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"The proof of the apple is in the eating!"

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ABSTRACT

Title: Improved statistics on urban green space

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During the last decade urban green space has been a topical subject in Sweden. Increased public access to green space in urban areas is stated among the national, environmental objectives and policies for densification of cities versus preservation of green areas are currently under debate in many Swedish municipalities.

Statistics Sweden releases statistics on urban green space every fifth year. In 2005, the statistics was for the first time based on interpretation of satellite imagery combined with register data on population and real estates. The method used was cheap and efficient, yet it failed to meet the increasing need for statistics enabling analyses on ecological and social functions of the green spaces in urban environments. This would require not only a detailed mapping approach but also characterization of qualities and properties of the green spaces in terms of accessibility, ownership and vegetation.

During 2013, Statistics Sweden is carrying out a development project together with a remote sensing consultant aiming to improve the methods for urban green space statistics. The proposed procedure encompasses methods for sub-pixel classification and post-processing of land cover data to categorize the green areas by ownership and vegetation qualities.

The preliminary findings from the currently ongoing development project will be presented.