution (half of the original MSS resolution). Production of cloud-free image mosaic with MODIS data is a time consuming task, since center region of Sri Lanka attracts heavy amount of clouds even in dry months like February and August. A combination of MODIS images of 2005 and 2006 were used for mosaic. Result of the land cover observation reveals very economical and easy to use applicability of MODIS vegetation products to monitor land cover features in old maps.