



**Global Forest
Observations Initiative**

Evan Notman - USAID & US Lead for GFOI
COP22: GFOI side-event



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GFOI: what is it?



GFOI Open Forum @ ESA in Frascati Italy, Feb 2016



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GFOI: why is it needed?



- Founded under Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in 2011
 - First work plan was 2012-13.
 - Operational ever since.

- Lead partners: currently Australia, Norway, USA, FAO & CEOS.

- Experts from UNFCCC, IPCC, World Bank FCPF, universities, technical and policy experts and other

- Open to new partners.

GFOI Components



Capacity Building

Works directly with countries, through the US SilvaCarbon and UNREDD-FAO programmes, to help develop national forest monitoring systems and associated capacities. This includes providing training in GFOI products and tools.



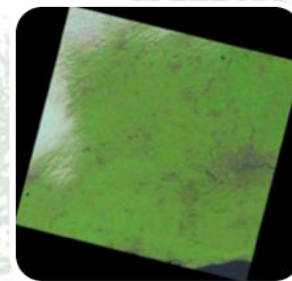
Methods and Guidance

Systematic workflow approach to forest monitoring and MRV. Provides direct links between UNFCCC decisions and the IPCC good practice and other guidance materials.



Space Data Coordination

Works with the world's civil space agencies, through CEOS, to ensure the long-term and worldwide acquisition of the core satellite datasets needed by countries to monitor their forests on an ongoing basis.



R&D Coordination

Coordinating the development of new technologies, datasets and methods for forest monitoring in a manner that best meets REDD+ countries' needs and priorities.



GFOI Leads and Office

The GFOI Leads provide overall oversight of the Initiative. The Office provides overall coordination and administrative support to the Leads Group, GFOI components, activities and partners.

- Interface of GFOI with countries seeking assistance on improving forest monitoring systems
- Jointly implemented by US SilvaCarbon & UNREDD
- Builds upon their existing work programmes and country partnerships
- Flexible and diverse capacity building activities using MGD as core syllabus
- Workshops, one-on-one training, in-country experts, training trainers, webinars and open sources tools
- Component Managers: Sylvia Wilson and Inge Jonckheere.



- Intended to provide clear and consistent voluntary guidance for GFOI partners and capacity building activities
- Logical and systematic guide for countries to follow in developing their forest monitoring systems
- Improve accessibility of technical data: link to IPCC GPG, UNFCCC requirements and other technical docs
- V1 published in January 2014, V2 in August 2016
- New web application REDDcompass available
 - www.gfoi.org/reddcompass
- Component Manager: Carly Green.

- Coordinates civil space agencies to influence satellite acquisition in support of forest monitoring needs
- Aims to ensure coverage and continuity for countries
- Focus on acquisition and accessibility of free data
- Also supports R&D component, inc. strategising for Analysis Ready Data.
- Led by Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)
- Component Manager: Stephen Ward



- Coordinate global R&D activities on forest monitoring to help meet country needs
- Prioritizing RS research topics for the use in NFMS
- Priorities topics include: forest degradation, mapping forest types, interoperability, uncertainty, data and model integration etc.
- Country focus through development of MGD modules
- Component Managers: Brice Mora and Martin Herold.



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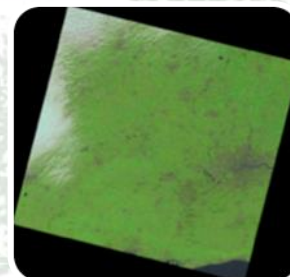
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- A recent review found that the GFOI has been largely successful in pursuing its initial goals.
- It has demonstrated that via an informal-collaborative:
 - effective capacity building cooperation can be achieved
 - operational guidance developed,
 - data needs addressed and;
 - development of new technologies pursued for the benefit of developing countries.
- However, GFOI now needs to chart a new course for the current global context, inc the Paris Agreement.
 - closer engagement with new partners, inc REDD+ countries.



- Current Lead partners are supportive of continuing GFOI.
 - Planning recently commenced for Phase 2.
- Primary goal of coordinated capacity building on forest monitoring for the benefit of developing countries.
- Redesign process currently underway, welcome contributions to this.
- Seeking new partners for GFOI Phase 2. This can include;
 - coordinating new or existing activities through GFOI or;
 - contributions towards the core function of coordination.

A small circular icon containing a stylized green tree with a white canopy, identical to the one in the GFOI logo.

gfoi.org

The Facebook logo, a white lowercase 'f' inside a blue square.

facebook.com/gfoi1

The Twitter logo, a white bird silhouette inside a blue square.

twitter.com/gfoi_forest

A small circular icon containing a stylized green tree with a white canopy, identical to the one in the GFOI logo.

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