



The University of Southern Queensland  
Participant Information Sheet

TO: All stakeholders and users of forest monitoring information for global forest governance

From: Dr Tim Cadman and Professor Tek Maraseni, University of Southern Queensland

Re: Global Forest Watch: perspectives from the developed (Northern) and developing (Southern) countries

Dear Stakeholder,

We would like to invite you to take part in this research project. We are conducting an anonymous evaluation funded by the World Resources Institute (WRI) of forest monitoring information and tools, and their usefulness, with a particular focus on Global Forest Watch (GFW), and stakeholder perspectives.

We are very interested in surveying you to better understand your view of the key factors affecting use of forest information resources, including the Global Forest Watch website and the Global Forest Review, to provide recommendations for improving the Global Forest Watch resources by stakeholders from both developed and developing countries.

Please read the Plain Language Statement carefully. Its purpose is to explain to you as openly and clearly as possible all the procedures involved so that you can make a fully informed decision as to whether you are going to participate. Feel free to ask questions about any information in the document. You may also wish to discuss the project with a relative or friend or your local health worker. Feel free to do this.

You are invited to participate once you understand what the project is about, but you may withdraw from the survey at any time. However, once you push the button in the survey, "done", you have completed the survey, and this is seen as giving your consent. By clicking "done", you indicate that you understand the information and that you give your consent to participate in the research project.

## 1. Purpose of Research - Plain Language Statement

This study is an evaluation of the governance of global initiatives, tools, and resources aimed at informing policy, actions, and agreements on tropical deforestation. Among these tools is the Global Forest Watch (GFW) initiative of the World Resources Institute (WRI), which include the GFW map and dashboards ([www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org)), National Forest Atlases, and the Global Forest Review, as well as blogs and newsletters from GFW and/or WRI. 'Governance' means the way in which these programmes are managed, or co-ordinated. The study will look at the perceptions of those involved in these programmes, from both developed and developing countries, and whether they think the forest monitoring data and resources of these programmes are provided in a useful way or not. The study will look at documents, and other written information, and will also ask questions from people who make use of forest monitoring data and resources and what they think about them. All this information will help people who create forest monitoring resources to improve the usefulness of those resources. This will help both stakeholders and those who create forest monitoring resources decide if they want to continue making use of the forest monitoring data and resources, and how these resources might be improved.

## 2. Procedures

This project will involve

- A literature review of documents, and other written information.
- Using an Internet-based questionnaire, it will also ask stakeholders, who make use of forest monitoring data and other information sources for global environmental

governance. You do not have to be familiar with Global Forest Watch to answer the survey.

- Follow up interviews for those who wish to be interviewed.
- A public forum at a time and venue yet to be determined.

There are a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 questions, depending how you answer, and opportunities for comments. The survey can take as little as fifteen minutes; making comments will last longer, depending on how much the participant wishes to write.

- The survey will be open for approximately one month, and will be monitored by the researchers.
- The survey will help people to provide input into the evaluation of the GFW initiative and other initiatives, and offer comments on how they might be improved.
- The survey will invite people to be involved in follow-up interviews; a space is provided for people to provide their contact details. Agreement to participate in follow-up interviews is entirely voluntary. You will be interviewed for no more than 50 minutes online.
- There are minimal risks with this survey. It is possible you may feel a sense of frustration with GFW resources and other information sources as a result of writing about, or sharing, your feelings.

### 3. **Confidentiality**

The survey is anonymous. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

### 4. **Voluntary Participation**

Participation is entirely voluntary. **If you do not wish to take part you are not obliged to.** If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage. Any information already obtained from you will be destroyed. Hard copy will be shredded, and digital information will be erased.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Southern Queensland.

### 5. **Queries or Concerns**

Should you have any queries regarding the progress or conduct of this research, you can contact the principal researcher:

Doctor Tim Cadman

Adjunct Research Fellow  
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (Operations)  
University of Southern Queensland  
Toowoomba QLD 4350

Ph: 0419 628 709

E:Mail: [tim.cadman@usq.edu.au](mailto:tim.cadman@usq.edu.au)

If you have any ethical concerns with how the research is being conducted or any queries about your rights as a participant, please feel free to contact the University of Southern Queensland Ethics Officer on the following details.

Ethics and Research Integrity Officer  
Office of Research and Higher Degrees  
University of Southern Queensland  
West Street, Toowoomba 4350  
Ph: +61 7 4631 2690  
Email: [ethics@usq.edu.au](mailto:ethics@usq.edu.au)



The University of Southern Queensland  
Consent Form

HREC Approval Number:

**TO: All survey participants who agree to be interviewed**

**Full Project Title: Global Forest Watch: perspectives from the developed (Northern) and developing (Southern) countries.**

**Principal Researchers: Dr Tim Cadman and Professor Tek Maraseni**

- I have read the Participant Information Sheet and the nature and purpose of the research project has been explained to me. I understand and agree to take part in the research by my participation, including audio recording.
- I understand that I may be involved in an online survey of approximately 15-30 minutes, and/or a 50-minute recorded interview.
- I understand the purpose of the research project and my involvement in it.
- I understand that I may withdraw from the research project at any stage and that this will not affect my status now or in the future.
- I confirm that I am over 18 years of age. *Omit if participants are under age of 18.*
- I understand that while information gained during the study may be published, I will not be identified and my personal results will remain confidential.
- I understand data will be retained for five years in hard copy and/or digital format by Dr Tim Cadman after which it will be destroyed.

**Name of participant**.....

**Signed**..... **Date**.....

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