Review of: "Open-Source Remote Sensing Determination of Carbon Emissions From Tropical Deforestation Scenarios in Southeast Nigeria"

Chike Onyeka Madueke[1]

1 Nnamdi Azikiwe University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study is quite relevant, especially given the increasing rate of deforestation and the attendant increase in land degradation, including gully erosion, in the region. Also, it is noteworthy that the reference to inaccessibility of funds for research and the relative high cost of high-resolution satellite imagery is a major drawback in spatial/geophysical research in the region. In this sense, the availability of the Global Forest Watch (GFW) tool is a welcome development.

Nevertheless, a few points may need to be reviewed by the authors. Some of these are:

1. There are no tables showing the data generated in the course of the study (ground-truth or downloaded from the GFW). Maybe data from the 5 states in the region and a comparative assessment of this may be relevant.
2. The data/results/discussion is somewhat sketchy. More details may be required.
3. The discussion does not seem to be tied to the data/analytics. There may be the need to link the discussion to the results/generated data.
4. In the conclusion, it was stated that the study proves the potential of the open-source … Global Forest Watch of the World Resources Institute (WRI) in quantifying the emissions rates from tropical deforestation scenarios in Southeastern Nigeria. The data does not seem to back this as the accuracy of the downloaded results was not assessed. In the absence of another data source, it may be the only available alternative, but from what was presented, we are not certain that it is a good representation of reality.
5. It was also stated in the conclusion that a bamboo forest is recommended for southeastern Nigeria. No data or literature was presented to support the advantage of the bamboo forest over the natural tree-based forest. The authors may need to do a more extensive review of available data/literature that highlights the advantages of bamboo over the natural tree-based forest.