

GMES for Congo Forest Monitoring to Hold REDD+ Presentation



The GSE FM REDD Programme will host, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Congo, a REDD+ Side Event at the COP17 in Durban (South Africa) in December 2011. Key issues that will be presented include: the national REDD+ vision and activities that have been undertaken at national level for the institutionalisation of a REDD+ framework as well as the development of technical methods to support the process.

Methodological accomplishments from the GSE FM REDD, with emphasis on the application of EO data for the estimation of deforestation in the scope of the National Forest Cover Monitoring project, will be presented. The event will take place under the high patronage of the Minister of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and

Environment, H. E. M. Henri Djombo.

The GMES Service Element on Forest Monitoring (GSE FM), led by GAF AG since 2003, is aimed at providing operational forest services to the forest user community by including them in the design and implementation of the services. One of the main evolving policy segments that the GSE FM supports is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) post-Kyoto Protocol policy process "Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation" (REDD). The European Space Agency (ESA) supported GSE FM REDD programme in the Congo Basin region is being implemented by GAF AG and partners from 2009-2012.

The main objective of the GSE FM REDD Extension in the Republic of Congo and Gabon is to set up pre-operational Earth-Observation (EO) based forest monitoring systems within the REDD framework. Due to the progress made to date on implementing the project activities and the contributions of the project to the national REDD+ process in the Republic of Congo, the Congolese Government in partnership with GAF AG has decided to host a specific REDD+ Side Event at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) 17 which will take place in Durban, S. Africa, in December 2011. The Republic of Congo REDD+ Day has the main objective to enhance and intensify the international visibility of the Republic of Congo's REDD+ process.