

AfriGEOSS Symposium 2016: Session 7 Description

When	Session 7 (Day 2, Thur. 28-April): 14.00 – 15.30
Session Title	Sustainable Forest Management

1) Purpose

In recent years, tropical forests have experienced a resurgence of interest in the negotiations and major international issues, primarily around the theme of climate change. Following the craze for REDD + in Central Africa, new changes in forest cover maps and quantification of forest biomass were created to feed the MRV systems (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification). This data is the result of applied scientific research involving separately or together large amounts of satellite images and field data.

The session will focus primarily on the multitude of national and international initiatives on forest theme but also on external financing for monitoring deforestation. In addition the session will look at how forest managers are supported by the ongoing initiatives such as GFOI in improving decisions and actions. Last objective is to understand how a real coordination of forest activities and compilation of needs and gaps can be done at continental level through AfriGEOSS.

For users, this session will help to have a clear idea about the different satellite data provider for forest monitoring.

2) Key questions to be addressed in the session

This session brings elements of the answers to the following questions:

- What is the state of forests in Africa today?
- How are forest managers supported by the ongoing activities?
- How to effectively follow the phenomenon of deforestation?
- What is the African capacity for the provision of satellite data for forest management?
- How AfriGEOSS can coordinate forest theme in the continent?
- What are the funding mechanisms?
- Are the multiple international initiatives on forest in Africa coordinated?

3) Expected outcomes from the session

- Inventory of local and international initiatives on forest in the continent;
- Outline a mechanism for coordinating the various initiatives in Africa on the management and monitoring of forest exploitation under AfriGEOSS;
- Show the relevance of satellite imaging in the management of the forest;
- Identify sources of funding;
- Establish a working group on forest theme on the African continent;
- Reflecting on a continental architecture involving data providers, policy makers and forestry experts;

- Have a feedback forest management structures in all the sub-regions.

4) *Format of the session and expected audience*

Panel discussion: Introduction by session Chair followed by opening remarks / presentations by the panel addressing appropriate elements of the outlined session questions.

5) *Speakers*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Florence Palla	COMIFAC
Giovanni Rum	GEO Secretariat
Benoit Mertens	IRD
Siro Abdallah	ICPAC MESA
Senay Habtezion	START / GOFC-GOLD
TBD	ZFC

6) *Moderator and Rapporteur*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Aboubakar Mambimba Ndjoungui	AGEOS, Gabon
Phoebe Odour (Rapporteur)	RCMRD

7) *Schedule*

- Introduction of the Session by Moderator (Aboubakar Mambimba Ndjoungui, AGEOS, Gabon) (5 min)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (5 min each)
 - Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) (Giovanni Rum, GEO Secretariat)
 - Forest mapping and monitoring in support of policy implementation (Florence Palla, COMIFAC)
 - Capacity building and satellite data access for forest monitoring in West & Central Africa – GEOFORAFRI Project (Benoit Mertens, IRD)
 - Forest mapping and monitoring in East Africa (Siro Abdallah, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC MESA)
 - Forest capacity building activities in Africa (Senay Habtezion, START & GOFC-GOLD)
 - TBD (TBD, ZFC)
- 30 minute moderated panel discussion – converge on issues of collaboration (*see key questions to be addressed in the session*)
- 20 minutes moderated discussion with audience
- Summary of session by moderator