Capacity for Copernicus REDD+ and Forest Monitoring Services

REDDCopernicus

Efforts to monitor and map changes of forest areas using Earth Observation (EO) technologies to support decision making in reversing deforestation/degradation has been increasing in the past decade. This has especially gained momentum due to developments in the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) policy process related to countries reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) which requires an assessment of national historical and projected deforestation/degradation rates. The advent of the Copernicus Programme's Sentinel data with their high spatial resolution and revisit time at global, regional and national levels provides an unprecedented volume of data for improved forest monitoring which should be exploited by the European science and EO industry communities. The planned Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (C-DIAS) will also enhance data and value-added product access.

The CopernicusREDD+ project was launched in early 2019 under the EU Horizon 2020 (H2020) work program for 'Research and Innovation (Topic: 'Copernicus evolution – Mission exploitation concepts' LC-SPACE-02-EO-2018) and aims to implement a co-ordination and consolidation of the existing European Capacity for EO based Forest Monitoring for REDD+ and sustainable forest management with relevant stakeholders, International Agencies, Research Community and Private Sector. The project has a duration of three years and is implemented by a Consortium of five European Partners.

In order to reach its objectives, the project will undertake consultative Workshops with stakeholders in Europe and in developing countries. Existing Group on Earth Observations (GEO initiatives such as Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) will provide important contributions to the investigations. Additionally, consultative meetings with international initiatives of the UN for awareness raising on Copernicus are foreseen.

The project activities comprise:

1. Review and synthesise the key Policy drivers and existing capacities in Europe related to EO Forest Monitoring, including the assessment of institutional arrangements pertinent for the implementation of a Copernicus Forest Monitoring Service for REDD+ and sustainable forest management.
2. Coordinate results and experiences from existing REDD+ and Copernicus programmes for the identification of infrastructural and research gaps for EO FM on different scales from global to local.
3. Define an end-to-end operational system for Core and Downstream REDD+ Service components which includes organisational and technical specifications including the products and services that can be made available via the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (C-DIAS).
4. Raise awareness and showcase the European capacities in EO FM as well as related user uptake in countries via 2-3 Learning Exercise/Studies in developing countries in different geographical regions.
5. Disseminate, communicate and exploit the results of the project to a wide stakeholder audience to ensure that the overall impact and uptake of the project is optimised.
6. Recommend a framework for a Copernicus REDD+ Service component to establish long-term European Capacity and leadership in this domain.

For more information on our project, please visit our website: www.reddcopernicus.info

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