



19th March 2013

To: CEOS SIT Chair
From: SDCG Exec

Re: Element 2 of the CEOS Data Strategy for the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)

Dear Pascale

We are pleased to convey our paper on GFOI Space Data Services – intended to serve as the framework for 'Element 2' of the CEOS Data Strategy for GFOI, aimed at satisfying the space data needs of individual governments seeking to engage in GFOI. The Strategy is the culmination of much work by the SDCG and has benefitted from consultation with a wide range of countries at SDCG-4 & -5 and at the SilvaCarbon workshops. It has been extensively reviewed by the Core Data Supply agencies within CEOS **and we have confirmed that it has their support.**

We kindly ask that you circulate the document to CEOS Principals ahead of the SIT-29 meeting in Toulouse, and that you include endorsement of the GFOI Space Data Services paper in the planning of the agenda and key decisions required of the meeting. We will also seek confirmation of commitment to the 2014 Implementation Plan from the relevant agencies. Specific actions will be suggested in the presentation materials but these are the main requests.

We are happy to report that the SDCG continues to make excellent progress in defining and developing the Space Data component of GFOI and CEOS endorsement of this next phase will ensure strong support among the CEOS agencies and other stakeholders. Thank you in advance for circulating the document and its inclusion on the SIT-29 agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Frank Martin Seifert', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

SDCG Exec

Frank Martin Seifert, representing ESA

Ake Rosenqvist, representing NSC

Gene Fosnight, representing USGS

Stephen Ward & George Dyke, representing Dept Environment - Australia