

This paper is intended to contribute to the evaluation of airborne remote sensing as one of a number of potential measures for the verification of compliance with the BTWC. It will attempt, where possible, to address specific observations to the three areas of activity of interest (development, acquisition or production, and stockpiling or retaining), recognizing that clear descriptions and delineations of these areas of activities do not exist. Finally, in relation to the criteria, it must be recognized that there are overlaps. Thus, in addressing the "strengths and weaknesses" of certain measures, these may be seen not only in terms of some inherent technical properties, but also described in terms of "their ability to differentiate between prohibited and permitted activities", and in terms of "their ability to resolve ambiguities about compliance". As a result, this paper's commentary is addressed to what is, in effect, a composite of these three criteria. Similarly, in discussing the technology requirements, it seemed appropriate to mention costs at the same time rather than have to repeat the listing of all of the technologies under the subsequent criterion relating to financial implications. It was the author's belief that this would lead to a sharper image and less repetition.