

At a glance

The Regional Forest Observatory for South-East Asia or RFO-SEA is a platform to share, exchange and collate knowledge on forest status that support monitoring and reporting on forests in the context of REDD+, including also aspects related to the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) program.

RFO-SEA aims to provide stakeholders a regional understanding of forest cover changes trends, an overview of the implementation of REDD+ programs in each country to ultimately support better integrated forest resources management.

RFO-SEA acts as a repository for maps, statistics, reports, and scientific papers stored in a database and accessible through a user-friendly website: www.rfo-sea.org

Benefits



Observe forest cover change with the Geoportal

The Geoportal enables users to scrutinize forest cover and forest cover change with a range of Sentinel-2 imagery products from the European Spatial Agency as well as global and best available national level forest cover maps. The Geoportal facilitates forest degradation monitoring by providing canopy disturbance maps produced by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC). Ultimately the Geoportal is a tool for practitioners in the region to support better integrated and harmonized forest mapping.



Comprehend forest and REDD+ status in the region

RFO-SEA collates and shares official or best available figures on forest status at regional and national level that provide users a clear understanding of forest cover change trend, drivers of forest change and REDD+ activities in each country. This information is compiled in the report on state of forests and REDD+ activities available in the website.



Access to knowledge on forest

The information repository is a knowledge pool with relevant documents related to the implementation status of REDD+ in each country, forest monitoring especially forest cover change and the impact of deforestation and forest degradation, relevant forestry and REDD+ projects from the region, methodologies, and technical guidance.

Contribute

The RFO-SEA's data and information is populated by government agencies, multilateral institutions, NGOs, projects and research institutes through the voluntary sharing of datasets and other information. As such, it will be a collaborative effort to impart knowledge and promote transparency for a wide range of stakeholders.

RFO-SEA as an exchange platform, intends to connect stakeholders from the region and frame sharing agreements and protocol for a regular update of the observatory.

Launch of the Observatory

By April 2018, the prototype of RFO-SEA is finalized and will be promoted by the JRC.

Hosting & Funding

The Regional Forest Observatory for South-East Asia is currently supported by the European Commission (EC) and technically maintained by the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences. Ultimately to promote the regional ownership of such initiative, RFO-SEA would to be hosted by a regional institution and receive funding beyond the EC support.

As such, the prototype of RFO-SEA as a demonstration tool will serve the screening of potential source of funding and interested regional institutions such as ASEAN to make the Regional Forest Observatory for South-East Asia a long-term viable, regionally-owned, and recognized instrument that supports sustainable forest resources management.

RFO-SEA is an initiative launched and monitored by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission as part of the ReCaREDD project. ReCaREDD project (Regional Capacities for REDD+) supports, since 2013, national capacity for REDD+ reporting in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, with a focus on the use of remote sensing technique to assess forest degradation.

The Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science (VAFS) and a consortium led by FCG International (Finish Consulting Group), in partnership with kartECO and Forest Carbon, developed the RFO-SEA prototype which focuses on continental South-East Asia.

Acknowledgment to current active contributors:

VNFOREST (Vietnam Forest Administration) shared with RFO-SEA maps from the 2010 National Forest Inventory and 2016 National Forest Inventory and Statistics.

The **Faculty of Forestry** of the NUoL (National University of Laos) provided an internally produced 2010 forest cover map of Laos



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