

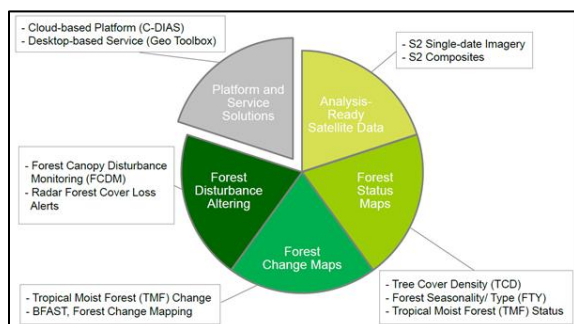
REDDCopernicus Newsletter January 2021



Endorsement of the Initial Design of the future Copernicus Forest Monitoring and REDD+ Service Component by Country Users

B. Desclee, A. Langner, H. Eva (JRC), P. Navratil (GAF AG)

The feedback from REDD+ countries is a key input to the design of a future Copernicus Service on REDD+ and forest monitoring. Seven online workshops were organized with five regions in September-November 2020. User feedback was collected through interactive hands-on sessions using a Web-Geoportal with the proposed products/ services and expert surveys. The presented prototype products can be found at <https://www.reddcopernicus.info/downloads>



Proposed concepts for the Copernicus Forest Monitoring and REDD+ Service.

The lively and active participation of the approximately 100 participants, including national actors and regional institutions active in forest monitoring and management made the workshops a great success. A wealth of information was collected from the discussions and webinar chats that accompanied the sessions of the learning exercises.

The User feedback and endorsement is a cornerstone in the consolidation process of designing a future Copernicus Service on REDD+ and forest monitoring, and this will take place in the coming months.

Highlights in this issue:

- User Endorsement of the future Copernicus Service
- Interaction with International Initiatives on Forest Monitoring
- European SFM Workshop
- Next steps in the project

Interaction with International Initiatives

J. Hugé, C. Sannier (SIRS)

The exchange with International Initiatives supporting Forest Monitoring is a main activity throughout the REDDCopernicus project. Their feedback is used to design a framework for potential collaboration of the Agencies and programmes with the Copernicus REDD+ service. Key stakeholders consulted include Financiers/Donors/Development Agencies, Technical and Scientific Organisations, as well as International Initiatives and NGOs. Interviews conducted with these stakeholders addressed -for example- the knowledge of Copernicus programme and the existing interactions with Copernicus/ EU supported EO activities, as well as their expectations on a future Copernicus Core REDD+ service. A number of the interviews have been conducted in 2019 and in 2020, and it was found that most of the respondents are highly receptive to the project and wish to be kept informed on the progress of the future service. Some of the contacted donor organisations also expressed a strong interest in considering the future service in their own activities, notably through the support of downstream activities supporting local capacity building.

Please find more information in the upcoming second edition of the report on “Coordination with International Agencies and Programmes” which is planned to be published by March 2021 on Cordis, and the project website www.reddcopernicus.info.

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Earth Observation for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe Workshop

J. Miettinen, Y. Rauste (VTT)

Another key objective of the REDDCopernicus project is to identify and then prioritise the main research topics for Earth Observation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Europe. In September 2020, the project organized the ‘Earth Observation for European Sustainable Forest Management’ virtual workshop to gather information on and to discuss the requirements and ongoing activities on forest sustainability monitoring in Europe. The workshop attracted 60 participants from EU and national government institutes, private sector, non-governmental organizations and associations as well as research community. The event was a great success and it provided forestry Stakeholders from different parts of Europe with an opportunity to share their views and learn about the latest developments in Earth Observation based forest monitoring.

The presentations and discussions highlighted the strong demand for forest sustainability monitoring in both government and private sectors. Forest ecosystem health, carbon and biodiversity were identified as key themes where new monitoring approaches are needed. Europe-wide criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forest Management already exist and there are promising recent research results on Earth Observation based techniques for monitoring these criteria. The REDDCopernicus project will continue its work to prioritize research directions to best support the forestry Stakeholder community in monitoring the sustainability of forest management activities.

More information and link to all of the presentations of the workshop can be found at:

<https://www.reddcopernicus.info/downloads>

Next Steps

S. Gomez (GAF)

After the important stakeholder Workshops in the different geographic regions, the Consortium will utilize their feedback to fine tune the product portfolio which can be recommended to the European Commission for a future Copernicus REDD+ service. This will be done in a Final Technical Design deliverable. Additionally key R&D activities which include identification of research gaps in the use of EO for tropical forest monitoring as well as the research gaps in the European context will be finalized and provided as deliverables. These findings will highlight key technical challenges that have to be addressed for operational EO forest monitoring which the EU can consider for research funding. Additionally a framework for implementing a proposed Copernicus REDD+ service which will present the organizational and technical issues that will be part of such a service will be outlined. These various activities are foreseen for the next months of 2021 and will also continue into 2022.

For Editorial Matters Contact:

GAF AG
Peter Navratil
peter.navratil@gaf.de

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