

# LAND COVER AND CHANGE

Newsletter of the GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Project Office

## Recommendations for REDD+ national monitoring

The development of a system for forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) is an on-going priority – and challenge – for REDD+ countries. Although many countries already have some form of national forest monitoring in place, the existing capacity often falls short of the level required to participate fully in REDD+. In this context, a group of experts from around the world met in September 2012 to share their experiences and to discuss some of the central – and at times controversial – issues for national forest monitoring readiness and REDD+. This joint publication of the CIFOR Global Comparative Study on REDD and the GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Office synthesises the main outcomes of that meeting. [Report freely available online.](#) See ref. #2 on page 2.



**Capacity development in national forest monitoring**

Experiences and progress for REDD+

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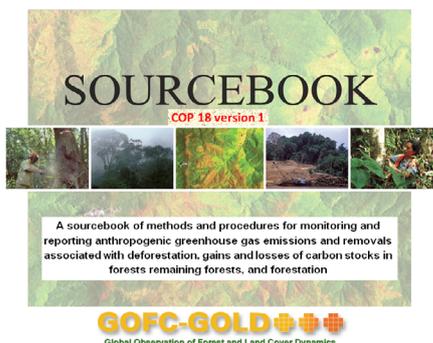


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## Update version of GOFC-GOLD REDD SOURCEBOOK



degradation in developing countries (REDD). The UNFCCC negotiations and related country submissions on REDD in 2005-2007 have advocated that methodologies and tools become available for estimating emissions from deforestation with an acceptable level of certainty. Based on the current status of negotiations and UNFCCC approved methodologies, this sourcebook aims to provide additional explanation, clarification, and methodologies to support REDD early actions and readiness mechanisms for building national REDD monitoring systems. It emphasizes the role of satellite remote sensing as an important tool for monitoring changes in forest cover, and provides clarification on applying the IPCC Guidelines

for reporting changes in forest carbon stocks at the national level. The sourcebook is the outcome of an ad-hoc REDD working group of —Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD, [www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/](http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/)), a technical panel of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). The working group has been active since the initiation of the UNFCCC REDD process in 2005, has organized REDD expert workshops, and has contributed to related UNFCCC/SBSTA side events and GTOS submissions. GOFC-GOLD provides an independent expert platform for international cooperation and communication to formulate scientific consensus and provide technical input to the discussions and for

The REDD sourcebook provides a consensus perspective from the global community of earth observation and carbon experts on methodological issues relating to quantifying the green house gas (GHG) impacts of implementing activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and

implementation activities. A number of international experts in remote sensing and carbon measurement and accounting have contributed to the development of this sourcebook. With political discussions and negotiations ongoing, the current document provides the starting point for defining an appropriate monitoring framework considering current technical capabilities to measure gross carbon emission from changes in for-

est cover by deforestation and degradation on the national level. This sourcebook is a living document and further methods and technical details can be specified and added with evolving political negotiations and decisions. Respective communities are invited to provide comments and feedback to evolve a more detailed and refined technical-guidelines document in the future. The REDD Sourcebook can be downloaded on the

GOFc-GOLD Land Cover website: <http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/> or directly on your mobile device:



## Key REDD+ publications with contributions from the GOFc-GOLD Land Cover Office

1. An updated version of the GOFc-GOLD Sourcebook: <http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/index.php>.
2. A new CIFOR/GOFc-GOLD on capacity development in national forest monitoring: experiences and progress for REDD+: <http://www.cifor.org/es/online-library/browse/view-publication/publication/3944.html>.
3. Hosonuma N., et al (2012). An assessment of deforestation and forest degradation drivers in developing countries. *Environmental Research Letters* 7 (044009): <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/4/044009>.
4. Romijn J.E., et al (2012). Assessing capacities of non-Annex I countries for national forest monitoring in the context of REDD+. *Environmental Science and Policy* 20 (1): 33–48.
5. Verbesselt, J.P., et al (2012) Near real-time disturbance detection using satellite image time series, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 123,98–108.
6. Pratihast, A. K., et al. (in press). Linking community-based and national REDD+ monitoring: a review of the potential, *Carbon Management*, in press.
7. Visseren Hamakers I., et al., 2012. Will REDD+ work? The need for interdisciplinary research to address key challenges, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 4, 590–596.
8. Analyzing REDD+ - Challenges and choices by Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR): [http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf\\_files/Books/BAngelsen1201.pdf](http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BAngelsen1201.pdf).
9. Herold, M., et al (2011) Options for monitoring and estimating historical carbon emissions from forest degradation in the context of REDD+, *Carbon Balance and Management* 6 . - p. 7. <http://www.cbmjournal.com/content/6/1/13>.
10. Kissinger, G., et al (2012). Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers. Vancouver Canada. <http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/tackling-climate-change/international-climate-change/6316-drivers-deforestation-report.pdf>.
11. Herold, M. and Skutsch, M. (2011) Monitoring, reporting and verification for national REDD+ programmes: two proposals, *Environmental Research Letters* 6 (014002). - p. 014002. <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/6/1/014002>.
12. De Sy V., et al (2012). Synergies of multiple remote sensing data sources for REDD+ monitoring. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 4, 696–706.

## GOFc-GOLD Land Cover Office participation to UNFCCC COP18-side events

1. **UK DECC side event** at EU Pavilion on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers (Monday 26. Nov., 13.00-15.00hrs – EU Pavilion, Hall 3 Room Brussels).
2. **CIFOR/GOFc-GOLD side event** at UNFCCC COP on REDD+ on stepwise Progress in National Forest Monitoring, MRV, Reference Levels and Assessing Drivers, Wednesday, 28 November, 15.00-16.30hrs, Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC), Side Event Room 4. [Click here for details.](#)
3. **Panel presentation at CIFOR Forest Day** Session on National forest monitoring systems for REDD+, Sunday, 2. Dec., 11.00-12.30hrs.
4. **More information available and meet GOFc-GOLD** at ESA booth in

