

AfriGEOSS Symposium 2017

When Session 7 (Day 2, Wed-14 June): 14h00 – 15h30

Session Title Earth observations for Sustainable Forest Management in Africa

1) Purpose

Tropical forest countries consider the REDD process to be essential for their development strategies, which has justified the adoption of the subregion's common positions in the process of REDD + negotiations under the UNFCCC. They have clearly indicated their interest in developing national mechanisms for REDD +. National frameworks for managing this process have been set up and strategic tools are being developed. Land use change and land-use change and forestry, require the establishment of a national forest monitoring system, measurement, reporting and verification of carbon emissions and removals. It's relevant to share the knowledge of the actors of the subregion in the progress of the implementation of REDD + and national experiences of forest monitoring. Issues around forest management require exchange to prepare for the future of land restoration (Bonn challenge) to contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Africa (COP 22).

The session will focus on REDD experiments progress and monitoring of forests at national and the regional level. In addition the session will present inventory of forest and biodiversity initiatives in Central Africa as a model for Strengthening the community of AfriGEOSS forest managers. A special interest will be to be more informed and proposed a mechanism to improve use of tools for monitoring forest ecosystems in Africa. Lastly, it would also be appropriate to present the assessment of the follow-up of the recommendations of the first AfriGEOSS?

For users, this session will help to reflect on the opportunities to be gained through experiments on the management of forest ecosystems based on the use of satellite data.

2) Key questions to be addressed in the session

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

1. What is the state of national or regional forest monitoring (methods, tools, initiatives, etc.)?
2. How is the coordination (actors, tools, initiatives) at national, regional level and how to effectively leverage it to better matching with global level?
3. What about actual state and trends concerning the forest cover extent and changes at national and regional level?

3) Expected outcomes from the session

- State of implementation of last AfriGEOSS symposium's SFM session recommendations
- State of national monitoring forest systems (methods, tools, initiatives) and perspectives;

- Actual state and trends concerning forest cover extent and changes at national and regional level

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	OFAC-COMIFAC
Stéphane Momo	PREREDD, Cameroon
Konrad Wessels	CSIR, South Africa
Fortunate Muyambi	IGAD ICPAC
Beatrice Asenso Barnieh	RAIN, Ghana
Fousseni Folega	University of Lome, Togo
TBC	ESA

6) *Moderator and Rapporteur*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Ghislain Moussavou (Moderator)	AGEOS, Gabon
(TBC) (Rapporteur)	EORIC

7) *Schedule*

- Introduction of the Session by Moderator (Ghislain Moussavou, AGEOS, Gabon) (5 min)
- Speaker remarks / presentations (5 min each)
 - Sustainable Forest Management Initiatives in Central Africa (an inventory of forest organizations/ on-going projects (national and internationally funded in Central Africa), Florence Palla, OFAC-COMIFAC
 - Using 3D imagery for indirect and non-destructive estimation of tree biomass, PREREDD, Stéphane Momo, Cameroon
 - National Scale woody vegetation monitoring in tropical and arid woodlands with SAR, Konrad Wessels, CSIR, South Africa
 - Drought stream, and swamp forest biomass productivity in context of high anthropogenic disturbance and climate change in Togo, Fousseni Folega, University of Lome, Togo.
 - Modelling Above-Ground Carbon Stock of Trees in Forest Reserve and Agro-Ecosystem Under REDD+ Mechanisms, Beatrice Asenso Barnieh, RAIN, Ghana
 - Monitoring of Forest degradation and deforestation in the IGAD region using Landsat and Sentinel2 satellite Imagery, Fortunate Muyambi, IGAD ICPAC

- Forestry Thematic Exploitation Platform, TBC, ESA
- 40 minute moderated panel discussion – converge on issues of collaboration (*see key questions to be addressed in the session*)
- Summary of session by moderator