

16th GFOI Regional Workshop in the Americas: “How is REDD+ data use for management, policy, and other reporting mechanisms in Latin America”

Location: USGS Fort Collins Science Center (FORT) Social & Economic Analysis (SEA) Branch

Dates: January 21 – 24, 2020

Justification

USAID, NASA, FAO, and other GFOI members have worked together in tropical countries through international assistance programs such as SilvaCarbon and SERVIR to homogenize methods and data among the GHGi and national REDD+ MRV systems. Some countries have generated the best available data on emissions at the national and subnational level as well as developed/designed robust MRV systems that allow them to measure the progress of mitigation policies and their actions.

The goal of this workshop is to evaluate how data produced for results-based payments for REDD+ is assisting forested countries to manage their land to achieve sustainable development, reduce carbon emissions, and implement management decisions and to strengthen the use of these data for additional management and reporting needs.

For example, under the 2030 Agenda, 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations member states through the SDG open Working Group. The SDGs seek a renewed alliance where all countries participate equally and achieve social and environmental pillars for sustainable development. Each country determines how it will address and report on SDGs. Additionally, under the Paris Agreement, countries submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC’s), presenting their commitments to the international community toward reaching the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep warming well below 2 degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era.

At the national level, countries typically have developed their REDD+, forest management, NDC, and SDG agendas in parallel, rather than through a coordinated effort. Aligning the data informing these different efforts can reduce duplication and optimize the use of limited resources. NDC’s and SDG’s are only two examples of how data from National Forest Monitoring Systems can be used for different purposes. With this workshop we will learn how countries are using these data to inform management, policy and ultimately move towards sustainable integrated systems.

Objectives:

1. Share experiences on how different governmental institutions are collecting, analyzing, and exchanging data. To collect the experiences participants will be asked to:
 - Prepare presentations of those country experiences
 - Participate in theoretical and practical exercises to be carried out during the workshop
2. Identify the best way for GFOI capacity building programs to include data flow among institutions in countries into their business as usual operations.

3. Draft a concept for a pilot in Latin America on institutional arrangements for the development of data for different applications. This pilot will provide a case study for the GFOI methods and guidance and will contribute to the GEO EO4SDG Initiative.

Organizers and Participants

- USGS SilvaCarbon program is organizing the workshop with support from FAO, GFOI, UN-REDD, USFS, NASA SERVIR, and UNDP.
- Countries participating are Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Paraguay. The estimated number of participants per country is 4 participants, representing different government institutions.

Acronyms:

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
GEO: Group on Earth Observations
EO4SDG: Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals
GFO: Global Forest Observation
GHGi: Greenhouse Gases Inventory
REDD+: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
MRV: Measurement, Reporting, and Verification
NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions
NFMS: National Forest Monitoring System
USFS: United States Forest Service
USGS: United States Geological Survey



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AGENDA

DAY 1 – January 21th Session 1: Background, and Workshop Framing Moderator: Monica Jeda - USGS		
9:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and Introductions	Rudy Schuster (Chief, Social and Economic Analysis Branch, USGS Fort Collins Science Center) Timothy Stryker (Chief, Outreach and Collaboration Branch, USGS National Land Imaging Program)
10:30 – 11:00	Framing of the workshop (Developing National Forest Monitoring Data for different purposes)	Sylvia Wilson (SilvaCarbon Program Manager, USGS National Land Imaging Program)
11:00– 11:30	Institutional Arrangement Graphical Representation for attending countries	Monica Jeda (USGS SilvaCarbon Program support)
11:30 – 12:00	GFOI Phase II Focusing on data for multiple purposes	Evan Notman (Component Coordinator, Global Forest Observation Initiative)
Session 2: Country Presentations Moderator: Crista Straub		
12:00 – 12:45	Country Presentations (following a template, climate negotiations, institutional arrangements, and data flow)	
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	Country Presentation Continued	

AGENDA Continued

Day 2 – January 22nd Session 3: Background of Relevant Programs Moderator: Kimberly Todd		
9:00 – 9:15	Recap from previous day	
9:15 – 9:45	Earth Observations for SDGs – GEO EO4SDG	Argyro Kavvada (Executive Secretary, GEO EO4SDG Initiative, NASA)
9:45 – 10:30	Ecoforecasting Program – SDGs Projects in LatinAmerica	Cindy Schmidt (Associate Program Manager, Applied Sciences Ecoforecasting Program - NASA)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:30	FAO vision on SDGs 13 and 15: special attention to SDG 13 and SDG 15	Inge Jonckheere (United Nations REDD Program)
11:30 – 12:30	Utilizing NDC data from forestry and land use sectors	Fred Stolle (Deputy Director, Forest Department, World Research Institute)
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch	

Session 4: Background of Relevant Programs Moderator: Fred Stolle		
14:30 – 15:30	The Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda: Aligning NDCs and SDGs	Kimberly Todd (Technical Specialist, United Nations Development Program)
Session 5: Examples from the US Moderator: Argyro Kavvada		
15:30 – 16:30	US GHGi Data for the AFOLU Sector	John Steller (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
16:30 – 17:30	Data for management decisions	Jim Ellenwood (National Program Lead for monitoring, remote sensing and analysis research (US Forest Service))
Day 3 – January 23th Session 6: Discussions and Exercises Moderator: Cindy Schmidt, and Kimberly Todd		
9:30 – 10:00	Group exercise guidelines	Betzy Hernandez (Associate Program Manager AmeriGEO – NASA)
10:00 – 12:30	Group exercise (Institutional arrangements and data sharing) Country Presentations (following a template)	Discussion Leads Betzy Hernandez Sylvia Wilson Evan Notman
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 16:00	Group discussions (main topics to lay out on the pilot for using data for different reporting mechanisms, and layout for a white paper for the GFOI summit)	Discussion Lead: Evan Notman
Day 4 – January 24th –Field Trip		