# MOVING FORWARD

**SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS**
**OF THE FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN 2012–2013**

and research by national scientists on forest biomass allocations.

GlobAllomeTree provides an online space for the global sharing of data on tree and forest assessments. It thereby facilitates the transfer of scientific and technical information and knowledge, supports the development of national capacities, and brings greater transparency to calculations of forest volume and biomass, which is essential for REDD+[1] and other climate-change mitigation initiatives.

*More information*

www.globallometree.org

**EMPLOYING SATELLITE MONITORING TO MEET REDD+ SPECIFICATIONS**

Satellite land monitoring systems (SLMSs) and national forest inventories are two pillars of national forest monitoring systems (NFMSs) designed to fulfil the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements of REDD+. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), these tools are being deployed in the world's second-largest tropical forest with the assistance of the UN-REDD Programme.

The implementation of national REDD+ policies and measures includes an obligation by recipient countries to establish an NFMS. This is to ensure that all actions are structured to meet the specifications of national REDD+ strategies and to enable NFMSs to serve as interactive platforms through which countries can access and share data pertaining to REDD+ and for other purposes. The UN-REDD Programme has facilitated DRC's engagement with REDD+ by supporting capacity building and knowledge transfer, including for the development of a wall-to-wall national SLMS.

The DRC SLMS is used to compare national forest cover between two or more

[1] Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks in developing countries.

years, thereby calculating deforestation rates. In 2012 and 2013, staff in the geomatics laboratory of DRC's Directorate of Forest Inventory and Planning, supported by experts from the UN-REDD Programme, developed a methodology called Terracongo based on the spectral responses of different forest types. An advantage of Terracongo is that it uses freely available open-source software and satellite imagery (e.g. Landsat). With these tools, any user can track changes in Congo Basin forests, increasing the transparency of REDD+ MRV.
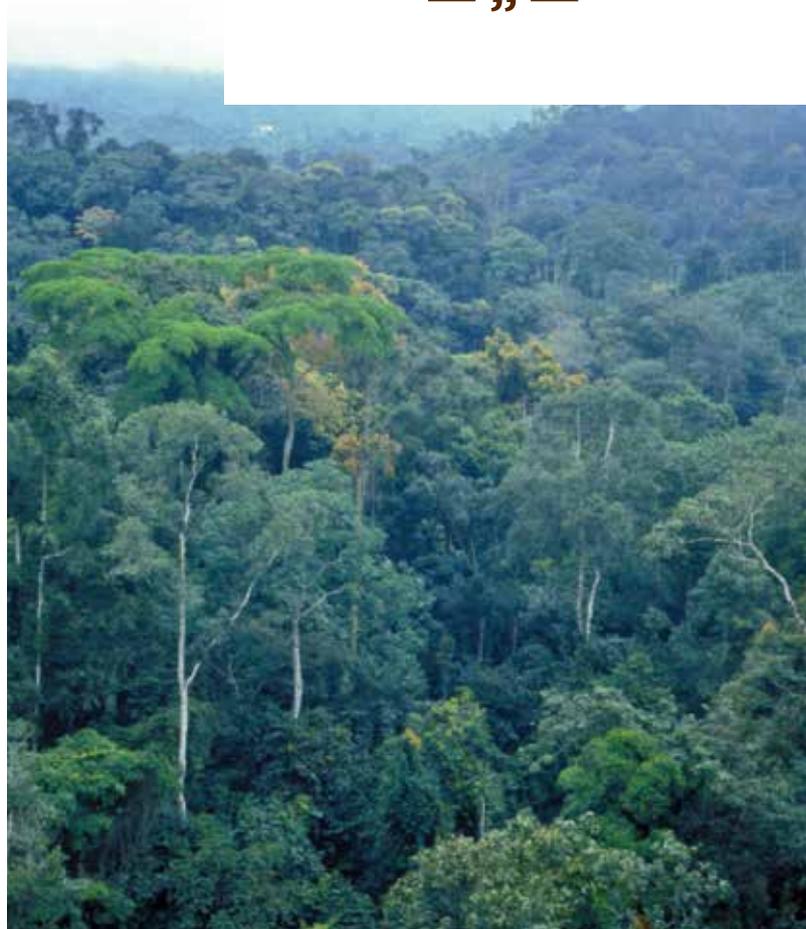
The DRC SLMS incorporates work undertaken by various partners as well as tools developed and applied by teams at FAO headquarters and the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research.

*More information*

www.rdc-snsf.org
www.un-redd.org