



Horizon 2020
LC-SPACE-02-EO-2018: Copernicus Evolution – Mission Exploitation
Concepts

Capacity for Copernicus REDD+ and Forest Monitoring
Services



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REDDCopernicus - GFOI R&D

Online Workshop:
Assessing Research Priorities for
Forest Monitoring in Support of REDD+ MRV
and other Initiatives

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1 Introduction

1.1 REDDCopernicus

The main objective of the European Commission Horizon 2020 project REDDCopernicus (<https://www.reddcopernicus.info/>) is to implement the coordination and consolidation of existing European capacities for Earth Observation (EO)-based Forest Monitoring (FM) with relevant stakeholders. The envisaged workshop, which will take place in an online format, will explore the remaining research gaps, defined in the context of this project as the gap between user and policy needs and the capacities available, operational and provided as part of a service component. An initial priority list of research and development (R&D) needs has been developed, although input from the wider research community still needs to be included.

The LC-SPACE-02-EO-2018: Copernicus Evolution – Mission Exploitation Concepts, Capacity for Copernicus REDD+ and Forest Monitoring Services project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies – Space, Coordinated Support Action under Grant Agreement No 821880. The project is led by GAF AG (Germany).

For more information on the project: <https://www.reddcopernicus.info/>

Consortium Partners

No.	Name	Short Name	Country
1	GAF AG (Coordinator)	GAF AG	Germany
2	JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE, Ispra site	JRC	Belgium / Italy
3	CLS Group (Collecte Localisation Satellites)	CLS	France
4	WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY	WU	Netherlands
5	TEKNILOGIAN TUTKIMUSKESKUS VTT Oy	VTT	Finland

1.2 Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)

GFOI is an informal partnership (see logos for lead partner) that helps coordinate international support to developing countries on FM and greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting for REDD+ and related activities.



The [GFOI’s R&D Coordination Component](#)

addresses methodological and technical issues that hamper progress in forest monitoring and GHG accounting efforts in developing countries. The Component fosters a community of experts to identify science and technologies that can reduce uncertainties and improve the efficiency of FM efforts; thus addressing unmet country needs.

1.3 Wageningen University and GFOI R&D Component

The Workshop “Assessing Research Priorities for Forest Monitoring in Support of REDD+ MRV and other Initiatives” is organized by Prof. Martin Herold and Dr. Sarah Carter from Wageningen University, who lead the R&D Coordination Component of GFOI, and are responsible for providing input on R&D gaps related to the REDDCopernicus project.



[Read about this workshop on the GFOI webpage.](#)

1.4 Objective

The objectives are to bring together research experts on FM to systematically assess current R&D and its relevance for FM, identify remaining R&D gaps, develop new research and promote promising concepts to ensure this research moves from research use to operational use in countries. This will be done in the following steps:

- First, an overview of R&D is presented, detailing what is happening and where. This will be synthesized to provide an overview of the status of key R&D priority areas.
- Second, remaining gaps are identified, and priority areas for R&D, including those related to a potential Copernicus REDD+ Service Component will be identified. Based on new developments and recent progress, next steps for future R&D will be proposed to address these gaps. The actions needed to ensure research addresses country capacity gaps, and bring new research towards operational methods, tools, data and platforms are outlined.
- Third, a plan will be developed for or short-term collaboration of researchers on one of the priority themes (depending on commitments from participants).
- Finally, the aim for the GFOI R&D Coordination Component, is to set up a systematic approach to assess new research, identify and prioritize next research steps, inform partners of GFOI R&D on new developments, and promote promising relevant research more broadly; this will be discussed and short-term next steps agreed. The approach used in REDDCopernicus will be considered.

1.5 Outputs

The following outputs will be part of a workshop report:

- A synthesis of recent R&D progress.
- A list of refined R&D topics related to FM needs for REDD+, in order of priority, with a clear set of criteria used to determine the order of priority. The list should be suitable to guide donors on investment needs.
- Where appropriate (depending on the participants), a plan and commitments for working collaboratively on one or more of the priority topics.
- An agreed approach to collecting and assessing information on upcoming research – potentially building on the method developed in REDDCopernicus.

1.6 Target audience

The meeting is open, and all interested participants are invited to register (see section 3 for registration link). The session chairs will identify and invite a limited number of speakers for the breakout sessions, but all R&D experts, on FM in the tropics (including country representatives, academic and research partners, NGOs, Service Providers, and space agency representatives) are encouraged to participate.

2 Draft Agenda

The workshop will start with an introduction to the workshop and its objectives.

Breakout discussions on priority research themes will be held in three sessions, with two parallel themes per session (six themes in total). Invited speakers will give **short pitches (5-7 minutes)** outlining research progress, remaining challenges, and proposed new research related to that theme.

All participants will then discuss the **research priorities within that theme, and some clear activities which participants might take up and which could be used to guide the stakeholders.**

Five of the six sessions will cover research themes, and one session will focus on the **methods to identify and assess new research in the context of GFOI's R&D Coordination Component.**

The five thematic sessions are:

- Degradation & Regrowth
- Biomass
- Early Warning
- Uncertainty Analysis
- Land Use & GHGs.

Plenary discussions will enable all participants to participate in discussions on all themes.

The workshop will begin at 13:00 CEST (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), 07:00 EDT (New York, USA), 21:00 AEST (Canberra, Australia):

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html?iso=20210414T110000&p1=16&p2=179&p3=57>

Day 1: Monday 14 th June		
Welcome, and Introduction to GFOI & GFOI R&D activities	13:00-13:15	Frank Martin Seifert (<i>tbc</i>) / Martin Herold / Sarah Carter
A framework for a future Copernicus Service: Introduction to REDDCopernicus	13:15-13:30	JRC/GAF
Specifications for a Copernicus Forest Monitoring service and feedback from REDD+ users	13:30-13:45	JRC
Q&A on a REDDCopernicus Global Forest Monitoring Service Component	13:45-14:15	JRC/GAF
Break	14:15-14:30	
Introduction to the workshop - Objectives - Outputs - Breakout groups	14:30-14:45	Sarah Carter
Overview of recent research - Results from survey and literature review - Preliminary list of research priorities	14:45-15:00	Sarah Carter
Parallel session 1: Degradation and regrowth	15:00-16:30	Frédéric Achard (co-chair) Christophe Sannier (co-chair)
Biomass		Laura Duncanson (co-chair) Martin Herold (co-chair)
Break	16:30-16:45	
Plenary discussion - Feedback from the different groups, and questions	16:45-17:45	Moderator: Andres Espejo

Day 2: Tuesday 15 th June		
Welcome and instructions for the day	13:00-13:10	Sarah Carter
Parallel session 2:	13:10-14:40	
Early Warning		Johannes Reiche (co-chair) Mikaela Weisse (co-chair)
Uncertainty Analysis		Inge Jonckheere (co-chair) Christophe Sannier (co-chair)
Break	14:40-14:50	
Parallel session 3:	14:50-16:20	
Land Use and GHGs		Tuomas Häme (co-chair) Nancy Harris (co-chair) (<i>tbc</i>)
GFOI R&D and next steps		Sarah Carter (co-chair) Sylvia Wilson (co-chair) (<i>tbc</i>)
Break	16:20-16:30	
Plenary discussion - Feedback from the different groups, and questions	16:30-17:30	Moderator: Frank Martin Seifert (<i>tbc</i>)
Plenary discussion - Final priority list	17:30-18:30	Moderator: Martin Herold / Sarah Carter

3 Registration and online venue

3.1 Registration and relevant documents

Registration is available on the following webpage:

http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/sites/workshop_research_forest_monitoring.php

You can also find:

- the **latest version of this document**:
http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/documents/WorkshopResearchForestMonitoring/GFOI-REDDCopernicus_TFMWorkshop.pdf
- **registration link**: <https://forms.gle/tTetAcnPq2nQoMq9>
- a downloadable **calendar invite**:
<http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/documents/WorkshopResearchForestMonitoring/WorkshopResearchForestMonitoring.zip>

3.2 Microsoft Teams link

The **links to join the meeting** (also in the downloadable calendar invite) are:

- Day 1: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Day 2: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Links to join the breakout groups will be provided on the day of the workshop.

For more information, please visit the REDDCopernicus project webpage:

<https://www.reddcopernicus.info/> or email sarah.carter@wur.nl.