

Interactive comment on “The global forest above-ground biomass pool for 2010 estimated from high-resolution satellite observations” by Maurizio Santoro et al.

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Received and published: 4 December 2020

The paper provides a very good assessment and comparison with other global products. These are likely to increase in number and quality given the increased capacity for generation as a result of increased amounts and diversities of data from satellite sensors operating in different modes (optical, radar, lidar), many of which have specified mission focus on biomass (e.g., GEDI, BIOMASS, NISAR). The maps generated will be used for different purposes (e.g., climate modelling, national reporting of carbon stocks and change). For this, users will need to make decisions on whether to use these maps and, if so, which is the most reliable. In the GlobBiomass product,

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error assessments are robust and can be used to support decisions. However, other maps including updates of the product presented might not have such rigour or may approach in a different way. The use of a standardized global ground dataset with which to compare all products is recommended but there are complications in terms of the timing of these relative to that of the satellite observations and also how these are summarised and over what time periods. It would be useful to provide advice for potential users to help make decisions on how, where and when to use these different maps.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-148>, 2020.

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