

xx November 2019

To whom it may concern,

Re: Endorsement for the Global Forest Observations Initiative

We write on behalf of the Participants' Committee (PC) of the World Bank administered Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to provide our endorsement for the important work of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) as a Flagship programme of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

As you may already be aware, the FCPF is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and indigenous people's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+. Launched in 2008, the FCPF now works with 47 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, along with 17 donors that have made contributions and commitments totalling \$US1.3 billion.

The success of REDD+ is heavily dependent on the ability of developing countries to measure, report and verify (MRV) their net emissions reductions from forests. However, the establishment of robust MRV procedures for REDD+ is a complex task. Fortunately, there is a large and diverse international community who are providing assistance to developing countries to help them meet their MRV requirements. With many countries seeking to implement REDD+ and many international partners providing MRV support, there is a strong need for global cooperation on these issues. In this regard, the GFOI plays a vital role in coordinating the delivery of international support to help address the needs of REDD+ countries.

The FCPF has benefitted significantly from the work of GFOI, including through the use of GFOI's Methods and Guidance Documentation (MGD), collaborative capacity building, coordinated access to datasets and tools, and targeted research and expert consultations to address challenges to progress. The FCPF will continue to rely heavily on GFOI, its partners and products in 2020 and beyond, when the facility's Carbon Fund, which is set up to pilot incentive payments for REDD+ efforts, becomes operational.

We express our strong support for the important work of GFOI and its continued status as a GEO Flagship

Best regards,

Xx
Participants Committee
FCPF