

GEO-TREES
Data Sharing Terms and Conditions
May 20th, 2025
Version 1.2



1. DEFINITIONS

- Data:
 - Plot Data: Plot-aggregated estimates of forest structure (e.g., aboveground biomass density, canopy height, community-weighted mean wood density) at the 0.25-ha scale, as inferred from forest inventory data.
 - ALS Data: Top canopy height at the 1-m scale, ground elevation at the 1-m scale, and aboveground biomass density at the 0.25-ha scale, as inferred from airborne laser scanning technology.
 - TLS Data: Top canopy height at the 0.25-ha scale, and wood volume at the 0.25-ha scale, as inferred from terrestrial laser scanning technology.
- Data Owner: Individual or organization who legally owns the Intellectual Property Rights of the Data.
- Data Provider: Individual or organization who curates and distributes the Data.
- Data User: Person to whom Data access is granted following the Data Use Agreement defined below.

2. GENERALITIES

GEO-TREES is an international initiative aiming to establish and maintain a global *in situ* forest biomass database of Plot Data, ALS Data, and TLS Data at 100 core forest areas, referred to as Biomass Reference Measurement (BRM) sites in GEO-TREES.

In addition to BRM sites, GEO-TREES aims to establish and maintain a global *in situ* forest biomass database of Plot Data of up to 210 additional low-intensity plot inventory sites, to complement the BRM sites.

GEO-TREES aims to provide Data Users access to high-quality data by partnering with well-established teams and networks responsible for managing permanent forest plots, ALS, and TLS data.

GEO-TREES also aims to connect the remote sensing community with Data Owners/Data Providers to further collaborations.

GEO-TREES data are stored in a web-based infrastructure hosted at data.geo-trees.org.

The plot networks and sites partners involved in GEO-TREES can be accessed at <https://geo-trees.org>.

3. DATA OWNERSHIP

The Intellectual Property Rights of the tree-by-tree Plot Data, TLS, and point-cloud ALS Data are held by the Data Owners.

GEO-TREES does not store or distribute tree-by-tree Plot Data and point-cloud ALS Data.

4. DATA LICENSING

Unless otherwise stated, the Creative Commons – Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0) of Data in the GEO-TREES website data.geo-trees.org is the default Data license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>).

5. DATA ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

To help GEO-TREES monitor Data Users' priority areas and needs, the following registration information should be provided by the Data User on the web portal:

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

6. DATA USE AGREEMENT

6.1. Transferability

Data are continuously improved and updated. Parties are therefore strongly encouraged to register directly at the GEO-TREES data portal independently for each new data request to ensure they receive the most recent version of the Data.

6.2. Collaboration

Data Users are strongly encouraged to contact Data Owners/Data Providers to interpret their results and inform Data Owners/Providers about the use of their data. This will help integrating the Data Owners and will contribute to the initiative's mission of building a fair and equitable use of Data.

6.3. Acknowledgements

Data User agree to include the following acknowledgment in any publication where the Data were used:

“This study was made possible by use of data of GEO-TREES, accessed through the data.geo-trees.org portal. We acknowledge the work of the many field workers and technicians involved in the acquisition, curation, and maintenance of the data.”

Finally, GEO-TREES kindly requests that Data Users share an electronic copy of any publication that utilizes GEO-TREES Data. This can be done by providing a DOI link or sending the publication directly. Sharing these publications helps GEO-TREES track the impact and usage of the data, contributing to the initiative's mission of enhancing the understanding and monitoring of forests.

7. DISCLAIMER

THE DATA IS PROVIDED “AS IS”, WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEES.