

Copernicus REDD+ and Forest Monitoring Services

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Monitoring and mapping changes of forest areas using Earth Observation (EO) technologies to support decision making has been increasing in the past decade. This is crucial especially to the international efforts in curbing deforestation and degradation which contribute to Green House Gas emissions. The advent of the European Copernicus Programme's Sentinel data with their high spatial resolution and revisit time at global, regional and national levels provides an unprecedented volume and quality of EO data for improved forest monitoring which offers tremendous possibilities for countries to overcome existing challenges for mapping and monitoring of forests and forest changes.

The REDDCopernicus Project, launched in early 2019, aims to design an operational Copernicus REDD+ Service Component. This requires a co-ordination and consolidation of the European Capacity for EO based Forest Monitoring for REDD+ and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) with relevant stakeholders, including the International Donors and Agencies, the REDD+ Countries, the Research Community and the Private Sector Service Providers. The project has a duration of three years and is implemented by a Consortium of five European Partners.

In order to achieve its objectives, the Project is assessing and documenting the user requirements with relevant representatives from REDD+ implementing organisations in tropical Countries as well as European and international stakeholders. In this context a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop was conducted in June 2019 at the premises of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC) in Ispra – Italy. Representatives from REDD+ countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, the Congo basin and East Africa joined the EC, the European Research Community, the private sector Service Providers, the World Resource Institute (WRI) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to discuss intensively the requirements for a future Copernicus REDD+ service component. The discussions led to the first specifications for the REDD+ Service and overall directions of the Project. Further consultative meetings are foreseen with the Donor Community, Development Agencies and relevant institutions of the UN for fine tuning of the organisational and technological specifications as well as the framework for implementation of the future REDD+ Service Component.

Based on a detailed review and synthesis of the key Policy drivers, stakeholder requirements and the existing capacities in Europe, the REDDCopernicus Project will develop a system design for a global REDD+ Service Component, which will be Quality Controlled (QC) and documented including validated accuracies and area uncertainties. This standardized and QC Core product has to be designed in such a manner that it allows an easy integration into National and Sub-National downstream applications for REDD+ MRV. This Core Copernicus REDD Service can be financed by the European Commission in a regular and sustainable manner and will therefore be free of charge for the downstream users. This will facilitate the downstream applications needed by the REDD+ implementing authorities; such applications are usually financed by international donors. The downstream applications can focus for example on adjustments of the free Copernicus REDD products to national forest definitions, to national Land Cover Classification Schemes, on final product validation and the provision of capacity building and technology transfer.

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

Supported by:



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