

SILVACARBON AFRICA PROGRAM



The forests of the Congo Basin are among the most important in the world, harboring an estimated 8 percent of the earth's forest-based carbon and tremendous biodiversity and supporting more than 80 million people who depend on forest resources for food, shelter, and livelihoods. Unfortunately, these forested areas in the Congo Basin are under increasing threat from ongoing deforestation and forest degradation. To facilitate the sustainable use of the Congo Basin's critical forest landscapes, decision-makers, communities, and other stakeholders must have access to reliable, up-to-date information about the state of forest resources and how they are changing over time. Forest resource information — including estimates of forest cover, forest carbon stocks, and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from forest loss — is the foundation for sustainable forest management, and provides a basis for sound decision-making across a range of different sectors. With this in mind, the SilvaCarbon program is working with partners across the region to generate and effectively use forest resource information.

SilvaCarbon is an interagency technical cooperation program of the U.S. Government to enhance the capacity of selected tropical countries to measure, monitor, and report on carbon in their forests and other lands. Drawing on expertise and resources from multiple U.S. Government agencies, SilvaCarbon assists partner countries in the design, development, and implementation of national forest monitoring systems that support sustainable landscapes. SilvaCarbon is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State, and is jointly implemented by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) with additional technical support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SilvaCarbon collaborates with a wide range of partners in its implementation including but not limited to local and U.S. Universities, local and international NGOs, and U.N. agencies.




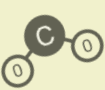
WHAT WE DO

National forest monitoring systems integrate different types of data to produce accurate, transparent forest resource information to support a variety of national and international objectives including land use management and planning, policy and strategy development, international reporting compliance, and participation in results-based sustainable development mechanisms such as REDD+. Forest monitoring systems typically include three interconnected components: a ground-based forest inventory component, a remote sensing component, and a greenhouse gas inventory component. SilvaCarbon collaborates with government, academic, and non-governmental partners throughout Africa to strengthen country capacities across each component and, importantly, integrate these components in holistic, sustainable systems tailored to national needs.

Since 2011 SilvaCarbon has provided targeted technical support to government partners in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo focused on national forest carbon monitoring and Measurement, Verification and Reporting (MRV). In 2018, SilvaCarbon in partnership with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service began collaborating with the World Bank BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) to assist Ethiopia and Zambia to track and reduce emissions in the forest and agricultural sectors. In the Republic of the Congo, the U.S. Forest Service hosts a Climate Fellow, supported by the U.S. Department of State, who serves as an advisor to the government on forest carbon monitoring and MRV in collaboration with SilvaCarbon.



KEY SUCCESSES AT A GLANCE

- ◇ Trained over 200 government officials, university professors, and technical partners throughout the region in terrestrial carbon accounting, forest inventory methodologies, remote sensing tools and methods, and other key forest monitoring topics 
- ◇ Supported Gabon's AGEOS to integrate optical data with radar data for forest degradation mapping, and facilitated South-South collaboration among Congo Basin countries under AGEOS leadership
- ◇ Assisted ROC and DRC to include wetland forests in their national forest inventories for improved land management and more accurate GHG emissions estimation
- ◇ Assisted Cameroon, DRC, and ROC to submit their forest reference emission levels, and provided training to facilitate the inclusion of degradation estimates in their next submissions 
- ◇ Coordinated the establishment of a National MRV Taskforce in ROC to support the institutionalization of the national forest monitoring system
- ◇ Facilitated international alliances with the Group of Earth Observations Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI), resulting in new partnerships and improved coordination to support forest monitoring globally.

OUR PARTNERS



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