#### Landscape Scale Estimation of Mangrove Mean Tree Height and Biomass (IDS)



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## Objectives

- to use SRTM elevation data to estimate vegetation height in wetlands dominated by mangroves
- to estimate productivity within the complex mangrove mosaic and extend production models to regional scales.



#### Relevance

NASA Carbon cycle and Ecosystem Roadmap

 (T)Vegetation 3D structure (Biomass & Disturbance)
 Coastal carbon

 Bridging scales, processes and disciplines



## Mangrove Distribution

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## Why Mangroves?

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- Biodiversity
  - Habitats of 1300 species of animals
    - o 628 mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians
- Among the most productive ecosystems on earth





 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

99%



## Why Mangroves?

• Biodiversity

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- Habitats of 1300 species of animals
  - o 628 mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians
- Among the most productive ecosystems on earth
  - 170k km<sup>2</sup> with mean 2.5g C m<sup>-2</sup> per day
    Mangrove Sediment
    Recycled
    Export ot Ocean
    Annual input into ocean 46X10<sup>12</sup> g C

• Thus contributes 11% of global total export to ocean



89%



## Why Mangroves?

- Biodiversity
  - Habitats of 1300 species of animals
    - o 628 mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians
- Among the most productive ecosystems on earth
  - 170k km<sup>2</sup> with mean 2.5g C m<sup>-2</sup> per day
     Mangrove Sediment
     50%
     50%
     Export of Ocean
     Annual input into ocean 46X10<sup>12</sup> g C



85%

- o Contributing 11% of global total export to ocean
- Annual accumulation of carbon in modern sediments 23X10<sup>12</sup>g C yr<sup>-1</sup>
  - Contributing 15% of carbon accumulation in modern sediments.



## Mangroves Are Endangered

- Endangered by Urbanization, exploitation and sea level rise
- Between 33 and 50% coverage loss over the last 50 years



#### Everglades National Park, Florida

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## The Everglades National Park



Everglades National Park covers approximately 4300 km2 in South Florida and is part of the greater Everglades ecosystem which extends north to Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River.



## **Everglades National Park**

- LTER (Long Term Ecological Research)
  - Founded by NSF in 1980
  - Network of 26 sites
  - Over 1800 scientists
- The majority of FCE LTER sites are located in freshwater marsh, estuarine mangroves, seagrass estuary ecosystems.



## **NEON Climate Domains**

(National Ecological Observatory Network)

(11)

(9)

SG

(10)

5

(8)

 $\overline{7}$ 

PAL

+MCM

GC

**+MC** 

RCE



- **2** Mid Atlantic
- **3** Southeast
- **Atlantic Neotropical**

(20)

- **5** Great Lakes
- Prairie Peninsula
- Appalachians / Cumberland
   Plateau
- **8** Ozarks Complex
- (9) Northern Plains
- (10) Central Plains
- (1) Southern Plains

- 12 Northern Rockies
- (3) Southern Rockies / Colorado
   (4) Plateau

(15)

- Desert Southwest
- **(15)** Great Basin
- <sup>16</sup> Pacific Northwest
- 17 Pacific Southwest

18 Tundra
19 Taiga
20 Pacific Neotropical

## Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)



Radar Interferometer
 60m boom
 C and X band
 11 days in February 2000.
 80% Earth Land
 Latitude 56S to 60N
 30m US and World 90m

http://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/srtm/



## **SRTM** Elevation data





# Relative Vegetation Height

Radar

Height

Estimate



# Relative Vegetation Height





## LIDAR Data

- Optech 1233 Airborne Laser Terrain Mapper
  - o Infrared 1.1um
- First and last reflection method (No Waveform)
- Nominal Altitude of 500m
  - o 360m swath
- May 13-15 2004
- 1.5m spacing with 13cm laser footprint
- 15 cm elevation accuracy



#### Lidar Tansects



## **Transect Harney River**







## Field data:

#### Tree and Forest Structure, Productivity



#### USGS DEM South Florida Information Access(SOFIA)

- DEM 15cm height Accuracy
- Grid with 400m sampling



#### Land Cover Classification (University of Georgia Quads)

- Land Cover Classification
- o Mangrove Forests
  - o by specie dominance
  - o scrub vs tall





1000

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## Mean Tree Height

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

## **Biomass Estimation**





## **Biomass Spatial Distribution**



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## Histogram Distribution





#### Plans

- Landscape Scale
   Productivity
- Expand to Honduras, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico.
- Forest Structure Model vs.
   Radar Elevation and Correlation
- LIDAR Waveforms (ICEsat)



## **ICEsat Elevation vs SRTM**





## **ICEsat Elevation vs SRTM**

AT ANY ANY ANY



#### From Remote Sensing to Relevant Metrics



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## Flight Simulation

- Mari



From Lostman River to Shark River



