

REDDAF

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Africa

GMES IN THE CONGO BASIN

Tropical forests are important ecosystems that have systemic impacts on biodiversity, water cycles, micro-and macroclimates at regional and global levels. Threats to these forests are posed by changes in land use, forest fires, legal and illegal logging, which all lead to a loss in biomass and the related increase of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. In the context of climate change mitigation, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is introducing a Post-Kyoto Protocol mechanism to reduce deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

The Congo Basin is the site of the world's second largest tropical forest: a carbon sink of global importance. The countries in the Congo Basin require support to implement REDD activities. More specifically they need improved monitoring systems based on spatially accurate and timely data for forest management. Responding to this challenge, the REDDAF project aims to develop pre-operational forest monitoring services in Cameroon and Central African Republic. The main activities proposed are:

- Country specific user requirements to identify the needs of stakeholders in terms of instituting REDD projects;

- Carbon stock accounting: research and development of methods for improved EO/ in-situ data applications to estimate areal extent of deforestation and forest degradation as well as biomass stock;

- Technology Transfer and Capacity Building to the country to ensure that project results, methodologies and lessons learned are provided in a manner to best support the work of national and regional counterparts.

The services and products that will be delivered to the user community include forest cover maps and forest cover change maps for 1990-2000 and 2000-2009/10, land use changes based on six IPCC compliant land use classes; degradation maps, biomass maps and the relevant digital datasets.



THOMAS HÄUSLER
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



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REDDAF supports countries in the African Congo Basin in monitoring deforestation and forest degradation more effectively.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What do you want to achieve with this project?

REDDAF will establish innovative services based on EO and in-situ measurements which respond to the needs of the users in the Congo Basin Region. The services are related to the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) requirements within the new REDD policy process.

Why is this project important for Europe?

REDDAF will provide important research and operational results on the implementation of REDD in the Congo Basin; in this way the project brings Europe into the forefront of development of technologies and their transfer for REDD implementation in Africa.

How does your work benefit European citizens?

It is expected that REDD services will support the tropical countries in preserving their natural resources and providing one of the most immediate impact on carbon emission reduction. In this sense all citizens in Europe and worldwide will benefit from climate change mitigation.

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- SIRS, France
- University Paul Sabatier Toulouse III, CESBIO, France
- Joanneum Research, Austria
- Geospatial Technology Group SARL, Cameroon
- University of Bangui, Central African Republic

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Degradation in Africa (REDDAF)

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