



# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

*(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)*



**Impact Factor: 8.699**

**Volume 15, Issue 3, March 2026**

# Real-time Forest Monitoring System Utilizing U-Net and ResNet-50 for Forest Cutting and Fire Risk Detection

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**ABSTRACT:** Forests play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, regulating climate, and supporting biodiversity. However, the world is facing serious environmental challenges due to rapid deforestation and frequent forest fires. Most traditional monitoring methods, like manual surveys and basic satellite observation, often lead to delayed detection and low accuracy. This study proposes using U-Net and ResNet-50, two deep learning models, to develop a Real-Time Forest Monitoring System that addresses these challenges. The suggested system employs imagery from satellites like Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and MODIS to identify deforestation and areas at high risk of fire. U-Net's pixel-level segmentation helps differentiate between forest and non-forest zones, while ResNet-50 categorizes fire-prone areas by examining environmental patterns such as vegetation dryness and temperature variations. The system combines modules for segmentation, classification, visualization, and data preprocessing into a single monitoring pipeline. Experimental results show improved detection accuracy and fewer false positives compared to traditional methods. It also offers real-time alerts and a visual dashboard to assist forest authorities and environmental agencies in taking quicker preventive actions. Implementing an intelligent monitoring system encourages sustainable forest management and supports global efforts to protect the environment.

**KEYWORDS:** CNN, Environmental Monitoring, U-Net (Universal neural network), ResNet-50 and Remote Sensing (CNN).

## I. INTRODUCTION

Forests cover nearly one-third of the Earth's land surface and play a critical role in maintaining environmental sustainability. They regulate the carbon cycle, support biodiversity, maintain soil fertility, and provide livelihoods for millions of people.

Despite their importance, forests are increasingly threatened by urban expansion, agricultural activities, and natural disasters. According to global environmental reports, millions of hectares of forest land are lost every year due to deforestation. Forest fires further accelerate environmental damage by destroying vegetation and releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Early detection of such environmental threats is essential for effective forest conservation and disaster management. Traditional forest monitoring techniques rely on field surveys, aerial observations, and manual interpretation of satellite images. With the advancement of remote sensing technology and artificial intelligence, deep learning techniques have emerged as powerful tools for analyzing large volumes of satellite imagery.

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are widely used for image analysis tasks such as segmentation and classification. Among them, U-Net is highly effective for semantic image segmentation, while ResNet-50 provides strong feature extraction and classification capabilities. This research proposes a hybrid deep learning framework that

integrates these two models for real-time forest monitoring. The proposed system automatically detects deforestation regions and predicts potential fire-risk zones using satellite imagery. By enabling automated monitoring and early alert generation, the system supports sustainable forest management and environmental protection.

## II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Forest monitoring and wildfire detection have become important research areas due to increasing deforestation and climate change. Recent advancements in remote sensing and deep learning have enabled automated analysis of satellite imagery for environmental monitoring.

One of the most influential architectures for image segmentation is U-Net, introduced by Ronneberger et al. (2015). U-Net follows an encoder-decoder structure with skip connections that allow precise localization of objects in images. This architecture has been widely used in remote sensing applications for land cover classification and vegetation segmentation. However, the original model requires adaptation when applied to large-scale satellite imagery datasets.

Another major contribution is the Residual Network (ResNet) proposed by He et al. (2016). ResNet introduced residual learning to address the vanishing gradient problem in deep neural networks. The ResNet-50 model is widely used for feature extraction and classification tasks in environmental monitoring, particularly for identifying burned areas and vegetation stress patterns.

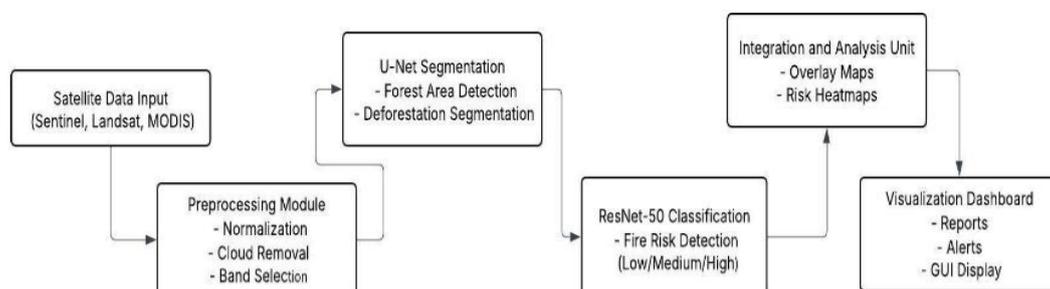
Several researchers have combined segmentation and classification models to improve monitoring performance. Wang et al. (2022) proposed a hybrid U-Net and ResNet-50 framework for forest cover change detection using multi-temporal satellite imagery. Their model achieved high accuracy in identifying deforested regions but lacked real-time monitoring capability.

In another study, Li et al. (2020) used ResNet-50 to predict forest fire risk using meteorological and vegetation datasets. The model demonstrated effective classification of fire-prone regions but did not provide pixel-level spatial segmentation.

Recent research has also focused on improving deep learning performance. Zhang et al. (2023) proposed a CNN-based remote sensing model for automated forest monitoring, achieving improved detection accuracy through multispectral satellite data. Similarly, Garcia et al. (2024) introduced a deep learning framework that integrates satellite imagery with climate data for wildfire prediction.

Although these studies demonstrate promising results, most systems address deforestation detection or fire prediction independently. Therefore, integrating segmentation and classification models into a unified real-time monitoring system can significantly improve forest surveillance and disaster prevention.

## III. METHODOLOGY



The proposed system aims to develop an automated framework for detecting deforestation and predicting forest fire risks using satellite imagery and deep learning techniques. The methodology consists of several stages including data collection, preprocessing, segmentation, classification, and visualization.

The first stage involves **data collection from satellite sources** such as Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and MODIS datasets. These datasets provide multispectral and thermal imagery that are useful for monitoring vegetation cover and environmental conditions. The collected images are filtered based on geographical region and time period to capture variations in forest conditions. The dataset is then organized for training, validation, and testing to ensure proper evaluation of the deep learning models.

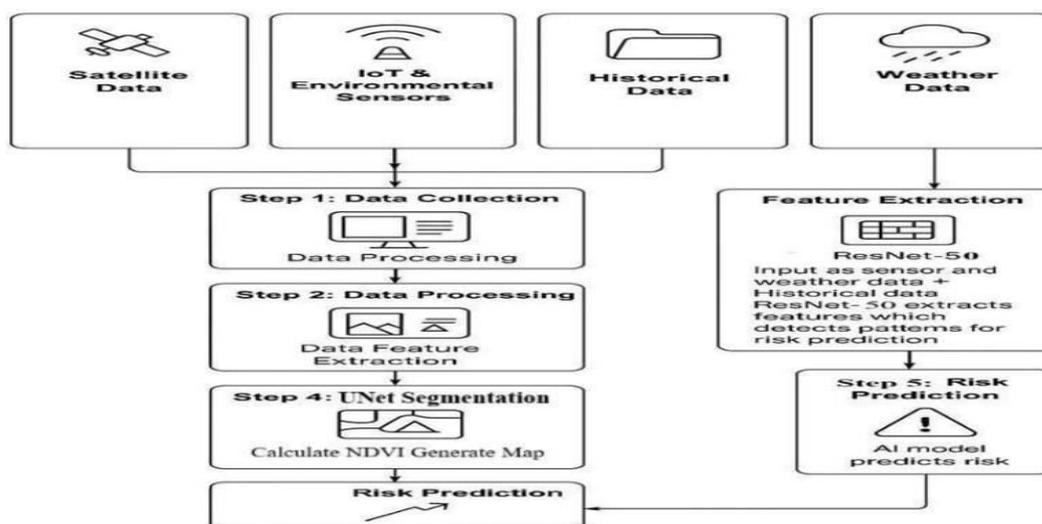
The next stage is **data preprocessing**, which improves the quality and consistency of satellite images. Preprocessing includes resizing images to a uniform resolution, normalizing pixel values, removing noise and cloud interference, and applying contrast enhancement techniques. Data augmentation methods such as rotation, flipping, and scaling are also applied to increase dataset diversity and reduce model overfitting.

After preprocessing, the **U-Net deep learning architecture** is used for semantic segmentation of satellite images. The U-Net model consists of an encoder that extracts spatial features and a decoder that reconstructs segmentation masks. Skip connections between encoder and decoder layers help preserve spatial information. The output of this stage is a pixel-level segmentation map identifying forested and deforested regions.

Following segmentation, the **ResNet-50 model** is applied for classification of fire risk levels. ResNet-50 uses residual learning to extract deep features from segmented forest regions and classify them into three categories: low risk, medium risk, and high risk. Environmental indicators such as vegetation dryness, temperature variations, and land cover patterns are analyzed to determine the fire risk level.

Finally, the results are displayed through a **visualization and alert system**. The system generates color-coded maps representing forest conditions and automatically produces alerts when deforestation or high fire risk is detected. This pipeline enables efficient real-time monitoring of forest ecosystems.

#### IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



The system architecture of the proposed Real-Time Forest Monitoring System is designed to support automated analysis of large-scale satellite imagery for detecting deforestation and predicting forest fire risks. The architecture integrates multiple components including data acquisition, preprocessing, deep learning models, storage, and visualization modules to create a complete monitoring pipeline.

The first component of the architecture is the **data acquisition layer**, which collects satellite imagery from remote sensing platforms such as Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and MODIS. These satellites provide multispectral and thermal images

that capture detailed information about vegetation, land cover, and environmental conditions. The images are retrieved using satellite data APIs or open-access repositories and stored for further processing.

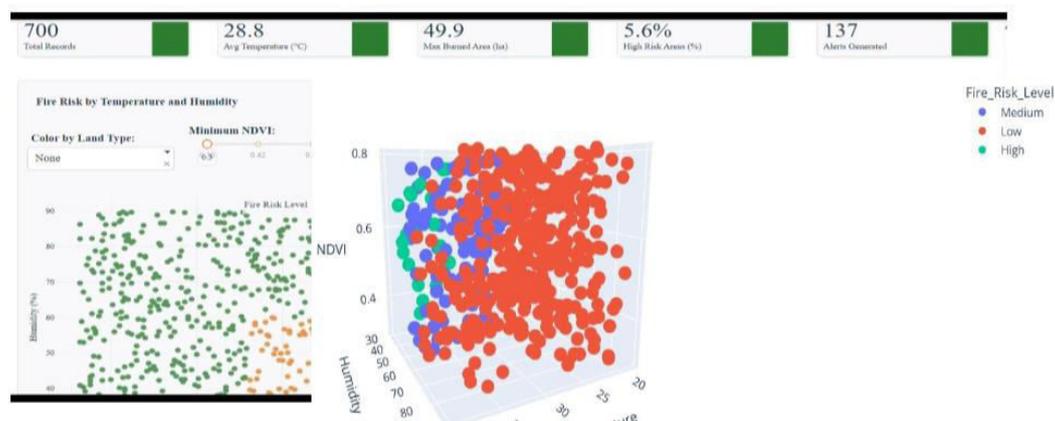
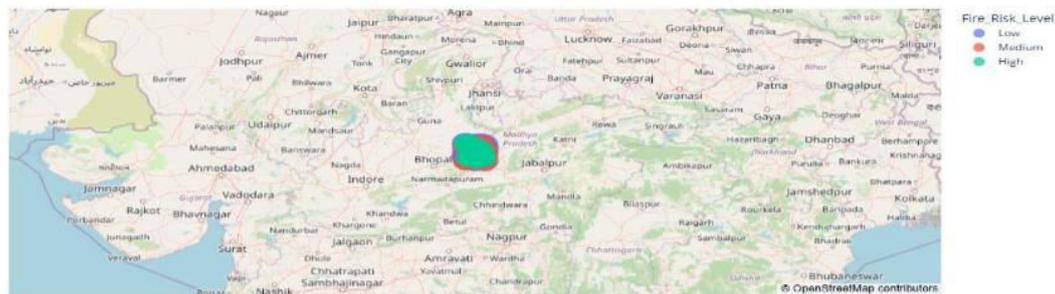
The next component is the **data preprocessing layer**, where raw satellite images are prepared for deep learning analysis. In this stage, images undergo several operations such as resizing, normalization, noise reduction, and cloud masking. These preprocessing steps ensure consistent image quality and improve the performance of the machine learning models.

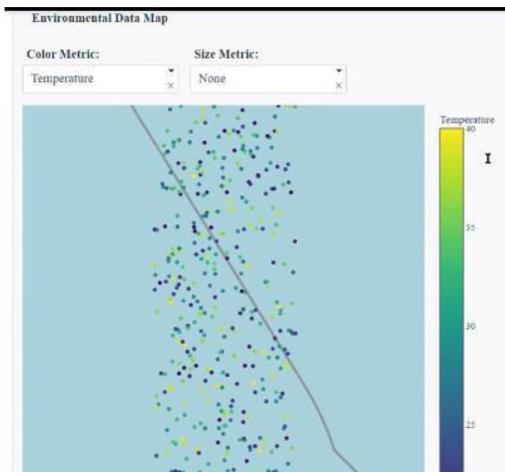
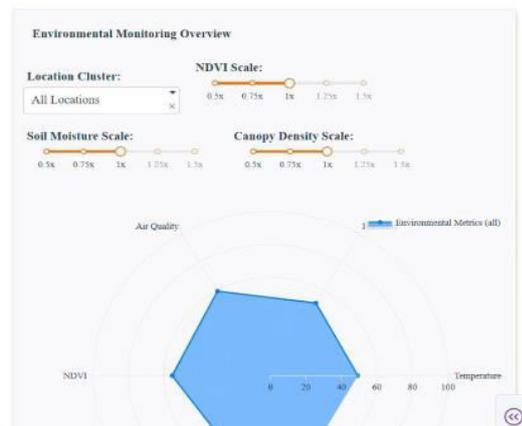
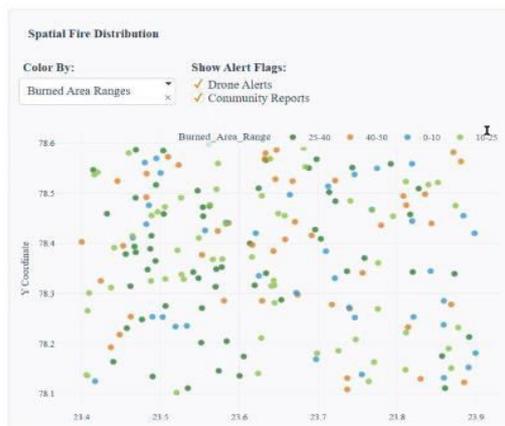
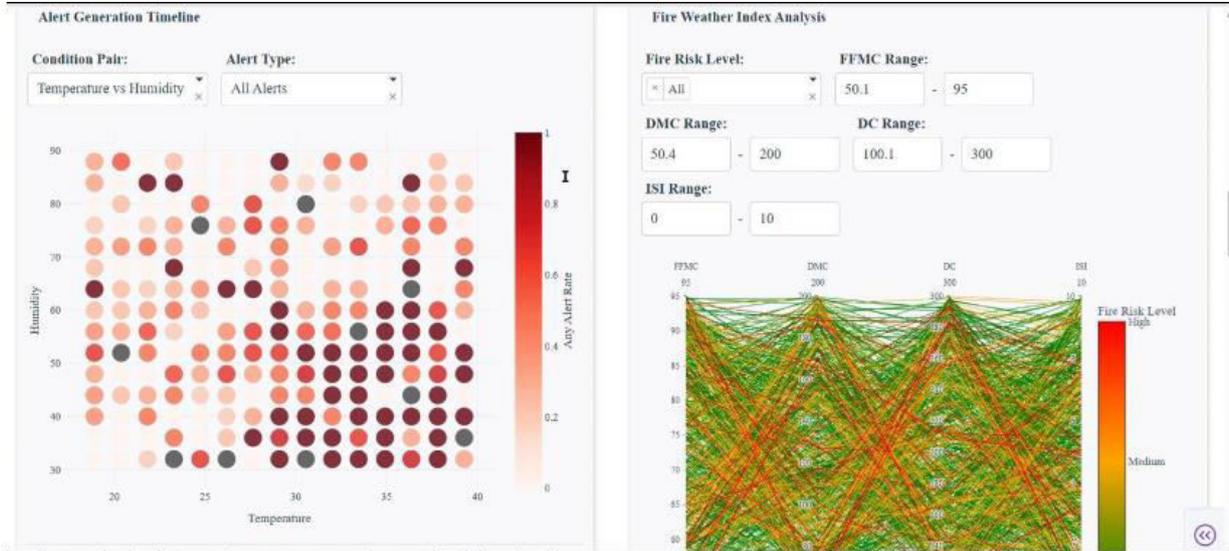
After preprocessing, the system moves to the **model processing layer**, which contains the core deep learning models. The U-Net model is used for semantic segmentation to identify forested and deforested areas at the pixel level. The segmented output is then passed to the ResNet-50 model, which performs classification to determine the level of fire risk in the detected regions. This hybrid architecture allows accurate detection of vegetation changes and fire-prone zones.

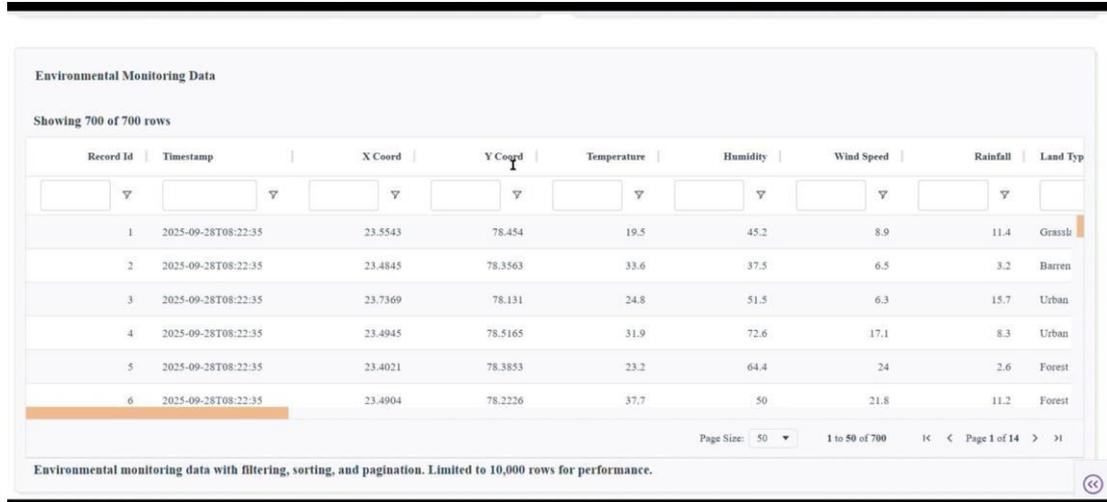
The processed results are stored in a **database layer**, which maintains information about satellite images, segmentation results, classification outputs, and historical monitoring records. This database enables future analysis and system scalability.

Finally, the system includes a **visualization and alert layer** that displays results through an interactive dashboard. Color-coded maps highlight healthy forest areas, moderate risk zones, and high-risk fire-prone regions. The system also generates automatic alerts and reports for environmental authorities, enabling timely intervention and effective forest management.

### V. RESULTS







Environmental Monitoring Data

Showing 700 of 700 rows

Record Id	Timestamp	X Coord	Y Coord	Temperature	Humidity	Wind Speed	Rainfall	Land Typ
1	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.5543	78.454	19.5	45.2	8.9	11.4	Grassl
2	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.4845	78.3563	33.6	37.5	6.5	3.2	Barren
3	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.7369	78.131	24.8	51.5	6.3	15.7	Urban
4	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.4945	78.5165	31.9	72.6	17.1	8.3	Urban
5	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.4021	78.3853	23.2	64.4	24	2.6	Forest
6	2025-09-28T08:22:35	23.4904	78.2226	37.7	50	21.8	11.2	Forest

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Environmental monitoring data with filtering, sorting, and pagination. Limited to 10,000 rows for performance.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Forests play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, regulating the global climate, and preserving biodiversity. However, increasing deforestation and frequent forest fires pose serious threats to environmental sustainability. Traditional forest monitoring techniques rely heavily on manual surveys and periodic satellite observations, which are often slow, labor-intensive, and unable to provide real-time insights. To overcome these limitations, this research proposed a **Real-Time Forest Monitoring System** using deep learning models U-Net and ResNet-50 for automated detection of deforestation and prediction of forest fire risk.

The proposed system integrates remote sensing data with advanced deep learning techniques to improve environmental monitoring efficiency. Satellite imagery collected from datasets such as Sentinel-2, Landsat-8, and MODIS provides valuable multispectral and thermal information about forest conditions. These images are processed through preprocessing techniques including normalization, noise removal, and cloud masking to ensure high-quality inputs for the models.

The U-Net architecture is employed for semantic segmentation to accurately identify forested and deforested regions at the pixel level. This enables precise detection of vegetation loss across large forest areas. Following segmentation, the ResNet-50 model performs classification of forest regions based on fire risk levels by analyzing environmental indicators such as temperature variations, vegetation dryness, and land cover patterns. The integration of these two models provides a powerful hybrid framework capable of performing both segmentation and classification tasks.

In addition to detection and prediction, the system includes a visualization module that presents monitoring results through interactive maps and dashboards. Color-coded outputs help users easily identify healthy forests and fire-prone areas, while automated alerts enable authorities to take preventive measures quickly.

Overall, the proposed system demonstrates how artificial intelligence and satellite-based monitoring can significantly improve forest surveillance. By enabling automated analysis, real-time monitoring, and early warning mechanisms, the system contributes to sustainable forest management and supports global efforts toward environmental conservation and disaster prevention.

## VII. FUTURE SCOPE

Although the Speak2DB system successfully demonstrates natural language based database querying, there are several areas where the system can be further improved and expanded. One possible enhancement is improving the accuracy of the natural language processing module so that it can better understand complex and nested queries. This would allow the system to handle more advanced database operations.

Another potential improvement is supporting multiple database management systems such as MySQL, PostgreSQL, and MongoDB. Currently, the system may be designed for a specific database structure, but future versions could be made more flexible so that they can work with different database platforms without requiring major modifications.

The system can also be enhanced by improving its speech recognition capabilities. By integrating more advanced speech recognition technologies, the system could better understand spoken queries even in noisy environments or when users have different accents. This would make the system more reliable and convenient for voice-based interactions.

In addition, future development could include the integration of machine learning models that learn from previous queries and user interactions. This would allow the system to provide more accurate results over time and better understand user intent. With these improvements, Speak2DB has the potential to evolve into a more intelligent and adaptive database interaction system.

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