ЕКОЛОГІЧНА БЕЗПЕКА, ОХОРОНА ПРАЦІ

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SATELLITE MONITORING OF CONSEQUENCES OF ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF AMBER IN UKRAINE

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СУПУТНИКОВИЙ МОНІТОРИНГ НАСЛІДКІВ НЕЗАКОННОГО ВИДОБУТКУ БУРШТИНУ В УКРАЇНІ

Purpose. The main goal is to detect sites of illegal extraction of amber, to determine the areas of the sites, as well as to evaluate the dynamics and nature of the change of soils, vegetation and water bodies on the affected territories.

Methodology. For the quantitative evaluation of the consequences of illegal extraction of amber, a technology of processing images from satellites Landsat 7 (ETM imaging device) and Landsat 8 (OLI imaging device) is proposed. Image processing includes the following main stages: reduction of the dimensions of data arrays with the use of the Principal Component Analysis (PCA); creation of a differential image for the two first main components of the given territory taken at different times; subsequent threshold binarization of the differential image; morphological filtering of the binary image, vectorization and calculation of geometrical parameters.

Findings. An effective technology of automated detection of illegal amber extraction sites and determination of their areas with the use of satellite images was proposed. Processing of multispectral images of a medium spatial resolution from satellites Landsat 7 (ETM imaging device) and Landsat 8 (OLI imaging device) was carried out with the purpose of determination of the boundaries of the areas affected by the illegal amber extraction and evaluation of their area. Only on the territories selected for the analysis, the area of territories affected by illegal extraction of amber amounted to over 500 hectares. A detailed analysis of changes after the illegal extraction of amber was carried out for certain territories with the use of high spatial resolution satellite images (2002–2015).

Originality. Unlike the known methods of detection of changes on territories using Landsat satellite images taken at different time, which are based on the use of data of panchromatic channels and indexed images using only two spectral channels, the proposed method is capable of more accurate determination of affected areas owing to analysis of all spectral channels with the use of the Principal Component Analysis. Besides, the proposed technology provides a possibility to analyze temporal changes on the affected territories during long observation periods with the use of created vector layers with attributive information.

Practical value. The developed method can be implemented in the form of a web service for regular space monitoring providing unbiased and reliable information as for the scales and severity of consequences of illegal amber extraction. An important advantage of this method is a high degree of automation of satellite image processing and the use of Earth remote sensing data available in free access on the Internet. The potential users of such a web service are state regulating organs, emergency services, the police, forestry and municipal services, environmental organizations, radio and TV companies and other mass media, and also the population living near the territories affected by illegal extraction of amber.

Keywords: remote sensing, satellite monitoring, multispectral imagery, extraction of amber, principal component analysis

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Introduction. Remote Sensing currently offers an important tool to the synoptic and timely evaluation of natural resources over large areas [1, 2]. Images of modern remote-sensing systems allow us to solve various problems such as carrying out operational monitoring of land resources, city building, monitoring state of the environment and influence of anthropogenic factors, detecting contaminated territories, unauthorized buildings, estimating the state of forest plantation and other [3–6].

Ukraine holds one of the world's leading positions in its deposits of amber. At that, the share of the jewelry grade stones make 25 %, while in Poland and Russia, it is 10 to 15 percent. Amber in Ukraine is deposited at low depth and is of very high quality, which makes the country one of the leaders in deposits of this resource. The most valuable grades of amber are found in Rivne region, where there is one of the biggest deposits of jewelry grade amber in Ukraine.

Unsolved aspects of the problem. In three regions of Ukraine – Volyn, Zhytomyr and Rivne regions – illegal extraction of amber is organized, which causes irreparable damage to the environment. For instance, in Rokytne, Dubovitskyi and Zarechnianskyi administrative districts of Volyn region 11 sites of illegal extraction of raw amber have been detected. Near Olevsk town of Zhytomyr region, illegal mining of minerals destroyed thousands of hectares of the land and forests. The extraction is done with a barbaric method – a canal is dug out with an excavator and filled in with water, a motorized pump feeds water through fire hose into a long metal pipe pressed into the sandy soil to the depth of 15 m. The pressure of water turns the soil into liquid suspension, and amber, which is less dense than other soil components, floats up, where it is fished out with nets.

This method of extraction, though the cheapest, is prohibited in Ukraine because of its destructive effect on the environment. After extraction done with this method, deep pits remain in which the soil, after being sifted with the use of water, remains soaked. For many years, this land remains unsuitable either for growing forests or for agriculture. Huge territories have appeared where forest is destroyed, the structure of soil cover is modified and water resources cannot be used appropriately. The abandoned sites of extraction of amber turn into practically lifeless deserts unsuitable for further use.

Objectives of the article. The main tasks of the satellite monitoring of consequences of illegal amber extraction are:

- detection of the territories of illegal amber extraction and determination of their area;
- detection of violation of acting rules of industrial and legal extraction of amber;
- monitoring of activities on the territories affected by illegal extraction of amber;
- analysis of consequences of illegal extraction of amber including monitoring of the dynamics and nature of changes of soil, vegetation and water bodies.

The input data. The territory of observations is the north of Rivne region, Vladimirets district.

The main requirements to satellite images for the monitoring of consequences of illegal extraction of amber are as follows:

- the images should be of the same territory and taken in the same season;
- the image acquisition should be done with the imaging systems of the same type (comparison of images is possible only if the spectral bands of the imaging systems are the same);
- images should be of the same or close resolution, otherwise the images will contain different information about objects.

For a satellite survey monitoring of the consequences of illegal extraction of amber medium resolution images from satellites Landsat 7 (ETM imaging device) and Landsat 8 (OLI imaging device) can be used. In this work, multispectral images of the required territory taken from Landsat 7 in 2002 and Landsat 8 in 2015 were applied. For a detailed analysis of consequences of illegal extraction of amber, a tile of high resolution multispectral images was used.

Methodology. For the quantitative evaluation of the consequences of illegal extraction of amber the images of the required territory were processed. The main stages of processing Landsat satellite images are:

- preliminary operations (selection of the territory of interest, search for satellite images by date and checking the quality of the image). At this stage, an effective approach is to use the technology of fusing data with the purpose of increasing the information value of the source images [7-9];
- principal component analysis (PCA) of multispectral satellite images [10];
- making a differential image for PCA channels of two images of the required territory taken at different times:
- threshold binarization of the differential image [11, 12];
 - morphological filtering of the binary image;
- vectorization and calculation of geometrical characteristics;
- visualization of the changes on a map and export in kml format.

A Landsat image can be expressed in matrix format in the following way [10]

$$X_{n,b} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{1,1} & \dots & x_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{6,1} & \dots & x_{6,n} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1}$$

where n represents the number of the pixels and b is the number of bands. Considering each band as a vector, the above matrix can be simplified as follows

$$X_k = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_6 \end{pmatrix},$$

where k is the number of bands.

To reduce the dimensionality of the original bands the eigenvalues of the covariance matrix must be calculated. This matrix can be calculated as follows [10]

$$C_{b,b} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{1,1} & \dots & \sigma_{1,6} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{6,1} & \dots & \sigma_{6,6} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\sigma_{i,j}$ is the covariance of each pair of different bands.

$$\sigma_{i,j} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{p=1}^{N} (DN_{p,j} - \mu_i) (DN_{p,j} - \mu_j), \qquad (2)$$

where $DN_{p,i}$ is a digital number of a pixel p in the i band, $DN_{p,j}$ is a digital number of a pixel p in the j band, μ_i and μ_j are the averages of the DN for the i and j bands, respectively.

From the variance-covariance matrix, the eigenvalues (λ) are calculated as the roots of the characteristic equation

$$\det(C - \lambda I) = 0,$$

where C is the covariance matrix of the bands and I is the diagonal identity matrix.

The eigenvalues indicate the original information that they retain. From these values the percentage of original variance explained by each principal component can be obtained calculating the ratio of each eigenvalue in relation to the sum of all of them. Those components which contain minimum variance and thus minimum information can be discarded. The principal components can be expressed in matrix form [10]

$$Y_{6} = \begin{pmatrix} y_{1} \\ y_{2} \\ \vdots \\ y_{6} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_{1,1} & \dots & w_{1,6} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ w_{6,1} & \dots & w_{6,6} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{1} \\ x_{2} \\ \vdots \\ x_{6} \end{pmatrix},$$

where Y is the vector of the principal components, W is the transformation matrix, and X is the vector of the original data.

The coefficients of the transformation matrix W are the eigenvectors that diagonalizes the covariance matrix of the original bands. These values provide information on the relationship of the bands with each principal component. From these values it is possible to link the main component with a real variable. The eigenvectors can be calculated from the vector — matrix equation for each eigenvalue λ_k ,

$$(C - \lambda_k I) w_k = 0,$$

where λ_k is the k eigenvalues (six in our example), and w_k is the k eigenvectors [10].

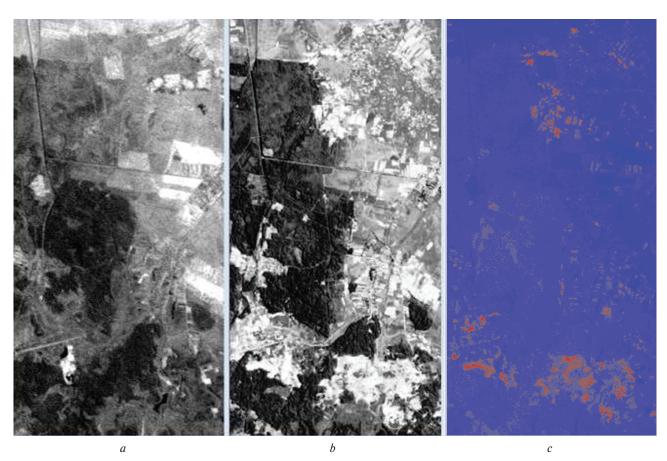


Fig. 1. Change detection (area No. 1):

a – a fragment of an image from Landsat-7 as of 6 September 2002 (PCA channel); b – a fragment of an image from Landsat-8 as of 4 October 2015 (PCA channel); c – detected changes (red color highlights sites affected by illegal extraction of amber)

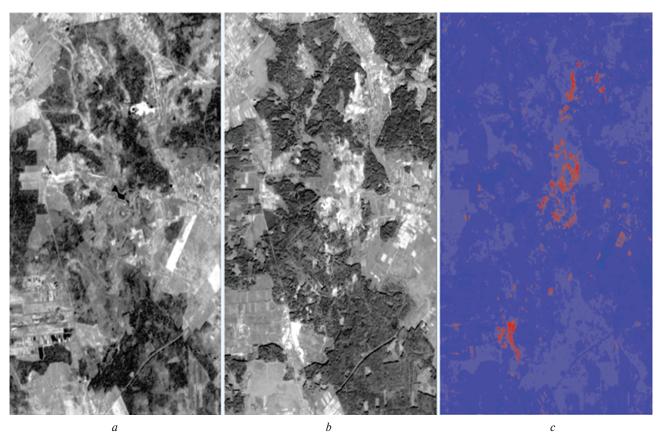


Fig. 2. Change detection (area No. 2):

a — a fragment of an image from Landsat-7 as of 6 September 2002 (PCA channel); b — a fragment of an image from Landsat-8 as of 4 October 2015 (PCA channel); c — detected changes (red color highlights sites affected by illegal extraction of amber)

Results of work. Fig. 1 shows the results of detection of changes on the required territory in the multispectral images of Landsat 7 and Landsat 8 (area No. 1). Fig. 2 shows the results of detection of changes on the required territory in the multispectral images of Landsat 7 and Landsat 8 (area No. 2).

According to the data of Landsat satellites, only on the monitored territory, the area of lands affected by illegal extraction of amber made over 500 hectares. Fig. 3 shows the results of detection of changes on the required territory by multispectral high resolution images (area No. 3).

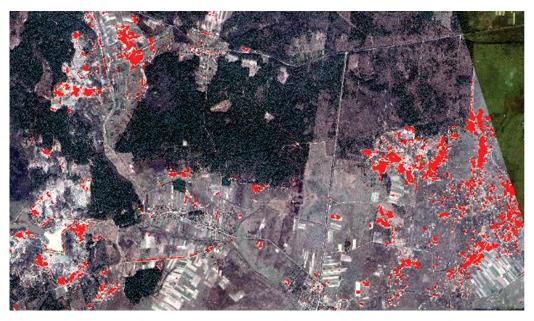


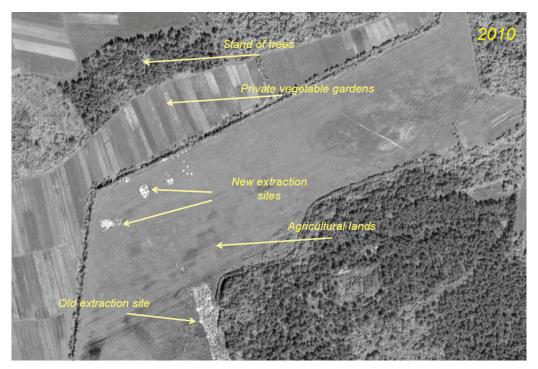
Fig. 3. Detection of recent extraction sites on the required territory on the base of high resolution multispectral images (a fragment of area No. 3)

According to the results of processing of high resolution images the area of the territory affected by fresh sites of illegal extraction of amber made over 138 hectares. Also, a detailed visual analysis of the dynamics of changes in the aftermath of the illegal extraction of amber on the required territory (area No. 3) was carried out with the use of high resolution satellite images (Fig. 4).

Conclusions. It is important to insist on and monitor the use of modern methods of extraction of amber, for

instance, with the help of a web service for regular satellite monitoring of illegal extraction of amber. The users of such a service can be:

- state supervising structures, emergency services and police (fighting illegal mining);
- forestry services (detection of violation of acting rules on allocation of land plots for licensed extraction of amber);
- municipal services (unbiased evaluation of the scale and severity of the consequences and determina-



a



Fig. 4. Dynamics of changes caused by illegal extraction of amber on the required territory (area No. 3) in 2010–2015

tion of the damage caused by illegal extraction of amber);

- environmental service (carrying out measures for restoration of the territories damaged by illegal extraction of amber);
- TV, radio and other mass media companies (campaigns against illegal extraction of amber);
- population living near the territories affected by illegal extraction of amber (obtaining of unbiased and reliable information about the scale and severity of consequences of illegal extraction of amber) the most numerous user.

Norms as for further restoration of lands, labor conditions, environment protection, as well as transportation, storage and sales of amber, should be fixed in legislation. This will make it possible to develop regions rich in amber deposits from the social point of view: to reduce unemployment, improve social protection of the population, fill local budgets and protect the environment of these territories.

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Мета. Виявлення місць незаконного видобутку бурштину, визначення площ розробок, а також оцінка динаміки та характеру змін ґрунту, рослинності й водойм на постраждалих територіях.

Методика. Для кількісної оцінки наслідків незаконного видобутку бурштину запропонована технологія обробки знімків із супутників Landsat 7 (знімальний прилад ETM) і Landsat 8 (знімальний прилад OLI). Обробка знімків включає наступні основні етапи: зниження розмірності даних за допомогою методу головних компонент (Principal component analysis — PCA); створення різницевого зображення для перших головних компонент двох різночасових знімків заданої території; подальша порогова бінаризація різницевого зображення; морфологічна фільтрація бінарного зображення; векторизація та розрахунок геометричних характеристик.

Результати. Запропонована ефективна технологія автоматизованого виявлення місць незаконного видобутку бурштину та визначення площ розробок з використанням супутникових знімків. Виконана обробка багатоспектральних знімків середнього просторового розрізнення із супутника Landsat 7 (знімальний прилад ETM) і Landsat 8 (знімальний прилад OLI). Тільки на аналізованих територіях площа ділянок, що постраждали від незаконного видобутку бурштину, склала понад 500 га. Проведено детальний аналіз (2002—2015 рр.) динаміки змін після незаконного видобутку бурштину на окремих ділянках з використанням супутникових знімків високого просторового розрізнення.

Наукова новизна. На відміну від відомих методів виявлення зміни територій по різночасним супутниковим знімкам Landsat, які базуються на даних панхроматичних каналів і індексних зображень, що використовують тільки дані двох спектральних каналів, запропонована методика дозволяє більш точно виявляти постраждалі ділянки завдяки аналізу всіх спектральних каналів із застосуванням перетворення головних компонент (PCA). Крім того,

запропонована технологія надає можливість аналізувати часові зміни на постраждалих ділянках для тривалих періодів спостереження, використовуючи створені векторні шари з атрибутивною інформацією.

Практична значимість. Розроблена методика може бути реалізована у вигляді веб-служби регулярного космічного моніторингу, що забезпечує отримання об'єктивної та достовірної інформації щодо масштабів і тяжкості наслідків незаконного видобутку бурштину. Істотними перевагами даної методики є високий ступінь автоматизації обробки супутникових знімків і використання даних дистанційного зондування землі, що знаходяться у вільному доступі в мережі Інтернет. Користувачами такої веб-служби можуть бути державні контролюючі структури, служби з боротьби з надзвичайними ситуаціями, поліція, лісова й муніципальні служби, екологічна служба, телерадіокомпанії та інші засоби масової інформації, а також населення, яке проживає поблизу територій, постраждалих від незаконного видобутку бурштину.

Ключові слова: дистанційне зондування, супутниковий моніторинг, багатоспектральні знімки, видобуток бурштину, перетворення головних компонент

Цель. Выявление мест незаконной добычи янтаря, определение площадей разработок, а также оценка динамики и характера изменений почвы, растительности и водоемов на пострадавших территориях.

Методика. Для количественной оценки последствий незаконной добычи янтаря предложена технология обработки снимков со спутников Landsat 7 (съемочный прибор ETM) и Landsat 8 (съемочный прибор OLI). Обработка снимков включает следующие основные этапы: понижение размерности данных с помощью метода главных компонент (Principal component analysis — PCA); создание разностного изображения для первых главных компонент двух разновременных снимков заданной территории; последующая пороговая бинаризация разностного изображения; морфологическая фильтрация бинарного изображения; векторизация и расчет геометрических характеристик.

Результаты. Предложена эффективная технология автоматизированного выявления мест незаконной добычи янтаря и определения площадей разработок с использованием спутниковых снимков. Выполнена обработка многоспектральных сним-

ков среднего пространственного разрешения со спутника Landsat 7 (съемочный прибор ETM) и Landsat 8 (съемочный прибор OLI). Только на анализируемых территориях площадь участков, пострадавших от незаконной добычи янтаря, составила более 500 га. Проведен детальный анализ (2002—2015 гг.) динамики изменений после незаконной добычи янтаря на отдельных участках с использованием спутниковых снимков высокого пространственного разрешения.

Научная новизна. В отличие от известных методов выявления изменения территорий по разновременным спутниковым снимкам Landsat, которые базируются на данных панхроматических каналов и индексных изображений, использующих только данные двух спектральных каналов, предложенная методика позволяет более точно выявлять пострадавшие участки благодаря анализу всех спектральных каналов с применением преобразования главных компонент (РСА). Кроме того, предложенная технология предоставляет возможность анализировать временные изменения на пострадавших участках для длительных периодов наблюдения, используя созданные векторные слои с атрибутивной информацией.

Практическая значимость. Разработанная методика может быть реализована в виде веб-службы регулярного космического мониторинга, обеспечивающего получение объективной и достоверной информации относительно масштабов и тяжести последствий незаконной добычи янтаря. Существенными преимуществами данной методики являются высокая степень автоматизации обработки спутниковых снимков и использование данных дистанционного зондирования земли, находящихся в свободном доступе в сети Интернет. Пользователями такой веб-службы могут являться государственные контролирующие структуры, службы по борьбе с чрезвычайными ситуациями, полиция, лесная и муниципальные службы, экологическая служба, телерадиокомпании и другие средства массовой информации, а также население, проживающее вблизи территорий, пострадавших от незаконной добычи янтаря.

Ключевые слова: дистанционное зондирование, спутниковый мониторинг, многоспектральные сним-ки, добыча янтаря, преобразование главных компонент

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