

22 NOV.

RAPPORT DE MISSION
A BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
(BRUNEI DARUSSALAM)

du 17 septembre au 24 septembre 1989

Préparé conjointement par :

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PREAMBULE

Cette mission avait pour objectif de participer au séminaire de télé-détection au Brunei qui était financé par le Survey Department du Ministère du Développement, organisé par IGN France International et cofinancé par la France (Ambassade de France au Brunei).

Il s'agissait de présenter aux différents départements du Ministère du Développement les utilisations et applications pratiques de plusieurs satellites d'observation de la terre (LANDSAT, MOS1, NOAA) et plus particulièrement du satellite SPOT dans les domaines de l'aquaculture (NRC Thaïlande), foresterie (CTFT/CIRAD), agriculture (IRAT/CIRAD), cartographie (IGN France International et NRCT), et aspect commercial (RACAL ELECTRONICS SINGAPOUR).

1 - HISTORIQUE

Suite à différents contacts entre IGN France International et le Survey Department de Brunei; en 1987 et 1988, le Survey Department a demandé à IGN France International, en août 1988, d'organiser un séminaire d'information sur la télédétection à l'intention des différents départements du Ministère du Développement (dont le Survey Department fait partie), et d'autres organisations nationales ou privées (dont l'Université et des compagnies pétrolières comme Shell).

Ce séminaire avait d'ailleurs été préconisé par une mission CTFT/ITB-CATED (D. LAURENT et D. MILLEREX) effectuée en 1987 : les propositions concernaient en fait la mise en place d'un Centre National de Télédétection, la cartographie de la végétation au 1/100 000 avec l'imagerie satellitaire SPOT, et l'organisation de nombreux séminaires techniques sur l'utilisation du bois.

Grâce à la contribution du Gouvernement français (prise en charge des voyages France - Brunei des experts français métropolitains), inscrite au programme de coopération 1989 à la demande de l'Ambassade de France, une proposition d'un coût modéré a pu être établie et a été acceptée en juillet 1989, après quelques déboires et incertitudes. L'organisation pratique s'est donc faite très vite entre juillet et septembre 1989.

Le séminaire s'est déroulé les 20 et 21 septembre 1989 devant une soixantaine d'auditeurs.

Les conférenciers ayant participé au séminaire sont :

- Monsieur KILIAN Jean
IRAT/CIRAD (Montpellier)
- Monsieur JEANJEAN Hervé
CTFT/CIRAD (Nogent-sur-Marne)
- Monsieur GALTIER Bertrand
IGN France International (Bangkok)
- Madame Darasri Srisaengthong
Remote Sensing Division, National Research Council of Thailand (Bangkok)
- Monsieur KANG Hwee Hin
RACEL ELECTRONICS Co, (Singapour)
Représentant de SPOT Image pour Singapour et Brunei.

2 - ORGANISATION DU SEMINAIRE

IGN France International a coordonné les activités des experts impliqués et a établi le programme technique.

Le Survey Department a parfaitement organisé tous les aspects pratiques du séminaire.

L'Ambassade de France a très activement contribué au séminaire, qu'il nous soit permis ici de la remercier pour la qualité de son accueil.

D'une façon générale, tout le séminaire s'est déroulé dans une ambiance très détendue et sympathique. Chaque participant a reçu un programme et un classeur regroupant les textes des différentes communications ainsi que de nombreuses brochures fournies par différents opérateurs français impliqués dans la télédétection dont on citera : SPOT Image, CTFT, IRAT, IGN France International, CAP SOGETI (équipement), MS2I (MATRA- SEP), GDTA (formation), etc...

Le programme des conférences est donné en Annexe 3.

3 - OBJECTIFS DU SEMINAIRE POUR LE BRUNEI & RETOMBÉES POSSIBLES POUR LA FRANCE

Ce séminaire est le 3^e d'une série sur l'utilisation des ressources naturelles comme base de développement. Les deux séminaires précédents ont eu lieu en 1985 et 1987.

Il nous a clairement été dit que Brunei hésitait à se lancer dans les techniques de télédétection, et que le séminaire devrait permettre aux responsables intéressés d'évaluer l'intérêt de la technique pour, dans un deuxième temps, étudier l'opportunité de créer un Centre National de Télédétection.

Il semble, en fait, que le Survey Department soit déterminé à créer en son sein le Centre de Télédétection, malgré quelques réticences de la part d'autres départements qui jugent l'initiative prématuree.

Les objections exprimées sont essentiellement les suivantes :

- Le couvert nuageux quasi-permanent limite sérieusement toute possibilité d'acquisition régulière d'images de qualité.
- Le caractère synoptique des images de télédétection se prête mal aux dimensions modestes du territoire, qui exigeraient plutôt de hautes échelles d'observation accessibles seulement à partir de capteurs aéroportés (les travaux de photographies aériennes sont en général sous-traités à des sociétés malaises et n'offrent pas beaucoup de perspectives pour la France).

Malgré ces objections (en partie justifiées), nous avons pu noter un réel désir de la part des Brunéiens de s'équiper d'un Centre National de Télédétection et d'acquérir un haut niveau de technicité. Ce désir se justifie notamment par la volonté d'améliorer l'utilisation de leurs ressources naturelles (autosuffisance agricole, développement de la technologie du bois...) en maîtrisant la production et le développement, et par la volonté de diversifier les sources de revenus et de renforcer le niveau général d'éducation des Brunéiens.

Face à ce désir du Brunéi et dans un pays aux ressources financières importantes, la France doit proposer un Centre de Télédétection avec un maximum d'actions parallèles (projets pilotes) visant à promouvoir la technologie et le savoir-faire français.

Ce Centre aurait des retombées très positives, comme la cartographie topographique (accélération de la révision des cartes au 1/50 000), la foresterie (aide aux inventaires, à l'aménagement, détection des exploitations illégales à proximité des frontières), l'environnement (suivi des forêts, de l'évolution urbaine et côtière).

Il est donc important de prévoir, en plus du Centre des projets pilotes dans des domaines bien ciblés.

4 - PERSPECTIVES POUR IGN FRANCE INTERNATIONAL ET LE CTFT

IGN France International et le CTFT sont déterminés à poursuivre leur action à Brunéi.

Dans les semaines qui viennent, ils feront parvenir au Survey Department une proposition dont le contenu sera à peu près le suivant :

a/ Création du Centre de Télédétection : (IGN France International avec sous-traitance aux industriels concernés)

- Expertise préalable pour définir les besoins et les moyens correspondants.
- Acquisition, installation de systèmes de traitement d'images satellitaires, et de "systèmes d'information géographique".
- Formation sur place sur l'utilisation et la maintenance des équipements.

b/ Fonctionnement du Centre de Télédétection : (IGN France International)

- Mise en place, pendant au moins une année, d'un spécialiste de traitement d'images et cartographie numérique pour faire fonctionner les équipements livrés, réaliser les adaptations informatiques nécessaires et superviser la maintenance.

c/ Projet pilote de cartographie topographique (IGN France International)

- Réalisation sur place d'un projet de cartographie à partir d'images SPOT, en utilisant les équipements livrés, et avec l'aide d'un expert expatrié de l'IGN.
- Prolongation éventuelle de l'assistance technique au-delà du projet pilote.

d/ Projet pilote de suivi du couvert forestier : (CTFT)

- Mise à jour à l'aide de l'imagerie SPOT de la carte du couvert forestier (établie en 1984 par Anderson et Marsden au 1/200 000 à partir de photos aériennes de 1975/76 et 1981/82) sur un site choisi par le Brunei (Forest Department) : établissement d'une carte au 1/50 000.
- Etude de l'évolution du couvert : comparaison avec la carte préétablie, estimation des surfaces passant d'une classe à l'autre.
- Utilisation des équipements livrés.
- Assistance technique du CTFT : expatrié CTFT pour la durée du projet et/ou consultance technique continue.
- Prolongation éventuelle de l'assistance au-delà du projet pilote.

e/ Extension des projets pilotes à l'ensemble du Brunei : (IFI et CTFT)

- Réalisation en France des cartes topographiques au 1/50 000 à partir d'images SPOT.
- Réalisation en France ou au Brunei des cartes forestières mises à jour et mettant en évidence l'évolution du couvert végétal et les caractères physiques de l'environnement.

f/ Formation

- Organisation de stages de courte durée, à la carte, en France ou au Brunei.

5 - PROPOSITIONS POUR LE PROGRAMME DE COOPERATION BILATERALE

La contribution française de l'année 1989 a été le catalyseur qui a permis l'organisation du séminaire et c'est dans cet esprit que l'on pourrait envisager la coopération future.

Il ne nous paraît pas souhaitable que la coopération finance une partie des propositions commerciales qui seront faites car cela poserait d'importants problèmes de coordination, et surtout de compatibilité de calendrier : on court le risque de prévoir le financement partiel d'une opération que Brunei rejettéra peut-être, ou n'acceptera qu'en 1991, quand les crédits ne seront plus utilisables.

Il faut au contraire prévoir de petites actions parallèles, que l'on est (presque) sûr de pouvoir réaliser, et qui seront de nature à maintenir le "réflexe français" et qui préserveront l'intérêt pour la télédétection, ce qui devrait favoriser nos propositions commerciales.

Il serait prudent de prévoir la possibilité de démarrer les projets pilotes avant l'installation du matériel au Centre de Télédétection, en utilisant par exemple le matériel de l'AIT ou en France.

Les propositions faites par IGN France International et le CTFT sont les suivantes :

- 1/ Sur le reliquat de l'exercice 1989 : deux missions courtes en janvier 1990 (une pour IGN France International, une pour le CTFT), au départ de Bangkok, pour :
 - a/ expliquer et approfondir les propositions sur la création d'un Centre de Télédétection et les projets pilotes ;
 - b/ répondre aux besoins d'informations complémentaires sur la télédétection que Brunei aura probablement à la suite du séminaire ;
 - c/ d'une façon générale, maintenir le contact avec le Survey Department et le Ministry of Development ;

Le coût par mission serait d'environ 5 000 F par personne (3 jours : per diem à 744 F + voyage à 2 700 F), soit 10 000 F au total.

- 2/ Sur l'exercice 1990 :
 - Une bourse pour un stage de 3,5 mois à l'AIT sur la télédétection pour septembre 1990 ou janvier 1991, prix : 4 900 \$ US tout compris (voyage, logement, repas, scolarité...).
 - Une bourse pour un stage en anglais de 1 mois au GDTA (Toulouse), suivi d'un séjour de 1 semaine à Paris pour visiter l'IGN, le CTFT et différents fournisseurs d'équipements (MS2I, DEMETER...).

Dates : avril ou octobre 1990

Coût :

 - . billet d'avion Brunei/Paris/Toulouse
 - . stage
 - . séjour Toulouse
 - . séjour Paris

ANNEXES

ANNEXE 1 : CALENDRIER DE LA MISSIONDimanche 17 septembre

12h 00 ----- Départ pour BANGKOK

Lundi 18 septembre

7h 00 ----- Arrivée à BANGKOK
12h 00 ----- Entretien avec G. MACHET, délégué CIRAD en Thaïlande
14h 00 ----- Entretien avec JP. GASTELLU, Chef du projet SEAMEO
16h 00 ----- Entretien avec M. DEVERGE, Conseiller Culturel et Scientifique et
B. LELARGE, Attaché Culturel et de Coopération Scientifique et
Technique

Mardi 19 septembre

12h 15 ----- Départ pour BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
Accueil de J. KILIAN, H. JEANJEAN et Mme DARASRI par M. LEPRESLE
à l'aéroport
19h 00 ----- Dîner de travail avec les 5 experts et des représentants du
Survey Department

Mercredi 20 septembre

Matin ----- Séance restreinte de présentation pour le Ministre du
Développement et les Chefs de Département du Ministère
Après-midi - Séminaire (première demi-journée devant l'ensemble des auditeurs)
Soir ----- Banquet présidé par le Ministre du Développement

Jeudi 21 septembre

Matin et ----- Séminaire - Départ de Mme DARASRI vers BANGKOK
Après-midi ----- Soir ----- Dîner offert par l'Ambassadeur de France à sa résidence

Vendredi 22 septembre

10h 30 ----- Départ de B. GALTIER et H. JEANJEAN vers KOTA KINABALU
13h 00 ----- Entretien avec TANG HONG TAT, M. LOK, J. WONG sur le projet
pilote et son extension. Présentation de la première carte des
états de surface
20h 15 ----- Retour au Brunei

Samedi 23 septembre

12h 15 ----- Départ pour SINGAPOUR
16h 00 ----- Entretien avec PY. DURAND

Dimanche 24 septembre

19h 50 ----- Départ pour Paris (vol retardé de 6 heures)

ANNEXE 2 : PERSONNES RENCONTREESEn THAILANDE :

- G. MACHET
Managing Director Franco-Pacific
 - JL. PETIT
 - JP. GASTELLU
Chef du Projet SEAMEO
 - M. DEVERGE
Conseiller Culturel, Scientifique et de Coopération, Représentant permanent de la France auprès de la SEAMEO
 - B. LELARGE
Attaché Culturel et de Coopération Scientifique et Technique
-

Au BRUNEI :

- Ministre du Développement
 - Directeur et Directeur Adjoint du Survey Department
 - MOHD JAMIL ALI, Land Surveyor, Directeur du séminaire
 - SALLY LIM, Lecturer, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Science
 - A. LEPRÉSLE
Attaché des Affaires Culturelles
 - M. AMIOT
Ambassadeur de France
-

Au SABAH :

- TANG HONG TAT
Principal Forest Officer, ICSB
 - M. LOK
Forest Officer, ICSB
 - J. WONG
Cartographer, ICSB
 - G. HIU
Principal Forest Officer, ICSB
-

A SINGAPOUR :

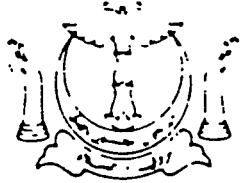
- PY. DURAND, CTFT

ANNEXE 3 : PROGRAMME DU SEMINAIRE



**SEMINAR KETIGA
UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP III)
(3RD SEMINAR: Land Surveying-Basis
For Development)
20th - 21st September 1989**

**Di anjurkan oleh
Jabatan Ukur, Kementerian Pembangunan
Negara Brunei Darussalam**



UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP)

SEMINAR KETIGA : 20hb - 21hb September 1989

Presentation to the Yang Berhormat Minister of Development.

Start

1. Introduction to Remote sensing. B. Galtier	9.00
2. Overview of Earth Observation Satellites (Landsat,MOS,NOAA,SPOT,Radar): B. Galtier	9.10
3. Applications	
3.1. Mapping : B Galtier	9.25
3.2. Forestry : H Jeanjean	9.50
3.3. Agriculture : J. Kilian	10.15
3.4. Fishery and coastal Studies : Mrs Darasri	10.40
3.5. Geology and Environment : B. Galtier	11.05
3.6. Conculsion: limits of remote sensing, suitable fields of application :B. Galtier	11.15
4. Distribution of images	
4.1. Landsat, MOS : Mrs Darasri	11.25
4.2. SPOT : Mr Kang	11.35
5. Questions and Answers	11.45



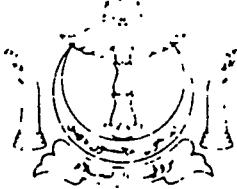
UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP)

SEMINAR KETIGA : 20hb – 21hb September 1989

Technical Programme

Wednesday 20th September 1989

1.30	--	2.00	-	Registration.
2.00	--	2.15	-	Doa Selamat.
			-	Welcoming Address from Seminar Director Awg Hj Md Jamil Bin Hj Md Ali.
				A 'Key Note' Speech by the Permenant Secretary in Ministry of Development Yang Mulia, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awg Hj Mohd Salleh Bin Hj Hidup.
2.15				Session I - Introduction To Remote Sensing.
				Chair by : Awg Naweh Bin Hj Abu Hanafiah, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.
				Title : 'Introduction To Remote Sensing' Paper by: Mr Bertrand Galtier, IGN, France International (Bangkok).
2.40				Session II Part 1 - Landsat, MOS and NOAA System.
				Talk by: Mr Bertrand Galtier, IGN, France International (Bangkok).
3.00	--	3.15	-	Tea/Coffee



UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP)

SEMINAR KETIGA : 20hb – 21hb September 1989

3.15

Session II Part 2 -Overview Of Application For NOAA, Landsat And MOS.

Chair by : Dyg Mas Suriaia Wati Bte Hj Abd Hamid, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.

Talk by: Mrs Darasri Srisaengthong, National Research Council, Thailand.

4.00

- Sessi III Part 1 - Image Distribution.

Title : 'Remote Sensing Activities And Data Distribution in Thailand'.

Paper by: Mrs Darasri Srisaengthong, National Research Council, Thailand.

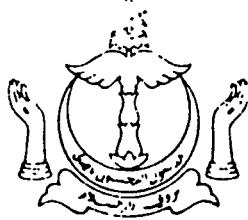
4.10

Session III Part 2 - Distribution Of Satellite Imagery. (SPOT System)

Talk by : Mr Kang Hwee Hin, Singapore.

4.30

- Followed by further discussion



UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP)

SEMINAR KETIGA : 20hb – 21hb September 1989

Thursday 21th September 1989

7.45 -- 8.00 - Registration

8.00 Session IV - Fishery.

Chair by : Hjh Salmahwati Bte Hj Mohsin, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.

Title : ' Coastal Erosion in the Gulf Of Thailand.'

Paper by : Mrs Darasri Srissaengthong, National Research Council, Thailand.

8.45 Session V - Agriculture.

Title : 'Cartographic Technics Using Satellite Data For AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.'

Paper by : Mr Jean Alfred Kilian, IRAT/CIRAD, France.

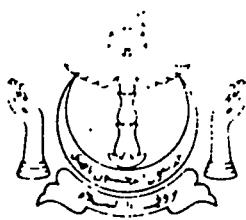
9.45 -- 10.00 - Tea/Coffee

10.00 Session VI - Forestry

Chair by : Awg Yong Teck Nyek, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.

Title : 'Spatial Remote Sensing And SPOT Applications In Tropical Forestry.'

Paper by : Mr Herve Jean Jean, Centre Technique Forestier Tropical, France..



UKUR TANAH ASAS PEMBANGUNAN (UTAP)

SEMINAR KETIGA : 20hb – 21hb September 1989

11.00

Session VII - Mapping

Chair by : Awg Naweh Bin Hj Abu Hanafiah, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.

Title : 'Mapping And Satellite Imagery.'
Paper by : Mr Bertrand Galtier, IGN,
France International.

12.15 -- 1.30 - Rehat Makan Tengahari

1.30 Session VIII - 'Film on Application of Remote Sensing'.

Film produced by IGN.

2.45 -- 3.00 - Tea/Coffee

3.00 -- 4.00 - Followed by further discussion.

Chair by : Awg Hj Md Jamil Bin Hj Md Ali, Survey Department, Ministry Of Development, NBD.

4.00 - Closing Ceremony by
Surveyor General
Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awg Haji Yunos Bin Md Noh.

- Doa.

ANNEXE 4 : TEXTE PRESENTE PAR LE CTFT

REMOTE SENSING SEMINAR

BRUNEI 20-21st SEPTEMBER 1989

S P A T I A L R E M O T E S E N S I N G A N D S P O T
A P P L I C A T I O N S I N T R O P I C A L F O R E S T R Y

by Hervé JEANJEAN
CENTRE TECHNIQUE FORESTIER TROPICAL (*)
94736 NOGENT-SUR-MARNE CEDEX FRANCE

ABSTRACT

Up-to-date information on forest resources is required at all levels of a forest management plan. The use of satellite imagery and/or aerial photos makes a great contribution in vegetation stratification and land use mapping, and in changes monitoring. NOAA and LANDSAT MSS (respectively 1 km and 80 m ground resolution) are the most convenient data source for forestry strategic planning purposes, while LANDSAT TM and SPOT thanks to their high ground resolution (respectively 30 m and 20 or 10 m), bring more appropriate information especially for operative planning at timber stand level. Significant improvement in digital image classification may be achieved in exploiting this spatial information (each pixel is compared to its environment) in addition to spectral information alone (pixel information only).

Satellite imagery provides relevant information for small and medium scale vegetation mapping. Data may be also integrated into a multi-stage forest inventory design, in order to reduce standard error of parameter estimate without increasing the cost, or to decrease the cost for the same standard error of estimate. Forest changes continuous monitoring is another promising application, especially regarding deforestation problems.

Ground data, remote sensing data and processing outputs may be also integrated in a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.).

(*) Forestry Department of Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) PARIS (FRANCE).

I - TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT : A CHALLENGE

Out of the total forest cover which stretches over 4 to 4,5 billion hectares, i.e. one third of the earth's land, forests in tropical countries extend over 1,9 billion ha, i.e. 37 % of these countries areas.

According to FAO-PNUE 1982 estimates, at the end of 1985, 848 million ha of tropical moist forests could yield timber (out of which 20 million ha from softwoods). Asia would have 186 million ha (22 %) out of which 5,5 million ha of softwoods (156 million ha in Africa and 506 million ha in Latin and Central America).

Besides, ASEAN has at its disposal 147 million ha of moist forests (12,7 % of the earth's dense tropical stands area) out of which about 92 million (10,8 % of the tropical world) are now considered as commercializable. ASEAN has also 3,5 million ha of forests plantations, i.e. 20,5 % of the artificial tropical forests in the world.

In volume, ASEAN yield is over one fifth of the earth's tropical reserves compared to 10 % of the forests area.

Brunei has 298 000 ha of moist forests and 262 000 ha of forests fallows. Its timber yield is estimated at 18 million m³ in 1985 (FAO-PNUE).

A major matter in the region is the rate of removal of closed forest cover. The various reasons of deforestation can vary from one country to another. Forest areas considered deforested include shifting cultivation areas, forest areas encroached upon in an unorganized manner and converted into agricultural fields, forest lands converted legally or through state support for organized forms of settlement, and forest lands transferred to other uses to meet the requirements of planned development. The total average annual deforestation rate of closed broadleaved forests is estimated at 1.194 million ha in ASEAN between 1981-1985 (FAO-PNUE 1982), i.e. 0,8 % of the total area of closed broadleaved forests. In Brunei, 5 000 ha are deforested each year.

In that context, the forest management, i.e. the planning of forest resources, appears as a challenge and as a necessary operation for maintaining a sustainable yield. The basis principles of management are the following :

1/ to fix the objectives to be attained :

- to produce goods : merchantable (high quality timber, industrial wood ...) and non merchantable (Watershed protection, genetic resources protection)
- on a sustainable yield : a forest is a "factory" where only the production has to be sold
- with the most cost-effectiveness benefits and highest rates of return ;

2/ to find the adequate measures to be applied : forest surveys, silviculture operations and logging operations, enrichment planting ... ;

3/ to respect the limitations with care : biological, economical, human and institutional aspects.

Forest management is an expression of a political decision and an act of authority taken in a long term plan. But, in practice, forestry operations are not properly controlled by a working plan in most of cases. Forest management is usually restricted to harvesting operations that cannot warrant the future.

II - RELEVANT INFORMATION REQUIRED BY FOREST MANAGEMENT

Prerequisite prior to any forest management is to have reliable and appropriate available data.

The information is required at different levels :

- forest types (primary, logged over, lowland, mangrove, ...),
- their areas and location,
- their species composition,
- their standing volume etc ...

All these data can be acquired in a forest inventory. Forest inventory designs are different according to their objectives and the problem to be solved. The purpose of a forest inventory must be clearly defined and planning designed to achieve that purpose. Different purposes may generate different means, in particular in the use of remote sensing.

Inventory activities can be classified into 3 categories :

- strategical (long-term forest planning on large areas)
- tactical (forest stand management in a short-term planning design)
- operational (to be undertaken in the following weeks, case of pre-harvesting inventories).

The data collection, i.e. the forest mensurations as a general rule, have to be continually improved :

- at a static level :

forest inventory (sampling designs, use of remote sensing to improve the cost-effectiveness of forest resources appraisal, forest measurements)

- at a dynamic level :

changes monitoring and assessment with the use of remote sensing data, growth of natural forest and modelling of forest stand dynamics (examples : CTFT experience in Ivory Coast and soon in Kalimantan).

It must be emphasized that any attempt of reliable data collection is often confounded by the very large areas involved, cloud cover, climatic and topographic hardships and the impenetrable nature of the tropical moist forest. In many cases, traditional sources of investigation, such as field and aerial surveys are too time consuming and expensive. Remote sensing, satellites such as Landsat SPOT and NOAA can allow forest changes to be discerned, monitored and quantified.

III - CONTRIBUTION AND APPLICATIONS OF REMOTE SENSING IN FORESTRY

During the last two decades, the users of remote sensing were looking upon this technique as the most promising tool for natural resources assessment and management. Nevertheless, such a technique has not always achieved the extent one would have expected, i.e. all the problems cannot be solved with remote sensing data.

But today, the technique has been put into practical use in many applications, and the researchers community is still looking after an improvement of the proceedings, especially in the automation of specific steps in the process. The problem is that every step cannot be automated, and one should keep in mind that besides digital processing, visual interpretation can give good results without requiring high technological equipment.

In the context of forest management, one has to look for the most efficient method, i.e. cost-effective and accurate, to collect the data and to assess the parameters.

The main question about remote sensing is : which products and which analysis proceedings are operational, and are they enough cost-effective ?

* REMOTE SENSING CONTRIBUTION

Remote sensing should be always considered by forest managers as a tool, and not as a prerequisite prior to their problem. Its main contribution is to bring out :

- easily available data on a spot and at a low price
- accurate data with SPOT and LANDSAT TM (20 x 20 meters in multispectral mode and 30 x 30 meters ground resolution)
- a global view of wide extent areas, especially with NOAA data
- data on the same area at different dates (3 or 4 days with SPOT between two shots)
- up-to-date data in large amounts of the surface states (land use) : vegetative cover, soils, water, ...

* MAIN APPLICATIONS IN FORESTRY

The current operational and cost-effective applications of remote sensing are as follows :

1/ Small scale vegetation mapping (1:500 000 to 1:200 000)

LANDSAT MSS and NOAA are the most useful tool for small scale mapping, whereas LANDSAT TM and SPOT give more relevant data for medium scale mapping.

The purpose of mapping is to assess and to locate forest types areas. Mapping is the basis step of forest management and must be used for further applications. The cost-effectiveness of mapping from satellite remote sensing has been confirmed by FAO : a comparison study about a thematic map at 1:250 000 scale on an area of 100 000 km² is showing that aerial photogrammetric mapping is 9 times more expensive and airbone imaging radar mapping is 14 times more expensive than satellite remote sensing mapping.

A few examples are given as follows :

- Vegetation mapping of South America and Africa at 1:5 000 000 scale carried out by ICIV (Institut de la Cartographie Internationale de la Végétation - Toulouse (France)) for UNESCO and FAO.
- Land cover mapping of Chiang Mai Province in Thailand at 1:250 000 scale using LANDSAT MSS data (IGN/AIT/EEC 1987).
- Surface states and agro-ecological landscapes mapping of northeast Thailand at 1:250 000 and 1:500 000 scale (IGN/IRAT/CEGET/KHON KAEN University 1985).
- Vegetation mapping of Mali, currently carried out by SCET-AGRI and CTFT (140 SPOT scenes) at 1:200 000 scale.
- Land use mapping of the Philippines at 1:200 000 scale with SPOT by visual interpretation (Swedish Space Corporation).
- Forest resources inventory in the area of Lola, Republic of Guinea, carried out by CTFT with LANDSAT MSS data.

The discrimination of the main forest types is possible at small or medium scale mapping : mangrove forest, swamp forest, pine forest, dense broadleaved forest, logged over forest, woodland, degraded forest, ...

2/ Medium scale vegetation mapping (1:50 000)

This application needs accurate data from a high ground resolution satellite, i.e. SPOT and LANDSAT TM. A full cost-effectiveness evaluation of the application of SPOT data imagery to forest and land use planning is being carried out by IGN and CTFT through a pilot study in Sabah, Malaysia.

The study area belongs to the forest concession of INNOPRISE CORPORATION Sdn Bhd.

A surface states map was carried out using a point to point contextual maximum likelihood classifier. The natural vegetative cover legend is discriminating :

- closed canopy : upper storey with mainly large crowns (area closure of mature trees larger than 80 %)
- irregular canopy : overlapping between medium storey and open upper storey (below 80 %) with mainly small crowns
- homogeneous canopy : dominant medium storey (recruitment)
- open canopy (below 20 %) with under herbaceous cover
- herbaceous cover (closure above 80 %) and scrub
- open canopy with bare soils (stand being logged).

Another map of forestry landscapes is being carried out using image segmentation processing : each segment is delineated according to its thematic environment, i.e. to its different rates of surface states classes. External data on morphopedological environment will be added to set up the final map. The legend is different to the previous one because it deals with landscapes and not with pixels :

- dense closed forest : mainly primary virgin forest with some areas of secondary forest properly restored
- logged over forest, after non intensive and/or old harvesting
- logged over forest, after intensive and/or recent harvesting
- open degraded forest
- forest being logged.

It must be noted that the satellite data are directly related to the vegetation cover density. In the surface states map, a discrimination between different storeys is possible thanks to their different closure. But today, nothing yet is operational with SPOT to estimate the stands height and the storeys characteristics in volume or species composition.

3/ Integration of satellite information into a multi-stage forest inventory

The different steps in a forest inventory are as follows :

- stratification (forest stands mapping) : area estimation
- field sampling : volume estimation
- data processing
- interpretation of results and management recommendations.

The stratification step can be done using aerial photographies and/or satellite imagery, especially SPOT with its high ground resolution. But one should keep in mind that aerial photographies still bring more information on forest stands characteristics (crown size, stands height, sometimes species composition...) The great interest of stratification is to optimize the sampling design by reducing the field work.

A multi-stage inventory was carried out by CTFT in the Republic of Guinea (region of Lola). In a first step, aerial photographies and LANDSAT images were interpreted and processed to delineate the main timber stands (stratification). In a second step, a map was carried out using the stratification results. In a last step, a ground inventory was sampled in the homogeneous areas (strata) extracted from the map.

Each strata can be considered as a management unit for further development in the study area.

Another research operation is undertaken by CTFT. The subject is to look for the best procedure in the integration of three levels of information in a multi-stage sampling : ground measures, aerial photographies and satellite imagery (SPOT). The study is located in South Mali.

The main objectives are :

- to search for the relations between the three levels of variables,
- to discriminate the vegetation types with SPOT imagery,
- to set up a forest inventory design.

4/ Continuous monitoring of forest changes

This application aims at estimating areas variations. The volume variations need a ground survey.

In the previous example (Republic of Guinea), a comparison study was also carried out between 1955, 1974 and 1979. It shows that between 1955 and 1974, 72 % of moist forest has not changed, 21 % is now classified in degraded areas, 6 % in agricultural areas and 1 % in savanna.

This field of application is one of the most promising using remote sensing techniques. Forest depletion is at the present time one of the major problem in ASEAN countries. Basic problems cannot be solved without up-to-date remote sensing data, such as :

- what are the real areas of logged over forests (rates of unlogged/logged over forests) ?
- what is the rate of harvesting in primary virgin forests ?
- how fast is restored logged over forest ?
- What is the state of a forest at a given time ? (rates of different stands within the forest)
- how are evolving degraded areas and shifting cultivations areas ?

It is in the context of deforestation and forest degradation that a project "Methodology and Training in Monitoring. Deforestation using Satellite data for Sustainable Environmental Management" was set up by SEAMO and France. This project is at the same time regional and national in scope and concerns ASEAN countries. Its objectives are two-fold : a technical realization, i.e. small and large scale forest surveys with remote sensing techniques, combined with a transfer of know-how.

CONCLUSION

- 1/ One of the main interest of remote sensing is the stratification of forest stands which provides one way to improve the field sampling design : the field work can be reduced for the same standard error of parameter estimate, or for the same amount of field work (same costs) the standard error of estimate can be also reduced.
- 2/ SPOT is a very efficient tool and operational system for the identification of dense forest, logged over forest and degraded forest. It contributes also in a wide array of applications to monitor forest changes and is a considerable progress for extracting detailed information.
- 3/ Some needs are not perfectly fulfilled, i.e. the radiometric discrimination between primary virgin forest and secondary forest. But the results can be improved with the distinction of old logging roads within secondary forest. The pilot project in Sabah shows that an analysis of different forest covers is possible according to their storeys structure.
- 4/ Visual analysis should not be neglected because of its undeniable interest in texture analysis, rapid survey of large areas, integration of external data during analysis, and in the low investment cost in equipment.

Nevertheless, digital analysis are more powerful in the image enhancement, the detection of small radiometric differences, the multidate analysis, the automation of several processing steps, the swiftness and reliability of land cover statistical outputs, and the integration of data in a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.).

But digital analysis need high investments for basis equipment that has to be cost-effective in further operations. And because of radiometric confusions and climatic effects, it is often necessary to process separately several areas in the same scene.

- 5/ Aerial photographies and satellite images are still providing complementary data. In both cases, ground truth observations are a prerequisite prior to high quality outputs.
- 6/ Clouds coverage is a permanent hindrance to a complete satellite cover in tropical areas. Some research studies on radar data have been already undertaken, but both data and results are disparate and no conclusive outputs have been carried out. More research is necessary, all the more the European radar satellite (ERS 1) should be launched in 1991.

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ANNEXE 5 : FICHE CIRAD COMPTE RENDU DE MISSION

