
Contents

1	Deciding to use a drone	1
1.0	Introduction	1
1.1	Alternative technologies to acquire aerial data	1
1.1.1	Manned planes and helicopters	1
1.1.2	Satellites	3
1.1.3	Kites	5
1.1.4	Balloons and blimps	6
1.2	To drone or not to drone	6
1.2.1	Terrain	9
1.2.2	Weather	10
1.2.3	High altitude flying	11
1.2.4	Landing area	11
1.2.5	Regulations	11
2	Typology and anatomy of drones	13
2.1	Multirotor	13
2.2	Fixed wing aircraft	13
2.3	Hybrid VTOL	13
2.4	Features of multirotor vs fixed wing vs VTOL drones	14
2.5	Essential components	14
2.5.1	Power source	14
2.5.2	Flight controller	17
2.5.3	Ground control station	18
2.6	Summary	19
3	Sensors	20
3.0	Introduction	20
3.1	Sensor types	20
3.1.1	Visible spectrum sensors (RGB)	24
3.1.2	Multispectral cameras	36
3.1.3	Hyperspectral cameras	38
3.1.4	Thermal imaging cameras	38
3.1.5	Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)	38
3.1.6	Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)	39
3.1.7	Telemetry	39
3.1.8	Miscellaneous sensors	39
3.1.9	Live transmission	39

3.2 Applications of sensor types	40
3.2.1 Animal studies	40
3.2.2 Locating radio-tagged animals	40
3.2.3 Land-cover classification	41
3.2.4 Land-cover change detection	42
3.2.5 Land-cover features	42
3.2.6 Water content/stress	42
3.2.7 Leaf area index	43
3.2.8 Fires	43
3.2.9 Miscellaneous applications	44
4 Surveillance	46
4.1 Terrestrial	46
4.2 Marine	46
4.3 Key issues	47
4.3.1 Technical challenges	47
4.3.2 Ethics and privacy	49
4.3.3 Regulations	50
5 Mapping	51
5.1 Land-cover mapping	51
5.2 Monitoring of vegetation condition	51
5.3 Biomass estimation	52
5.4 Key considerations	52
5.4.1 Mission planning	52
5.4.2 Data processing software	54
5.4.3 Environmental factors	54
6 Animal detection	55
6.1 Animal distribution and density data collection	55
6.1.1 Alternative methods	55
6.2 Drone usage for animal distribution and density	56
6.2.1 Comparing traditional surveys to drone surveys	57
6.2.2 Estimating density and population size	60
6.3 Anti-poaching efforts	61
6.4 Disturbance	65
7 Data post processing	73
7.0 Introduction	73
7.1 Photogrammetry basics	73
7.2 Basic process	74
7.3 Photogrammetry software packages	78
7.4 Analyses	79
7.4.1 General	79
7.4.2 Three-dimensional quantification of landscape and vegetation using photogrammetry	80

