



## Earth Observation for Sustainable Development



### Context

The European Space Agency (ESA)'s **Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EO4SD) Initiative** (<http://eo4sd.esa.int>), linked to the ESA-WB partnership, has started in September 2020 a new thematic cluster dedicated to Forest Management which is financed by ESA through 2023. The **EO4SD-Forest Management** Cluster has the overall objective of demonstrating the utility and benefits of mainstreaming **Satellite Earth Observation (EO)**-based forest related products and services for improved Forest Management for **International Financial Institution (IFI)** Programmes and stakeholder in **Client States (CS)**. The cluster complements a set of seven other thematic areas addressed under the EO4SD initiative in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) and other IFI partners. EO4SD forms the basis for the new **Space in Support of International Development Assistance (Space for IDA)** follow-up initiative, jointly implemented by ESA and World Bank, which aims at bringing these efforts to scale and at enlarging the long-term ESA-WB partnership.

The EO4SD-Forests cluster is led by GAF AG (Germany) and a Consortium of European and Canadian expert partners (Caribou Space/UK, Hatfield/Canada, Indufor/Finland, SIRS/France, Wageningen University/Netherlands) who have well established experience in the provision of geo-spatial data and services for forest monitoring and management especially in the UNFCCC REDD+ policy segment. Following the EO4SD framework, the Consortium will embark on initial consultative discussions on stakeholder engagement with the Bank's various groups active in the forest domain and jointly identify best cases for collaboration.

### Specific Objectives

In the current EO4SD component, the more specific objectives are to provide convincing **demonstrations of the benefit and utility** of EO-based information in the field of Forest Management. The service provisions shall be on a **regional basis** in specific countries in Latin America, South East Asia and Africa and will be based on a **fully functional forest service portfolio** with **quality controlled** EO products. **Skills transfer** via **capacity building** will be implemented in the different regions in order to enable CS stakeholders to both use and produce EO products.

Lead:



Partners:



Financed by:





## Forestry Themes Addressed

Globally important themes for Forest Management proposed are as follows:

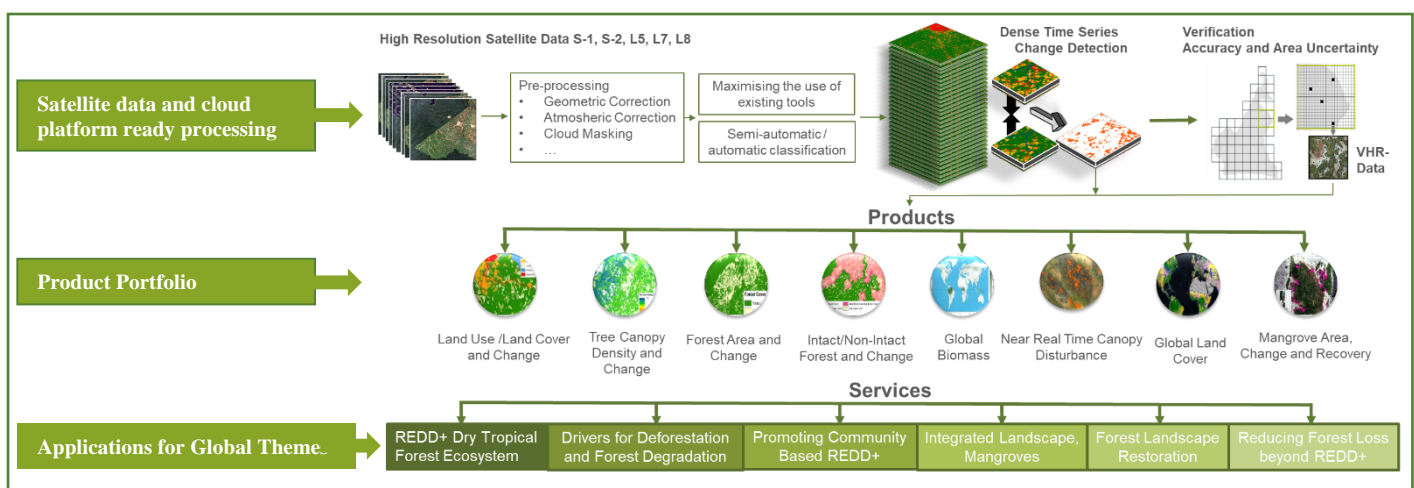


The EO4SD Forest Management cluster is flexible to address priority themes for the World Bank.

## EO Products and Services for Forest Management



The EO4SD-Forest Product Portfolio currently consists of Products and Services which the Consortium have successfully provided to stakeholders in previous forest projects (see figure). These products will be customised and tailored to stakeholder needs. An important aspect of the Portfolio is that the products are subject to a rigorous quality control and validation process. Finally, the Consortium is able to provide the Portfolio in a cloud platform-ready manner and which increases the accessibility of the geo-information to the users.



## Collaboration with World Bank

A series of on-line consultative meetings with Bank Experts, the Consortium and ESA will be initiated in September 2020 in order to define the World Bank's priority forestry programmes for collaboration under EO4SD. Once COVID-related restrictions ease, in-person interactions are envisaged.

The objective of the discussions is to ensure that the products and services are **user-driven** and especially to agree on priority products and services with the IFIs in relation to their regional programmes. Finally, the project shall be implemented with a strong stakeholder engagement, especially in the context of validating the utility and benefits of EO products/services.