

# 2<sup>o</sup> | Annual Seminar on Forest Cover Monitoring



## About the Seminar

Nearly half of Colombia's continental area - about 60 million hectares - is covered by forests. Forests provide goods and services that are essential to local development, particularly in the most vulnerable areas of the country. However, the expansion of the agricultural frontier, illicit crops and other illegal activities have promoted deforestation, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and increased GHG emissions. In fact, about half of the country's emissions are related to these factors.

Colombia's Strategy to Control Deforestation and promote the Sustainable Management of Forests includes measures and actions to tackle forest loss and degradation by promoting a comprehensive vision of forests, land use, their climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits and the economic opportunities arising from their sustainable use; all critical to the country's peace-building context.

Ambitious targets underpin this strategy, including Colombia's Nationally Determined Contribution on emissions reduction and adaptation. However, tracking progress towards achieving these goals demand robust, systematic and science-based monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) efforts.

This is an area in which Colombia has made significant progress: it has in place an institutional arrangement of research institutes within its National Environmental System with highly qualified experts, an open and participatory Environmental Information System (SIAC), the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, a National Forest Inventory, among many other achievements. However, robust nation-wide MRV demands the creation of stronger collaborative scientific networks that maximize the value of what each stakeholder can produce individually.

In this context, the Second Annual Seminar on Forest Cover Monitoring is intended to foster a space for knowledge and experience sharing that will bring together top national and international experts to discuss and devise ways in which national monitoring schemes can be strengthened and better contribute to decision-making processes in light of Colombia's commitments on climate change, sustainable development, reducing deforestation and restoring ecosystems.

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## Goals

- Socialize policies to combat deforestation.
- Promote spaces for discussion with national and international experts on natural forest and other land cover monitoring, its state, pressures and dynamics.
- To foster collaboration networks (academia, government, communities, private sector, others) to facilitate the effective exchange of knowledge under a continuous improvement vision.

## The Audience

Authorities, research institutes, universities, NGOs, private sector, local communities, experts and other academic and institutional stakeholders interested in monitoring forests.

## Approach

The Seminar will span through four (4) days of work which combine plenary sessions with keynote presentations, thematic working tables and training sessions distributed as follows:

- Day 1: Policies to address deforestation and land use change.
- Day 2-3: Plenaries, worktables and training sessions.
- Day 4: Specialized training sessions at IDEAM.

## Working Tables

### Working Table 1. Monitoring of forest cover and change dynamics

Aimed at sharing progress in monitoring deforestation, degradation monitoring methodologies, Earth observation applications for forest cover monitoring and the development of forest transformation scenarios.

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## **Working Table 2. Carbon Monitoring**

This WT aims at gaining a better understanding of national capacities, ongoing and foreseen efforts to estimate carbon storage in different ecosystems, identify key technical issues related to monitoring and reporting of changes in carbon stocks and strategies to promote cross-sectoral information sharing to estimate GHG emissions in the AFOLU sector in Colombia, especially on the land module.

## **Working Table 3. Monitoring the causes and agents of forest transformation in Colombia**

This Working Table will focus on compiling a set of technical recommendations to strengthen Colombia's capacity to monitor the causes and agents of deforestation and degradation.

## **Working Table 4. Big Data**

The focus of this table is to share experiences and knowledge in the management of large volumes of information for forest monitoring and land cover.

## **Working Table 5. Community-based monitoring**

The opportunities and barriers to articulate community monitoring experiences with the information generated by the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMBByC) and possible mechanisms to promote synergies will be explored in this Working Table.

## **Working Table 6. Forest Transformation Scenarios**

The objective of this table is to propose a set of possible scenarios for forest transformation, according to the priority measures to be implemented under Colombia's Strategy to Control Deforestation and promote the Sustainable Management of Forests.

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## Training

Training sessions will be opened, prior registration is required. Participants should choose up to one training session per day.

- Session 1. Forest and Carbon Monitoring System: Application of the methodology of change detection.
- Session 2. Spatial modeling of deforestation.
- Session 3. Characterization of causes and agents of deforestation.
- Session 4. Using the Data Cube.
- Session 5. IFN application for regional and local characterization.
- Session 6. Multiple benefits analysis for REDD +