

## **CEOS COMMUNIQUÉ ON FOREST AND CARBON MONITORING**

**Recognising the importance of a consistent global framework of forest carbon monitoring delivered by national governments in support of national and international climate policy formulation, including the development of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD), or similar future mechanisms under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,**

**Recognising these policy needs would be well served by a yearly, wall-to-wall time-series consistent forest monitoring programme, augmented by more frequent observations in areas of special need,**

**Recognising that The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has brought together a diverse group of stakeholders and contributors, through the GEO Forest Monitoring Task CL-09-03b, in support of this policy process, and that efforts set out here below form the contribution of satellite Earth observation agencies to this task,**

**Recognising that this forest monitoring programme, while initially focused on forest carbon, will also support the establishment of other monitoring frameworks such as for agriculture, natural resource and land use management, and biodiversity,**

**Noting that the CEOS Member agencies through their archive and in-orbit capacity have the assets to deliver the continuity of space observations, in association with important in-situ observations and validation efforts, that are required to progress global policy frameworks on the roles of forests in climate change,**

**Recognising that the operational requirements of forest monitoring demand timeliness, consistency, continuity of supply of data, and systematic coverage, and that these represent a considerable challenge,**

**CEOS will undertake the necessary coordination of its Member agencies to address the space data requirements of the GEO effort, and to ensure that satellite Earth observations serve an appropriate role in coordination with in-situ observations to support the implementation of this task,**

**CEOS Member agencies endeavour to work in cooperation to ensure interoperability among the various space assets, such that CEOS can deliver the required contribution of space systems in terms of necessary data, products and services - recognising that significant commitments will be required in support of these outcomes,**

**CEOS Member agencies recognise that the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles should serve as the basis for data access in this context to help ensure that the work contributes optimally to the public good,**

**CEOS will coordinate with the other GEO Co-leads in order to establish and deliver 5 key joint outcomes of the GEO task on Forest Carbon Tracking for 2009:**

- 1) Agreement among willing CEOS Member agencies to ensure availability of current and future data supply on a basis adequate for the implementation and operation of continuous services;***
  - 2) Documented procedures to secure interoperability of optical and SAR sensors based on case study results;***
  - 3) Documented procedures on linking wall-to-wall, time series satellite data coverage to (1) ecosystem models and (2) traditional forest inventories, to consistently estimate carbon stocks at project and national scales;***
  - 4) Validation procedures for satellite applications in forest monitoring;***
  - 5) Visualisations of progress and demonstration results for GEO-VI and COP-15 – making clear the capacity of these initiatives to support policy objectives.***
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