



Terms and Conditions

1- INTRODUCTION

a. Definitions

- Data: plot-aggregated estimates of forest structure (e.g. aboveground biomass, Lorey's height, community-weighted mean wood density) and associated location, forest type and environmental (e.g. elevation) data;
- Data Owner: individual or organization who legally owns the Intellectual Property Rights over the Data;
- Data Provider: individual or organization who provides the Data;
- Data User: person to whom Data access is granted following Data Use Agreement (defined below).

b. Generalities

The Forest Observation System (henceforth denoted the FOS; see <https://forest-observation-system.net>) is a European Space Agency (ESA)-funded international initiative aiming to establish and maintain a global *in situ* forest biomass database. The FOS seeks to provide Data Users access to high-quality Data by partnering with well-established teams and networks responsible for managing permanent forest plots. In doing so, the FOS also aims at linking together the remote sensing community with Data Owners/Data Providers to further collaborations. The FOS will neither ask for nor store tree-by-tree data.

The present Terms and Conditions of the FOS do not replace those established by the different Data Providers. In case Data Providers are plot networks, their Terms and Conditions can be accessed at their websites. The plot networks currently involved in the FOS are:

- ForestGEO (site-specific; see <http://ctfs.si.edu/datarequest/index.php/main>)
- RAINFOR, AfriTRON, and T-Forces, with data all managed via ForestPlots.net (<http://www.forestplots.net/en/join-forestplots/code-of-conduct>)
- IIASA (<http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/terms-of-use.html>)
- TERN AusCover (<https://www.tern.org.au/datalicence>)
- TmFO (<http://tmfo.org/Data/data%20policy.html>)

2- DATA OWNERSHIP

The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the tree-by-tree plot data remain with the Data Owners. Accordingly, tree-by-tree data will not be hosted or shared by FOS. Data Owners who decide to share plot-aggregated summary data of AGB or other forest structural attributes do so under a Creative Commons licensing. Data Users are strongly encouraged to get in touch with Data Owners/Data Providers to interpret their results.



3- DATA ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

In order to help the FOS to monitor Data Users' priority areas and needs, the following registration information is required from the Data User:

- Name;
- Affiliation;
- Source of Project Funding
- Email;
- Address;
- Notification that the Data Use Agreement below has been read;
- Statement of Intended Use.

4- DATA USE AGREEMENT

a. Transferability

Data Users are not allowed to share the Data with other parties.

b. Acknowledgements

The Data User agrees to include the following acknowledgment in any publication where the Data was used:

Forest Observation System

c. Citation

To acknowledge the work done to create and share the Data, the Data User should include the following citation:

Schepaschenko D., Chave J., Phillips O.L., Lewis S.L., Davies S.J., Réjou-Méchain M., Sist P., Scipal K., et al. (2019). [The Forest Observation System, building a global reference dataset for remote sensing of forest biomass](#). *Scientific Data* 6 (1): 198.
DOI:10.1038/s41597-019-0196-1.

The FOS also asks Data Users to provide an electronic copy (e.g. *via* DOI link) of the publications that used the Data and that FOS is allowed to link to the paper via its website.

5- DISCLAIMER

THE DATA IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEES.