

Planet Action REDD+ Workshop and REDDSPOT launch

REDD+ status after Cancun and expectations from enabling technologies

The Planet Action REDD+ Workshop held in Paris last week was a huge success. With a stimulating mix of more than 80 climate change and forest experts, scientists, economists, investors, grassroots NGOs, technology providers and development agencies, both participants and panelists enjoyed a very full day of exchanges.

More than one half of projects supported by Planet Action touch on forest issues - deforestation impacting animal habitat; the importance of forests to secure fresh water resources... This the main reason for bringing together Planet Action projects and specialists to share experience from the ground and look towards Durban and the Cop 17 conference in December.



The workshop was organized with the help of **Nadine Laporte** from the Woods Hole Research Center, a key member of the Planet Action family from the onset four years ago.



Denis Loyer, Climate and Forest Expert, former Agence Française de Développement Climate Advisor, and recently appointed President of the ATIBT (Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux) also contributed significantly to the success of this first REDD+ workshop. We are grateful to both.



The event was opened by **Jennifer Newlands** and **Patrick Le Roch** who welcomed loyal PA partners and friends, including UNESCO, leading GIS provider ESRI and imagery analysis software developer ITT.

The introductory session helped set the stage and put REDD+ in perspective following Cancun from an economic/policy perspective as well as technical. The **first keynote speaker, Andrea Cattaneo**, OECD Economist and specialist on environmental policy design, focused on the importance of measurement in elaborating REDD policies and the impact of uncertainty on their effectiveness. **Cyril Loisel**, Forest Specialist to the Director of Globalisation at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, further helped our understanding of what is at stake in Durban with a very informative presentation on the state of negotiations as we approach the COP 17.



Scott Goetz from Woods Hole followed with a more technical look at enabling technologies and once again emphasized the second "M" now added to MRV - monitoring, reporting, verification is now **measuring**, monitoring, reporting and verification.



Sylvain Goupille, managing director of Althelia Climate Fund (formerly Carbon Finance in BNPP), closed the introductory session with the view of private funds on the carbon market and REDD+.

NGOs take the floor to share experiences from the field

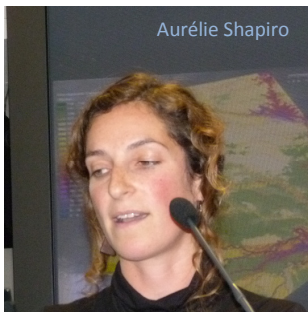
The first session, moderated by **Patricia Dankha**, gave the floor to NGOs benefitting from Planet Action support. Four very different NGOs presented their work.

A tribute to Wangari Maathai opened the session and **Peter Ndunda** from the Green Belt Movement took the floor and started his talk by thanking everyone for their support and commitment to continue Professor Maathai's work.

He presented the forest rehabilitation project in Kenya that aims to restore key water catchment areas and improve livelihoods for local populations. Peter showed how imagery and GIS are used to establish land cover, forest degradation and biomass maps. He emphasized the importance of training on all levels: decision makers and managers on policy options, data processing and carbon monitoring for field scientists. Peter's conclusion encouraged more collaboration between scientists and technology providers to develop together practical approaches to monitoring and measuring carbon stocks.



WWF Remote Sensing Specialist **Aurélie Shapiro** took the floor to demonstrate the WWF's diverse approach to REDD+. Aurélie reiterated the importance of measurement (MMRV) and explained how geo-information solutions have become essential decision-making tools for national and sub-national REDD+ readiness. WWF projects supported by PA include the tiger conservation initiative in Asia, an excellent demonstration of how tiger conservation landscapes can benefit ecosystem services (carbon stocks, water yields...) and impact biodiversity and habitat connectivity. The WWF's priority is capacity building for local communities. This includes university fellowships and developing tools for government and policy makers.



Patrick Bottazzi from the University of Berne in Switzerland presented his work in Bolivia with a variety of local partners on forest governance in Bolivian lowlands. This project aims to reconcile protecting livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration using a holistic approach.



Florian Reimer closed the Planet Action NGO session with a presentation of his work with the CIFOR and FAS in the Brazilian Amazon using a socio-economic analysis.

The afternoon started with *our second keynote speaker, Jean-Luc François*, Head of Agriculture, Rural Development and Biodiversity at the AFD. Jean-Luc explained what is at stake for tropical forests: the ecosystem "services" provided by tropical forests, the economic impact, and deforestation at the heart of these crises (climate change, threats to biodiversity, food security and indigenous peoples). He also presented methods for mapping forest cover using remote sensing, the key component of the contract between Astrium and the AFD.



REDD & Technology, Status & Progress



The second session, moderated by **Patrick Houdry** (Astrium GEO-Information Services), took a deeper look at technology and how stakeholders measure performance of operational tools. **Landing Mane**, Director of the OFSAC (Observatoire satellitale des Forêts de l'Afrique Centrale) launched the session with a presentation of the forest situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He recommended increased capacity building for national programme managers and encouraged cooperation between Congo basin countries towards the installation of a direct receiving station in Gabon.

Marie Calmel from ONF International continued with a focus on the stakes and respective limits and strengths of REDD methodologies with respect to cost-benefit and issues with scales articulation.



Matthieu Tiberghien from Good Planet presented the Madagascar project and biomass measuring methods as well as the ongoing performance evaluation activity which raises fundamental questions such as how to measure accuracy.

Pierre Couteron, researcher from Montpellier, closed the session with a fascinating illustration of how to measure trees and simulate carbon stock dynamics using remote sensing technologies in general and VHR optical imagery in particular, paving the way for Pléiades.

Current and future action plans and the role of agencies, regulators & banks

In the third session, moderated by **Didier Rigal** (Astrium GEO-Information Services), development agencies and regulators had the opportunity to present unique programmes to support REDD implementation - such as the ongoing Astrium-AFD project - as well as the complex financing issues to be addressed in Durban.

Guillaume Ernst, Forestry Expert from the AFD, presented the Congo basin initiative and **Camille Pinet** from the IGN FI (French cartography agency) had the honour of inaugurating the new REDDSPOT web portal which makes the first 600 images of central Africa available to institutions, research organizations and NGOs working on REDD+ projects. The demonstration showed how to select the most appropriate imagery over a particular area of interest in the catalogue and how to submit a project to qualify for access to the imagery free of charge.



Valentin Bellassen from CDC Climat explained the huge potential in both agriculture and forestry to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change and the financial mechanisms and offset programmes being developed.



Glenn Bush, an environmental economist from the Woods Hole Research Center, closed the third session with a multi-disciplinary look at sustainability and forest management. Forests are not just carbon, and understanding the value of a forest and its economic, social and cultural impacts (the + in REDD+) is essential to develop the right incentives to secure sustainable forest governance on both local and national levels.

A quick round table moderated by **Denis Loyer** allowed the panelists one minute to wrap up the very intense day. All appreciated the diversity of the presentations and the spirit of sharing and transparency within the Planet Action family and the broader REDD community. A cocktail reception followed.

Planet Action REDD+ Workshop, Wednesday October 26th 2011

Discussions continued well into the evening at the cocktail reception held in a Parisian art gallery.



<From left to right

Pierre Couteron, Research Director IRD; Emmanuel Hébrard, VP Sales & Marketing Astrium Services; Patricia Dankha, Planet Action Project Management Office; Maria Cardenas, UNESCO

From left to right>

**Valentin Bellassen, CDC Climat;
Didier Rigal, Astrium GEO-Information Services**



<From left to right

Gilbert Atanda, National Project Manager, REDD National Coordination UNREDD, Democratic Republic of Congo; Didier Rigal, Carbon & Sustainable Development Expert, Astrium GEO-Information Services

From left to right>

Florian Reimer CIFOR; Peter Ndunda, Green Belt Movement; Marie Calmel, ONFI; Frederic Brodach, Plus Ultra Asset Management GmbH



From left to right>

Patrick Houdry, Astrium GEO-Information Services; Pierre Couteron, IRD

UNESCO – Planet Action Exhibition Inauguration at the UNESCO HQ, Paris, October 27th 2011



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Natural
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On the occasion of the opening of the exhibition
'Satellites and World Heritage sites, partners to understand climate change',
the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, H. Exc. Mr Kris Peeters,
and the Assistant Director-General For Natural Sciences of UNESCO, Ms Gretchen Kalonji,
request the pleasure of your presence on Thursday, 27 October 2011 at 15:45 in Room Ségur,
7th floor; UNESCO Headquarters (7, place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris).
After a vin d'honneur, the opening will be followed by a guided visit of the exhibition.

À l'occasion de l'ouverture de l'exposition
« Les satellites surveillent le changement climatique sur les sites du patrimoine mondial »,
le Ministre-président du Gouvernement flamand, S. Exc. M. Kris Peeters,
et la Sous-Directrice générale pour le Secteur des sciences exactes et naturelles de l'UNESCO, Mme Gretchen Kalonji,
vous prient de leur faire l'honneur de votre présence jeudi 27 octobre 2011 à 15h45 salle Ségur,
au 7^e étage du Siège de l'UNESCO (7, place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris).
Le vin d'honneur d'ouverture sera suivi d'une visite guidée de l'exposition.



Patricia Dankha, Planet Action; Mario Hernandez, UNESCO; Gretchen Kalonji, Asst Director General for Sciences, UNESCO, Mary Cardenas, UNESCO

