



**CARPE products are showcased by USAID at the Conference of Parties (COP) 17 CARPE side event in Durban, South Africa and by NASA at the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco**

USAID's [Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment](#) (CARPE) held a side event at the US Center during the December 2011 Conference of Parties (COP) 17 in Durban, South Africa. The event, entitled "REDD+ in the Green Heart of Africa: A Participatory, Science-based Approach to Conservation", highlighted activities being implemented by CARPE partners in laying the ground work across the Congo Basin for meaningful REDD+ participation from the local to national level. The event featured presentations by CARPE partners and the premier of a short video by the International Conservation and Education Fund (INCEF), "[Voices from the Forest](#)", in which villagers from the Republic of Congo discuss the challenges they face posed by climate change and forest degradation. The [video](#) can be viewed on the INCEF website.

As a CARPE cross cutting partner, the Department of Geographical Sciences at the University of Maryland (UMD) jointly with the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), produced a presentation for the event illustrating UMD's activities that directly support CARPE's strategic objective to "Reduce the rate of forest degradation and loss of biodiversity through increased local, national and regional natural resource management capacity".

UMD's CARPE activities include satellite forest mapping and monitoring and regional capacity building in satellite data and GIS applications. Remote sensing is crucial for monitoring the vast and often inaccessible forests of the Congo Basin. UMD and South Dakota State University (SDSU) developed an automated system using Landsat and MODIS satellite data for mapping forest cover and forest loss across the Congo Basin. The results are synoptic regional maps of forest cover that are consistent, repeatable and applicable at multiple scales.

UMD helped establish an NGO, the [Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale](#) (OSFAC) based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which serves as the focal point of the GOF-C-GOLD network for Central Africa. OSFAC's long term objective is building regional capacity to use remotely sensed data to map forest cover and forest cover change across Central Africa. OSFAC archives and disseminates satellite data and products, offers training in geospatial data applications

December 5th, 2011  
13:00 - 15:00h (1:00 - 3:00pm)  
US Center, DEC North Plaza

**REDD+ in the Green Heart of Africa:  
A Participatory, Science-based Approach to Conservation**

USAID/Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)

Program

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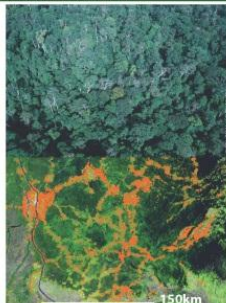


USAID Assistant Administrator Eric Postel will open the event with a brief overview of USAID policies related to climate.


**Part 1: People-centered conservation and early experience with developing landscape-level REDD+ actions**

- Video excerpt from INCEF's "Voices of the Forest"
- "Linkage of CARPE's Land Use Planning with development of landscape-level REDD+ actions." Hory Botamba Esombo, WWF-DRC.
- "Regional issues concerning forest conservation and climate change in the Congo Basin." Martin Tadoum/ Raymond Mbitikon, COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission)
- "Strengthening the capacity of national and regional NGOs to advocate for regulatory and policy reforms for sustainable NRM and respect for indigenous people's rights." Kenneth Angu Angu, IUCN

**Part 2: CARPE's innovative technologies for land use planning which could be used for REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems at the national level**

- "Extending contemporary technologies for Land Use Planning at the landscape level to REDD+ MRV at the national level." Landing Mane, OSFAC (Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale)
- Discussion of the applications of CARPE's science-based and technology-oriented approach to supporting REDD+ "readiness" capacity building.



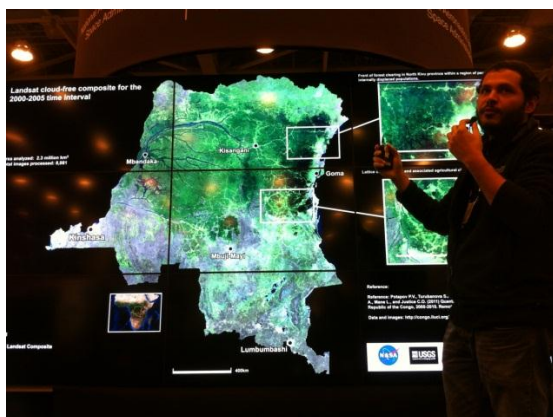
in coordination with the University of Kinshasa, and provides technical support to CARPE partners.

[Forêts d'Afrique Centrale Évaluées par Télédétection](#) (FACET) is an OSFAC initiative that implements the UMD/SDSU methodology at the national level and quantitatively evaluates the spatiotemporal dynamics of forest cover in Central Africa. The multi-temporal series of FACET data is a useful contribution to many projects, such as biodiversity monitoring, climate modeling, conservation, natural resource management, land use planning, agriculture and REDD+.

At the COP side event, OSFAC presented results from the FACET analysis for DRC and the Republic of Congo (ROC) and emphasized how this information can be applied to REDD+ MRV at the national level. USAID-CARPE Director, John Flynn, praised the efforts made by CARPE partners and OSFAC, *“The CARPE side meeting was a real success judging by the standing only audience and the many very positive comments we received from attendees...”*

In conjunction with the CARPE side event presentation, UMD also produced a poster describing the remote sensing and capacity building activities of CARPE partners and OSFAC for the Forest Day 5 event, held on December 4, 2011.

The DRC and ROC FACET products were also highlighted in two presentations given at the NASA exhibit booth at the December 2011 AGU Fall meeting in San Francisco. The NASA presentation also included results for Indonesia and Continental USA that utilized the Landsat/MODIS automated forest cover monitoring methodology developed by Dr. Matthew Hansen and his team. Dr. Hansen, who earned his PhD from the department, recently joined the Department of Geographical Sciences faculty. In a note to John Flynn, NASA Senior Earth Scientist Compton Tucker, said, *“The UMD CARPE team pulled together a great collection of the CARPE material and forwarded it to our NASA/Goddard Earth Science Hyperwall team, who then put everything together for the 5 x 3 [hyperwall monitor] display presentation you saw in Durban. Last week at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in San Francisco, Giuseppe and I presented the same material but “scaled down” to our 3 x 3 display Hyperwall. Both presentations were very well attended and viewers were captivated by the presentations.”*



UMD Department of Geographical Sciences PhD student, Giuseppe Molinaro, presents results from the DRC FACET atlas on NASA's Hyperwall at the AGU Fall Meeting.