



GFOI Global Forest Observations Initiative

Component Consultations

“Reconsidering the Data Component”

Author: Sara Goeking

Co-Managers: Sara Goeking, US Forest Service, and Stephen Ward

8 September 2021

Lead partners



GFOI is a flagship of GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

The GFOI Office is financed by the Governments of Australia and Norway



Component Reconsideration

- An internal review of GFOI in early 2021 indentified the need to reconsider all four of GFOI's components on an individual fit-for-purpose basis
 - This includes reconsidering component operations, deliverables, membership, resourcing and any other key features to ensure they are best serving the needs of the GFOI community
 - This should be a realistic assessment of what we know can be achieved and is useful for the GFOI community.
- We hope this consultation will enable you to shape the future of the component and identify how you can participate either as an implementing country or development partner
 - Any and all suggestions are encouraged.



Current work

- Contribution to MGD 3.0 – complete
- Registry of Tools – launching soon!
- Ground data review – in progress
- Interface between data/tools & GFOI community/Components – ongoing

Constraints:

- Work slowed during the first year of the pandemic.
- At the same time, the Ground Data Review was put on “pause” due to contributions to MGD 3.0 – which directly addressed gaps in guidance in collecting, using, and analyzing ground data.



What else should the component be doing?

- Assume a more holistic role in coordinating the availability, accessibility, and capacity to use different datasets and tools across the GFOI community.
- Work with partners and developers to encourage the use of GFOI's platforms (MGD, REDDCompass, Registry of Tools, OpenMRV) to help countries operationalize their MRV processes.
- Connect with the CEOS work programme as it relates to forests and AFOLU and support for the UNFCCC's Global Stocktake process.
- Work with other Components to support uptake of existing datasets and tools, as well as to identify and address roadblocks through cooperation under GFOI.



Operations

- Quarterly calls (virtual meetings) convened by Component Managers
- Encourage information sharing
 - Feature presentations by partners who are developing new products (datasets or tools) or distributing/serving datasets and tools for forest monitoring
 - Allow partners to better plan for updates to OpenMRV and Registry of Tools platforms
- Identify opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborations to address common challenges
 - As needed, assemble ad hoc working groups of experts to address challenges
 - Use outputs to identify future collaboration with other Components (e.g., a new MGD module, a new capacity building need, a new R&D focus area)



Resourcing

- The Data Component relies on in-kind contributions of partners' tools, datasets, and staff time.
- Partners must be willing to actively share information and be open to coordinating and collaborating where there is a mutual benefit in doing so.
- For discrete tasks (e.g., the Ground Data Review), partners provide their time as an in-kind contribution.
- Partners allocate Component Managers' time, travel, and other resources needed to effectively oversee and coordinate the Component's work.
- The Component also relies on the GFOI Office for administration of ongoing operations of GFOI's platforms, particularly REDDCompass, the Registry of Tools, and OpenMRV. We also rely on partners to contribute new content for these platforms.
- Future needs may include direct contributions such as funding for activities that address emerging priorities.



Key partners for success

- Partners may provide, disseminate, and/or support uptake of datasets and tools for forest monitoring purposes. This includes the following key organizations:
 - US SilvaCarbon Programme (Component co-Manager)
 - Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (Component co-Manager)
 - FAO
 - World Bank
 - SERVIR and other US government funded projects
 - GEO
 - Other partners who work to provide or facilitate the use of datasets and tools, including partners who may not yet be involved (this could be you!).



Key partners for success

- The RACI matrix: Who is Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed?
 - Responsible: SilvaCarbon, CEOS
 - Accountable: GFOI Leads
 - Consulted: All Component partners (particularly those involved in quarterly calls)
 - Informed: Broader GFOI community via the communications programme



Metrics for success

- Engagement:
 - Quarterly calls are well attended, include participants from multiple countries/regions or organizations, facilitate constructive conversations, and lead to active coordination or collaboration between partners.
 - Information sharing at quarterly calls should lead to partners pursuing at least two discrete activities per year.
- Diversity: Joint activities should be pursued by partners from at least three different organizations and skillsets.
- User metrics (Registry of Tools and OpenMRV):
 - Total usership and number of countries engaged should grow each year.
 - Both platforms should be updated with at least two new tools and/or training materials each year.



Topics/questions for breakout session

- Which aspects of current Data Component work seem most promising to you or your organization, and why?
- What, if anything, is missing from the Data Component's current work?
- What metrics will indicate whether the Data Component is succeeding at serving the GFOI community?



Please contact me at Sara.Goeking@usda.gov if you would like to stay in touch for further engagement with the Data Component.

