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Satellite Image Use in On-Site Inspection: From Site Selection through Field Efforts

In preparation for a field site visit, particularly for CTBTO investigative purposes, a variety of types, scales, and generations of open-source digital imagery can be compared within the framework of commercially-available geographic information systems (GIS) to focus on areas of interest. Simple image comparison from various open sources within GIS afford the opportunity to view anthropogenic and natural changes to a suite of sites over time, thus remotely elucidating information about a site's use and level of activity. This method permits a first-pass down-selection of sites, critical to promoting focus and efficiency for initial site visits. Such image comparison and open-source availability could also strongly benefit on-site inspection teams during the pre-inspection and inspection phases, especially in geographically extensive areas, and for interpreting the context of site observables. This presentation will depict general examples of the methodology of GIS image generation and comparison from Hungary, Jordan, and Korea.

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