

**GSE Forest Monitoring
Proposed GSE FM Data Access Policy:
Phase 2 and Phase 3 Implementation**



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The ESA GSE's in principle are obliged to make all services/products available as public domain data via the web portals being developed. The GSE FM has implemented this policy in Phase 1 of Stage 2; however it was noted that the use of services/products and data placed on the GSE FM Web Portal could be openly used without any copyright or Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related conditions (and thus the data/information would even be available to competitors). Thus a data access policy has to be put in place to protect the interests of the GSE FM consortium. A report produced by Harris and Browning (2004), "*Data Policy Assessment for GMES*," conducted extensive surveys for the GMES, related to the issue of the types of data access existing according to the type of organisation, type of data etc, and existing documented data policies. Recommendations on data access made in this report for GMES services included consideration of copyright, intellectual property rights (IPR) and licensing, for all GMES Services and Products which require some measure of technical control of access to the data and information.

During the GSE FM Progress Meeting 6 held in GAF on 26-27 June 2007, a discussion was held on the data access policy issues and an appropriate process which focuses on the need to have conditions related to data access by the external community. Several examples of public agencies that make available public domain data but still have conditions on data access can be cited as models for the GSE FM to follow; an interesting example is that of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) access to the Africover (<http://www.africover.org>) dataset. The Africover programme has as its overall aim, "*to develop a digital georeferenced data base on land cover and baseline geographic data for the whole Africa.*" The programme has very specific data access policies; for example they specify that "*the access to the public domain data set is provided for non commercial purposes free of charge by FAO Africover. Individual users or commercial organizations are not allowed to access the Africover data unless previous official approval from the respective National Focal Point Institution is acquired. Access and use of the public domain data sets is provided through this web site and is ruled by a specific User Agreement that must be accepted by the user before proceeding to the download.*" (FAO Africover website)

In order to access the Africover public domain data, users have to undertake the following steps:

- Read and agree to the user agreement
- Fill in the registration / Usage form
- The request is registered

The custodian principle has been adopted by Africover as the mean of ensuring accountability for the care and maintenance of information within the National Focal Point Institutions (NFPI) in each of the Participating Country.

Another example of conditional data access is that used in the CORINE (Coordination of information on the environment) programme. The CORINE Programme initiated in the 1980's had a component which was the land cover project that intended to provide consistent

localized geographical information on the land cover of the 12 Member States of the European Community. The follow up to this component is the CORINE Image 2000 which consists of two inter-connected components:

- Image2000 - covering all activities related to satellite image acquisition, ortho-rectification and production of the European and National Mosaics
- CORINE Land Cover (CLC)2000 - covering all activities related to the update of the CORINE Land Cover Database, based on Image2000 data, and the detection of land cover changes

Data access for the Image2000 requires registration as a non-commercial/commercial or EU user, and the data access form has the following components:

- User Registration:
- Products Requested
- Product Use
- IPR
- Rights and Obligations

In the context of the GSE FM, a recommendation at the Progress Meeting 6, June 2007 was to implement a simple standardised procedure (similar to the one conducted already by one of the Service Providers-Intecs of Italy) which follows these type of data access models. The procedure shall require a user to indicate the potential use of the data/information thereby registering the user with the GSE FM and assessing potential use of data. A Data Access form proposed by Informus (see Annexe 1) can be used as a means of tracking data usage etc. and it is proposed that this form will be implemented at the point when the user requires data and has to contact the Service Provider (SP). A trial system will be established and tested using the GSE FM Web Portal in the last half of 2007 and reviewed by the consortium. Thereafter a full implementation of the data access policy can take place.

Annexe 1: Proposed GSE FM Data Access Form

Product-Code:

Dear customer,

In order to get access to the data products of the GMES Services Element (GSE) Forest Monitoring through our online catalogue, we would like to kindly ask you to fill in this form and send it back to us via fax (+49 89 121528-79).

We request this information to keep track of people who are interested in GSE-FM services as well as to make sure that the terms of use have been read, understood and accepted.

After reception of the requested information, we will immediately provide you with the access details. Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have questions regarding this procedure.

Personal information of the applicant:

First name, family name	
e-mail address	
Professional background	
Intended use of the product	

Terms of use:

The GSE-FM data products are distributed free of charge for your personal use only. They may not be redistributed nor be used for any commercial activity.

I herewith confirm that I have read, understood and accepted the terms of use.

Date, Signature