High conservation value forest in Denmark (DK Forest LiDAR v1.0.0)

Assmann et al. (in prep) Temperate forests of high conservation value are successfully identified by satellite and LiDAR data fusion.

Classifications of high conservation value of forests in Denmark using the EcoDes-DK15 dataset (https://github.com/jakobjassmann/ecodes-dk-lidar) and other spatial data.

Disclaimer: This project is currently in peer-review.

Results

- Leaflet web app - best model (map of projections) (data_vis_best.html)
- Leaflet web app - all models (map of projections) (data_vis_all.html)
- Summary stats (area estimates) (summary_stats.html)

Project overview

- Workflow Overview (workflow.html)

Data description

- Forest annotations and training data (training_annotations.html)
- Predictor overview (data_overview.html)
- Focal (window) predictor selection (focal_var_selection.html)

Model performance

- Gradient Boosting performance (gbm_models_performance.html)
- Random Forest performance (ranger_models_performance.html)

Data / Outputs

All data outputs are available on Zendo:
- https://zenodo.org/records/10419006 (https://zenodo.org/records/10419006)

Compressed and cloud optimised rasters & vectors can also be downloaded from AWS:

- Best model: Random Forest Projections BIOWIDE v1.0.0 (40.2 MB, GeoTiff) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/forest_quality_ranger_biowide_cog_epsg3857_v1.0.0.tif)
- Random Forest Projections Derek’s Stratification v1.0.0 (40.2 MB, GeoTiff) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/forest_quality_ranger_derek_cog_epsg3857_v1.0.0.tif)
- Gradient Boosting Projections BIOWIDE v1.0.0 (41.5 MB, GeoTiff) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/forest_quality_gbm_biowide_cog_epsg3857_v1.0.0.tif)
- Gradient Boosting Projections Derek’s Stratification v1.0.0 (41.5 MB, GeoTiff) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/forest_quality_gbm_derekcog_epsg3857_v1.0.0.tif)
- Disturbance map v0.9.1 (17.8 MB, GeoTiff) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/disturbance_since_2015_cog_epsg3857_v0.1.0.tif)
- Training Polygons v0.9.0 (115.7 MB, GeoJson) (https://dkforestlidar2022.s3.eu-central-1.amazonaws.com/training_polygons_v0.9.0.geojson)

Summary report

- Summary report - website snapshot v1.0.1 (3.48 MB, PDF)) (Assmann_et_al-DK_Forest_Quality_Report_v1.0.0.pdf)

Auxiliary

- Guide on how to visualise cloud optimised rasters (cog_guide.html)

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[last update: 17 October 2024]

Workflow Overview

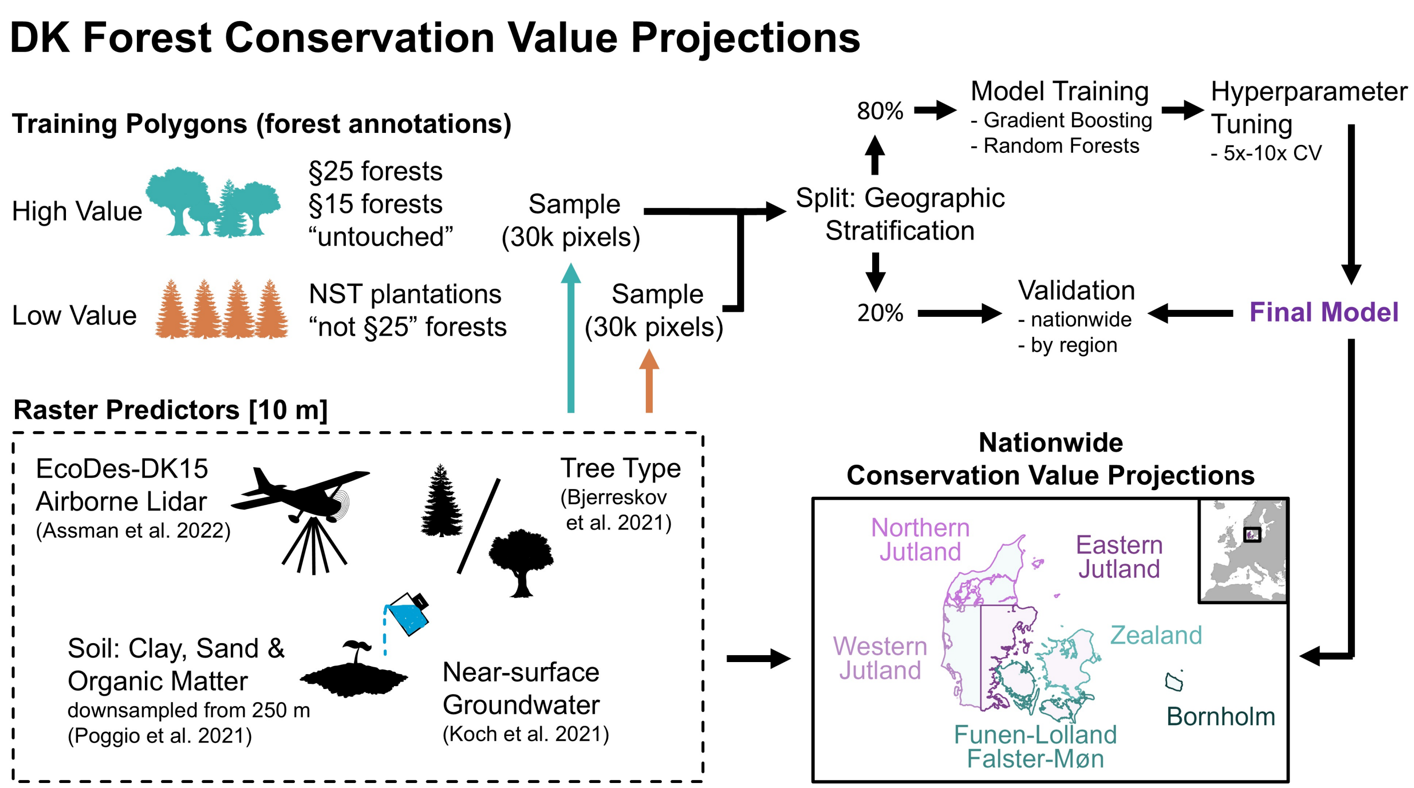
Jakob J. Assmann

17/10/2024

This document provides an overview on the workflow that we used to generate the models for predicting forest conservation value in Denmark.

In brief:

1. We gathered raster predictors with 10 m res. that we deemed meaningful for predicting the conservation value of forests in Denmark.
2. We gathered ~20k annotations for forests with high and low conservation value in Denmark.
3. We generated a training dataset of 60k pixels that fell within the annotated forests.
4. We split the training dataset 80%/20% prior model training using a geographic stratification.
5. We trained Gradient Boosting and Random Forest models.
6. We tuned the model hyperparameters using 5 or 10-fold cross validation based on the training dataset from the 80%/20% split.
7. We tested the final model performance on the validation dataset from the 80%/20% split.
8. We projected the forest quality across the whole of Denmark using the final models and the predictor rasters.



DK Forest LiDAR - Forest Annotations & Training Data

Jakob J. Assmann

17/10/2024

This document provides an overview of the forest annotations used for generating the training dataset that forms the base of our forest conservation value models for Denmark.

These annotations are vector polygons of forests in Denmark that are of known “high” or “low” conservation value. We used these polygons to generate a training dataset of 60k pixels based on the 10 m grid of Denmark that is used by our models. The grid is defined by the EcoDes-DK15 dataset. A brief description on how the final pixel training dataset was generated from the forest annotations can be found at the end of this document.

Note: What makes a “high” or “low” conservation value forest is to some degree arbitrary. Our definitions here are the result of a long discussion and have been developed over multiple years. The aim was to arrive at a workable definition that aligns with the current framework of forest designations in Denmark, while also ensuring that enough training data is available. We appreciate that our chosen definitions of forest conservation value are a simplification and not without flaws (e.g., we assume that all “plantations” are of low forest conservation value).

High conservation value forests

Total number of high conservation value forest polygons: 9400.

§25 and §15 forest

The core of the high conservation value forest annotations is made up by the polygons for the designated §25 (“naturmaessigt saerlig vaerdifuld skov”) and §15 (“skovnatur”) forests. The vector boundaries of these forests were retrieved from “Danmarks Miljøportal” (https://arealinformation.miljoeportal.dk/ (https://arealinformation.miljoeportal.dk/)):

- p25_offentligareal.shp (§25 forests, accessed on on 5 April 2019
- skov_kortlaegning_2016_2018.shp (§15 forests, accessed 24 September 2019).

Number of forests: 9044 (§25 forests: 2906; and §15 forests: 6138).

Untouched forests and “aftaler om natur”

The two other components of the high conservation value forest annotations are vector boundaries from the untouched forests (private and public), as well as areas with agreements on nature (“aftaler om natur”). The vector boundaries of these areas were retrieved from “Miljøgis - Ansøgning om skovtilskud for private” (https://miljoegis3.mim.dk/spatialmapsecure?profile=privatskovtilskud (https://miljoegis3.mim.dk/spatialmapsecure?profile=privatskovtilskud)):

- tilsagn17_st_uroert_skov_privat_tilskud.shp (untouched forests, accessed on 6 July 2021)
- tilsagn18_st_uroert_skov.shp (untouched forests, accessed on 6 July 2021)
- tilsagn19_st_uroert_skov_privat_tilskud.shp (untouched forests, accessed on 6 July 2021)
- tilsagn20_st_uroert_skov_privat_tilskud.shp (untouched forests, accessed on 6 July 2021)
- aftale_natur_tinglyst.shp (agreements on nature, accessed on 6 July 2021)

Number of forests: 356 (“untouched”: 118; “aftaler om natur”: 238).

Low conservation value forests

Total number of low conservation value forest polygons: 10697.

“Ikke” §25 forests

These forests are forests that were considered for being designated as §25 forests, but did not meet the requirements (e.g., after completion of the field survey). The vector geometries for these forests were shared with us by Bjarne Aabrandt Jensen (Miljøstyrelsen) in a personal communication on 19 November 2019.

- ikkeP25_skov.shp (personal communication, 19 November 2019)

Number of forests: 5848.

NST plantations

These forests are plantations owned by Denmark’s environment agency “Naturstyrelsen” (NST). The vector geometries and auxiliary data for these forests were obtained by personal communication from Bjørn Ole Ejlersen at NST to Pil Pedersen on 11 June 2020.

The source dataset includes all forests owned by NST. To subset only forests that are plantations, we filtered the data by excluding all forests that had an “ANV 4” value of 1, were classified as “urørt” or designated as “historical”. We then sub-sampled the plantations to ensure a balanced training dataset between high and low conservation value forests (target :~10k high & ~10k low conservation value forests). We drew a sample of 5000 plantations. To account for variation within stand ages, we stratified the sample based on the following stand ages classes (years): [0, 10], (10, 25], (25, 50], (50, 75], (75, ∞). For each stand age we drew 1000 forests at random. Not all forests that were drawn in the sample had an associated polygon in the separate vector geometry file (n missing = 151), these forests were not included in the final NST plantation subset.

- NST 2019 08012019 ber 16012020 til bios_au.xlsx (NST forests data table)
- LitraPolygoner_region.shp (NST forests polygons)

Number of forests: 4849.

Cleaning and preparation of geometries

We observed some overlap between the assembled annotations for high and low conservation value forests. This overlap included duplicate mappings within each category, as well as some duplicate mapping of parts of forests as high and low conservation value. These inaccuracies were expected given the extent of the dataset and the fact that it was assembled from multiple sources. To address the issue we carried out a systematic cleaning of the geometries (fully reproducible through our source code).

First, we removed all internal overlap within the high conservation value geometries. For this we iteratively removed all internal overlap starting with the p25 forests (internally sorted in the order the polygons were loaded), followed by the private old growth and lastly the p15 forests. We also buffered the geometries, using a negative buffer of 10 cm to avoid line-overlaps due to inaccuracies in the geometries. Finally, we removed one remaining p15 forest that failed to be filtered out.

Second, we removed all internal overlap within the low conservation value geometries, taking the same approach as for the high conservation value geometries except working in prescribed order (the polygons were simpely processed in the order they were loaded). While doing that we also checked for overlap with any high conservation value geometries and if that was the case removed any overlap. We also buffered the geometries, using a negative buffer of 10 cm to avoid line-overlaps due to geometric inaccuracies. Finally, we removed one remaining ikke_p25 forest that was duplicated in the dataset.

The resulting dataset consisted of two type of forest annotations (8915 high and 9720 low conservation value polygons) with no internal overlap within or between categories.

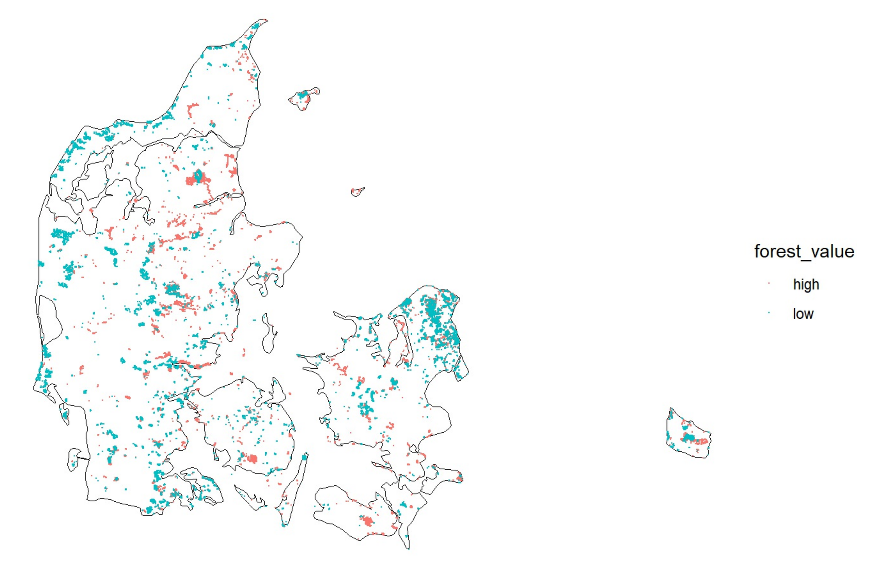
Pixel training dataset

Pixel sampling

We used the forest annotations (8915 high conservation value forests and 9720 low conservation value forests) to generate a sample of 60k pixels based on the EcoDes-DK14 grid to train our forest conservation value models.

The EcoDes-DK15 dataset uses a version of the Danish national grid that divides terrestrial Denmark into 10 m x 10 m cells / pixels (UTM32). For the training dataset we drew a sample of 30k pixels each from within the high conservation value and the low conservation value forest polygons. Specifically, the sample was based on the EcoDes-DK15 “dtm10_m” descriptor raster). The sample was drawn in the following fashion: First, we drew a random pixel from within each forest polygon (high or low). We then filled in the missing number of pixels to make up 30k for each forest conservation value class (high or low). The filing step was done completely at random, drawing from all remaining pixels available per class. The final dataset of pixels therefore contained 30k unique pixels from each class.

Pixel sample for training



Note, that because of the sampling scheme some pixels will be drawn from the same individual forest polygons and the sampled pixels are therefore to some degree not statistically independent (as would samples from neighbouring polygons). However, the aim of our project is not to carry out a statistical analysis, but to train a machine learning classifier for predicting forest conservation value. The reduction in independence of the samples is therefore not an issue, as long as it does not lead to over fitting of the models (which it did not). Instead sub-sampling of the forest polygons is likely desirable as it allows us to capture the variation within the forest polygons themselves and therefore increase the predictive capabilities of our models. We also include focal (window) predictors variables to account for within landscape-scale (100 m x 100 m) variation in our models.

Finally, we chose a sample size of 60k pixels as a compromise between available computing power and model output performance. There are approximately 56.3 million forest pixels in Denmark and the training sample therefore represents ~0.1% of the total forest area in the country.

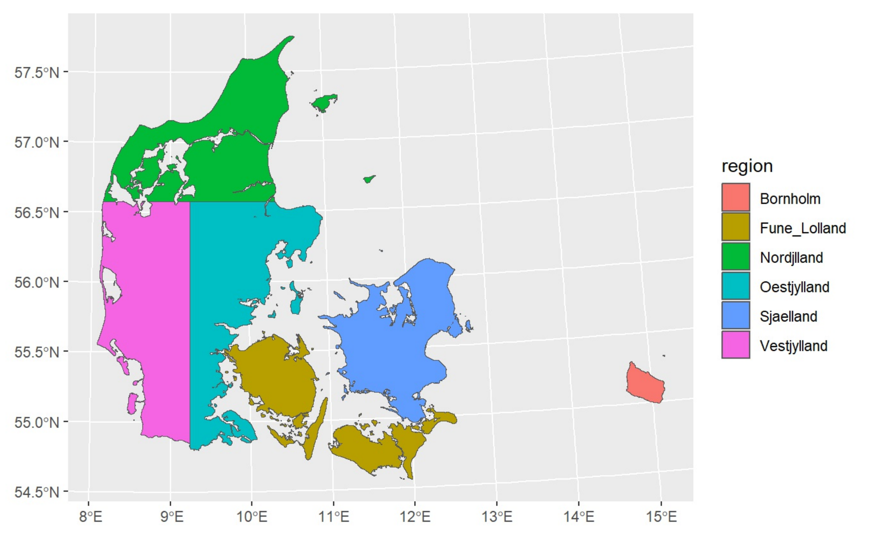
Training / validation split (geographic stratifiaction)

To allow for an independent validation of the model performance, we split the data 80/20 (training / validation) before carrying out the training. To account for potential geographical covariation in the training data we used a geographic stratification when carrying out the split. This means that the split was not conducted at random on the whole dataset, but randomly within regions (80/20 in each region). We used two different stratification schema of Denmark (see below).

Biowide stratification

This stratification was developed for the BIOWIDE project (Brunbjerg et al. 2019). The geometries are not publicly available and were kindly shared with us by Ane Brunbjerg (personal communication on 1 September 2021). Some further clean up of the geometries was required on our end. We had to make sure the boundaries of geometries were flush among neighbouring regions and that the coastlines were buffered.

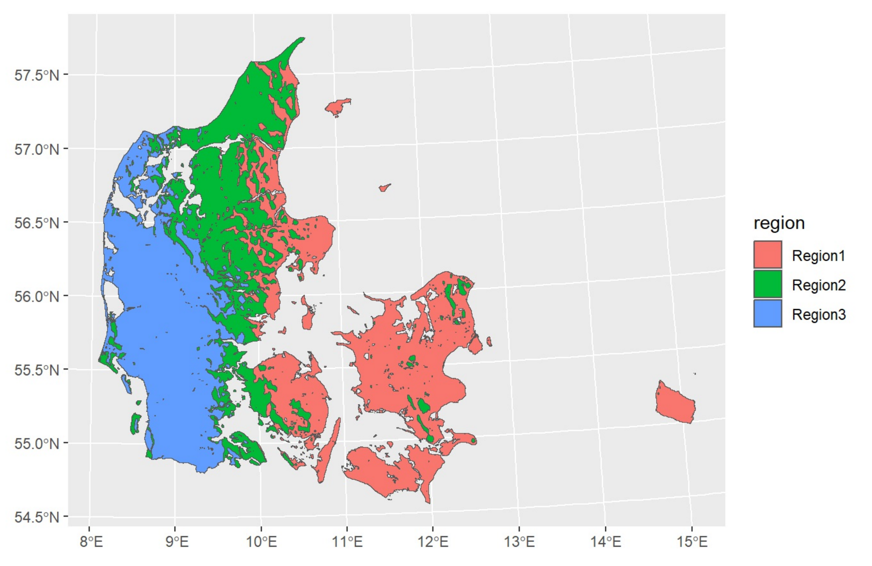
The stratification divides Denmark into six regions.



Derek’s stratification

The second stratification was developed by co-author Derek Corcoran based on climatic and other ecological covariates.

It divides Denmark into three regions.



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DK Forest LiDAR - Predictor Data Overview

Jakob J. Assmann

17/10/2024

Predictor variables and selection

EcoDes-DK15 descriptors

The core of the predictor variables is formed by the EcoDes-DK15 rasterised lidar descriptors (Assmann et al. 2022) generated from the 2014/15 national airborne laser scanning campaign conducted by the Danish government.

From the 76 available EcoDes-DK15 layers (incl. auxiliary layers), we removed the date_stamp_xxx, point_count_xxx, point_source and building_proportion layers as we deemed those non-informative for the task of predicting forest conservation value. We kept the sea and water mask layers to try out sub-setting of the training data to make sure only land pixels are included, but discarded the mask layers later in the analysis.

Furthermore, we removed the following descriptors: canopy_openness, point_count, normalized_z_mean, heat_load_index, openness_mean, twi - as the ecological meaning of these was conceptually redundant with other descriptors (vegetation_density, canopy_height, solar_radiation, openness_difference and ground water respectively) and initial model runs indicated that these variables had a low predictive power. We also removed the aspect variable because it was a very weak predictor. This makes sense conceptually as the aspect at 10 m likely has little meaning on whether a forest cell is of high conservation value or not (all cardinal directions would theoretically be expected to be of high conservation value).

Finally, we removed all vegetation_proportion variables. These variables demonstrated a low predictive power by themselves. However, to capture the vertical variability in the lidar point cloud we calculated a foliage height diversity variable.

The final set of used EcoDes-DK15 variables is:

- amplitude_mean
- amplitude_sd
- canopy_height
- dtm_10m
- normalized_z_sd
- openness_difference
- slope
- solar_radiation
- vegetation_density

Foliage height diversity

To capture the vertical variation in the forest canopy we calcualted the “foliage height diversity” (MacArthur and MacArthur 1961) from the EcoDes-DK15 point proportion descriptors We followed the height bins used by Wilson (1974): 0 m – 1.5 m, 1.5 m – 9 m, and >9 m.

- foliage_height_diversity

Tree type predictor

As we expected that most common tree type (broadleaf vs. coniferous) would play an important role in determining if and why a forest is of high or low conservation value, we included the tree type projections generated by Bjerreskov et al. (2021).

The authors used a multi-temporal Sentinel 1/2 data fusion (SAR and optical) approach to assign forest types in a binary classification (broadleaf vs. coniferous).

As both types are mutually exclusive we discarded the “is confierous” variable after one-hot encoding of the source data. The source data is currently not publcily avialable, but was kindly shared with us by Thomas Nord-Larsen (senior author on Bjerreskov et al. 2021).

- treetype_bjer_dec

Soil predictors

Clay, sand and organic carbon content of soil

Soil type and composition are an important indicator in the key for the paragraph 25 forests. Here we used the following three predictors to account for differences in the soils across Denmark:

- Clay_utm32_10m
- Sand_utm32_10m
- Soc_utm32_10m

These data were obtained from the Soilgrids 2.0 dataset (Poggio et al. 2021). The original data layers were queried using the geodata package (Hijmans, Ghosh, and Mandel 2021) and subset to the extent of Denmark. The original data have a grain size of 250 m and are in a “Interrupted_Goode_Homolosine” projection. We projected them to the EcoDes-DK grid with 10 m grain size (UTM32N) using nearest neighbor resampling.

Note that the nearest neighbour resampling strategy is conservative and makes no assumption about the spatial distribution of the variables during the downsampling of the 250 m dataset. However, the downsampling may give the wrong impression that we have used higher-resolution predictor data than we actually have. Finally, the resampling will inevitably introduce some uncertainties where the downsampled grid and the orignal grid not align.

As a water mask had originally been applied to this data, we had no predictor data in cases where a 250 m x 250 m pixel overlapped with a water body. This became a problem when extrapolating the models to the nationwide extent, as the finer grain size of our maps introduced more detailed shore lines. We therefore had 10 m x 10 m land pixels for which no soil data was available. To address this problem we gap-filled the original 250 m x 250 m soil data. All pixels that were NA and had at least one neighbouring cell that was not NA were filled with the mean of all neighbouring cells that were not NA. The raster was then projected to the EcoDEs-DK grid with 10 m grain size and only used for generating the nationwide forest conservation value maps from the trained models, but not for training of the models themselves. Forest conse predictions close to some shores may therefore contain some error, but we are confident that this error is very small due to the inherently high autocorrelation of the soil variables.

Water availability

To account for the wetness of the forest ground and the water availability to the plants we use the summer near-surface ground water estimates by Koch et al. 2021.

- ns_groundwater_summer

Focal variables

To capture the spacial context around a pixel beyond the 10 m grid, we selected four key predictor variables and calculated their mean and variation (sd) for two window sizes of 110 m and 250 m around each pixel. We selected these window sizes as the best candidates based on variograms generated for all variables.

We conducted a collinearity analysis on the focal variables and reduced the variables in a step-wise selection process to the following final four focal variables included in the models:

- dtm_10m_sd_110m
- canopy_height_sd_110m
- vegetation_density_sd_110m
- ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m

Additional documentation of the selection process can be found in the focal variable selection (focal_var_selection.html) document.

Overview table final predictor data sources

Here is an overview table of the final predictor data sources.

Predictor	Source Dataset	Ecological Meaning
amplitude_mean	EcoDes-DK15	Quality of lidar signal reflected (proxy of biomass).
amplitude_sd	EcoDes-DK15	Variation in quality of lidar signal reflected within 10 m pixel (proxy of variation in biomass).
canopy_height	EcoDes-DK15	Lidar estimator of canopy height (95-percentile of height distribution of all vegetation points in 10 m pixel).
canopy_height_sd_110m	EcoDes-DK15	Variation in lidar estimator of canopy height within 110 m focal window (11 x 11 pixels).
Clay_utm32_10m	Poggio et al. 2021	Estimated percentage clay content of soil (250 m resolution downscaled to 10 m).
dtm_10m	EcoDes-DK15	Terrain height above sea level.
dtm_10m_sd_110m	EcoDes-DK15	Variation in terrain height above sea level within 110 m focal window (11 x 11 pixels).
foliage_height_diversity	EcoDes-DK15	Foliage height diversity MacArthur and MacArthur (1979) based on height bins by Wilson (1974)
normalized_z_sd	EcoDes-DK15	Estimated variation in canopy height within 10 m pixel.
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	Koch et al. 2021	Estimate of depth of near-surface groundwater during an average summer.
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	Koch et al. 2021	Variation in the estimate of depth of near-surface groundwater during an average summer within a 110 m focal window (11 x 11 pixels).
openness_difference	EcoDes-DK15	Presence of linear features in the terrain (valleys, ridges etc.) based on a 50 m search radius.
Sand_utm32_10m	Poggio et al. 2021	Estimated percentage sand content of soil (250 m resolution downscaled to 10 m).
slope	EcoDes-DK15	Terrain slope at 10 m
Soc_utm32_10m	Poggio et al. 2021	Estimated percentage soil organic carbon content of soil (250 m resolution downscaled to 10 m).
solar_radiation	EcoDes-DK15	Annual incident solar radiation based on terrain model (aspect and slope).
treetype_bjer_dec	Bjerreskov et al. 2021	Decidous or coniferous forest.
vegetation_density	EcoDes-DK15	Denisty of vegetation points in 10 m lidar pixel.
vegetation_density_sd_110m	EcoDes-DK15	Variation of density of vegeation points amongst pixels within 110 m window (11 x 11 pixels).

References

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DK Forest LiDAR - Focal predictor selection

Jakob J. Assmann

02/03/2022

Content

We calculated the mean and sd in 110 m and 250 m windows for the following variables:

- dtm_10m
- canopy_height
- vegetation_density
- ns_ground_water

Here is how those measures are correlated with their focal variables:

canopy_height

	cell_10m	mean_110m	mean_250m	sd_110m	sd_250m
cell_10m	+1.00	+0.88	+0.80	+0.40	+0.56
mean_110m		+1.00	+0.95	+0.30	+0.53
mean_250m			+1.00	+0.28	+0.42
sd_110m				+1.00	+0.81
sd_250m					+1.00

dtm_10m

	cell_10m	mean_110m	mean_250m	sd_110m	sd_250m
cell_10m	+1.00	+1.00	+1.00	+0.30	+0.32
mean_110m		+1.00	+1.00	+0.30	+0.32
mean_250m			+1.00	+0.30	+0.33
sd_110m				+1.00	+0.92
sd_250m					+1.00

ns_groundwater_summer_mean_110m

	cell_10m	ns_groundwater_summer_mean_250m	ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	ns_groundwater_summer_sd_250m	ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m
cell_10m	+1.00	+0.97	+0.33	+0.38	+0.96
ns_groundwater_summer_mean_250m		+1.00	+0.36	+0.41	+0.91
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m			+1.00	+0.87	+0.31
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_250m				+1.00	+0.35
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m					+1.00

vegetation_density

	cell_10m	mean_110m	mean_250m	sd_110m	sd_250m
cell_10m	+1.00	+0.82	+0.71	+0.17	+0.29
mean_110m		+1.00	+0.93	-0.03	+0.16
mean_250m			+1.00	-0.07	-0.00
sd_110m				+1.00	+0.76
sd_250m					+1.00

Variation Inflation Factors

To reduce the number of features systematically, we calculate variance inflation factors (vIFs). A VIF above 5 indicates that the variable introduces multicolliniearity in the dataset. A conservative rule is to only keep variables with VIFs below 2.5.

Here we carry out a step-wise selection based on the VIFs and the correlation tables above. VIFs exceeding 5 are highlighted in red.

1) All variables

Variables	VIF
canopy_height	6.66
canopy_height_mean_110m	33.43
canopy_height_mean_250m	25.65
canopy_height_sd_110m	6.12
canopy_height_sd_250m	8.93
dtm_10m	618.45
dtm_10m_mean_110m	1688.75
dtm_10m_mean_250m	511.75
dtm_10m_sd_110m	8.71
dtm_10m_sd_250m	8.92
ns_groundwater_summer_mean_110m	61.96
ns_groundwater_summer_mean_250m	28.76
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	5.14
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_250m	5.27
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	19.16
vegetation_density	4.54
vegetation_density_mean_110m	23.77
vegetation_density_mean_250m	19.87
vegetation_density_sd_110m	5.33
vegetation_density_sd_250m	6.82

The mean variables seem to introduce a lot of collinearity (very high VIFs, and see correlation tables above). We drop them first.

2) Drop mean variables

Variables	VIF
canopy_height	2.76
canopy_height_sd_110m	5.84
canopy_height_sd_250m	7.42
dtm_10m	1.26
dtm_10m_sd_110m	7.76
dtm_10m_sd_250m	7.76
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	5.09
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_250m	5.27
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	1.38
vegetation_density	1.72
vegetation_density_sd_110m	4.79
vegetation_density_sd_250m	5.06

The focal variables of different window sizes are highly correlated with each other. The correlation tables (above) suggest the 110 m windows are less correlated with the 10 m cell values, so we drop the 250 m windows next.

3) Drop 250 m variables

Variables	VIF
canopy_height	2.14
canopy_height_sd_110m	2.54
dtm_10m	1.25
dtm_10m_sd_110m	1.77
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	1.5
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	1.39
vegetation_density	1.7
vegetation_density_sd_110m	2.19

The final set of variables includes only the 10 m cell values and the sd calculated for the 110 m windows.

DK Forest LiDAR - Gradient Boosting Model Performance

Jakob Assmann

09/08/2022

Models trained using BIOWIDE stratification

For these models the training data was split according to the BIOWIDE stratification.

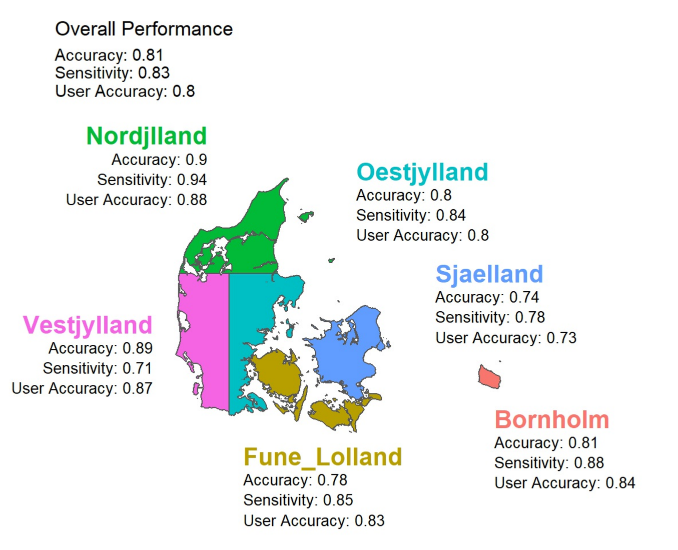
Variable importance

Variable importance for this boosted regression tree model.

```
##                                                          var  rel.inf
## dtm_10m                                              dtm_10m 9.436428
## Sand_utm32_10m                                Sand_utm32_10m 9.410692
## treetype_bjer_dec                          treetype_bjer_dec 7.586392
## Clay_utm32_10m                                Clay_utm32_10m 6.717277
## Soc_utm32_10m                                  Soc_utm32_10m 6.288340
## ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m 5.873385
## dtm_10m_sd_110m                              dtm_10m_sd_110m 5.429778
## amplitude_sd                                    amplitude_sd 5.258751
## canopy_height                                  canopy_height 5.022070
## vegetation_density                        vegetation_density 4.780821
## canopy_height_sd_110m                    canopy_height_sd_110m 4.767433
## ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m      ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m 4.674164
## solar_radiation                              solar_radiation 4.625719
## vegetation_density_sd_110m          vegetation_density_sd_110m 4.329235
## normalized_z_sd                              normalized_z_sd 4.155538
## foliage_height_diversity              foliage_height_diversity 3.908227
## amplitude_mean                                amplitude_mean 3.760337
## slope                                                  slope 2.515989
## openness_difference                      openness_difference 1.459423
```

Performance in BIOWIDE regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

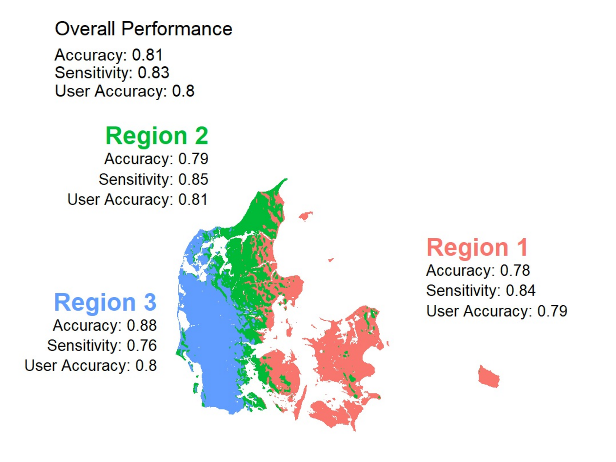
Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.90	0.80	0.74	0.89
Error	0.19	0.19	0.22	0.10	0.20	0.26	0.11
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.83	0.88	0.85	0.94	0.84	0.78	0.71
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.70	0.63	0.86	0.76	0.70	0.96
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.30	0.37	0.14	0.24	0.30	0.04
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.80	0.73	0.87

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	0.99	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99
Error	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.97
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00

Perfromance in Derek's regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	0.81	0.78	0.79	0.88
Error	0.19	0.22	0.21	0.12
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.83	0.84	0.85	0.76
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.69	0.73	0.92
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.31	0.27	0.08
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.79	0.81	0.80

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
Error	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00

Performance by forest type (boradleaf vs. coniferous)

Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	0.81	0.78	0.88
Error	0.19	0.22	0.12
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.83	0.86	0.63
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.68	0.95
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.32	0.05
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.80	0.80

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	0.99	0.99	0.99
Error	0.01	0.01	0.01
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.99	1.00	0.97
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.99	0.99	1.00
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.01	0.01	0.00
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.99	0.99	0.99

Models trained using Derek's stratification

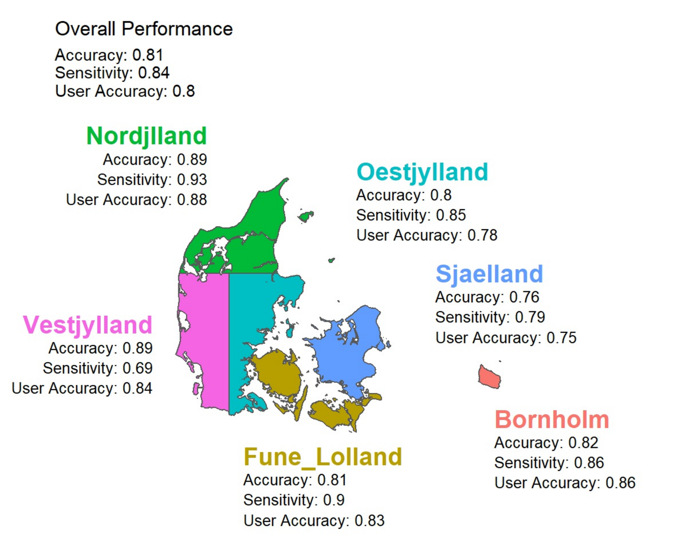
Variable importance

Variable importance for this boosted regression tree model.

```
##                                                          var  rel.inf
## Sand_utm32_10m                                Sand_utm32_10m 9.292837
## dtm_10m                                              dtm_10m 9.063782
## treetype_bjer_dec                          treetype_bjer_dec 7.359120
## Clay_utm32_10m                                Clay_utm32_10m 6.703277
## ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m 6.048256
## Soc_utm32_10m                                  Soc_utm32_10m 6.036391
## amplitude_sd                                    amplitude_sd 5.627812
## dtm_10m_sd_110m                              dtm_10m_sd_110m 5.429703
## canopy_height                                  canopy_height 5.251818
## canopy_height_sd_110m                    canopy_height_sd_110m 4.772935
## ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m      ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m 4.552738
## vegetation_density_sd_110m          vegetation_density_sd_110m 4.520161
## solar_radiation                              solar_radiation 4.495919
## vegetation_density                        vegetation_density 4.397915
## normalized_z_sd                              normalized_z_sd 4.318571
## foliage_height_diversity              foliage_height_diversity 4.116388
## amplitude_mean                                amplitude_mean 3.919426
## slope                                                  slope 2.403913
## openness_difference                      openness_difference 1.689039
```

Performance in BIOWIDE regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

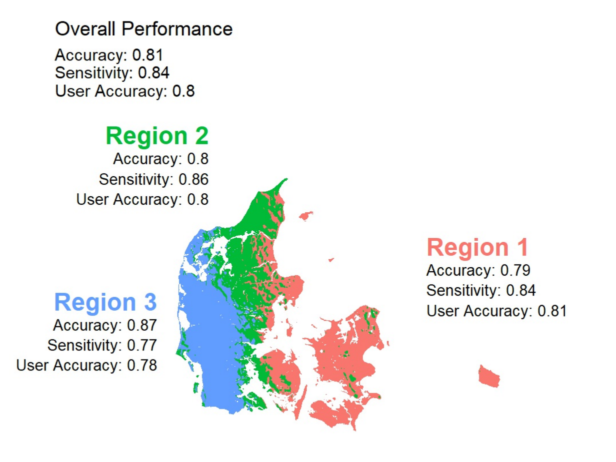
Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.89	0.80	0.76	0.89
Error	0.19	0.18	0.19	0.11	0.20	0.24	0.11
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.84	0.86	0.90	0.93	0.85	0.79	0.69
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.79	0.75	0.63	0.86	0.75	0.72	0.95
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.21	0.25	0.37	0.14	0.25	0.28	0.05
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.86	0.83	0.88	0.78	0.75	0.84

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	1	1	1	1	1	0.99	0.99
Error	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0.01
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	0.99	0.98
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	0.99	1.00
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0	0	0	0.01	0.00
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1	1	1	0.99	1.00

Perfromance in Derek's regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	0.81	0.79	0.80	0.87
Error	0.19	0.21	0.20	0.13
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.84	0.84	0.86	0.77
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.79	0.70	0.72	0.92
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.21	0.30	0.28	0.08
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.78

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	1	1.00	1	1.00
Error	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1.00	1	0.99
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	0.99	1	1.00
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0.01	0	0.00
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1.00	1	1.00

Performance by forest type (boradleaf vs. coniferous)

Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	0.81	0.95	0.97
Error	0.19	0.05	0.03
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.84	0.97	0.90
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.79	0.93	0.99
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.21	0.07	0.01
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.96	0.96

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	1	0.95	0.97
Error	0	0.05	0.03
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	0.97	0.90
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	0.93	0.99
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0.07	0.01
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	0.95	0.96

DK Forest LiDAR - Random Forest Model Performance

Jakob Assmann

09/08/2022

Models trained using BIOWIDE stratification

For these models the training data was split according to the BIOWIDE stratification.

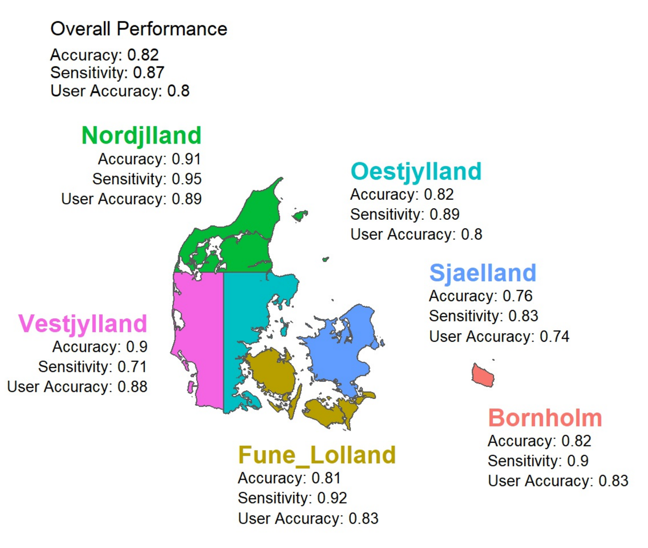
Variable importance

Variable importance for this random forest model, determined using the “permutation” option in ranger.

	Overall
Sand_utm32_10m	100.000000
treetype_bjer_dec	82.402128
dtm_10m	77.419004
Clay_utm32_10m	70.345552
dtm_10m_sd_110m	57.163281
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	56.787379
Soc_utm32_10m	38.041657
amplitude_sd	37.983167
canopy_height	36.898430
normalized_z_sd	35.367769
openness_difference	30.409109
slope	20.910563
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	16.561303
vegetation_density	15.630589
amplitude_mean	13.397601
solar_radiation	12.448666
canopy_height_sd_110m	4.933190
vegetation_density_sd_110m	3.406289
foliage_height_diversity	0.000000

Performance in BIOWIDE regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

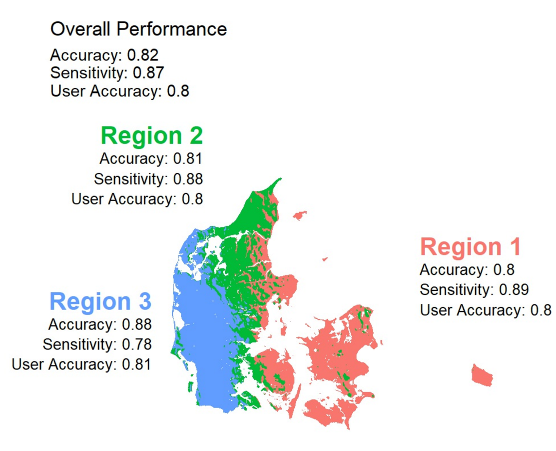
Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.91	0.82	0.76	0.90
Error	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.09	0.18	0.24	0.10
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.90	0.92	0.95	0.89	0.83	0.71
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.69	0.60	0.86	0.74	0.69	0.96
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.31	0.40	0.14	0.26	0.31	0.04
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.83	0.83	0.89	0.80	0.74	0.88

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Performance in Derek’s regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	0.82	0.80	0.81	0.88
Error	0.18	0.20	0.19	0.12
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.89	0.88	0.78
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.68	0.71	0.92
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.32	0.29	0.08
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.81

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	1	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1	1

Performance by forest type (boradleaf vs. coniferous)

Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	0.82	0.81	0.87
Error	0.18	0.19	0.13
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.91	0.57
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.78	0.66	0.96
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.22	0.34	0.04
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.80	0.80	0.83

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1

Models trained using Derek’s stratification

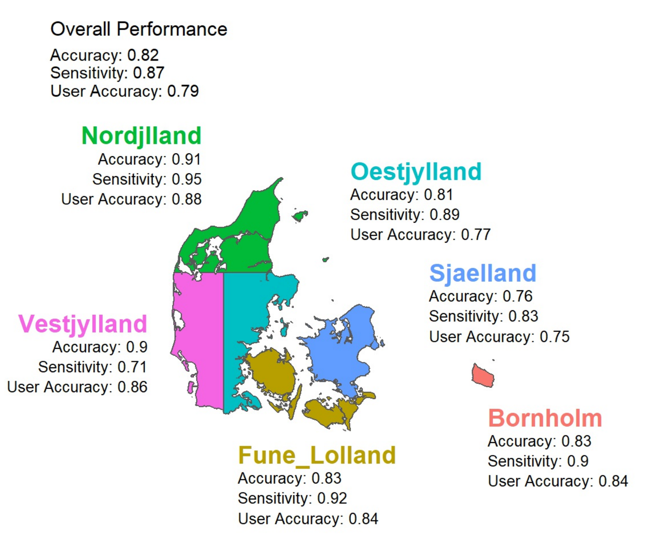
Variable importance

Variable importance for this random forest model, determined using the “permutation” option in ranger.

	Overall
Sand_utm32_10m	100.000000
treetype_bjer_dec	81.570818
dtm_10m	73.198738
Clay_utm32_10m	69.218368
dtm_10m_sd_110m	58.622528
ns_groundwater_summer_utm32_10m	56.875166
amplitude_sd	39.117492
Soc_utm32_10m	37.597694
canopy_height	36.925847
normalized_z_sd	34.734356
openness_difference	30.391050
slope	19.174338
ns_groundwater_summer_sd_110m	16.546973
amplitude_mean	14.016066
vegetation_density	13.985474
solar_radiation	11.460056
canopy_height_sd_110m	4.549356
vegetation_density_sd_110m	3.270389
foliage_height_diversity	0.000000

Performance in BIOWIDE regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

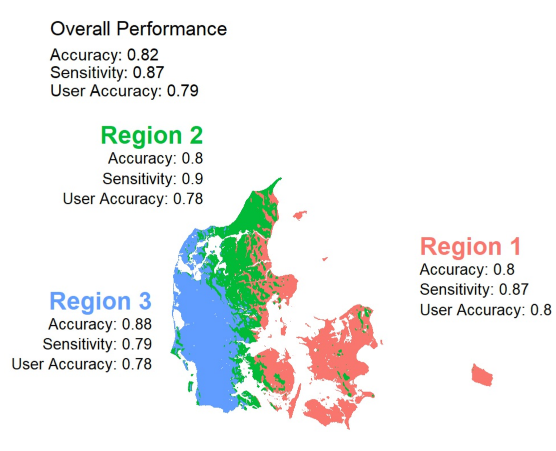
Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	0.82	0.83	0.83	0.91	0.81	0.76	0.90
Error	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.09	0.19	0.24	0.10
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.90	0.92	0.95	0.89	0.83	0.71
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.77	0.70	0.64	0.85	0.71	0.70	0.96
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.23	0.30	0.36	0.15	0.29	0.30	0.04
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.79	0.84	0.84	0.88	0.77	0.75	0.86

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Bornholm	Fune_Lolland	Nordjlland	Oestjylland	Sjaelland	Vestjylland
Accuracy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Perfromance in Derek’s regions:

Performance map based on the independent validation data:



Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	0.82	0.80	0.80	0.88
Error	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.12
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.87	0.90	0.79
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.77	0.69	0.68	0.92
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.23	0.31	0.32	0.08
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.79	0.80	0.78	0.78

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Accuracy	1	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1	1

Performance by forest type (boradleaf vs. coniferous)

Performance table based on the independent validation data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	0.82	0.80	0.88
Error	0.18	0.20	0.12
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	0.87	0.91	0.60
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	0.77	0.65	0.96
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0.23	0.35	0.04
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	0.79	0.79	0.80

Performance table based on the dependent training data:

Measure	Overall	Broadleaf	Coniferous
Accuracy	1	1	1
Error	0	0	0
Sensitivity (True Positive Rate)	1	1	1
Specificity (True Negative Rate)	1	1	1
Fall-out (False Positive Rate)	0	0	0
Positive predictive value (User Accuracy)	1	1	1

DK Forest LiDAR Summary Stats for Projections

Jakob Johann Assmann

17/10/2024

This document provides summary stats (area) for the forest conservation value projections. We show the statistics for all four models tested in our analysis.

Content:

1. Forest area in Denmark according to Bjerreskov et al. 2021.
2. Training data area: High conservation value and low conservation value forests.
3. Disturbance detected in forests overall.
4. Gradient Boosting model summary stats (BIOWIDE).
5. Random Forest model summary stats (BIOWIDE).
6. Gradient Boosting model summary stats (Derek's stratification).
7. Random Forest model summarz stats (Derek's stratification).

Forests area in Denmark according to Bjerreskov et al. 2021

Below you can find the total area of forest in the forest mask from Bjerreskov et al. 2021. This is the reference for the total area of forest used in our project. The mask is based on the tree type layer from the same publication (see predictor description). We generated the forest mask by refining the treetype layer into a forest mask by applying a minimum mapping filter removing all continuous forest patches smaller than 500 m2 (see also Bjerreskov et al. 2021).

Layer	Area [km²]
forest mask	6345.3

Training data area: High conservation value and low conservation value forests

Here you can see the area covered by our training data. Including both the high conservation value forests with designations (p15, p25 and private old growth), as well as the low conservation value training polygons. The proportions are given relative to the total area of forest according to the forest mask generated from Bjerreskov et al. 2021 (see above).

category	Area [km²]	Proportion of all forest [%]
p25	111.71	2e-06
private_old_growth	31.98	1e-06
p15	17.79	0e+00
total_high_quality	161.13	3e-06
ikke_p25	46.70	1e-06
NST_plantations	59.33	1e-06
total_low_quality	106.03	2e-06

Disturbance overall

We used a disturbance layer generated by Cornelius (Senf and Seidl 2021) (https://zenodo.org/record/4746129) to estimate the disturbance in Denmark's forests since the lidar data for EcoDes-DK15 was collected.

Please note that this disturbance mask was projected and down-sampled from a 30 m Landsat grid to the 10 m EcoDes-DK15 grid (nearest neighbour algorithm), potentially adding small uncertainties to the area estimates. Currently, we also only account for disturbances from 2016 till 2020.

Name	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed forest	84.49	1.30
total forest	6345.30	100.00

Gradient Boosting projections summary stats (BIOWIDE)

This gradient boosting model was trained based on the "BIOWIDE" stratification.

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
high conservation value forest	1979.92	31.20
low conservation value forest	4307.60	67.90
total forest	6345.30	100.00

Disturbance statistics:

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	18.20	0.90
total high conservation value forest	1979.92	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.29	1.50
total low conservation value forest	4307.60	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	18.20	21.50
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.29	78.50
total disturbed forest	84.49	100.00

Random Forest projections summary stats (BIOWIDE)

This random forest model was trained based on the "BIOWIDE" stratification.

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
high conservation value forest	1999.61	31.50
low conservation value forest	4287.91	67.60
total forest	6345.30	100.00

Disturbance statistics:

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	17.81	0.90
total high conservation value forest	1999.61	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.69	1.60
total low conservation value forest	4287.91	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	17.81	21.10
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.69	78.90
total disturbed forest	84.49	100.00

Gradient Boosting projections summary stats (Derek's stratification)

This gradient boosting model was trained based on the "Derek's" stratification.

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
high conservation value forest	1986.18	31.30
low conservation value forest	4301.33	67.80
total forest	6345.30	100.00

Disturbance statistics:

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	18.19	0.90
total high conservation value forest	1986.18	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.30	1.50
total low conservation value forest	4301.33	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	18.19	21.50
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.30	78.50
total disturbed forest	84.49	100.00

Random Forest projections summary stats (Derek's stratification)

This random forest model was trained based on the "Derek's" stratification.

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
high conservation value forest	2007.38	31.60
low conservation value forest	4280.13	67.50
total forest	6345.30	100.00

Disturbance statistics:

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	17.97	0.90
total high conservation value forest	2007.38	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.52	1.60
total low conservation value forest	4280.13	100.00

Type	Area [km²]	Proportion [%]
disturbed high conservation value forest	17.97	21.30
disturbed low conservation value forest	66.52	78.70
total disturbed forest	84.49	100.00