

# Land Surface Imaging VC: Terms of Reference

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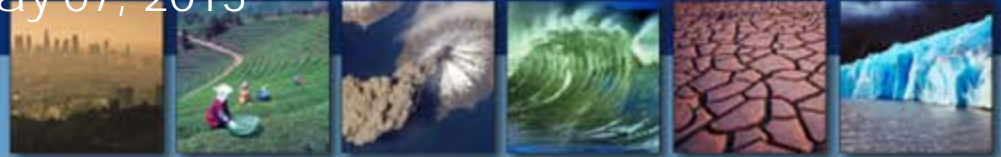
ISRO

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CEOS WGISS-35 Meeting

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# Current LSI Terms of Reference



**Background:** The CEOS Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation (LSI VC) was established through a Declaration of Intent signed by seven CEOS agencies in 2007.

**Purpose:** The LSI VC primary role is to promote the effective and comprehensive collection, distribution, and application of Earth Observation (EO) data of the global land surface, especially to meet societal needs of the global population, such as those addressed by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) societal benefit areas (SBAs).



**Scope:** The remit of LSI VC is to **coordinate** and focus land EO contributions from CEOS agencies supporting CEOS priorities. This includes considering space-based Remote Sensing from optical (visible and infrared including thermal) and microwave instruments. The CEOS Priority Actions are main drivers for the group.



- Improved **coordination** support of Space Agency terrestrial activities related to climate initiatives
- Direct support to key GEO initiatives that CEOS has endorsed including the Forest Carbon Tracking, the Global Forest Observations Initiative, the Joint Experiments on Crop Assessment and Monitoring and, as appropriate, the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
- Investigating ways LSI can integrate or utilize the outputs from CEOS Quality Assurance for Earth Observation (QA4EO) efforts
- Developing tools and sponsoring forums for CEOS terrestrial mission planning.

# Current SDCG Terms of Reference



**Background:** The CEOS GFOI Space Data Coordination Group (SDCG) was established by the 25<sup>th</sup> CEOS Plenary (November 2011).

**Purpose:** The SDCG serves to implement *The CEOS Strategy for Space Data Coverage and Continuity in Support of the GEO Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) and Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT) Task.*



**Scope:** The remit of SDCG activities is defined by the scope of the CEOS Data Strategy document. Points to note:

- The SDCG seeks to support **coordinated** acquisition of all relevant Earth observing missions **in support of GFOI and FCT** needs emphasis is on coordination of CEOS agency missions, but an effective interface will be developed to engage and communicate needs to commercial operators
- The **SDCG will limit its coordination to acquisition planning**, at least initially; the broader scheme of data processing and distribution will be directed by the GFOI implementation, and the SDCG may have a role therein in due course



- The SDCG is not intended to be an open-ended arrangement for support of GFOI operations; it is anticipated that as the institutional arrangements and capacity for GFOI and its Project Office develop, the SDCG functions will transition into these structures.
- Noting the need for data **coordination** processes in support of other emerging CEOS priorities, the SDCG is being established with a view to being able to broaden its scope in future.

# LSI Terms of Reference

## Way Forward



**Scope:** The remit of LSI VC is to **coordinate the distribution of terrestrial data including terrestrial Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)**, from CEOS agencies supporting CEOS priorities. This includes considering space-based remote sensing from optical (visible and infrared including thermal) and microwave instruments. The CEOS Priority Actions are main drivers for the group.





**Deliverables:** The LSI VC will provide the following services and activities:

- Provide **distribution services** from the LSI portal for CEOS agency terrestrial data.
- Facilitate the **distribution of terrestrial ECVs** as recommended by the WGClimat.
- Strive to address the cross-cutting issues that are common and fundamental to all data coordination responses from CEOS (information extraction, cross calibration, inter-operability, long-term data records, **availability and dissemination**, data quality, metadata) in cooperation with the other CEOS Working Groups.
- Provide end users updated information on current CEOS data coverages, gaps and potential discontinuity in data availability.
- Investigate a land data coordination role with CEOS agencies utilizing Public-Private Partnership arrangements with the goal to facilitate **data access and usage** for CEOS sponsored activities.

# LSI Terms of Reference Way Forward



- LSI Study Group (LSSG) creation at SIT-28
- Definition of LSSG ToR
- Membership of LSSG
  - Request for a WGISS representative
- Review of LSI ToR