Objectives of the meeting

Chris Justice* and Philippe Mayaux#

*University of Maryland
OSFAC

#Joint Research Centre – European Commission
Observatoire des Forets d’Afrique Centrale
Two general objectives

• 10 years of the creation of the regional network of GOFC-GOLD

• 2 months after Copenhagen

meeting of the network

scientific workshop
Creation of the OSFAC network

Libreville, 22-24 February 2000
Important milestones

- OSFAC installed in Kinshasa in 2004
  - Supported by CARPE
  - POC in Cameroon
- State of the Forests 2006 (and 2008)
  - First joint initiative by all stakeholders
- OFAC in 2007
  - Initial EU support, with many other partners
  - Official recognition by COMIFAC as reference center
A real network?

- Kinshasa partners collaborate well, but the link with national entities can be strengthened.
- With deforestation estimates (UCL/JRC/FAO), a common work done by the scientists and technicians of the COMIFAC countries.
- Academic institutions not involved (apart UNIKIN).
- Time to reanimate the network.
Regional network

- A **stronger integration** between OFAC, OSFAC, WRI and other regional partners is suitable
- Official link with COMIFAC
- More **joint activities** involving directly all the countries will reinforce the network
- Link with **training institutions** in order to create the critical mass
- Need of a **scientific committee** for guaranteeing the quality of the products delivered by the countries to the international conventions
Objectives for REDD

• Scientific workshop
  – Share experience, projects, scientific approaches
  – New techniques, instruments, algorithms
  – New players

• Policy-support workshop
  – Political context = REDD with a lot of impact
  – Do not oversell your techniques to decision-makers
  – Do not underestimate the impact of your assumptions (external review by UNFCCC)
Objectives for REDD

• Satellite data
  – Information on existing and coming initiatives (data policy, acquisition strategy...)
  – Need for a link between the countries, the future infrastructure and the regional processing facilities

Concrete proposals for a better exploitation of the available and future satellite data in regional and national capacities
Objectives for REDD

- Survey of projects
  - Similar projects co-exist with similar activities on the same territory, without any coordination (competition and not co-operation)
  - Lack of involvement of national authorities
  - Need of a regional platform of exchange

Establishment of open collaborations between projects and institutions, with the development of a regional platform of exchange
Objectives for REDD

- Monitoring Reporting Verification
  - MRV must be developed at national level
  - Similar issues and context in the region, existing pool of competence at regional level
  - Big projects are just coming!

Concrete proposal to submit to donors on a MRV system valid combining the national capacities and the regional pool of excellence
Output of the workshop

• High scientific quality
  – Excellent program and speakers (state-of-the-art)
  – Debate should be interesting

• How can we capitalise on that?
  – Several chapters in the SOF 2010?
  – Special issue of a scientific journal?

• In the long term
  – Permanent share of information, experience...
  – Scientific Committee for helping COMIFAC (role of the Observatory)