



ARICA project, NOR/POLNOR/ARICA/0022/2019-00, Norway Grants. **EOTIST** project, GA No 952111, the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.



Multi-temporal ecosystem changes monitoring in areas with high population growth dynamics

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Research Context

- Early detection of changes occurring in the ecosystem is crucial for accurate monitoring of its condition, effective protection and proper management.
- In protected areas and those with large, rapid population growth, there is an increasing need to determine the impact of human activities and climate change on the ecosystem (*Gromny et al., 2024; Sobczak-Szelc et al., 2024*)).
- Ecosystem Functional Type (EFT) analysis can be used to detect early changes in vegetation processes before they are identified on land cover maps, when degradation is already difficult to reverse (*Domingo-Marimon et al., 2024*).



Study Area



a) Location of Kutupalong-Balukhali Refugee Settlement and the surrounding area; b) distribution of camp population from October 2017 to December 2022. Ground-truth data acquired during the fieldwork in Oct 2022 (*ARICA Geoplatform & Camp Stories*):



Refugee camp



Agriculture fields



Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary © Masum-al-Hasan Rock

Naf River

© shutterstock

Study Area



120 DOY

305 DOY

Based on data from Meteomanz.com

Ecosystem Functional Types

The annual vegetation index curve determines the 3 main Ecosystem Functional Attributes of EFA :

Primary Production (NDVIMEAN): The average of the values recorded per season.

Seasonality (sCV): Seasonal coefficient of variation, the standard deviation divided by the mean value.

Phenology (DMAX): The date of the maximum value recorded in a season.

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EFT Calculation

Input data: Satellite data Sentinel-2 (10m)



| Season | Wet | Dry | Total |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Jan. 2016 - Dec. 2016 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2017 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Jan. 2018 - Dec. 2018 | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Jan. 2019 - Dec. 2019 | 2 | 11 | 13 |
| Jan. 2020 - Dec. 2020 | 2 | 10 | 12 |
| Jan. 2021 - Dec. 2021 | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| Jan. 2022 - Dec. 2022 | 5 | 10 | 15 |

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Example: 2018 growing season



Ш ົ and **60** Land Use/Cover Iparison









LU/LC annuall classification products

EFTs per growing season



Summary

- Analysis of Ecosystem Functional Types (EFT) in both the Kutupalong-Balukhali settlement area and in Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary reveals changes over 7 growing seasons as opposed to annual land cover and land use maps.
- A limitation of the method based on optical data is cloud cover. An alternative may be the use of **radar data**.
- The presented results can be integrated in **the environmental monitoring system** in order to facilitate the preservation of a healthy environment both in its current state and in the future perspective.

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References

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THANK YOU

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