

PLANET ACTION PROVISIONAL CHARTER

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Preamble

RECOGNISING that scientific evidence has now been largely made about climate change whatever the causes, as well as its potential impacts on human lives and ecosystems, nature, biodiversity and wildlife.

RECOGNISING that now is the correct time for action if we really want to alter the course of events that increasingly threaten our current environmental balance, economies and cultures on Earth.

RECOGNISING that the Earth Observation & GIS industries and their partners are among the best placed to engage in substantiating these impacts as well as supporting adapting actions and coping strategies by the populations involved

DESIROUS to strengthen international cooperation in this humanitarian undertaking;

HAVING REGARD to United Nations Resolution 41/65¹ of 1986 on remote sensing of the Earth from space ;

BELIEVING that by combining their resources and efforts, they can create a momentum that may embrace people and companies beyond their usual business boundaries in order to raise awareness and action planning about climate change

THE PARTNERS OF THE PLANET ACTION INITIATIVE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

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Article I - Definitions

For the purposes of this Charter:

The term "climate change" refers to what is commonly accepted and substantiated by

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The United Nations Organisation and its agencies

¹ <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/41/a41r065.htm>

The term "Charter" means this text;

The term "Projects" means projects led by searchers communities, NGOs, private or public laboratories, universities, association or media, the purpose of which is to measure and substantiate changes in our lives and environment that may relate to climate change.

The term "Partners" means any company or organisation that supports the Planet Action Projects, whether in kind, in knowledge, in expertise, in relationship, in time, in cash or by any mean that will be considered useful and appropriate by the PA office.

The term "Members" means any individual, company or organisation that financially contributes to the Planet Action Foundation.

The term "Contribution" means any donation or particular conditions granted by partners to supported projects or to the Planet Action Foundation itself.

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Article II – The values promoted by Planet Action

The partners involved in this initiative and the members of the Planet Action Foundation acknowledge the following values and wish to promote them in their various actions and communication about Planet Action:

- Whatever its causes, climate change is not the fact and the responsibility of a single country or group of countries, although some are more accountable than others for it, while others will suffer more than others from it.
- Climate change is a matter of responsibility from any society, culture, enterprise, organisation or individuals
- Climate change is a unique cause for worldwide cooperation, which goes beyond usual frontiers, academic, business and social boundaries: effective actions can only be taken in a spirit of sharing, of unlimited exchanges and openness between communities, organisations and individuals.
- As coined by others, we believe that such a crisis is a unique opportunity for change and for new openings in our lives, in our cultures and our businesses.
- We believe that remote sensing, IT and web technologies are among the appropriate tools to improve our knowledge and expertise about climate change as well as to help human communities adapt to it.
- At the core of our initiative (hence the name of it), we believe that **now is the time for action**, whatever form and scope it may take. It is no longer time for talks or expedients. We therefore wish to convey a sense of urgency as well as a drive to measure the result and consequences of our daily actions or business endeavours.

Article III: the purpose of the Planet Action Initiative

In promoting support to projects that address climate change impact and action, the Planet Action Initiative seeks to make **climate change science better distributed and more broadly understood and locally applied.**

Therefore, our practical goals are:

- to provide technology, support and communication means in order to encourage scientific organizations to become more involved in the applied work and activities of NGOs and local organizations about climate change.
- to provide technology to increase the availability and utility of the best climate science to the practical work of conservation organizations and NGOs so that we get
- to enhance the practical work of conservation organizations, field workers and NGOs by creating new partnerships and relationships that bring better science resources and capabilities into their projects.

This will translate into the following fields of action:

- **Provide extensive technological support** to projects that substantiate and measure issues that relate to climate change as well as propose solutions and action plans to cope with it.

- **Build a common depository for knowledge** about these projects and facts, for the scientific community, the project teams and the general public that may wish to get a thoroughly documented view on what is currently happening and what is done as regards climate change.
- **Foster communication and education programs** to highlight these projects and facts, to raise awareness and urge for action among the population that are or will be impacted by climate change. A specific outreach focus will be put on schools and young generations as they will be ultimately the most concerned.

Article IV: The Planet Action Partners

The Planet Action Initiative welcomes support and participation from any organisation, institution, corporation or body that wishes to support the Planet Action projects.

This contribution may be in kind (images, software, material & equipment), in time & expertise (staff resources), in relationships (contacts & networks), in funds.

Contributions to the Planet Action projects can be made via the Planet Action Foundation or directly to Planet Action projects in coordination with the Planet Action office.

Any organisation that supports PA projects and is registered with the Planet Action office is an official Planet Action partner, whatever its contribution to the projects (in kind, cash, time & personnel).

Article V: the Planet Action Foundation & members

Prior to the incorporation of the Planet Action Foundation, the Planet Action organisation is embodied by the PA team at Spot Image and at the partners associated to Spot Image.

Organisations and individuals that financially support the Planet Action Foundation are the Foundation members.

The purpose of the Planet Action Foundation is to take care of and organise the administrative, operational and technical coordination needed to support the Planet Action projects and activities.

The Planet Action Foundation will be in charge of the following

- Organise and manage the yearly call for projects and the project selection process.
- Organise and manage fundraising activities
- Coordinate support for any PA projects whether originating from the yearly call for projects or from direct support from the PA partners
- Organise, manage and follow on the communication about PA (yearly events, documentation, web site)
- Set up, manage, maintain and upgrade the PA internet exchange platform
- Organise, manage and follow on the outreach, education and training programs
- Carry out all due diligences as regards the use of funds and the project activities & results.
- Evaluate impacts and results from PA actions

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Article VI – The Planet Action Projects

The Planet Action initiative will support any project dealing with climate change related issues as well as propose course for action in order to cope with these issues. These projects may be initiated by universities, public or private laboratories, governmental or non governmental bodies, media, associations or individuals. If originating in non-scientific teams, the projects must receive the support of a university or laboratory to support its scientific validity. Projects that already receive support from national or international organisations may not be supported by Planet Action although they may receive awards and grants from Planet Action (affiliated projects)

The Planet Action projects address the following domains, considered as the most impacted by climate changes:

- human dimension & habitation
- drought, desertification and water resources
- vegetation, biodiversity, ecosystems
- oceans
- ice & snow cover

In order to be eligible to support from the Planet Action Initiative, projects are expected to meet the following criteria:

- deal with at least one of the above mentioned domains
- be supported by a public/private scientific laboratory or a university
- include one team member, or be supported by a partner, established in the country where the project takes place
- link scientific observations with a local action plan or recommendation
- the bearer of the project or project representative may not be a private corporation or company although a private company may assist the project team in completing the project.

Article VII : Governance

The Planet Action Foundation will be a registered charity. It comprises 3 levels:

- The Planet Action office is in charge of the daily operations and management.
- The Planet Action board of trustees is in charge of strategy setting, financial & management supervision. It is legally responsible for the activities of Planet Action
- The Planet Action Scientific Advisory Board is in charge of collaboration with international organisations and scientific missions about climate change. It supervises the project selection process as well as the scientific support to projects. It recommends objectives and specific actions in relation with the international scientific communities working on climate change.

The Planet Action Office

It comprises at least a Director, a treasurer and a secretariat.

The Director is appointed and revoked by the Board of Trustees.

The office is in charge of the Planet Action activities as well as of the reports on these activities.

The Planet Action Office prepares and runs the PA annual meetings and events. It will be assisted in these tasks by contributing partners, as well as by any contractor it may choose.

The Board of Trustees

The Foundation activities, management and staff are supervised by the Foundation Board of Trustees.

The Trustees are appointed by the Foundation Members and serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms of 3 years. They may not be re-elected.

The number of Trustees will be determined when the Planet Action Foundation is incorporated. They will be appointed by

- the Planet Action Founders
- the Planet Action Scientific Advisory Board
- the Planet Action Members

The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees is ex officio Chairperson of the Planet Action Foundation

The Board of Trustees meets at least twice a year or when requested by the Planet Action Office. Its members are unpaid volunteers. They are entitled to claim expenses in relation to their duties.

In its supervision of the following, the Board of Trustees may receive the support and advice from any organisation or contractor it may select:

- finances & funding
- programs and projects
- organisation, communication & ethics
- objectives & results

Each of these 4 supervision domain are publicly reported at least once a year.

The Scientific Advisory Board

The Planet Action Scientific Advisory Board (PA-SAB) provides advice and scientific expertise to the Planet Action Foundation and Projects.

It is composed of at least two experts for each of the five PA domains. Members of the Science Advisory Board are proposed by the Board of Trustees and approved by the PA-SAB existing members.

The Members of the PA-SAB serve on a minimum of one one-year term that can be renewed ad libidum.

The Scientific Advisory Board meets at least twice a year (once on the occasion of the PA yearly Call for Projects). Its members can be consulted by PA projects and by the Foundation, by any means all along the year. They are unpaid volunteers. They are entitled to claim expenses in relation to their duties.

In its supervision of the following, the Scientific Advisory Board may receive the support and advice from any organisation or contractor it may select:

- reviewing the Project Selection process, including the Yearly Call for Projects
- reviewing the quality and relevance of scientific and technical information being used or produced by the Planet Action Projects
- reviewing the Planet Action Projects protocols and results
- Advising the Foundation on broad scientific matters about climate change
- Advising the Foundation on emergency actions and programs