



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Near Real-Time Forest Monitoring Can Decrease Deforestation

Fanny Moffette, Jennifer Alix-Garcia, Katherine Shea and Amy Hudson Pickens

Abstract

We estimate the impact of free, transparent, and near-real-time spatial information about forest change (GLAD) on deforestation trends. With a random sample of 1 km² forested grid-cells in 22 tropical countries, we uncover the impacts of the availability of this information via an alert system and the presence of users who have shown interest in these data for a particular area. Though the availability of alerts does not significantly change deforestation outcomes, we find that subscriptions to GLAD decrease the probability of deforestation by 18% relative to pre-2016 levels in Africa, with no effects on other continents. The largest decrease in deforestation occurred in protected areas and concessions, which suggests that GLAD was used to reduce illegal logging. Calculated using the social cost of carbon for the avoided deforestation impact in Africa, we estimate a value of the alert system between USD 149 million and 696 million.